

MAGAZINE OF The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum 

Westonbirt

AUTUMN/WINTER 2019/20

Our changing world

Help us protect our trees

The beauty of fungi

Seasonal tree highlights

Woodland wellbeing





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A wonderful gift that keeps on giving, family and friends can enjoy every season while supporting our cause to care for Westonbirt Arboretum.

£39

Single Annual Membership

£76

Joint Annual Membership

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Purchase by 16 December 2019 for Christmas delivery

For full terms and conditions please refer to fowa.org.uk/membership-policy

the friends
of Westonbirt
Arboretum
Registered Charity 293190

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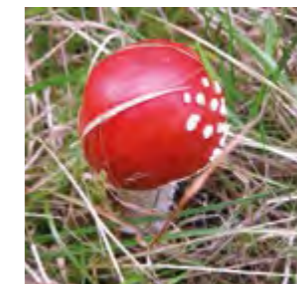
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the friends
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Arboretum

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Westonbirt

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Editorial team:

Jane Shute
Rebecca Hare
Alison Cobb
Jo Murray

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should satisfy themselves
about the authenticity of
products advertised.

A vision for Westonbirt



The world's leading climate scientists have issued a warning that there is only a decade left to change our behaviours and prevent a climate catastrophe. This impactful statement has galvanised our response as a charity and the

importance of our role at Westonbirt.

The Friends have worked with our partners at Forestry England to create a vision for Westonbirt that defines our role in finding some of the solutions this challenge brings to trees in our changing world.

The growing strength of you, our charity members, will provide the financial support to enable improved facilities on site to support both our science and learning teams. Together we will also continue to fund projects that improve the overall experience of visiting the National Arboretum.

One such project, to build a new Quarantine House for the Arboretum, strikes at the heart of the challenges we face and the oncoming threat of pests and diseases. This Quarantine House will enable our Tree Team to more effectively manage the cycle of tree management from seed collection to the planting on site. The following page highlights our latest appeal to try and bring this important function of our tree science at the National Arboretum to completion and we need your support now more than ever.

I would also like to highlight the figures from our latest accounts, which show just how your membership money has continued to support the Arboretum. Together we can continue to make Westonbirt an arboretum of national and international importance.

Mike Coe
Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Chief Executive

Our variety of life



Biodiversity can be an over-used word and is often misunderstood. Put simply it means 'the variety of life', a high level of which is usually considered to be desirable both for human wellbeing and

the health of our planet more generally.

I wrote in the spring magazine about how the Global Tree Search has identified over 60,000 tree species around the globe. We're privileged to hold 1,800 species of these trees and woody plants at Westonbirt. We also know that 113 of our species are endangered and unfortunately that proportion is growing.

One of the many reasons people care about trees is that they create great ecosystems within which other plants, animals and fungi can thrive. Westonbirt Arboretum is no exception and in April we were proud to host the launch of the 'Big Forest Find' with Michaela Strachan, the biggest ever survey of England's forest wildlife. It was great to hold the country's attention during BBC Breakfast and regional news programmes with our worms, moths and flowers.

During our public event at the beginning of June it was fantastic to see so many families getting hands-on with nature. Whether you are the Arboretum Director, or a five year old child holding your first insect, it is truly inspiring to witness close up the diversity of moths and their wing patterns. Seeing our experts get excited by the discovery of species they've not seen for several years was a timely reminder of how special our Arboretum is.

There's still time for you to get involved and record your observations using the i-Naturalist app.

Andrew Smith
Forestry England, Arboretum Director

Help us protect our trees!

The UK's trees are under attack from over 32 significant disease and insect pests as imminent threats for forestry and this number will undoubtedly grow.*

At Westonbirt, within our living collection of 15,000 specimens we currently have over 700 woody plants, comprising 113 different species, that are classified as threatened and in need of conservation. Unfortunately, native and non-native tree species alike may have little tolerance or resistance to fight against many of these new and already present pests and diseases.

We urgently need a Quarantine House

We need to further expand the on-site controls within our Propagation Unit, to include a highly specialised Quarantine House. Being specifically designed and purpose-built for Westonbirt, new plants and seeds will be held safely in a secure environment before given approval for planting and introduced into the wider historic landscape.

The Quarantine House will be comprised of an outer protective cover, an inner structure split into three

separate compartments, featuring two quarantine bays with adjustable climate control and a central corridor with entrance through a disinfectant section. The floor of the quarantine bays will be gently sloped to a central drainage point, leading to its own underground water collection tank, where we can then control and dispose of any surplus water safely.

“ The threat to the health of our trees here at Westonbirt from pests and diseases is real and sadly it's increasing. I can't say enough how essential the Quarantine House is for Westonbirt right now, it simply can't wait! ”

Mark Ballard, Curator at Westonbirt

Our aim is to raise £61,820 for our new Quarantine House!

How can you help?

Please help us to protect the country's trees by improving biosecurity and making our landscapes more resilient. It is only with the generosity of people like you, the Arboretum's wonderful supporters, that we can raise the funds to build the Quarantine House.

Thank you for your generous support! You can donate by visiting the donate page here: fowa.org.uk/ProtectOurTrees

*Forest Research currently list 32 main P&D problems for trees (17 tree diseases & 15 insect pests).

Alternatively, you can cut out this slip and send it with a cheque made out to FOWA to: Protect Our Trees Appeal, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury GL8 8QS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Donation amount: _____

I would like the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum to treat this donation and any donations I make in the future as Gift Aid donations, until I notify otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay and difference.

giftaid it

Signed: _____ Date: _____ **Thank you for your support!**

Our changing world



'A changing world' and 'climate change' are phrases we are accustomed to hearing. Organisations across the world, including our own, are working hard to predict future climates, the rate of change and importantly how this will affect our annual weather patterns.

By Andy Bryce, Collections Manager

Here at Westonbirt we already take on board much of the information provided to us when making decisions on the future of the tree collection and surrounding woodlands. I deliberately mention the tree collection because without the Arboretum we probably wouldn't have the mosaic of differing habitats, the huge ecological benefits, the scientific resource, the learning programmes and of course, there wouldn't be a hugely successful visitor attraction.

Monitoring change

The Volunteer Phenology group at Westonbirt is carefully creating a long-term dataset of records monitoring spring and autumn events on a range of trees, shrubs, and wild plants growing within the Arboretum. Since 2010, the group has annually recorded dates of bud burst and leafing-out in spring, and leaf colour change and leaf fall in autumn on the same specimens.

▲ Credit: Buro Happold

Due to the year-to-year variation in the weather, measurements typically need to be collected for a few decades before trends in variations of dates for events like bud burst in relation to climatic changes can be detected. However, some strong changes have already appeared in just nine years' worth of data. There has been a strong trend in several species towards increasingly earlier bud burst over 2010–2016, but this trend was broken in cooler springs of 2017 and 2018. There has also been a weaker trend over the same period for earlier dates of first leaf colour change and first leaf fall.

A more detailed analysis of the results is now underway to relate these results to weather records and to understand how the combination of earlier leafing out and earlier

senescence affect the duration of the growing season. This information can be used alongside global climate matching to help predict growing conditions in 20, 50 or 100 years from now. This will enable us to match climatic factors to places in the world where these already exist and to look at their native flora. Where there are species that meet our strict accession policy (the criteria by which we bring new plants into the Arboretum) we may then decide to collect them as seed to grow on as new species. The big challenge for us is to try and grow these species here and now. However, pushing the boundaries of what can be grown is nothing new for Westonbirt; Robert Holford was experimenting with new and exotic species 190 years ago!

The effects of change

Our skilled and expert Tree Team are ensuring we continue to have a world class tree collection for generations to come, just as our predecessors did before us. Luckily, we also have a whole host of peers, colleagues and experts to help. However, pests and diseases (P&D) are an ongoing battle and they seem to be trying their best to thwart us.

Natural weather patterns and climate change are providing better conditions for fungal pathogens and a lack of prolonged cold winters increases issues with insects and pests. The modern increase in the global movement of goods and people also gives pests a better opportunity to hitch-hike their way into UK woodlands and forests.

One fungal pathogen that is already having a major effect on our wider landscape is *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, more commonly known as Chalara ash dieback.



Credit: Dave Hughes

This fatal disease will lead to the loss of an estimated 60-180 million ash trees across the UK.

The effects of this will mirror those of Dutch elm disease in the 1970s; for the second time in a generation our landscape will be dramatically altered by pests and disease.

The physical effect of Chalara ash dieback is now understood, not only does the infection block the transport of water and nutrients, resulting in large amounts of deadwood, but as the tree succumbs to the disease the wood becomes increasingly brittle, resulting in a higher risk of falling branches and making it more and more dangerous for our team to take the trees down. Secondary infection from honey fungus can also cause already weakened trees to be unstable in the ground leading to whole tree failure.



Credit: Dave Hughes

Why ash is important

12%

of broadleaf woodland in Great Britain is ash

60 million

estimated number of ash trees outside woodlands in the UK (higher end estimate)

9,500

ancient veteran and notable ash trees have been recorded in the ancient tree inventory

955

species associated with ash trees of which 45 are believed to have only ever been found on ash trees

£230 million per year

estimated social /environmental value of ash

Ash wood

is valued for specialist uses such as tool handles and furniture as well as for firewood, making ash timber one of the most valuable native hardwoods



This disease has the potential to cause significant damage to the UK's ash population.

Chalara – the history

Chalara ash dieback is a disease of ash trees, which blocks the water transport systems in trees causing leaf loss, lesions in the wood and on the bark, and ultimately the dieback of the crown of the tree.

It is caused by a fungus named *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*.

The disease was first described in Poland in 1992, and has since swept westwards throughout Europe, eventually arriving in the UK in 2012.

Though old trees can live with the disease for some time, young trees are more vulnerable and tend to die quickly once infected.

The symptoms of Chalara include:

- The blackening and wilting of leaves and shoots in July to September.
- Dark lesions on the bark of the tree – these lesions often have a characteristic elongated diamond shape centred on the joints between branches, or where whole branches join the trunk. These lesions usually spread upwards and downwards from the joint as the infection spreads.

The disease spreads from tree to tree by the wind blowing spores of the fungus.

Chalara was first identified at Westonbirt Arboretum in 2015, and since then we have been working closely with Forest Research to monitor the infected trees to aid research into the disease.

What we're doing to improve the situation

Ash dieback is well established within the 100 hectares of woodlands surrounding Westonbirt. After a period of consultation and monitoring we have begun a pro-active programme of remedial works to ensure we retain woodland cover going forward.

We will continue to monitor the existing ash population for signs of natural resistance, any trees displaying resistance will be retained as a genetic resource with the potential to repopulate woodlands.

An analysis of the different tree species and their numbers within different sections of the woodland has been carried out to determine how much intervention is required.

Where ash numbers are low and public movement is negligible a process of non-intervention may be a suitable option to see what nature does.

We will fell areas of infected ash to facilitate replanting and to ensure public safety.

We will share our findings with peers and industry experts to assist others.

The future of ash at Westonbirt Arboretum

We are committed to retaining a healthy, resilient and diverse woodland at Westonbirt Arboretum. What currently stands as woodland will remain as woodland and so, we will shortly start to remove areas of infected ash to allow us to replant with native broadleaved species.

The process of removing infected ash is dangerous, machinery more akin to a forestry operation is required to ensure operator safety.

The wood becomes extremely brittle creating a hazard for normal chainsaw felling. Instead, sealed inside a protective cab, harvester operators will remove only infected ash leaving other species to continue.

This pro-active approach is required to ensure we can replant at the earliest opportunity and retain woodland structure in the future. Over the next few years, our in-house experts will be working out what tree species will best protect Silk Wood from the impact of a changing climate and pests and disease. The information we learn from this project will allow us to share findings and best practise with other organisations and woodland managers in the UK and abroad.

Our role

Here at the National Arboretum we continue to play a positive and important role in wider efforts to understand many pests and diseases including ash dieback. For example, we hold 29 different species of ash within the collection and can provide genetic material to research facilities to assist in their exploration of natural resistance within the species.

Recently we held an event for foresters to examine potential new timber species to help diversify softwood forestry plantations, species that may prove to be successful include *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Picea omorika* and *Sequoia sempervirens*. This highlights the enormous scientific resource held within what is a botanical collection and beautiful landscape.

Find out more about Chalara ash dieback and other pests and diseases along the autumn seasonal trail.

Watch this space for more information about the future of Silk Wood as we share more information on how we will be protecting this beautiful landscape for generations to come.

Coming up

Welcome to our autumn and winter events calendar. We're excited to be holding lots of different activities – there's something for everyone!

Guided walks and tours

Wonders of Westonbirt Guided Walk

Explore the seasonal highlights of Westonbirt's Old Arboretum on a guided walk.

Sept – Nov daily from 11am,
Nov – Mar Sat & Sun from 11am Free after admission

Secrets of Silk Wood Guided Walk

Our expert volunteers will guide you round the ancient woodland, and reveal some hidden gems of Silk Wood.

Sept – Nov weekends from 2pm Free after admission

Behind the Scenes Tour

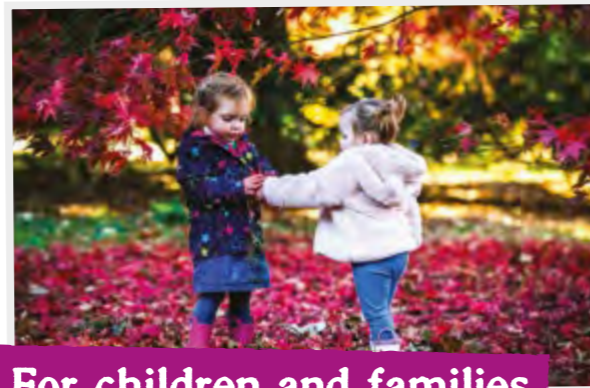
Discover what goes on behind the scenes of the Propagation and Tree Management Centre on a guided tour.

First Sat/Sun of the month until Oct from 11am
Free after admission

Wildflower Walks

Explore the flora of Westonbirt Arboretum on a guided walk.

First Tue of the month until Sept from 1.30pm
Free after admission



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

For children and families

Buggy Fit

An opportunity to regain your fitness after having a baby.

Every Fri morning from 10.30am
£5 pay as you go

Tots & Twigs Forest School

The Forest School helps encourage young children (between 2 and 5 years), and supports their parents/carers in helping them, to get back to nature with a wildlife focus.

Thu & Fri mornings and afternoons during term time
£80 (£70 for Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum)

Meet the Machines

Find out more about the work of our Tree Team, meet their machines and have a go at our throw line challenge.

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept, 11am – 4pm
Free after admission

Discovery Session – Autumn Spectacular

Discover some of the amazing seeds, fungi and leaves with our microscope and make an autumn bookmark to take home.

Sat 26 & Sun 27 Oct, 1pm – 4pm
Free after admission

Oct Half Term Event – Inspired by Autumn

Join us to discover why our trees change colour and create some autumn inspired art to take home.

Mon 28 – Fri 1 Nov, 10.30am – 3.30pm
Free after admission

Feb Half Term Event

Join us for tree themed crafts and discovery activities. Visit forestryengland.uk/westonbirt for more details in the new year.

Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb, 11am – 3.30pm
Free after admission

Active Forest events

Forestry 100 Running Series Westonbirt 10k

SOLD OUT

Celebrate 100 years of forestry with an exhilarating 10k around Westonbirt.

Sat 14 Sep, 4pm

100m Children's Fun Run

Design your own finisher's medal.

Sat 14 Sep, 3.30pm
Free entry with sign up on the day

The Christmas Tree Run

SOLD OUT

Christmas themed run for the whole family to enjoy – 50m, 1k, 3k, 5k & 10k distances available.

Sun 22 Dec, 11am



Credit: Jan Bayley



Credit: Dave Hughes

Workshops and courses

Windsor Chair Making Course

Create your very own Windsor chair by using traditional skills in the beautiful surroundings of Westonbirt.

Mon 9 – Sat 14 Sep, Mon 30 Sep – Sat 5 Oct,
Mon 7 – Sat 12 Oct, 9am – 5pm
£425

Planning Planting

Does the planting in your garden run out of steam half-way through the season? Designing a garden full of plants that look attractive all year requires some forward planning.

Thu 3 Oct, 10am – 4pm
£95

Westonbirt Arboretum Public Foray

Join the Cotswold Fungus Group to learn about the fascinating, and often beautiful, world of fungi.

Sat 5 Oct, 10.30am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 4pm
£5 plus admission

Printing with Leaves

Printing directly from leaves, you will create beautiful botanical designs using a heat press.

Sat 5 Oct, 10am – 4pm
£85

Find out more

Visit www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt or call Westonbirt Arboretum on 0300 067 4890 to find out more information about any of our events.

Beginners Digital Landscape Course

Spend the day at Westonbirt Arboretum developing your skills both in camera technique and understanding of digital technology.

Mon 7 Oct, 10.30am – 3.30pm

£65

Autumn Colours at Westonbirt Arboretum

Photographing trees and woodland can prove challenging. This one day photography workshop is designed to guide you through the many considerations to taking that perfect photo.

Tue 15, Wed 23 & Fri 25 Oct, 9.15am – 5pm

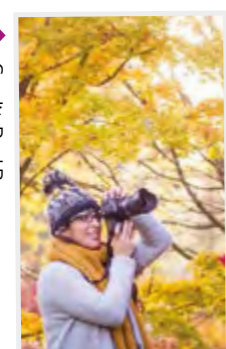
£125 (Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum 10% discount)

Willow Sculpture Workshop

Create your very own wonderful willow sculpture in a relaxed and fun environment.

**Sat 19 Oct, Sat 23 Nov, Sat 25 Jan & Sat 22 Feb
10am – 4pm**

£85



Intermediate Digital Photography Course

This one day workshop is aimed at those who feel fairly confident with the main controls of their digital cameras but want to increase their understanding.

Fri 1 Nov, 10.30am – 3.30pm

£120

Introduction to Garden History

The course is delivered as a series of lively and interactive lectures, offering a simple chronological approach to the influences that shaped the design of Western European gardens.

Sat mornings 10am – 1pm, 2 Nov – 7 Dec

£120

Felt Course

Learn how to make your very own felt animal.

12 Oct – Hedgehogs

13 Nov – Sleeping foxes

4 Dec – Robins

Sat 12 Oct, Wed 13 Nov, Wed 4 Dec, 9.30am – 12.30pm

£30

Christmas Wreath Making

Take some time out and enjoy a minced pie while you create your own Christmas wreath from traditional greenery and seasonal hedgerow treats.

Tues 10 Dec, 10.30am – 1pm

£55

Events



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Enchanted Christmas

Discover the trees of Westonbirt Arboretum in a whole new light with a brand new illuminated Christmas trail.

Fri 29 Nov – Sun 1 Dec, Fri 6 – Sun 8 Dec,

Fri 13 – Sun 15 Dec, Fri 20 – Sun 22 Dec

Adults £15, Child £7.50, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum receive half price tickets and £2 children's tickets for Friday bookings

Christmas Tree Sales

Buy your real Christmas tree from the experts this year. Westonbirt Woodworks provide high quality, sustainably-grown British Christmas trees for the perfect Christmas.

**On sale during December – see
forestryengland.uk/westonbirt for details**

Coming up in the Great Oak Hall...

Autumn 2019 exhibitions & sales

Great Oak Hall 10am – 4pm

Free admission after entry to the Arboretum



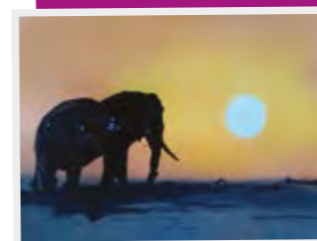
Mark Zytynski – “Just Trees”

An exhibition of limited edition prints and artworks portraying trees and woodlands by a specialist photographer, whose aim is to create pieces that evoke the same feeling in the observer that he experienced

in the “wild”. Artworks, framed prints, mounted prints ready for framing, books and cards also for sale.

Sat 28 Sept – Sun 6 Oct

www.markzytynski.photography



Mixed Palette – “Captured Moments”

Enjoy a unique collection of work by three local artists who depict the world around them in differing styles:

- Acrylic paintings on metal and slate by Jenny Krupa
- Gouache and acrylic paintings by Anne McAllister
- Photography by Anne Lewandowska.

Wed 9 – Sun 13 Oct

www.annemcallisterart.co.uk

Firestorm Artists – “Elemental 2”

An exciting mixed media exhibition utilising the incredible natural properties of the rocks, minerals and earth beneath our feet. Artists using glass, ceramics and bronze will be displaying alongside the autumn trees as they embrace the influence of the changing elements.

Wed 16 – Mon 21 Oct

www.aandeceramics.com

Cotswold Edge Group – “Inspirations”

We warmly welcome the return of this distinguished group of artists who will be displaying their latest work. Liz Brook Ward (stitched textiles), David Laycock (fused and stained glass) and Grahame Tucker (sculptures in wood) will be present to discuss the development of their work throughout the week.

Wed 23 – Mon 28 Oct

www.grahametucker.co.uk

Sue Townsend – “Colour on Walls”

During the past couple of years Sue has been busy producing some lovely work. She cannot get away from animals, wild or domestic, and often takes commissions for pets. Landscape and Seascapes of home and abroad are never far away.



Wed 30 Oct – Mon 4 Nov

www.suetownsendart.co.uk



Membership benefits

The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum charity works in partnership with Forestry England to support conservation, environmental research, learning activities and community outreach programmes at Westonbirt Arboretum, for all to enjoy.



Entry into Westonbirt Arboretum to enjoy every season



Bring up to 4 of your own children or grandchildren free of charge (age 18 and under)



Half-price Fridays for Enchanted Christmas



Forest Live presale notifications



Westonbirt magazine and our regular eNews

Plus...

Member Tuesdays return!

Bring a friend to Westonbirt Arboretum **FREE OF CHARGE** on Tuesdays between 19 November 2019 and 31 March 2020. Members must present a valid membership card at the Welcome Building to obtain the free ticket. Valid for one friend per member per visit only.

Discounted entry into Westonbirt Shopping Fair

Members can purchase a discounted ticket for just £6 to the annual Westonbirt Shopping Fair held at Westonbirt School on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October, 10am–4.30pm. Explore 130 stalls of gifts, fashion and food by purchasing your discounted ticket in advance at westonbirtfair.org/ticketsdiscountarb.html

Partner gardens

As a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum, you can also receive **discounted entry into selected partner gardens:**

Present your membership card for free entry into:

Batsford Arboretum
Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos batsarb.co.uk

Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouse, Edgbaston, Birmingham
birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

The Yorkshire Arboretum Castle Howard, York yorkshirearboretum.org

National Botanic Garden of Wales Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire
botanicgarden.wales

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (including Dawyck, Benmore and Logan), Edinburgh rbge.org.uk

Present your membership card for 50% off admission into:

Bedgebury National Pinetum Goudhurst Kent bedgeburypinetum.org.uk

Receive 2 for 1 entry with your membership card at:

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Richmond, Surrey kew.org

Royal Botanic Gardens Wakehurst Place Ardingly, Nr Haywards Heath, West Sussex kew.org/wakehurst

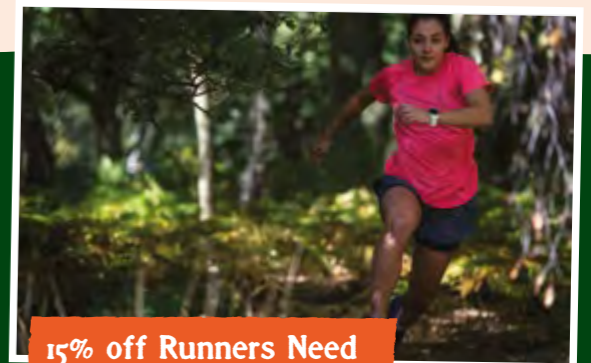
Please always call the partner garden ahead of visiting to check your membership card is valid for the date you are planning to visit.

Local partner discounts



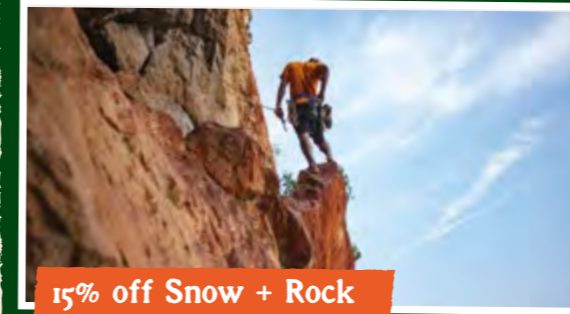
15% off Cotswold Outdoor

Buy online at cotswoldoutdoor.com or present your membership card in-store with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid for selected lines only until 31 March 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



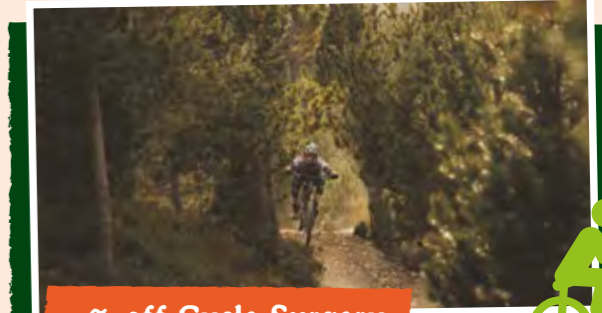
15% off Runners Need

Buy online at runnersneed.com or present your membership card in-store with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid for selected lines only until 31 March 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



15% off Snow + Rock

Buy online at snowandrock.com or present your membership card in-store with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid for selected lines only until 31 March 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



10% off Cycle Surgery

Buy online at cyclesurgery.com or present your membership card in-store with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid for selected lines only until 31 March 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



10% discount off Forest Holidays

Book online at forestholidays.co.uk using discount code **FOWA** for breaks booked before 31 December 2020.



10% discount for Go Ape

Offer valid for all sites and all activities (except Nets Kingdom) until 31 December 2019. Excludes: Saturdays, bank holidays, gift vouchers and corporate bookings. Participation and supervision ratios apply. Please book online at goape.co.uk, using discount code **GAARB**

For up-to-date details on your membership benefits please refer to fowa.org.uk/membership-benefits

Proud to support
the friends
of Westonbirt
Arboretum

15% discount

for Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. Maximum 10% discount on bikes. Only valid upon production of your FOWA membership identification in-store or use of code AF-FOWA-22 online. Offer expires 31.03.2020

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WESTONBIRT SHOPPING FAIR

Supporting local Charities

WEDS 30th & THURS 31st OCTOBER 2019 10am - 4.30pm

Held at Westonbirt School, Nr. Tetbury GL8 8QG



Escape to self-catering woodland cabins including their own hot tubs; choose from ten idyllic UK locations. Forest Holidays offer perfect getaways for families, couples, groups of friends and even your dog!

Call 03330 110495 or visit www.forestholidays.co.uk and enter code FOWA for 10% off the cost of your cabin

This code entitles the user to 10% off the cost of your cabin at any of the ten Forest Holidays locations. The code must be applied at the time of booking and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Holidays must be booked by 20/2/2020 and taken by 31/12/2020.

Go Ape!
LIVE LIFE ADVENTUROUSLY

HELLO ADVENTURE SEEKER

10% OFF PER PERSON*

Book at goape.co.uk
quote **GAARB**

*Offer valid until 31 December 2019, excluding Saturdays, corporate events and purchase of gift vouchers. Participation and supervision ratios apply - please see our website.

130 Stalls with high quality unique gifts, fashion, food and more

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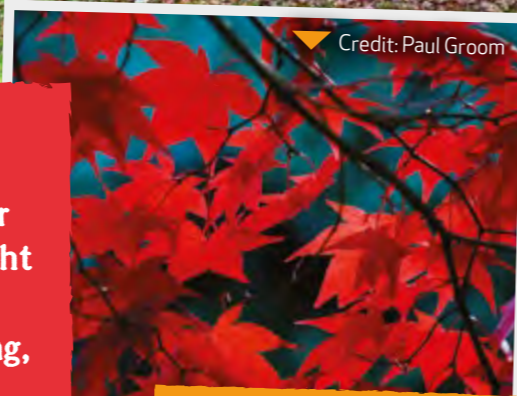


Autumn & winter in the Arboretum

▲ Credit: Johnny Hathaway

As the days shorten and temperatures begin to drop, plants and animals are preparing for the long months ahead. It's a wonderful time of year with crisp days, bright colours and a magical light when the sun washes through the woodland. There are birds migrating, winter visitors arriving, animals preparing for hibernation and others making stores to see them through lean times.

If you need to lift your spirits, a walk through the Arboretum in the autumn or winter is just the thing. In autumn, the blazing colours of the leaves paint the woodlands in their most dramatic light. Berries are being harvested by busy squirrels and gladly devoured by blackbirds, thrushes, fieldfares and redwings. In winter, there's a wonderful stillness but life is all around you. Blackbirds hop along the woodland floor searching for tasty grubs. Many fungi continue to grow on rotting logs and wildlife scurries around, finding food and avoiding predators.



▼ Credit: Paul Groom

Japanese maples

Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*) are one of the many highlights in a Westonbirt autumn with the yellow, burgundy and green foliage in their full glory.

Their domed canopies add a delicacy to the woodlands. The first specimens are believed to have first reached Britain in 1830.



Tawny owl

The Tawny owl is a homely bird, usually living in pairs within the same territory.

You will often hear the famous twit-twoo of the Tawny as dusk approaches. To spot one is always a delight. As nocturnal hunters they combine keen eyesight and hearing with silent flight, a deadly hunter in the still of the winter woods.

Busy bees?

Have you ever wondered what bumblebees do in winter?

It's an annual life cycle for our lovely bumblebees. New queens are produced in late summer and mate before finding soft ground or hidden crevices in which to hibernate over winter. The rest of the colony dies off before winter. In springtime the queen will emerge to find a nest, lay her eggs and create a new colony... and so the cycle continues.



Fieldfare

One bird's famine is another's feast.

Whilst autumn is a plentiful time for foraging and feeding, the winter can be a tough time for wildlife, with shorter days and limited food sources.

Yet for some birds it's a destination of choice, such as the Fieldfare that migrates from the much harsher Scandinavian winter. They arrive in the autumn and stay throughout the winter. These thrushes are full of character, aggressive to many other birds and noisy! Predators are sometimes warned off from their nests by being pelted with poo. The Fieldfare eats a mixed diet including berries, insects, worms and rose hips. It is one of many visitors to spot in winter woodlands.

Share your favourite autumn experiences at Westonbirt.
Email us at magazine@fowa.org.uk

The beauty of fungi



Volunteers, who share a common passion for helping the Arboretum to thrive, are the backbone of Westonbirt. Many of our volunteers bring specialist skills and knowledge to their roles, including Jean, one of our Learning Volunteers. Jean tells us about her interest for fungi, where to spot them in the Arboretum and some of the varieties to look out for.

Though it can be tempting to spend your time looking up at the magnificent colours of the leaves, autumn offers an equally spectacular display on the ground!

The beautiful fungi that grow at Westonbirt are an amazing life-form. Surprisingly, they are closer to animals than plants. Many are in fact too small to be seen with the naked eye! They have complicated life cycles, some spending part of their life underground or inside plants and animals. We utilise them in medical products such as drugs used to lower cholesterol (statins) and species of *Penicillium* in antibiotics. Fungi are also important in brewing and cheese production.

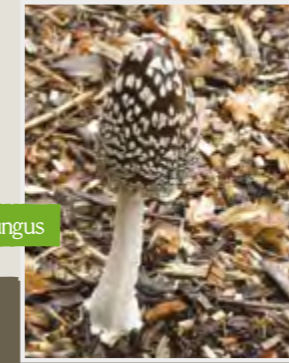
There are well over a thousand species of fungi to be found at Westonbirt. Although they can be found at all times of year, autumn is the time when we are likely to see some of the more spectacular sporophores (the part of the fungus where spores are produced).

Many people look upon fungi as things to avoid or destroy and it's sad to see many of our fascinating fungi kicked over in the Arboretum. They need to be left alone as part of the natural cycle of forest life.



Where to spot fungi in the Arboretum

Magpie fungus

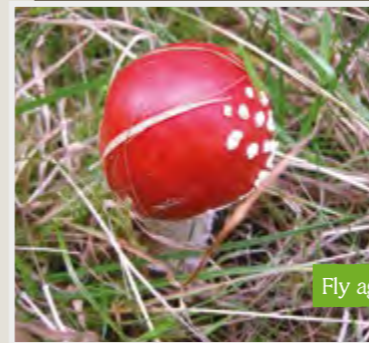


Wood chip mulch

The magnificent black and white magpie inkcap (*Coprinopsis picacea*), the well camouflaged strange looking common bird's nest fungus (*Crucibulum laeve*) and the fishy cucumber smelling cucumber cap (*Macrocystidia cucumis*) can all be found in mulch.



Common bird's nest fungus



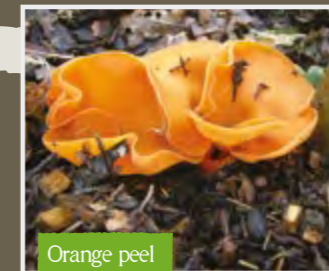
Fly agaric

Surrounding birch trees

The fairy story mushroom, the red and white fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) and the coconut milkcap (*Lactarius glycosmus*) (which really does smell of coconut) have a mycorrhizal relationship with the birch tree.

Bare soil & moss

The glorious glow of the orange peel fungus (*Aleuria aurantia*) can brighten up some of the bare patches of soil in autumn, whereas in the spring a similar species scarlet elf cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*) can be found ornamenting well-rotted wet mossy logs.



Orange peel fungus



Scarlet elf cup

Cauliflower fungus



Fascinating forms

Not all fungi look like the traditional 'mushroom', some have strange shapes like the cauliflower fungus (*Sparassis crispa*) found at the base of conifers especially Scots pine, collared earthstar (*Geastrum triplex*) in leaf litter under trees and the yellow stagshorn (*Calocera viscosa*) found on rotting coniferous logs.

Collared earthstar



Yellow stagshorn



Interested in learning more about volunteering at Westonbirt Arboretum?

Join us at our volunteer recruitment coffee morning on Saturday 9 November in the Great Oak Hall at 10.30am. Meet some of our volunteers who can explain the opportunities we currently have and what's involved and, of course, there will be cake!

www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/volunteering

Seasonal trail map

You can use this pull-out map to identify and locate where each of the trees in the highlights article can be found in the Arboretum.

Each tree has a coloured icon next to it. You will find the same coloured symbol placed on the map to show its location. You may wish to take the full article on your next visit.

The map is a simplified version of our main map. We've done this to make finding the tree easier. If you would like a copy of the full map, simply pop into the Welcome Building on your next visit.

Autumn & winter tree highlights

Autumn is a busy time at Westonbirt as the wonderful autumn displays attract lots of visitors to come and enjoy the kaleidoscope of colours. It's a transitional time when many trees are preparing to shed their leaves for the winter ahead. Apart from the world-renowned collection of Japanese maple cultivars and our maple species from around the world, there are plenty of woody plants to captivate your interest.

By Michal Dvorak, Dendrologist

● The coloured dots mark some of the spectacular trees worth seeking out on your next visit...



▲ Credit: Hugh Angus



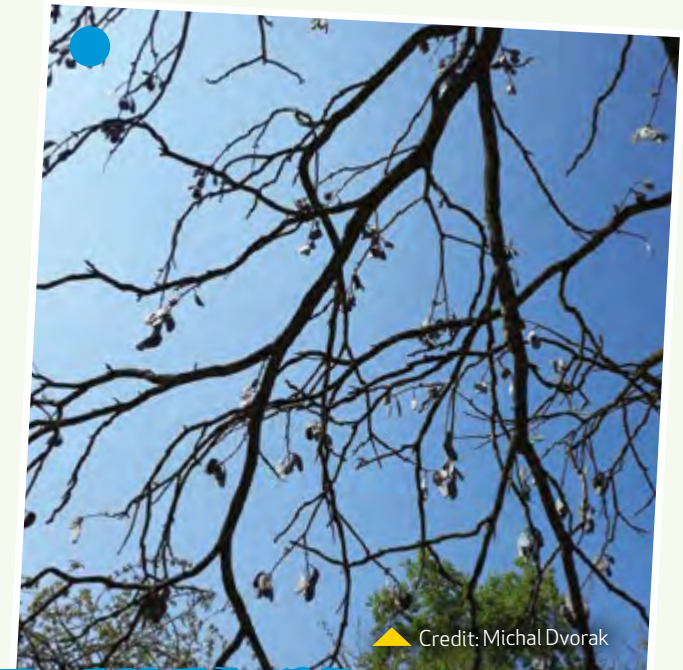
▲ Credit: Hugh Angus

Korean spindle (*Euonymus oxyphyllus*)
 Westonbirt's alluring specimens of Korean spindles (*Euonymus oxyphyllus*) make a great example of group planting that just looks superb!

Tree guide

- Autumn**
- Dead man's fingers (*Decaisnea fargesii*)
 - Korean spindle (*Euonymus oxyphyllus*)
 - Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
 - Seven son flower (of Zhejiang) (*Heptacodium miconiodes*)

- Winter**
- Japanese witch hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*)
 - Himalayan sweet box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*)
 - Mahonia x media 'Charity'



▲ Credit: Michal Dvorak

Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
 Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) gained its name from early American settlers, who used to roast and grind the seeds to brew a substitute for coffee (with no caffeine). The Native Americans also roasted the seeds for food. However the seeds are very toxic and the toxins need to be decomposed by heat, so they should never be eaten fresh off the tree!



▲ Credit: Hugh Angus

Seven son flower (of Zhejiang) (*Heptacodium miconiodes*)
 This exciting shrub was discovered in 1907 in central China by a plant hunter Ernest Wilson but introduced to cultivation in 1980. It is still rather unusual in cultivation.

Dead man's fingers (*Decaisnea fargesii*)

Also known as a blue bean plant or blue sausage fruit, it is notable for its remarkable blue seed pods in a broad bean shape. It is native to west China and Himalaya.



▲ Credit: Hugh Angus

Himalayan sweet box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*)

It is much valued for its winter flowering, which somehow hides under the foliage, but the sweet vanilla fragrance will give them away. It provides a precious source of pollen and nectar for pollinators in winter.



Mahonia x media 'Charity'

This mahonia provides a floral show in late autumn and early winter with their brilliant yellow and fragrant flowers born in large terminal clusters. It provides a welcome autumn/winter source of pollen and nectar for pollinators.



▲ Credit: Hugh Angus

Japanese witch hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*)

Witch hazels are most valued for their winter flowering spectacle from December to March on the leafless branches. Virginian witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is an exception as it flowers in the autumn at the same time or just after the leaves have fallen.



▲ Credit: Gina Mills

Autumn highlights

● Korean spindle (*Euonymus oxyphyllus*)

The spindle genus (*Euonymus*) contains about 140 different species, but Korean spindle is perhaps the most beautiful. Its native range is Korea, Japan and China. It is still quite a rarely grown plant in the UK.

As a slow growing deciduous shrub, it can take a few decades to reach a height of around four metres. In the autumn, the small white flowers are replaced by a striking, carmine-red fruit held on long slender stalks. When the five-ribbed, unwinged capsules split they reveal the orange coloured seeds – but be careful – both the fruit and seeds are poisonous.

Keep an eye out for the striking autumn foliage which glows in shades of red to purple.

● Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

Kentucky coffee tree is native, as the name suggests, to the East to Central USA. This slow-growing deciduous tree is a handsome member of the pea family (*Fabaceae*), and can reach up to 20 metres high. Pinnate leaves can extend up to 90cm long and are comprised of 6–14 leaflets, which turn into a striking clear yellow colour in autumn.

Kentucky coffee tree is a dioecious, meaning the species has separate male and female trees. Female trees produce flattened reddish brown and blue pods up to 20cm long.

● Dead man's fingers (*Decaisnea fargesii*)

Dead man's fingers (*Decaisnea fargesii*) is a deciduous shrub species of the chocolate vine family (*Lardizabalaceae*). Members of this family are characterised by their fleshy fruits. This particular species more than lives up to its name – the soft, thin, blue fruit does look eerily like a cold human finger. Open up the fruit and you will find shiny black seeds, covered in a jelly like pulp. The pulp is edible and has a sweet taste a little like cucumber. *Decaisnea* has pinnate, large leaves, often up to one metre long. The autumn yellow coloured leaves along with the extraordinary fruits make this shrub a glimpse worthy plant.

● Seven son flower (of Zhejiang) (*Heptacodium miconiodes*)

Seven son flower (*Heptacodium miconiodes*) brings out its small but numerous, fragrant white flowers in late summer to autumn. The flowers are borne in whorls and after the white flower corollas fall down, the calyces enlarge and develop into bright red, providing a further show until November. After the bright yellow leaves have completely fallen you can notice the thin, papery bark peeling off in strips from the older specimens.

Winter highlights

● *Mahonia x media* 'Charity'

This hybrid mahonia, represented here by a cultivar 'Charity', has large evergreen pinnate leaves made of tough, spiny leaflets. Its fissured cork-like bark is a year-round feature and is pleasant to feel. Like all members of barberry family (*Berberidaceae*) an interesting characteristic is its bright yellow wood caused by the presence of the alkaloid Berberin which was once used for dyeing.

● Himalayan sweet box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*)

Sweet box is a superb small thicket forming shrub. It offers lustrous dark green evergreen foliage and can be a perfect option for shady areas. If it likes the spot it will slowly spread by suckers or creeping stems. Spherical black fruit, usually not produced in large numbers, can persist for the whole season unless eaten by birds.

● Japanese witch hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*)

The flowers of this plant are frost resistant and have four curious curly ribbon shaped spidery petals, which can vary in colour from pale yellow through bright orange into deep red, depending on a species and cultivar. The flowers are born in dense, axillary clusters. They offer pleasant, sweet or frail spicy scent. The Japanese witch hazel autumn foliage is also attractive with its tints of yellow.

Don't forget to pull out the map and take it with you. Discover our seasonal picks on your next visit!



Discover the story behind our Great Oak Hall

▲ Credit: Jan Bayley

Those long-standing visitors may well remember the days when the Friends charity operated from a Portakabin and the Westonbirt volunteers had to make do with a tent for shelter, dreading those rainy days that would end up with a stream running through it! And so began the plan to fund a magnificent building to house them all in, a building that would become an integral part of the Arboretum; the conception of architect Roderick James, a building that we all know as the Great Oak Hall.

Overseen by master craftsmen Henry and John Russell with the help of over 100 volunteers, construction started in 1999 using traditional tools and methods in keeping with a medieval-style barn. 32 green oaks were donated by 15 Gloucestershire estates with a further 28 coming from our own Silk Wood. Every element of this magnificent building from the stone flooring to the straw-lined roof was sympathetically designed and locally sourced. Each of the 800 wooden pegs were hand-turned and each timber in the frame was uniquely carved to indicate its final position.

Over the months, spectators watched with wonder as the building took shape, standing in awe as the huge timber frame was lifted using only rope pulleys and muscle! The oak etched glass doors and elm table gave the finishing touches and the Great Oak Hall was proudly opened by HRH The Prince of Wales in November 2000.

Part of the funds raised to build the Great Oak Hall came from the sponsorship of over 200 Western Cedar roof shingles, each with its unique inscribed message or picture. Look out for the odd-shaped flag in the foyer floor; that's where the time capsule is buried, waiting to be retrieved in the year 2100. The capsule is filled, amongst other treasures, with Holfordiana magazines to press cuttings, photographs and interviews!

The Great Oak Hall has been enjoyed by so many over the years for meetings, events, training workshops, celebrations and exhibitions. Many people have fond memories of their special day when weddings used to take place here.



Call in and find out more!

Our expert volunteer stewards often open up the Great Oak Hall at weekends to share their passion for and fascinating knowledge of this splendid building, from the tiniest of details to the enormity

of the construction feat. Captivating short films take you back in time to experience the process for yourself, so come and enjoy its tranquillity and beauty.

We are delighted to be hosting five exhibitions and art sales throughout autumn (see page 15 for details). In the meantime, the building is often open during office hours when not in use, so come on in when you're passing and make a visit to the Great Oak Hall part of your Westonbirt experience!

You can also hire the Great Oak Hall for business meetings, workshops and exhibitions.

Visit www.fowa.org.uk/venuehire or call **0300 067 3301**.



FAMILY FUN!

PROTECTING OUR CLIMATE



Why is our climate changing?

When we burn fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) it releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Clever scientists believe that burning fossil fuels is causing the climate to become warmer. The Earth has become about 1°C warmer in the last 100 years – which has a big impact on humans, plants and animals.

Why is this bad for the environment?

Although warmer weather might sound quite nice, it's not good news for the planet! Rising temperatures will make the weather more unpredictable and extreme, and plants and animals (including humans) may find they can't adapt to this changing climate.

When do you think you use coal, oil or gas?

For example driving in a car or boiling the kettle.



So, is it bad for the climate to cut down trees?

No! As long as you plant new trees to replace them. Forestry England works very hard to ensure that when trees are cut down, new trees are planted to replace them. But, in some parts of the world, forests are being cut down and no new trees are being planted in their place. This is known as deforestation and is another thing that is causing climate change.

How do trees and forests help?

Trees help us fight climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They do this by taking in carbon dioxide (one of the main greenhouse gases), and using it to grow. As trees grow, they store the carbon in their trunks, twigs and leaves.



What changes could you make, to use less fossil fuel?

For example you could walk to school instead of driving.



BUILD YOUR OWN BUG HOTEL



You can help make your garden a great place for bugs by creating your very own bug hotel!

1. Find an old wooden box – and create some different compartments with toilet roll tubes – make sure to have the holes of the tube facing outwards.
2. Go foraging! You are after twigs, moss, dead leaves, straw, and stones. Fill your toilet roll tubes with the things you find.
3. Pop your hotel in a sheltered place in your garden and wait and see – before long you'll have a few guests checking into your insect hotel!

New trees for the future

The forest might look very different in the future! At Westonbirt Arboretum scientists are studying trees to find new species that will grow well in the wetter and warmer climate we may have in the future.

Forests for wildlife

Forests are great places for animals and birds to live, and we work hard at Westonbirt Arboretum to look after their habitats (homes). However, scientists are now worried that the number of woodland animals in England could fall because of climate change.

Look carefully on the forest floor; Use a small stick to move any fallen leaves. Can you find any tiny forest creatures? Do you know what they are?



Woodland wellbeing

Looking after our physical and mental health

Every year, one in four people experience a mental health problem. Anxiety and depression are the most commonly experienced conditions in the UK. The mental health charity MIND recently reported that spending time in nature can significantly help these conditions.

By Karen Price, Community Coordinator

But is improving our mental health as easy as 'just going for a walk in the woods?'

Like many others, I live with a mental health condition. Sometimes the motivation to leave the house can be hard to find, the excuses to stay indoors too tempting. I find a trick that works for me is to have a task or activity to focus on.

The New Economics Foundation have produced **Five Ways to Wellbeing**: a series of actions that can help improve our personal wellbeing. The team at Westonbirt have developed activities for each of these five areas.

▲ Credit: Paul Box

Five activities for wellbeing at Westonbirt

Be active

Exercise is known to release endorphins that make us feel good. Walking in green spaces is proven to reduce stress and enhance psychological wellbeing.

On your next walk through Westonbirt, why not take a camera along with you and create a collage of your photos!

Take notice



Taking the time to stop and savour the moment can help us to feel more relaxed and positive, to temporarily press 'pause' on our worries and concerns.

Find a safe place to sit where you won't be disturbed. If you feel comfortable to do so, close your eyes and start to notice the sounds around you. Are they natural or man-made? Is there a sound you've never heard before? Which sound do you like best?

To discover more about activities and volunteering opportunities at Westonbirt visit www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt

For more information and support on living with a mental health condition, visit MIND www.mind.org.uk

Connect

Spending time with others can increase feelings of happiness and self-worth. A stroll through the trees with a friend or sharing an emotional response to nature by creating a collaborative work of art can help us to create memories and connect with each other.

Autumn is a great time to make a natural mandala as a group. Go for a walk with your friends or family and gather whatever catches your interest – please remember to only gather items that have fallen from the trees. Then find a quiet place to make your creation.

Start with a central item and work outwards in a circular pattern. Take a photo to remind you of your creation!

Keep learning

Choosing to learn something we enjoy can help us feel positive and inspired, enhances self-esteem and encourages social interaction and a more active life.

Learn something new about Westonbirt by joining a guided walk through the Old Arboretum. Have a look at our website to see when the next guided walk is.

Give

Giving time through volunteering not only helps others, but can help us feel more confident and connected. Volunteering has attracted a lot of attention in research into wellbeing. It can provide a sense of pride and identity, helping you to build a positive view of your life and the future. It is a great way to make new friends, learn new skills, and be active.

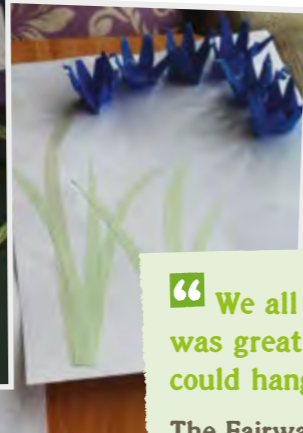
A community of our own

In 2014, Westonbirt Arboretum started up its own community engagement project, supported by Heritage Lottery Funding, designed to increase our inclusivity allowing more people to visit and enjoy our wonderful trees.

Thanks to your membership, we have been able to continue this vital work, working with 160 local community groups and organisations to enable 6,500 people from local 'harder to reach' community groups to come and spend time at our wonderful Arboretum.

Branching Out

Our outreach programme sends our team into residential care homes, exploring Westonbirt's trees, flora and fauna with the residents. Many of the participants are living with dementia. Though the activities they engage in may soon be forgotten, the emotions they experience stay with them.



Credit: Brian Martin

Nurtured by Nature & Westonbirt Wellbeing

Our Community Team works with local groups to bring people who may not normally be able to visit the Arboretum to Westonbirt. We work with participants doing creative, sensory and practical conservation activities to help promote positive mental health. From coppice restoration and willow lanterns to charcoal making and xylophones, people can enjoy mindful woodland activities.

“ One man found work after three sessions, he attributed his ability to engage with an employer to the way Westonbirt staff and volunteers and other participants were encouraging and supportive. He had not worked in the last ten years. ”

Dept. of Work and Pensions

Your membership has enabled us to create 26 new dementia friends on site.

“ We all really enjoyed this and it was great they had something they could hang in their bedrooms. ”

The Fairways Care Home

“ For a while, whilst here, my addiction hasn't defined me. ”

Group participant

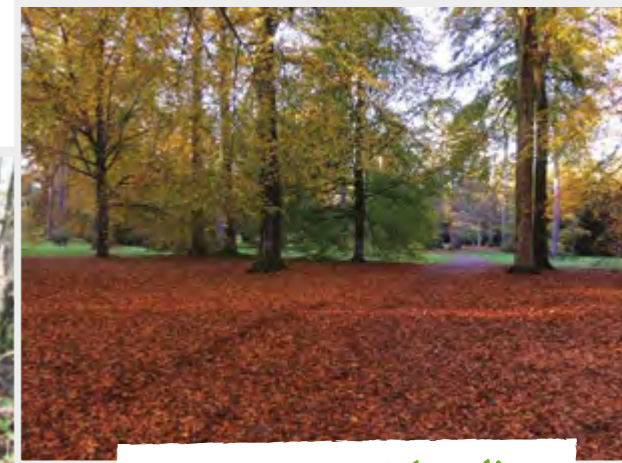


Wild Westonbirt

According to Young Minds, three children in every classroom have a mental health problem. We work with our Youth Forum, Wild Westonbirt, building confidence and self-esteem, which in turn boosts wellbeing and positive mental health.

“ Westonbirt has given me confidence in working with others... before I got my confidence I was very lonely and people would call me names... now I have started making friends. ”

Young women aged 14



Bereavement healing

“ The Arboretum has soothed my soul many times over recent years. I never tire of its magic and ability to calm and bring hope. ”

I was having a difficult time. My dad had dementia and there was a heart-breaking family rift. Then my mum was diagnosed with cancer. Coming here kept me sane and gave me strength.

Sadly, dad died but thankfully mum recovered. Life moves on but every visit still brings a special gift. I love seeing the tiny fresh green shoots in spring just waiting for warmth to grow, fat buds about to burst with life. The blaze of autumn colours lighting up the earth with smoke filled mist reminding me of happy autumns past. We are so lucky. ”

Diane,
Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum



▲ Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Active Forest

A healthy way to change our worlds

Whether it's walking a trail, enjoying a gentle jog or playing ping pong with friends, there are many great ways to get active through our Active Forests Programme.

By Martyn Reeves, Active Forest Coordinator

The Active Forests Programme is a joint project between Forestry England and Sport England that aims to create a sporting habit for life for visitors to the public forest estate in England. The programme achieves this through events, regular activities/groups and play-on-the-day opportunities.

Running has been one of our key focuses at Westonbirt. Running on softer surfaces like forest trails puts less pressure on your joints, which hopefully means fewer injuries. Taking your training off-road requires more concentration and balance than running on tarmac, those added wobbles help you build up your stabilising leg muscles, again helping to prevent injury.

Trail running is an easy and proven way to improve your mental health and wellbeing. A study of the benefits of green exercise at the University of Essex showed improvements in mental wellbeing, social inclusion and connection to nature. Whilst a pilot study in Cornwall found that a weekly dose of oceans, forests or other natural environments on patients suffering from depression recorded a 69% increase in mental wellbeing in just three months. (www.forestryengland.uk/blog/running-wild-why-you-should-be-running-the-forest)

To get more people running regularly at the Arboretum, five marked running routes have been installed. These range from 0.9km to 4.1km and all start from the crossroads in the middle of the Downs. This allows you to mix and match the routes, so whether you are setting out on a couch to 5k or training for a marathon there's a marked route for you.

We are also expanding on the success of our existing Westonbirt 10k by increasing the number of events held here. On Saturday 14 September, we will be holding our Forestry 100 running series 10k, which forms part of the celebrations for 100 years of Forestry England in 2019. We hosted the inaugural Westonbirt Duathlon this year and look forward to its return in March 2020. A duathlon is a run, bike ride and another run! The runs take place here and the bike leg on our local roads.

Being active in the Arboretum isn't only about running. Tai chi, buggyfit, nordic walking, orienteering, sports box, table tennis and the 'Be a tree champion' trail are just some of the activities to have taken place in the past year.

To keep up-to-date with opportunities to be active at Westonbirt Arboretum check out www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/events

A weekly dose of oceans, forests or other natural environments on patients suffering from depression recorded a 69% increase in mental wellbeing in just three months.



▲ Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Five new way marked running routes have been installed.

▼ Credit: Jan Bayley

Running for fun & friends

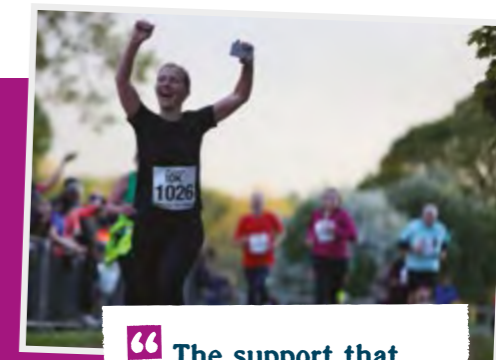
When my son started secondary school and began catching the school bus, I came to realise just how valuable my daily contact with other parents in the school playground had been.

I quickly came to realise how this change in circumstances had affected me. Joining some work colleagues for an after-work run at the Arboretum was just what I needed to clear my head, mentally process the day's activities and recharge my mind.

Running the 10k was not on my 'to do' list for 2019. However, I somehow found myself signed up and I had to up the training programme. Sharing the goal of training for an event like the Westonbirt 10k has been a great way to socialise and focus on things other than work and being a parent.

The support that comes when running with others is great. The activity has been just what I needed to put perspective on the working day. I would encourage others in a similar situation to try it!

Kelly, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Membership Administrator



“ The support that comes when running with others is great. ”

Check out our running routes at Westonbirt by visiting www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/running-routes



OUR CHANGING WORLD

When was the last time you visited Westonbirt? Did it help you feel closer to nature walking amongst the tree-covered landscape?

Whilst we can all agree that Westonbirt is a fantastic example of nature at its finest, it still requires careful management by the skilled and dedicated Tree Team, which is why STIHL is extremely proud to support the team with the provision of tools and Personal Protective Equipment.

STIHL is the world's leading petrol chainsaw manufacturer and, although some people may see chainsaws as a force for destruction, the company's founder, Andreas Stihl, had a vision when he started out in 1926; "Making it easier for people to work in and with nature." The key word in that sentence is "with". Working with the Westonbirt Tree Team is just one small way that STIHL can continue Andreas Stihl's legacy. After all, STIHL can only be sustainable as a company if the environment the tools are used in is sustainable as well.

As such, sustainability is a key goal for STIHL, and the Group takes its responsibility to the environment very seriously. It is committed to long-term environmental protection and continually improving energy efficiency across the world.

One of the ways STIHL does this is by constantly reviewing both processes and products globally. For example, in 2012, the STIHL Group's Austrian distribution company in Vösendorf, constructed an administration building that is heated entirely without fossil fuels, using solar installation and a geo thermal storage system. STIHL Tirol in Austria, also has a photovoltaic system in place which saves around 37 metric tons of CO₂ each year, and in 2018, they were honoured by the Austrian federal government for the extraordinary commitment to energy efficiency.

But the processes are just one part of the story – STIHL Tirol is also leading the way when it comes to the development of new products, particularly the introduction of battery-powered tools. Quieter, lighter and emission-free in use compared to their petrol counterparts, cordless products are already winning over tool users across the globe and feedback from customers in Britain suggests that the sales of battery-powered machines is set to rise here too.

Speaking about the power of cordless tools, Paul Hicks, Product and Marketing Manager at STIHL Great Britain commented:

"We are investing a significant amount in the development of our cordless tool range, bringing battery production in-house, extending our tool production facility in the Tyrolian mountains in Austria, and opening a €100 million Research & Development centre focussing on developing new STIHL tools. Our comprehensive range of cordless tools cover most landscaping jobs, from homeowner to professional. Battery power has come a long way since 2009 when we launched our first cordless hedge trimmer. We now have 45 battery-powered tools in the range, including our high-tech iMow robotic mowers, and plenty more to come as battery capacities grow and open up new opportunities for more powerful models with longer run times."

The Tree Team at Westonbirt have even tested the power of battery with a STIHL battery-powered top handle chainsaws and a ground based saw developed specifically for arborists to be lighter and quieter, and therefore make communication between teams much easier.

In our changing world, STIHL is at the forefront of developing new, exciting and more efficient technology, with battery power leading the pack. Have you embraced the benefits of battery tools yet?

www.stihl.co.uk



Discounted entry to the 2019 Westonbirt Shopping Fair

Westonbirt Shopping Fair is offering members discounted entry for just £6 into the annual Shopping Fair held at Westonbirt House on 30 & 31 October 2019.



Purchase your tickets online at westonbirtfair.org/ticketsdiscountarb.html



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

The perfect Christmas present

With Christmas just around the corner, have you considered giving membership as a special gift?

At just £39 for a single membership or £76 for a joint membership, you will not only be encouraging your friend or loved one to get active, but supporting the incredible conservation work here at Westonbirt Arboretum. You can opt to have the membership sent to yourself or sent directly to the person you are giving the gift to. It's a wonderful gift full of days out and happy memories!

Purchase online at fowa.org.uk/gift or at the Welcome Building when you next visit.

Crossword

Well done to Mrs Farrington of Stonehouse and Linda Tillotson of Wantage who successfully completed the crossword in our last edition of the magazine.

If there's a story you'd like us to feature why not drop a line to our Editorial Team at magazine@fowa.org.uk

Opt-in for eNews

Our eNews is the best way to keep up-to-date with exciting free events and activities here at Westonbirt Arboretum.

We also notify our members of presale notifications for Forest Live concerts tickets and Enchanted Christmas by email. So, if you're not receiving these, please let us know by contacting membership@fowa.org.uk and opt-in today!

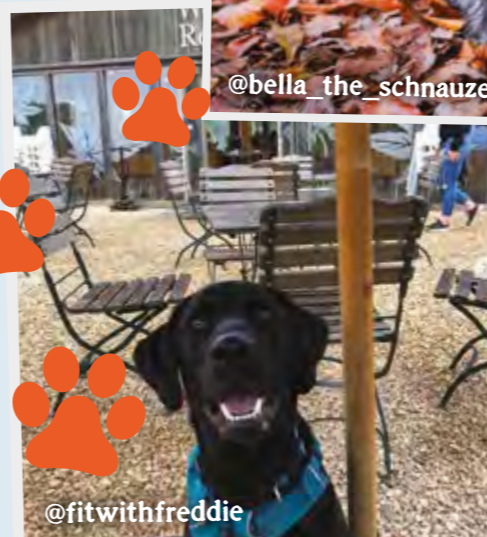
Westonbirt magazine online

Did you know that you can now access the catalogue of Westonbirt Magazines online?

Simply go to fowa.org.uk/magazine and enter your name and the member number on your card. Whilst all primary members are sent a printed copy of the magazine, if you are happy to read it online we invite you to opt-out of receiving the posted version by emailing membership@fowa.org.uk.



@fitwithfreddie



@bella_the_schnauzer

Saturday is #WestonbirtWalkies

Tag photos of your four legged friend with #WestonbirtWalkies and we'll share our favourite snaps on our Instagram @FriendsofWestonbirt each Saturday.

Kind comments from our members

It's always lovely to hear from our members, we always welcome your thoughts and ideas. Here are a few nice messages we recently received.



Dear Editor,

We have enjoyed the magazine with its mix of interesting articles and have happy memories of visiting Westonbirt over a number of years.



Mr & Mrs Mason



Dear Editor,

Having read my Spring/Summer Mag. and as a Life Member, I read pages 38/9 with great interest. The Sir Henry Elwes re: 'At the start of FOWA... I used to work for many years for John Workman, and in fact helped him along with Henry Elwes and others at the conception of The Friends. It's become a huge thing The Friends, JW would be touched and thrilled to know how many people are involved in enjoying the pleasure of the Arboretum. Although I shall be 80 this year, I must say I was pleased to be involved.



Gillian Hopkins



Dear Editor,

We had a magical visit to the Enchanted Wood at Christmas time around 1997 when our son was 3/4 years. It started to snow as we made our way there and was settling when we got there. The lighting in the trees and their reflection in the snow was something we will never forget. Then a snowball fight and hot chocolate in the open air (no smart café then!).



Joanna Borrett

Share your comments with us magazine@fowa.org.uk

Top tips

for budding photographers



The Arboretum is a fantastic venue for budding photographers. We thought we'd share some tips from Bev and Chloe, who love taking pictures during their lunch breaks!

You don't necessarily need any special equipment because, for many of us, our mobile phone cameras will record a scene just as well as a top of the range SLR.

Ask yourself why you want to take a picture. Are you looking at a single tree or a collection? Are the trees the focal point or are you catching a magical family moment? Think about the reason and it will help you to plan a photo that reflects the true motivation you felt at that moment.

How to take a decent photo of the trees. Find the tree and consider why it captivates you. Start by studying your subject. Is it the shape? The colour of the leaves? The texture of the bark? The surroundings? Take photos from different angles and positions, this will give you an idea of the best approach. Perspective can be very important, so consider adding something or someone to give the tree's height some context.

Please share your photos with us by emailing marketing@fowa.org.uk and we'll feature the best on our Member Gallery at www.fowa.org.uk/member-gallery

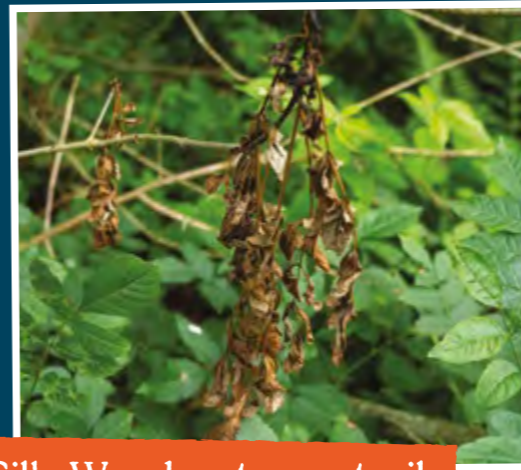


Have you experimented with your camera?

Try different things, learn about your camera and creative possibilities. Try different angles, try positioning yourself underneath the tree to capture the canopy and some dramatic clouds. Explore different exposures and speeds to see what your camera can do within its basic settings and remember them.

If you want to significantly improve your photography, you might consider joining a local group, but most importantly enjoy capturing those magic moments!

Credit: Dave Hughes



Silk Wood autumn trail

Follow the Silk Wood autumn trail to find out more about Chalara ash dieback. Three installations along the trail route will highlight key impacts of Chalara; the scale of damage, what this means for Westonbirt, and indeed what this means for you.

Look out for the installation asking for your contributions; what do woodlands mean to you and your friends and family? Perhaps woodlands near you hold a special place in your heart; will they be impacted by Chalara? We want to open up a conversation on this subject with you, our wonderful members and visitors, to really understand the social impact that our landscape is facing.

Recent visitor feedback

Thank you for taking the time to give us your comments

My Wife & I have been "Friends of the Arboretum" since I retired, 20 years.

The staff at the entrance have always been very friendly and welcoming. We love having the Arboretum on our doorstep lovely place to walk & meet people.

M&J

Please bring your card

You'll need your valid membership card every time you visit Westonbirt Arboretum so that you can enter free of charge.

If you have lost your card or require a replacement card at any stage, please contact the Membership Team Monday to Friday 9am-4pm on **0300 067 3300** or by emailing membership@fowa.org.uk for a free replacement. An optional donation of £3 to cover the cost of replacing your card would be gratefully received. We ask that you give us a minimum of 24 hours' notice ahead of visiting to make these arrangements.

In the event that you are unable to show a valid card when visiting the Arboretum and still wish to enter, you will be required to pay a non-refundable admission fee.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your comments

I visit the Arboretum most days to walk my dog Zeus. No matter what the weather we are always greeted with a cheery good morning from the staff at the Welcome Building. Nothing seems to be too much trouble for them, they were so kind and helpful when I hired a scooter for my elderly friend and they came to my aid when I lost Zeus's lead.

It's a spectacular place to visit, and we never get bored of walking around, even in the rain, it's beautiful.

I would just like to say a very big thank you to all of you who work there making this place so special.

Christine Goff

The beauty of Westonbirt
will travel far and wide

On 13 August, Royal Mail released a range of six collectable stamps featuring our Forests. As Westonbirt, The National Arboretum is Forestry England's flagship collection of trees in England, one of these stamps features Acer Glade's colourful Japanese maples which form the basis of the Arboretum's spectacular autumn colour display.



Purchase your collectible Forest stamp range at royalmail.com/forests



Chair Making Courses

at Westonbirt Woodworks

Book now for 2020!

Paul Hayden's popular Chair Making courses are bringing people to Westonbirt from far and wide. This year's courses have been fully booked but now that the new Woodworks, funded by the Friends and other funders, is finished, Paul will be extending the range of courses he offers for 2020. Check the woodworks website for details.



Buy a gift voucher

(dated or undated) for friends or family.
The perfect Christmas present.

“ I had barely used a saw before I came on the course and I ended up with new friends, a year's worth of therapy and a fabulous chair that I'm proud of. It was a blast - thank you Paul, Christie, Tom, Josh and of course Harry! ”

Book early to get on course!

See www.greenwoodcourses.co.uk for details



Financial overview

Total Income – £1,326,425

Membership £1,186,459 (89%)

Total Expenditure – £1,149,070

AARP £544,555 (47%)

Donations £112,985 (8%)
Great Oak Hall £21,692 (2%)
Other £5,289 (1%)

Costs of raising funds £49,515 (5%)
Westonbirt Magazine £62,921 (5%)
Grants £138,025 (12%)

Support costs £354,054 (31%)

AGM

The 2018 audited report and accounts were presented to the members at the AGM on Wednesday 22 May where the appointment of Bishop Fleming as auditors was approved following a successful review. After the financial presentation, new Trustees Rachel Walker, Martin Green and Beth Bottrill introduced themselves. Members also received an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the Propagation area and learned more about some of the secrets to how Westonbirt's trees are grown.



2018 income grew £158K some 13% up on 2017 allowing us to give more project grant funding for the Arboretum with a Net income of £177K.

Income

Expenditure

Membership

We ended with over 32,000 members, a record for the Arboretum and an increase of 2% year on year.

Fundraising

Fundraising was received from a number of sources including Trusts and Foundations, individuals and of course the generosity of our members who donated to our causes.

Great Oak Hall

We continued to grow the revenue received from the Great Oak Hall and the development of relationships with our corporate partners who support us and use our venue.

In 2018 we invested in our governance as we plan for the future with a more agile operating structure, increasing support costs.

Arboretum Access Rights Payment (AARP)

We increased the percentage of unrestricted money we gave to Forestry England in order to support additional operations at the Arboretum including Community and Tree Team roles.

Grants

We increased the amount of money spent as grants on projects around the Arboretum by over 100% which included signage, parking and the completion of the Westonbirt Woodworks.



CORDLESS POWER. MADE BY STIHL.

READY FOR ANY CHALLENGE

COMPACT CORDLESS SYSTEM WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERY

Spring time – the time when tasks are emerging everywhere in the garden. Be ready to take on the challenge with tools from the STIHL COMPACT Cordless Power System. All the tools in the system are designed to be easy to use, light-weight and also quiet. But they don't compromise on performance. They are powered by a high-performance lithium-ion battery that can be used in all the tools in the system. That's real cordless power. Made by STIHL.

AVAILABLE FROM APPROVED STIHL DEALERS AND SELECTED GARDEN CENTRES. STIHL.CO.UK/CORDLESS

*Buy any promotional set - which includes a tool, 2 x recommended batteries and a charger - and the price paid will include the second battery at half price. Offer ends 31st December 2019. Terms and conditions apply - visit stihl.co.uk/cordless for full details.

The Friends of Westonbirt team



Credit: Dave Hughes

- Chief Executive** Mike Coe
- Membership & Communications Manager** Jane Shute
- Marketing & Communications Officer** Jo Murray
- Membership Officer** Bev Starkings
- Membership Administrator** Kelly Hough
- Membership Administrator** Chloe Vincent
- Fundraising Officer** Hannah Litherland
- Fundraising Administrator** Gill Ball
- Business Officer** Lorna Smith
- Finance Officer** Maureen Nisbet
- For membership enquiries:** membership@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3300
- For fundraising enquiries:** fundraising@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3303
- For Great Oak Hall enquiries:** greatoakhall@fowa.org.uk 0300 067 3301

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patrons | Trustees |
| HRH The Duchess of Cornwall | Mike Mintram (Chair) |
| Giles Coode-Adams OBE | Christine Burt (Vice Chair) |
| Sir Henry Elwes KCVO | Gavin Grant |
| Hon Beth Rothschild | Martyn Smith |
| Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO | Mike Howarth |
| | Beth Weston |
| President | Beth Bottrill |
| Christopher Brickell CBE | Martin Green |
| | Rachel Walker |
| Vice Presidents | |
| Roger Busby CBE | |
| Peregrine Pollen | |

Arboretum opening times

9am–5pm (last paid entry March – Nov 4.30pm)
(Dec – Feb 4pm) Closed Christmas day

General enquiries Monday–Friday

Tel: 0300 067 4890
westonbirt@forestryengland.uk

Learning Centre

The Learning and Participation Team offers a wide range of fun, hands-on programmes
Tel: 0300 067 4856

Mobility Scooter Reservations

Book in advance, collect from Welcome Building
Open daily 10am – 3.30pm
Tel: 0300 067 4861

Volunteering

Tel: 0300 067 4853
volunteer.westonbirt@forestryengland.uk

Westonbirt Shop

Open every day 9.30am – 4pm
Tel: 01666 880 787

Restaurant and café

Open 9.30am – 4pm
(Closed Christmas and New Years day)
Café open seasonally, Tel: 01666 880064

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QS

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS

Brand new trail for 2019

**Fri 29 Nov – Sun 1 Dec, Fri 6 – Sun 8 Dec,
Fri 13 – Sun 15 Dec, Fri 20 – Sun 22 Dec**

Friends presale Wed 4 Sep

**50% OFF
FOR FRIENDS
OF WESTONBIRT
ARBORETUM
on Friday bookings**

**More information
forestryengland.uk/westonbirt**



Forestry England