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MAGAZINE OF The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum



Westonbirt

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



What does
Westonbirt
mean to you?

Supporter stories

Westonbirt walkies

Let's talk rubbish

Westonbirt unseen



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

What does Westonbirt mean to you?

Welcome to our spring and summer edition of the Westonbirt magazine. For many of us Westonbirt has a special place in our hearts; somewhere to relax, to feel close to nature and to enjoy a sense of mental and physical wellbeing. In this edition of the magazine we asked some of our supporters to tell us what Westonbirt means to them.

Jane Shute, Head of Supporter Engagement

There are always plenty of good reasons to visit the arboretum, whether it's to enjoy a walk, exercise the dog, give the kids a run, enjoy the fresh air, explore our wonderful shop and catering or take part in workshops.

Members enjoy Westonbirt throughout the seasons, creating lasting memories over many years with family and friends. These memories shape our personal experience and often create life stories. We hope you'll enjoy the supporter stories on pages 16 & 17 explaining what Westonbirt means to them.

You can find our 10-Year Vision icons of conservation, education and participation featured throughout the magazine helping to highlight our activities as we progress on our 10-year journey.

- 
Conservation:
Protecting our trees for the future
- 
Education:
Sharing knowledge to create change
- 
Participation:
Connecting people with nature

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and shared personal stories with us in this edition. If you would like to share your Westonbirt story please contact us at magazine@fowa.org.uk

In this issue

State of the world's trees	5
Events	8
Updating <i>The Little Book of Disappearing Trees</i>	12
36th Annual General Meeting	13
Membership benefits	14
Supporter stories	16
Westonbirt unseen	18
What does Westonbirt mean to me?	20
Buying the best small and local business products	22
Spring & summer tree highlights	24
Supporting our 10-Year Vision	30
Life in the forest	32
Family fun	34
Community Shelter	36
Quarantine House is complete!	38
News	40
Let's talk rubbish	43
Shaping the way we approach our need for trees	44
Westonbirt walkies	47
Trees I have grown and mistakes I have made	48
How I came to woodworking at Westonbirt	50
Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum Team	51

Contents

Features



State of the world's trees 5



Westonbirt unseen 18



Community Shelter 36



Shaping the way we approach our need for trees 44

the friends of Westonbirt Arboretum



Westonbirt

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Hello again



For those members who have been with us for a few years, you may remember me as the Interim CEO who handed over to Mike Coe in early 2019. Well, here I am, back amongst the wonderful trees of this stunning site, as we seek a new permanent CEO to lead The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum forward.

Having had three years away, I've been struck by how much has moved forward at The Friends, despite all the challenges of the pandemic over the past two years. The many improvements have come alongside considerable growth in membership, reflecting extraordinary support from our members in these difficult times.

The pandemic has opened up Westonbirt to more people, who have come to love this site and its tree collection, to walk in the Old Arboretum and Silk Wood and perhaps pop into the shop to grab a coffee and cake at the restaurant. Our goal is to support the development of this site in a way that enables conservation, education, and participation, so every visit you make here helps us achieve those aims.

As the pandemic (hopefully) eases, I hope we will see our partner, Forestry England take action to implement the Westonbirt 10-Year Vision, with the support of The Friends and all our members.

Recent work you have helped to fund includes the completion of the Quarantine House, which will enable better protection of arboretum propagation from pests and disease. Your support has also contributed to the opening of our community shelter project, providing a long-lasting home for future generations of community participants from disadvantaged groups.

Thank you for being a Friend of Westonbirt Arboretum. You help us to ensure Westonbirt achieves our collective vision to be a world leader in trees.

Felicia Willow
Interim CEO, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum

Westonbirt's essential work



Trees rightly got plenty of attention last year. During COP26, held in Glasgow in the autumn, they were one of the big three issues needing attention: coal, cars and trees.

Just before the COP26 conference *The State of World's Trees* report was published. This identified that 30% of the 58,497 tree species are known to be threatened with extinction. Importantly, we now know which species are threatened and why, so we are better placed to do something about it.

During the year we updated and have now republished our own 'Little Book of Disappearing Trees'. Westonbirt is home to around 1,800 species of tree. This might seem a small proportion of the world's total but is a sizeable chunk of those that will grow in our climate, and massive compared to the 85 that are native to the UK. Significantly, 134 are classified as threatened, Dan Crowley explains more on page 12.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to Mike Coe who departed as Chief Executive of The Friends just before Christmas. Mike stabilised and expanded the operation of the charity to more effectively support the site and he played a key role in helping articulate the arboretum's future vision.

Andrew Smith
Forestry England, Arboretum Director



State of the world's trees

It was only as recently as 2017 that the first global, authoritative list of tree species was published in an online database, **Global Tree Search**. Over the past five years, through the **Global Tree Assessment**, intensive research has been undertaken to compile extinction risk information on the 58,497 tree species worldwide.

Andrew Smith, Arboretum Director, Forestry England

This information is now available at bgci.org providing a tool to support forestry, biodiversity conservation and climate change policy and action for tree species. This work has been led by our conservation partners **Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) utilising a network of over 60 institutional partners and 500 experts.**

Importance of trees

Trees are of immense importance. Forests cover 31% of the world's surface playing a major role in biological and chemical processes influencing soils, water, nutrient and carbon cycles as well as our climate.

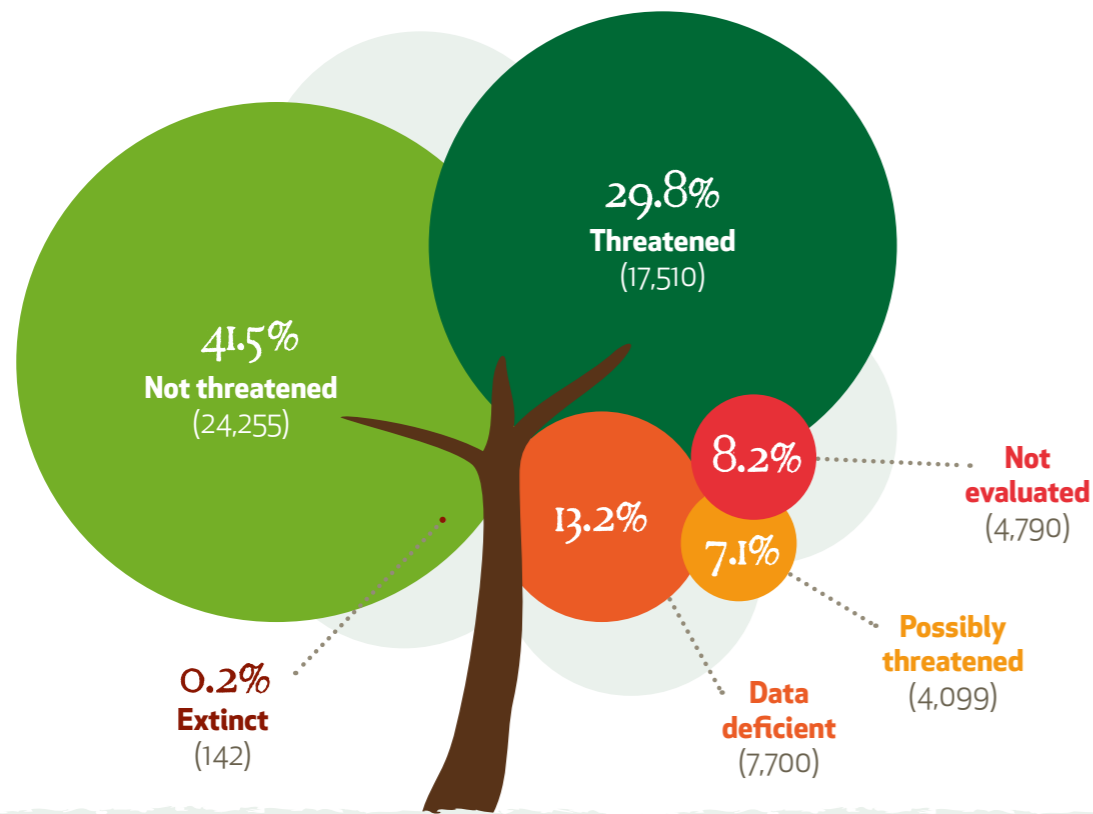
Forests support at least half of the Earth's known land-based plants and animals. Trees are visible and measurable indicators of the health of our world and provide many products of huge value to humans from timber to fuelwood, medicines and foods.

However, trees are under threat both at the level of individual species and through the collapse of entire forest ecosystems.

Conservation status of trees

To produce a global overview of the conservation status of trees, they were assigned to one of six categories: extinct, threatened, possibly threatened, not threatened, data deficient and not evaluated. The status of a species is determined by its abundance, distribution, rate of decline and potential threats. 17,510 species or 30% are considered threatened and 142 have been recorded as extinct. These numbers could rise when those that are data deficient or not evaluated are further assessed.

17,510 species or 30% are considered threatened and 142 have been recorded as extinct.



The main threats to trees

Habitat loss is currently the greatest threat to tree species. Over the past three hundred years global forest area has decreased by about 40% and 29 countries have lost more than 90% of their forest cover.

Conversion of land for agriculture is threatening more tree species than any other issue. This includes slash-and-burn farming, conversion of habitat for cash crops such as coffee, tea, oil palm, soybean, cocoa, and rubber. Other causes of habitat loss include urban and industrial development, transport corridors, mining and fire.

Over the past three hundred years global forest area has decreased by about 40% and 29 countries have lost more than 90% of their forest cover.

The second main threat is direct exploitation especially for timber with over 7,400 species affected. Timber extraction from natural habitats applies particularly to tropical hardwoods, of which approximately 300 million cubic metres of timber is harvested annually, an

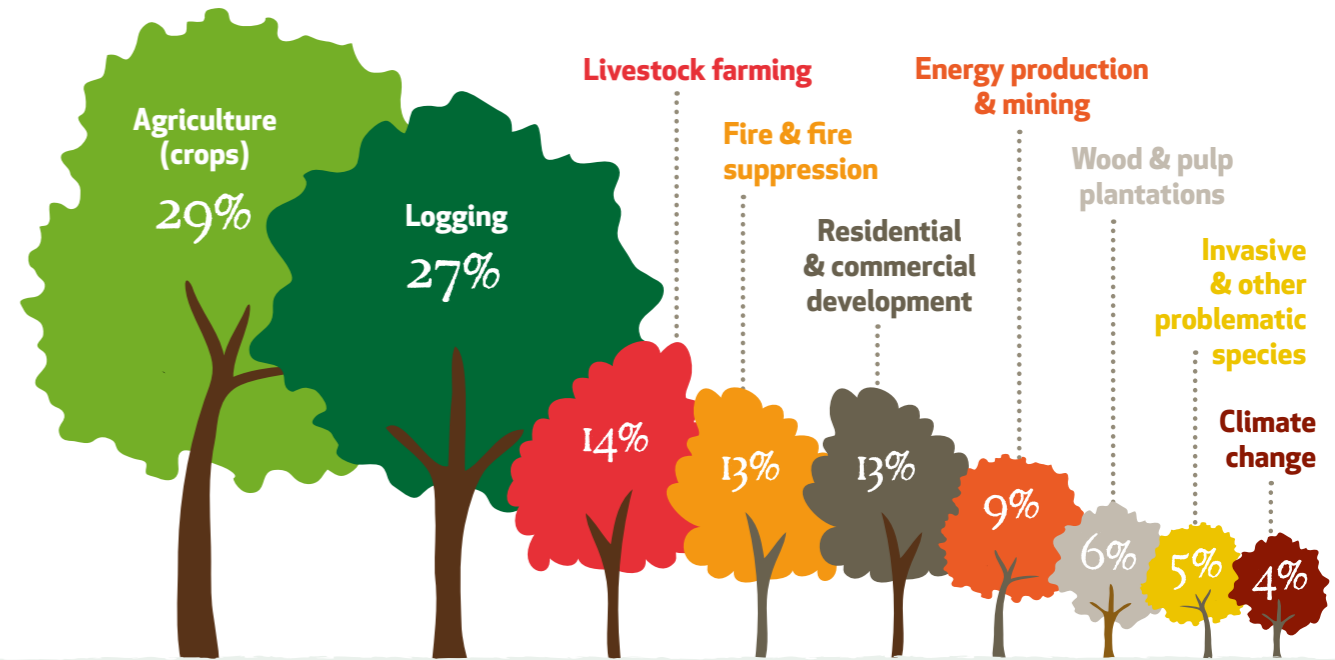
estimated 100 million trees. Despite many laws to protect trees, Interpol estimates the value of forestry crimes at US\$51–152 billion per year.

Pests and diseases are an increasing threat. Emerald ash borer, accidentally introduced through infested pallets, has caused six native north American species of ash to become critically endangered. The International Plant Sentinel Network, of which Westonbirt is part, acts to provide early warning of new pest and pathogen risks.

Climate change is recorded as a threat to 1,080 species. Trees of coastal, northern latitudes and mountain regions are disproportionately impacted.

Conservation measures for trees

The Global Tree Assessment means that for the first time we know which of the world's trees are threatened and why. Combining this with our knowledge of conservation actions needed to reduce threats we have the information needed to take effective action and improve the status of tree species. Action can take place in one of two ways, either in situ to conserve the native habitat of trees, or ex situ outside their native habitat such as arboreta or seed banks.



The International Plant Sentinel Network, of which Westonbirt is part, acts to provide early warning of new pest and pathogen risks.

Action will be required through a mix of means. This is the basis of the Global Conservation Consortia we are co-ordinating with BGCI from Westonbirt. Six priority tree groups have been identified including maples and oak, to scale up conservation action. In situ we can work with partners overseas to better understand distributions and threats. Some solutions

can be relatively simple such as introducing fuel efficient stoves to reduce demand for firewood or small adjustments to farming practices, in some cases patrols may be required to prevent illegal activity. Ex situ conservation in places like Westonbirt offers a safe place for species under threat in their natural environment and can provide plant material for species recovery programmes. Expertise we have at arboreta can be used to test propagation techniques and then communicate these to communities on the ground so that they can grow seedlings for planting back into natural habitats.

Most common uses for trees recorded on the IUCN Red List by number of species (Source: BGCI 2021)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Construction (3,716) | Fuels (1,444) |
| Medicine (1,951) | Food, human (1,382) |
| Horticulture (1,646) | Household goods (1,302) |



Coming up

Tree Care Forum 2022

An educational day for the public and professionals to learn all about arboriculture and tree care; inside, outdoors and online.

Fri 20 & Sat 21 May



Forest Live

In June Forest Live returns for a run of four nights. This year we are excited to be welcoming:

• **Rag n' Bone Man**, an English singer-songwriter known for his distinctive baritone voice.

SOLD OUT

• **Keane**, who return to perform material from their extensive repertoire.

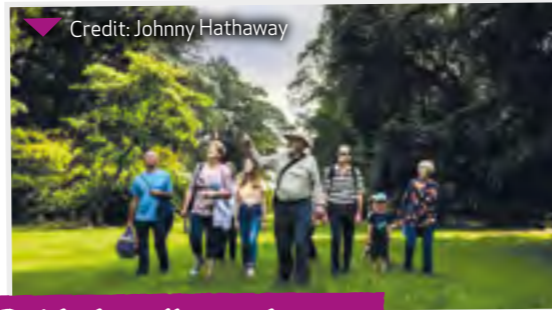
• **Madness**, who will perform their trademark 'nutty sound' surrounded by trees.

SOLD OUT

• **Texas**, who last played a Forest Live show in 2011 and return to perform their hits in this beautiful setting.

09–12 Jun 2022

Tickets are available at forestryengland.uk/music or by calling 0300 068 0400.



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Guided walks and tours

Wonders of Westonbirt Guided Walk

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

Check website for dates and times over spring and summer

Price: £1 non-refundable booking fee

Active Forest Events

Buggyfit

A fun and enjoyable opportunity to regain your fitness after having a baby.

Every Wed, 10.45am

Price: £7 pay as you go

CaniX

CaniX (Cani-cross) is running with your dog on a course around Silkwood to complete 5k on each day of the event.

Sat 05 & Sun 06 Mar, 10am

For further details and ticket bookings please visit our website.

Duathlon

The 5k run route takes you through some spectacular scenery of the arboretum before transitioning to the open rural roads.

Sun 27 Mar, 8am

SOLD OUT

Run for the trees 10K

Our annual 10K run through the arboretum in all its spring glory.

Thu 12 May, 7pm

SOLD OUT

Support our Westonbirt Runner, Julia, as she runs for the trees at fowa.org.uk/julia



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

For children and families

Tots and Twigs Forest School

Encourage young children to develop their outdoor knowledge through nature-based learning sessions.

Mon, Thu and Fri mornings and afternoons during term time

Price: check website for each terms cost

Wild Westonbirt

Westonbirt's youth forum and practical conservation project for young adults aged 14–18.

Saturdays, monthly, 10am–4pm

Price: Free

Booking essential, please email karen.price@forestryengland.uk

What's the Use of Wood?

Find out more about the uses of wood through crafts, discovery and a tree trail.

Sat 26 & Sun 27 Mar

Price: Free after entry

Westonbirt Treasures

What are your Westonbirt Treasures? Make your own treasure map and share your discoveries.

Mon 11–Thu 14 Apr

Price: Free after entry

The Colour of Spring

Come and explore Westonbirt's wonderful spring colours and use natural materials to make crafts to take home.

Tue 19–Fri 22 Apr

Price: Free after entry

Find out more

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

Minibeast Safari

Join our team on a minibeast safari to find out what's living in the treetops, in the grasses, and under leaf litter. Add to our findings throughout the day.

Mon 30 May–Wed 01 Jun

Price: Free after entry



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Summer Secrets

Discover some summer surprises as you look closely through microscopes at hidden secrets and join us at our craft station.

Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jun

Price: Free after entry

Arboretum Apprentice

Come and join us on an activity walk to experience the tasks of a different arboretum job each week – pre-booking essential, or drop into our job themed craft sessions.

• **Propagator: Sat 30 Jul, Sun 31 Jul**

• **Arborist: Tue 02–Thu 04 Aug**

• **Communication Officer: Sat 06, Sun 07 Aug**

• **Recreation Ranger: Tue 09–Thu 11 Aug**

• **Community Officer: Sat 13, Sun 14 Aug**

• **Woodland Ecologist: Tue 16–Thu 18 Aug**

• **Dendrologist: Sat 20, Sun 21 Aug**

• **Arboretum Curator: Tue 23–Thu 25 Aug**

Price: Free after entry



Workshops and courses

Impressions of Westonbirt – Creative Abstracts Photography Workshop

Look beyond the obvious and develop your creative eye.

17 Mar, 12 Apr, 12 May, 15 Jun

Price: £140

Beginners Digital Landscape Course

Aimed at the beginner who has a digital camera but lacks confidence to move away from Auto Mode setting.

Mon 04 Apr, 10.30am–3.30pm

Price: £65

Willow Sculpture Workshop

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

Sat 09 Apr, Sat 07 May, Sat 11 Jun, Sat 09 Jul,
Sat 06 Aug, 10am–4pm

Price: £85

Planning Garden Borders

Learn the planning methods professionals use to keep your planting looking great all year round.

Wed: 13 Apr, 22 Jun, 10am–4pm

Price: £135

Windsor Chair Making Course

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

18–23 Apr, 02–07 May, 09–14 May, 30 May–04 Jun,
06–11 Jun, 04–09 Jul, 11–16 Jul, 01–06 Aug, 08–13 Aug

Price: £485

Two-day Willow Sculpture Workshop

Spend two days creating something special from willow.

23 & 24 Apr, 10am–4pm

Price: £160

Intermediate Digital Photography Course

Develop your photographic skills and understanding with this one-day course.

Mon 25 Apr, 10.30am–3.30pm

Price: £120

Creating Garden Plans Workshop

Discover how professional garden designers create a well thought out garden.

Wed 04 May, 10am–4pm

Price: £135

Spring Flowers in Watercolour

Experience the colours of spring whilst learning the basics of botanical watercolour illustration.

Sat 14 May, 10am–4.30pm

Price: £85



Rustic Chair Making Course

Make a rustic chair from coppiced hazel in the beautiful surroundings of Silk Wood.

Sat 21 May, Sun 22 May, Sat 25 Jun, Sun 26 Jun,
Sat 23 Jul, Sun 24 Jun, 9.30am–5pm

Price: £120

Gardening for bees

Discover how to create a beautiful garden and a paradise for pollinators.

Sat 21 May, Sat 20 Aug, 9.30am–4pm

Price: £80 per person, £120 for couples/parent
with child

Beekeeping for Beginners

Discover the wonders of the beehive and how you can keep your own honeybees at home.

Sun 22 May, Sun 26 Jun, Sat 16 Jul, Sun 17 Jul,
Sun 21 Aug, 9.30am–4pm

Price: £80 per person, £120 for couples/parent
with child



Hand Tied Bouquet Workshop

Learn a simple florist technique to make and gift wrap a hand-tied bouquet.

Wed 25 May, 10.30am–1pm

Price: £85

Failsafe Garden Plants

Discover how to select the right plants for your garden plus top tips to help them flourish.

Wed 06 Jun, 10am–1pm

Price: £85

Printing with Natural Dyes

Explore safe and environmentally friendly techniques for printing with natural dyes.

Sat 18 Jun, 10am–4pm

Price: £75

Find out more

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

Vase Arrangement Workshop

Learn how to make and display a beautiful vase arrangement.

Wed 13 Jul, 10.30am–1pm

Price: £85

Foraged Colour

Discover eco-friendly dyeing techniques using a variety of natural fibres and plant materials foraged from the arboretum.

Fri 22 Jul, 10am–4pm

Price: £75

Framed Hurdle Making

Make a framed hurdle from coppiced sweet chestnut and hazel in the beautiful surroundings of Silk Wood.

Sat 27 Aug, Sun 28 Aug, 9.30am–5pm

Price: £120

Woodworks Live

In conjunction with Westonbirt Woodworks the arboretum will be hosting Woodworks Live in June 2022. Enjoy traditional wood working techniques, demonstrations and workshops.

Fri 17–Sun 19 Jun

Wild Wonder at Westonbirt

Wild Wonder at Westonbirt is our really exciting new children's book festival. Children's authors and illustrators will hold talks and workshops at different venues around the arboretum.

Sat 27–Mon 29 Aug

Ticket prices and the full programme of events and activities are yet to be confirmed so keep your eyes peeled on Forestry England's website and social media for more information.

Updating *The Little Book of Disappearing Trees*

In 2017, Westonbirt produced *The Little Book Of Disappearing Trees*, which highlighted 40 tree species grown at Westonbirt that are threatened with extinction in the wild. At that time, only a third of tree species had been assessed for their extinction risk, though we now know that, frighteningly, one in three of the world's nearly 60,000 tree species is threatened with extinction in the wild.



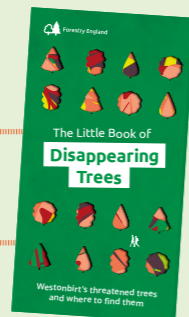
Dan Crowley, Global Conservation Consortia Manager at Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

Linking to the *State of the World's Trees* report, and Westonbirt's developing role with BGCI's Global Conservation Consortia, as Andrew Smith, Arboretum Director highlighted in his introduction, we decided to produce a second *Little Book*, expanding on the first to include new information on species that had not been assessed in 2017.

Westonbirt currently grows 134 species of globally threatened trees. The *Little Book* highlights 50 of them, drawing attention to their plight in the wild and, where applicable, how we are working with partners to contribute to conservation efforts. These include the paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*, with Westonbirt's specimens involved in a study analysing the genetic diversity of the species in cultivation. Westonbirt holds an important key to another maple collection, *Acer amamiense* from southern Japan, which is represented by six plants here, while there are less than 10 plants known in the wild.

While the book provides information on some of our most threatened trees, there is much to do to secure their future. Working with BGCI and other partners, Westonbirt is further developing its role in global tree conservation to contribute to this important work – watch this space!

The Little Book Of Disappearing Trees will be available to buy in the Westonbirt Shop.



Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*)

Amami maple (*Acer amamiense*)



Agenda for our 36th Annual General Meeting

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY
25 MAY 2022 AT 4PM

This virtual event brings you the opportunity to understand how your donations are helping Westonbirt Arboretum achieve its 10-Year Vision. Join your fellow members to find out what we're doing behind the scenes and hear from our trustees.

Entry to the AGM

Due to the success of our last two virtual AGMs, we have decided to hold the 2022 AGM virtually again on Zoom.

Proxy voting

Any member who is unable to attend the AGM virtually and wishes to submit a vote will be able to do so at fowa.org.uk/agm

Minutes and accounts

Agenda, papers and minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting will be available at fowa.org.uk/agm

Issued by the trustees of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum – January 2022.

Full joining details will be available in the Friends May 2022 eNews and at fowa.org.uk/agm

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes** of the 35th Annual General Meeting to be received and adopted
- 3. Matters Arising** from the Minutes
- 4. 2021 Review of the Charity and Future Plans**
- 5. 2021 Report and Accounts**
Receive report and accounts
- 6. New Trustee Introduction**
An opportunity to introduce new members elected to the Board
- 7. Invite Continuation in Office**
- 8. 2021 Review of the Arboretum**
- 9. Closing Statements**



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

Membership benefits

The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum is a charity working in partnership with Forestry England to support conservation, education and participation programmes at the arboretum, for everyone to enjoy. As a member, your donation supports this incredible work. In return, you receive a host of membership benefits as well as free entry into Westonbirt Arboretum throughout the seasons.

Please check whether you are required to pre-book a time slot to visit Westonbirt Arboretum at fowa.org.uk/pre-book



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



Free, fun, seasonal, educational activities



10% member discount off your purchases at the Westonbirt Arboretum Shop

Simply show your valid membership card when making your purchase (applicable to named card holder only).



Behind the scenes Westonbirt magazine and regular Friends' eNews



Earlybird presale for Enchanted Christmas illuminated light trail and Forest Live concerts

Partner gardens

As a member, you can also benefit from discounted entry into selected partner gardens.

Visit for free:

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

Birmingham Botanical Gardens and 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

Receive 2 for 1 entry into:

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey kew.org

Receive 2 for 1 entry into:

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

Please check the partner garden's website ahead of visiting, as you might be required to pre-book a time slot to gain entry.

Member Tuesdays

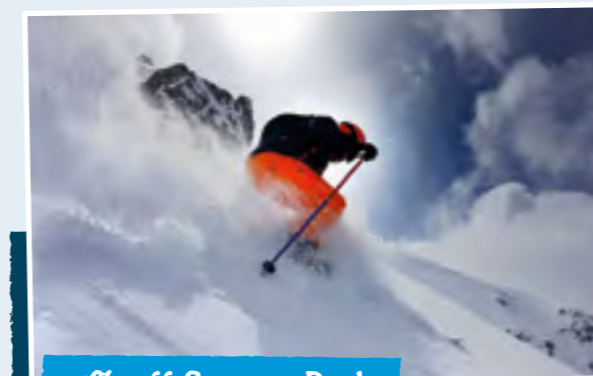
You can bring a friend free of charge on Tuesdays until 29 March 2022. Simply pre-book a free time slot for yourself and one for your friends up to seven days in advance. You will be required to show your valid membership card along with confirmation of both time slots at the Welcome Building when you visit.

Valid for one friend per member per visit only.

15% off Runners Need



Visit the running specialists and present your membership card in-store, or shop online at runnersneed.com with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid until 31 December 2022 (T&Cs Apply).



15% off Snow + Rock

Huge range of ski, snow and climbing clothing and equipment from the world's best brands. Shop in-store with your membership card, or online at snowandrock.com with discount code **AF-FOWA-22** Valid until 31 December 2022 (T&Cs Apply).

Local partner discounts

15% off at Cotswold Outdoor



Get expert advice and the best brands in-store with your membership card, or shop online at cotswoldoutdoor.com with discount code **AF-FOWA-22**. Valid until 31 December 2022 (T&Cs Apply).



10% off Go Ape Tree Tops Challenge and Forest Segway in the Forest of Dean

Book online at goape.co.uk using the discount code **GAARB22** until 31 December 2022. Excludes Saturdays, bank holidays, gift vouchers and corporate bookings. Participation and supervision ratios apply.

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

What does Westonbirt Arboretum mean to you?

Over the years many of us form precious memories of our time at Westonbirt. We're delighted to share a few supporter stories with you.

Our special place

After the death of our father, my mother, baby brother and I moved to Bristol. We were lucky to have the Downs nearby, but we were not introduced to the arboretum until our stepfather, Leslie, came on the scene some 10 years later. Westonbirt Arboretum became a special place for us. We visited at least twice a year every year, always making it a full day's excursion.

When my brother Tony and I left home, Leslie and my mother travelled regularly to the arboretum. They particularly loved walking in Silk Wood and would bring gin and tonic to enjoy in the peace of the woods, after their walk.

Sadly, our mother Lala died of cancer when she was only 52. Leslie continued to visit Westonbirt with Tony and I when we were home and we always felt our mother's presence there. Leslie lived to meet all three of my daughters, but sadly not Tony's children as he died in 1988.

In memory of both Lala and Leslie, we adopted a bench in the arboretum. It is in a beautiful space in the main part of the park, and whilst it isn't in Silk Wood, we know that they would love the view. Both Tony and I still visit Westonbirt, whenever we can.

Last October, unbeknown to us, the bench had to be removed as it was deemed to be unsafe – not surprising after more than 30 years. There was a bit of a panic as my husband and I had arranged a family gathering with the aim of visiting Leslie and Lala's bench in just 10 days'



My three daughters, sitting on Lala and Leslie's bench over the years

time. However, the team at Westonbirt were fantastic as they managed to source a new bench and get it in place with the plaque in time for our visit. Thank you again, it means so much to us.

You can visit Lala and Leslie's bench in the Old Arboretum (D9, bench 192).

From Hilary Mercer



The perfect spot

Rich Garner sponsored a bench as a surprise for wife Davina. The bench is located in Silk Wood, a perfect spot for them to visit with their dog, Bailey, who is the adorable golden retriever featured on the front cover.

Rich only revealed the bench to his wife when they were on a visit, celebrating the anniversary of their



marriage proposal that had been made in Maple Loop. They were married at Westonbirt House!

The place of Rich's marriage proposal to Davina is marked by their virtual Support-A-Square, where you can read their dedication at fowa.org.uk/support-a-square (O11).

Westonbirt to the rescue

Sadly my daughter passed away in October 2020. As I was tidying up her things one of the first items I came across was a photo of Lime Avenue. It was her favourite place. She had a special affinity with these trees.

We never discussed how she might like to be remembered and so this is where Westonbirt Arboretum came to the rescue. The very next issue of the magazine had a piece about having a bench dedicated to someone. So there it was, the answer to the question of a memorial. We were offered a choice, one of which was near the lime trees she so loved. It was amazing and felt like it was meant to be.



Thank you Westonbirt, the bench is safely installed in a beautiful peaceful spot and couldn't be a more suitable memorial for our greatly missed daughter.

You can visit Diana's bench in the Old Arboretum (D23, bench 189).

From Pat Skinner, Diana's mum

We'd love to share more of your supporter stories about what the arboretum means to you. Please contact Jane Shute at magazine@fowa.org.uk

Westonbirt unseen

Sensory experiences
of the 'picturesque'
at Westonbirt

▲ Credit: Alison Cobb

Westonbirt Arboretum is widely celebrated for its picturesque landscape. It's a passion that has inspired people to search for picture-perfect landscapes since the 18th century. When we think about the picturesque at Westonbirt, we typically imagine rich autumn colours, magnificent redwood trees reaching up to the sky and spectacular spring blooms. But perhaps there is more to the picturesque than meets the eye?

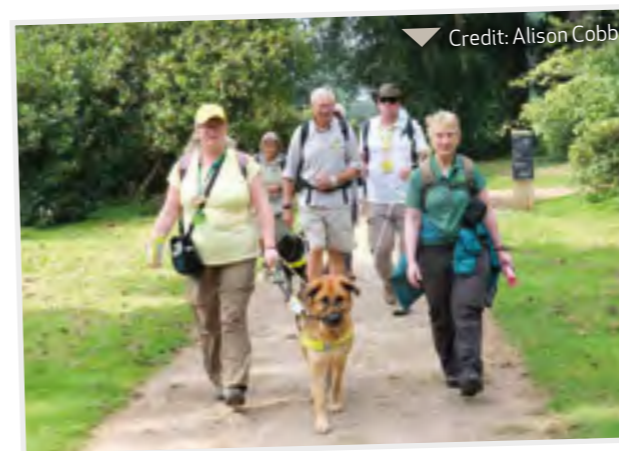
Sarah Bell, Sensing Nature, University of Exeter

Westonbirt Unseen is a new initiative that explores the ways in which people experience the arboretum, using different senses. It's a collaborative project between the arboretum, Andy Shipley of Natural Inclusion, and Sarah Bell of Sensing Nature and the University of Exeter.

Over the past year, our project team have been working with blind and partially sighted volunteers; Mark, Louise, Barbara and Mike, who are our sensory guides. Our guides immerse visitors in wonderful new sensory journeys around the arboretum, discovering rich scents, sounds, textures and other sensations amidst Westonbirt's unique treescape.



▲ Credit: Alison Cobb



▼ Credit: Alison Cobb

Andy Shipley of Natural Inclusion explains, "As a visually impaired nature connection practitioner, I am interested in how greater use of our non-visual senses affects the way people experience the natural world. This project seeks to change perceptions about the experiences of visually impaired people and demonstrate that there is so much to be gained from exploring nature through another perspective."

Reflecting on the role of the picturesque in shaping the sensory experiences at the arboretum, our guide, Louise, explained, "We talk about the picturesque style, and how it's a very visual concept, but actually the picturesque also works incredibly well for what we're doing here. We can move from one tree to the next and they all have different shapes, sizes and textures. So, it's not just the visual impact, it's the range of phenomenal tactile experiences within a really small area and that includes the atmosphere around the trees too!"

“

This project seeks to change perceptions about the experiences of visually impaired people and demonstrate that there is so much to be gained from exploring nature through another perspective.

”

Delving further into sensory experiences, sound artist James Bulley has joined the project and will be bringing Westonbirt's rich sensory history to life in the spring, through a series of Sensing History installations at the arboretum.

Meet our Visually Impaired Guides at forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/meet-our-guides and find out how you can help support our work to connect people with trees at fowa.org.uk/support-us

These installations will complement our thought-provoking *Fragile with Attitude* exhibition that is also coming soon. Contemporary artist, Zoe Partington, and six fantastic Art Shape artists – Naomi Said, Chloë of the Midnight Storytellers, Eleanor May (Cat in the Moon), Lisa Barnfield (The Green Lady), Julia Nigh (Duck & Dot) and mixed media abstract artist, Sarah Goddard – have been 're-storying' Westonbirt's landscape through their own experiences.

Zoe explains a little about the *Fragile with Attitude* exhibition, "In an ableist world, disabled people are often overlooked or marginalised into certain categories that can be disempowering. Our exhibition is about the stories and lives that are often misrepresented within our society. Westonbirt Arboretum provides a space for framing new perspectives of a 'fragility' in nature that impacts on us all".

Through these activities, Westonbirt is spearheading new creative and collaborative approaches to visitor experience and social inclusion, demonstrating how and why nature is for everyone.



▲ Credit: Alison Cobb

What does Westonbirt mean to me?



Involving young people in conservation, education and participation



Despite growing up over 100 miles away from Westonbirt, it has always had a special connection for me. Driving with my family to visit Grandma

in Bath (to distinguish her from Grandma in Sheffield) we would pass the arboretum and my mum would mention how it had been her dad's favourite view, and my brother and I would know we were 'nearly there'.

Part of my role at Westonbirt is engaging others to create special memories and connections of their own through the Westonbirt Community Programme. One way of doing this is to support under-represented audiences to visit, explore, care for, and develop a sense of ownership with the arboretum. Using the 'Heart, Head, Hand' model the community programme encourages participants to connect with and care about the arboretum. They learn about the importance of trees for physical and mental wellbeing and enjoy the opportunity to help look after the arboretum.

Karen Price, Community Co-ordinator,
Forestry England



Our first Westonbirt Youth Summit

As part of the 10-Year Vision of conservation, education and participation, we held the first Westonbirt Youth Summit for young people aged 14-25 in September. This linked in with the COP26 Climate Change events taking place.

The day was structured to empower young people and feel they have a voice. It included discussions and questions, discovering more about the potential impact of climate change on trees, woodlands & forests and gave participants the opportunity to question both Westonbirt and Forestry England representatives on the actions we are taking as an organisation.

Young people took part in a range of workshops. We were joined for workshops by Forest Services Plant Health Team and our enthusiastic participants took part in sustainable timber discussions to identify the wood miles travelled by some common household products. There was also a bin dive to see what goes into our bins and what we can do to reduce this.

“

Sharing opinions, knowing people are aware of wildlife and that adults are thinking about the future for wildlife and the future generation is amazing.

Young delegate

”

This was followed by a Q&A session enabling participants to directly question representatives from Forestry England. In turn Forestry England took the opportunity to communicate that we are genuinely interested in what young people have to say.

The Q&A session included some top decision makers including Andrew Smith, Arboretum Director and James Simpson, Director of Operations for Forestry England. Questions were hard hitting, from how long it would take to start overcoming all the damage caused by climate change on our environment, to ways to reduce the likelihood of forest fires becoming prevalent in the UK.



As well as generating lots of food for thought, we reached under-represented audience demographics not traditionally associated with forestry. An unexpected but very welcome outcome of the summit was the interest shown by some young people in following environmental careers.

We are now looking to hold an annual youth summit with themes including careers, health and wellbeing, and equality and diversity.

To find out more about youth work at Westonbirt or if you would like to be sent a link to the full Q&A video, please contact karen.price@forestryengland.uk

Buying the best small and local business products

Westonbirt Shop's new manager, Tracey, has been shaping things since last summer. Prior to joining The Friends, she spent many years working at a local arts centre with small craft businesses and established national and local craftsmen. She is passionate about introducing these skills and products to Westonbirt and helping to support small British businesses, and of course the arboretum.

After listening to visitors and The Friends team, Tracey has introduced a wonderful range of Westonbirt branded goods.

The shop showcases some of the artists and products on display to add insight and interest to their impressive work.

We thought you might like to know a little more about some of the craft products now stocked in the shop.

Penguin Ink, artistic card company

A frequent visitor to Westonbirt, Bristol artist Lizzie Parker uses simple lines to portray the animals she so wonderfully illustrates. The cards are printed on beautiful high-quality paper using a Heidelberg letter press from the early 20th century. Lizzie's cards include a wonderful selection of dogs!



Vikki Lafford Garside, handcrafted textile accessories

Vikki grew up in the Oxfordshire countryside and followed her passion for art and textiles, gaining a degree in embroidery and a masters in textiles design. Her designs evolve from initial drawings through many different processes including dye, print, stitch, cutwork and heat manipulation to create tiny masterpieces which look incredibly life-like. You can find Vikki's beautiful work including brooches, necklaces and earrings for sale in the shop.



Cotswold Poster Co

A range of local posters, cards, and magnets that celebrate the Cotswolds. The business was started in 2019 by graphic designer Matt Isherwood, who grew up in Cirencester and studied graphic design at Falmouth University. The posters and cards are printed on 100% recycled paper, packaging is recyclable and 2% of the company's income is donated to local Cotswold wildlife trusts.

Cotswold Rope

Launched in 2021, this Tetbury based business was founded by husband and wife, Mark and Susan. The business produces amazing homeware products weaved in rope and employing their carpentry and design skills. Tracey discovered this local business at the Chelsea Flower Show and is delighted to be embarking on what is sure to be a long and fruitful partnership.



Cotswold Fudge

Founded by Sarah Hope and Jenny Silverthorne-Wright, the business started in a local barn before moving down the road to a unit at Langston Priory workshops in Kingham. The fudge is delicious! They are rightly proud of their Fairtrade mark that requires all the recipes, ingredients and artwork to be approved before production starts. Experimenting with different flavours is all part of the process and the whole team has a say in what makes the shelves and what doesn't.



Our Shop Team look forward to welcoming you to discover our wonderful range of local and small business products.

If you produce your own local product and would like to be considered for our shop, you can email Tracey at retail@fowa.org.uk providing clear information about you, your business, products and pricing. Please bear with us for a response, especially at busy times.



Spring & summer tree highlights

Westonbirt is alive with wonderful colours, smells and sounds during the spring and summer months. As trees burst back into life and canopies fill around the arboretum, this is one of the most spectacular times to visit. Enjoy some of The National Arboretum's most exotic and spectacular trees in all their magnificent glory!

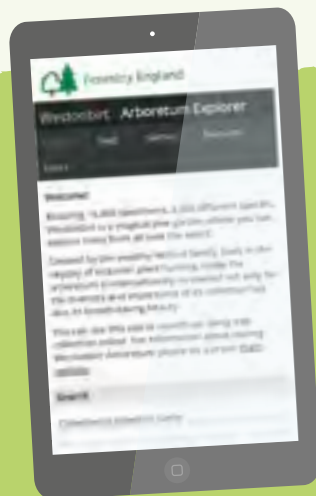
Seasonal map

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 dot next to it. You will find the same coloured dot 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, pick one up on your next visit.

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



Use our Arboretum Explorer

Arboretum Explorer is a web based search facility that enables you to locate specific trees at Westonbirt. You can use as much or as little information as you choose and the website will show you a map with the location of the tree.

To use the Arboretum Explorer facility visit westonbirt.arboretumexplorer.org

Tree guide

Spring

- Magnolia (*Magnolia sprengeri* var. *sprengeri*)
- Chinese winter hazel (*Corylopsis sinensis* var. *sinensis*)
- Box elder (*Acer negundo* subsp. *californicum*)

Summer

- Handkerchief tree (*Davidia involucrata*)
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Kaiser lindens (*Tilia x europaea* 'Pallida')



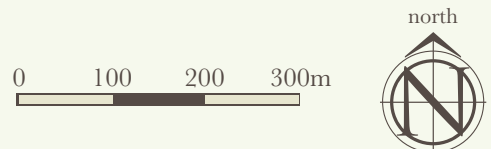
Box elder
We expect the maples, like the box elder, to put on their best show in autumn but many are just as interesting in spring, producing small, delicate, and breath-taking displays of flowers.



Handkerchief tree
Examples can be found in both Silk Wood and The Old Arboretum. Our best specimen is along Main Drive.



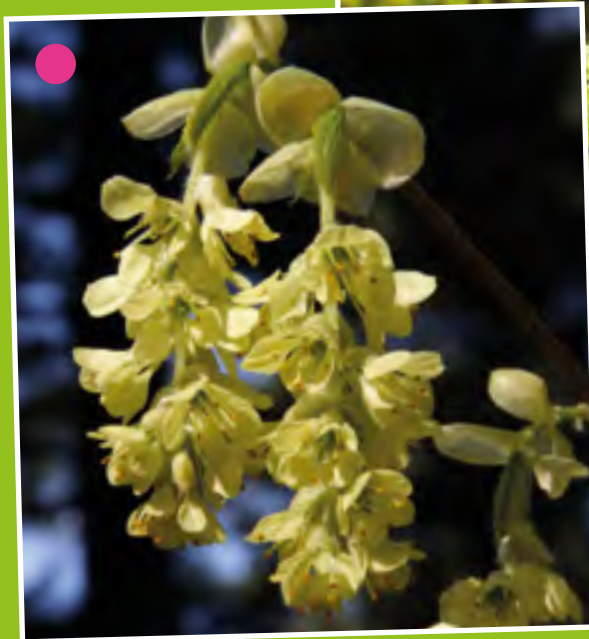
Kaiser linden
Westonbirt's limes, also known as lindens, were awarded national collection status in 2008. The Jackson Avenue limes were planted in 1852 and Lime Avenue in 1870.





Magnolia

Their flowers are designed to be pollinated by beetles which were around much earlier than bees.

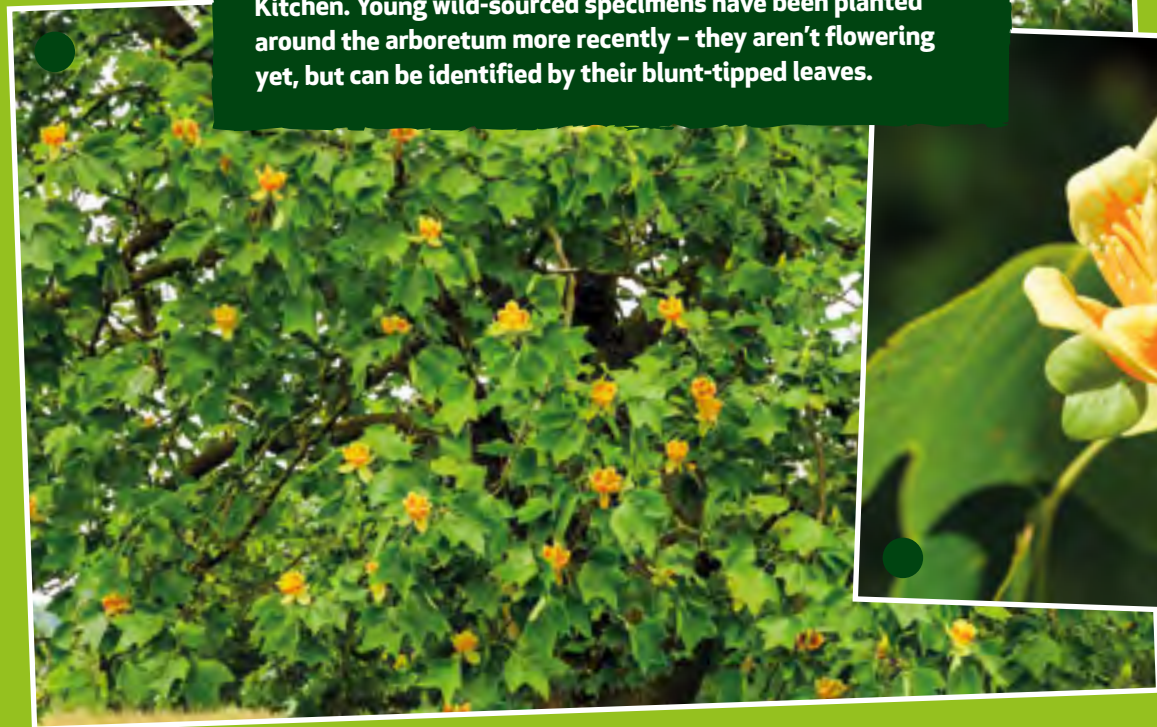


Chinese winter hazel

A favourite of many staff and volunteers at Westonbirt is the Chinese winter hazel, *Corylopsis sinensis* var. *sinensis*.

Tulip tree

This spectacular tree can be found in abundance along Jackson Avenue, and there is also a mature specimen opposite The Kitchen. Young wild-sourced specimens have been planted around the arboretum more recently – they aren't flowering yet, but can be identified by their blunt-tipped leaves.



Spring highlights

- **Magnolia**
(Magnolia sprengeri var. *sprengeri)*
Magnolias were among the first flowering plants to evolve, with fossils dating back 65 million years. We have some magnificent specimens, mostly located in and around Savill Glade in The Old Arboretum. One of the most spectacular is the deep pink *Magnolia sprengeri* var. *sprengeri*. The Champion of the cultivar 'Westonbirt Diva' is found on Circular Drive.
- **Chinese winter hazel**
(Corylopsis sinensis var. *sinensis)*
Corylopsis is a genus of deciduous shrubs in the witch hazel family, and is related to shrubs such as Persian ironwood and witch alder. With drooping chains of yellow-green bell-shaped flowers they bring a delightful glow to the site as winter turns to spring. They are the glory of Sand Earth at this time of year, so it's definitely worth trudging through the mud to find them.
- **Box elder**
(Acer negundo subsp. *californicum)*
The box elder on Circular Drive is one of the best. It has beautiful long tassels of reddish flowers which stand out clearly against the still leafless branches.

Summer highlights

- **Handkerchief tree**
(Davidia involucreta)
Davidia involucreta comes from central and western China and was introduced to this country by the plant collector Ernest Wilson in 1901. Its delicate papery-white bracts give the tree its common name – the handkerchief tree. The bracts enclose clusters of tiny flowers in early summer.
- **Tulip tree**
(Liriodendron tulipifera)
The tulip tree is from the same family as magnolias and gets its name from the goblet-shaped yellow-red flowers that bloom in late spring to early summer. It was discovered in the 17th century by the botanist John Tradescant the Younger in the forests of Virginia, where its white straight bark was used by early settlers for their dug-out canoes.
- **Kaiser lindens**
(Tilia x europaea 'Pallida')
Nowhere is more magical in summer than the stately rows of Lime Avenue. In fresh green leaf and with fragrant pale bracts and flowers it is a wonderful place to sit and listen to the humming of bees.

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



Supporting our 10-Year Vision

Our 10-Year Vision is centered on three key themes: Conservation, Education and Participation. By protecting our trees, sharing our knowledge and encouraging more people to engage with The National Arboretum, we can better understand our natural assets, communicate the important role they play for all life on earth and help more people to benefit from the positive impact of trees on our health and wellbeing.

Ways you can support the arboretum

Thank you for your continued support of the arboretum. Without Friends like you we simply couldn't have recognised so many incredible achievements over the years. Here are some different ways you can continue to support us.

Make a donation

We're always grateful to receive donations to support the arboretum and the trees in our care. To send us a one-off donation via the website, scan the QR code or search fowa.org.uk/donate



Let us know if your donation is eligible for Gift Aid, as we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you!

The gift of membership - share the love

Struggling to find that perfect present? Membership is a gift that keeps on giving. Let your loved ones enjoy the arboretum all year-round and access our amazing membership benefits.



Gift a membership securely online by card and we'll send them everything they need to enjoy Westonbirt to the full. Arrange your gift online at fowa.org.uk/GiftAMembership or scan the QR code to get started.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

As a charity, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum relies entirely on income from gifts and membership donations. One of the greatest contributions you can make is leaving a gift in your Will, protecting the arboretum for generations to come.

Your support will continue to care for over 15,000 trees and 600 acres of woodland for over half a million visitors and members' every year.

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will, please seek professional legal advice to keep your Will up to date. Don't forget to let us know - we love to hear from you!

Why I'll be leaving a gift in my will

"I have been coming to Westonbirt Arboretum for many years, as a Friend and Volunteer. I can honestly say that it is my favourite place in the UK. Whatever the season, it has so much to offer."

Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum is a charity that means a great deal to me. I've always been a huge supporter of their work, helping to conserve this precious environment and its trees. It is a stunning landscape that must be preserved!"

Margaret Headen



Leaves of Life

Leave a lasting memory at Westonbirt Arboretum. Personalise a decorative leaf to recognise a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Your leaf will remain on the Leaves of Life sculpture year after year to be enjoyed by you and others visiting the Great Oak Hall at the heart of Westonbirt. Personalise your leaf at fowa.org.uk/leaves-of-life



If you're interested in requesting a legacy brochure or are considering leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch at legacy@fowa.org.uk or visit fowa.org.uk/legacy.

Share your Westonbirt Arboretum memory

We love to hear why Westonbirt Arboretum is special to you, so please share your memory with us by emailing magazine@fowa.org.uk.



To find out more about helping to further support Westonbirt Arboretum visit fowa.org.uk/support



Life in the forest

With the arrival of spring the woods are alive with activity.

The dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) is about the same size as a robin.

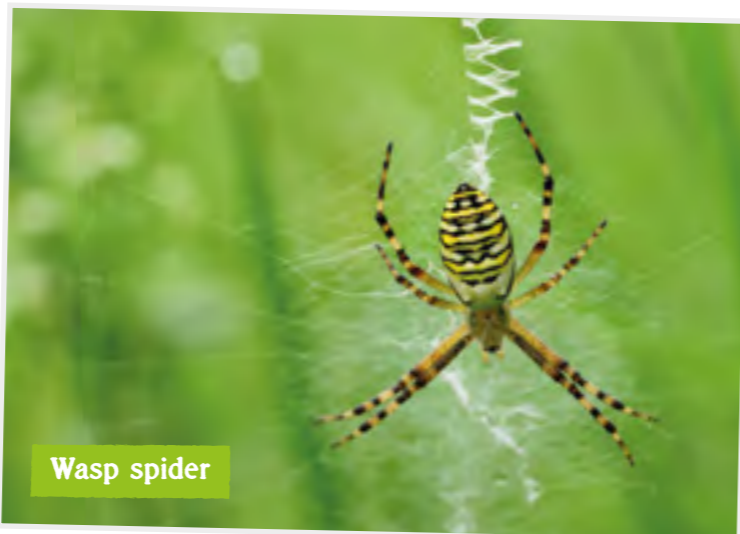
Unlike many birds the female dunnock will often mate with more than one male. This benefits the female as both partners help with the endless job of feeding the young and defending their territory. They nest in dense vegetation and lay eggs in the spring. Dunnocks are a common target for cuckoos that will lay their eggs in the dunnock's nest. When the cuckoo chick hatches it will push the dunnocks eggs or chicks out whilst the adult dunnocks continue to feed the young cuckoo.



Dunnock

The Wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) is thought to have travelled north from the Mediterranean.

As you will have guessed from the name and the image, their colouring is very similar to that of a wasp and deters predators. They are actually quite harmless although the female spider is over three times the size of the male and certainly poses a risk to any male choosing to mate with them. Yes, you guessed, the male's desire to mate will very often end in a tasty snack for the female.



Wasp spider

Slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*) are legless lizards rather than snakes.

They are common in woodlands, emerging from winter hibernation in late March to early April. Slow worms are ovoviviparous which means the female's eggs stay inside her body. Her young will hatch and feed on the egg yolk before being born. Slow worms can shed their tails when attacked and the tail will continue moving to distract their attacker whilst they make their getaway.



Slow worm

Devil's coach horse beetle



The devil's coach horse beetle (*Ocyopus olens*) has a place in British folklore.

There are numerous tales associating the beetle with curses and death. It is even accused of having eaten the core of Eve's apple and to crush the beetle was said to forgive you seven sins. They have strong jaws and grow up to 3cm. It can raise its long abdomen and open its jaws, rather like a scorpion, when threatened. A powerful predator that feeds on invertebrates much larger than itself, the beetle spends its early life as larvae underground before pupating to emerge in adult form.

The common stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*) begin life in an egg-shaped form known as 'witch's eggs'.

As they grow the stinkhorn creates a light green slime called gleba that smells like rotting meat. This attracts insects like flies. When they land and start to feed, the gleba liquifies and provides a sugary drink. The spores pass undigested through the insect and are deposited in dung or other places. The spores also stick to the insect's legs helping to further distribute the spores.



Stinkhorn

If you would like to contribute to our woodland seasonal update we would love to hear from you. Contact us by emailing magazine@fowa.org.uk

FAMILY FUN

What does Westonbirt mean to me?



Everybody that visits Westonbirt feels that it's special for all sorts of different reasons.



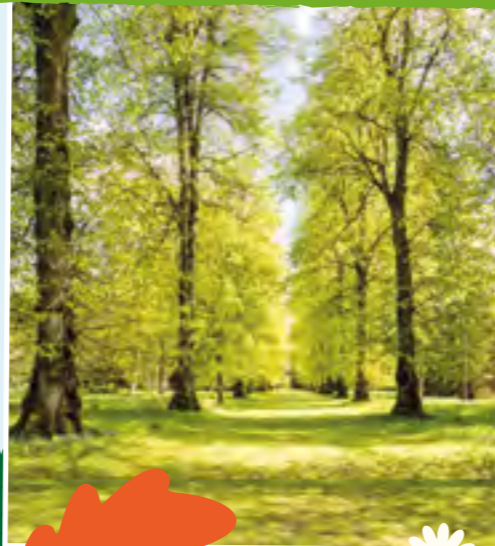
They may love a particular tree, enjoy a special view or a place where they have adventures and discover new things...



...some people feel it's a special place to spend time with friends or family.



Robert Holford made Westonbirt extra special by laying out the new plants and trees in a style that is called 'picturesque', meaning it was beautiful to look at like a piece of artwork.



Robert Holford knew how extraordinary plants and trees were when he began creating the arboretum in Victorian times. He wanted to make a really special garden where his guests could enjoy spending time in nature and admire his amazing and rare trees.



What does Westonbirt mean to you?

We are so lucky to have this wonderful and special place in which to enjoy spending time. Our volunteers have created a poem to express what Westonbirt means to each of them...

Have a go at creating a poem with your family about what Westonbirt means to you.



Framing the picture

Using your fingers, create the shape of a picture frame. As you walk around the arboretum, hold them up to look at different trees, plants and views like you are looking at a picture on a wall.



A poem

Westonbirt is...
A place to learn new skills,
Filled with many wondrous shapes and colours,
A place to make a difference,
Somewhere to make new friends,
A place of surprises every time you visit,
Full of happiness,
A place to have adventures.

Westonbirt is full of trees,
Some in flower, some with leaves
Yippee!

Why not explain to someone why you like a view and why it is special to you?



What other ways can you think of to show what Westonbirt means to you?

Send your creations to magazine@fowa.org.uk

Rachel Barnett,
Learning Assistance,
Forestry England



Engineering model prototype

Building our community shelter

Connecting people with trees



Back in 2014, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), we started a bold new venture at the arboretum, a new community programme that would connect with under represented audiences who face barriers to visiting Westonbirt Arboretum. During the initial four years of this exciting programme it has become apparent just what a positive impact our engagement is having.

Graham Anstey, Community Shelter Development Officer, Forestry England

As part of the programme we have worked hard to make the arboretum as accessible as possible for people with a wide range of needs. For most of the people we work with, being out in nature is unfamiliar and can be unsettling. So we make sure we personally welcome them and provide a calm and reassuring physical space.

With funds being limited, we re-purposed and recycled some existing resources. We relocated the old craft shelter, that was dismantled to make way for the STIHL Treetop Walkway, to our site just off Willesley Drive and turned it into our 'home in the woods'. This provided a fairly basic but safe space where people could relax and enjoy the benefits of the arboretum.



How people responded when asked 'What does Westonbirt mean to you?'

Many of the groups we work with, from teenagers to adults, joined with our volunteers to help turn the original animal track and clearing into a welcoming, peaceful, and practical site for our community groups. This gave them a connection and sense of ownership over the site.

“ Westonbirt takes me away from everyday cares, uplifts the spirit, offers beauty, friendship and peace. ”
Wild Westonbirt participant

When the old craft shelter finally reached the end of its life, we reassessed what our team and our groups wanted from a 'home in the woods'. After lots of discussions, workshops and chats round the fire, a few key themes became apparent:

- A room without walls – to remain connected to the surrounding trees
- Not to feel like a classroom
- No corners, as it's easy for people to hide or be pushed into corners and therefore feel excluded
- A fire pit inside so that it feels cosy and warm in the winter months
- A practical space to carry out activities
- To be able to decorate the inside, so people can put their own mark on it

The outcome has given our group members an even greater sense of belonging and has benefited their physical and mental health and wellbeing. We asked them what words spring to mind when they think about Westonbirt. They chose words like belonging, peace, and calm, which reassured us that we are achieving what we set out to do.

Our participants have been involved in the design and construction of the Community Shelter. The design brief specified that it should be able to be built by people of varying ages and abilities with little or no experience of construction and that's exactly what our design team have achieved whilst also delivering an inspiring and iconic structure.



Wild Westonbirt learning to make shingles

“ I think it's an easy atmosphere for people to be in, because it's not enclosed, people can relax. ”
NHS Occupational Health Staff

As resources become available, we hope to further develop the physical space and increase our capacity to involve more people in the groups.

I am proud to have been involved with the community programme from the start, sometimes as a volunteer and sometimes as staff. I feel a deep connection with the arboretum, and in particular our home in the woods. It means a great deal to me that I have been able to pass on the benefits I have reaped to those I work with and the people who are often forgotten or get given the cast-off from others.

Your membership and donations help fund our important outreach work which is more vital than ever due to the impact the pandemic has had on wellbeing. With special thanks to the grant funders and donors of the new Community Shelter.

Follow our Community Shelter build's progress at fowa.org.uk/community-shelter-project

Quarantine House is complete!



Thanks to our incredible supporters and funders, over the last few months we have completed the build of our new Quarantine House facility to further improve our propagation unit and achieve an important part of Westonbirt's 10-Year Vision. The new facility provides a much needed additional line of defence against plant pests and diseases, helping us to better protect the tree collection.

Neil Seegobin, Project Manager, Forestry England



The Quarantine House just before full completion

The Quarantine House is bespoke to Westonbirt but is based on similar structures at other botanic collections and is part of our biosecurity protocol. Access will be strictly limited to reduce the risk of transmission in and out of the facility. Only a few members of staff including Penny, our propagator, and external companies, who carry out inspections of our plant health checks and biological controls, will have authorised access.

The main structure is a polytunnel which provides protection from the weather but also allows air to flow through. Inside is a central lobby and two holding zones covered in very fine insect netting. Penny will monitor the plants and hold them in these pods until they have been thoroughly checked and given approval to move into the Propagation Unit ready to be planted out into the tree collection.



The Quarantine House during construction

Each holding zone has a destratification fan which pulls cooler air up from the bottom and draws down the warmer air from the top of the structure to create an even air-temperature to help control fungal infections. In addition there will be a sink, work bench and separate drainage channel to collect any irrigation run-off. The used water and rainwater collected will pass through a series of filters, including a UV light to remove potential diseases before we reuse it for irrigation. The water filtration is based on a system used in large scale food production greenhouses in the UK.

“

I'm very much looking forward to having the Quarantine House operational so we can have an additional layer of protection together with strict protocols in place to help prevent any new or unwanted pests and diseases affecting the wider nursery stock and collection. A new biosecurity policy will be in place and some of the more practical steps we will be taking is to have feet and hand disinfectant stations; I will have to change footwear as well as don a lab coat... I'm not sure if a white one is practical!



Penny Jones, Propagator

”



Please pop into the propagation viewing area by Keepers Cottage to find out more about the Quarantine House and how we propagate our plants.

To find out more about the Quarantine House visit fowa.org.uk/quarantine-house

Gift Aid can add 25% at no extra cost to you

Adding Gift Aid to your membership provides Westonbirt with an additional 25%.

That's an additional £10 for every £40 single membership, taking your donation to £50; and an additional £19.50 for every £78 joint membership taking your donation to £97.50! So please add Gift Aid if your taxable income exceeds your membership subscription fee when you next renew at fowa.org.uk/renew

Easier when you pay by Direct Debit

Paying by Direct Debit ensures your annual membership renews seamlessly so you never miss out on your membership benefits and you'll continue supporting Westonbirt.

This payment method also keeps our charity admin work to a minimum so that more of your membership donation goes directly towards caring for the arboretum!

So, if you don't already pay for your membership with Direct Debit, please do consider signing up for this payment method when you next renew at fowa.org.uk/renew



Privacy policy update

We have recently updated our privacy statement. You can review it here fowa.org.uk/privacy

Receive our eNews and stay up to date

Keep in touch with exclusive behind the scenes news, events and activities at Westonbirt by opting into our monthly Friends' eNews. You can do this by emailing membership@fowa.org.uk

Environmentally friendly membership cards

We've been working hard with our supplier to ensure we reduce our carbon footprint whilst minimising the costs of running the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum membership scheme.

As a result, we're delighted to let you know that the next membership card you will receive from us will be biodegradable.

What does this mean?

- ✓ Your card is plastic free.
- ✓ Your card is sourced from renewable raw materials.
- ✓ The biofilm on your card is completely compostable, converting into organic matter without leaving harmful residue.
- ✓ Sustainable printing process and materials are used in our renewal process to ensure an environmentally friendly printing process.

Find out how to recycle your membership letter and card at fowa.org.uk/bio-cards and don't forget you can renew your membership easily online at fowa.org.uk/renew

Congratulations to our autumn/winter 2021 crossword winners:

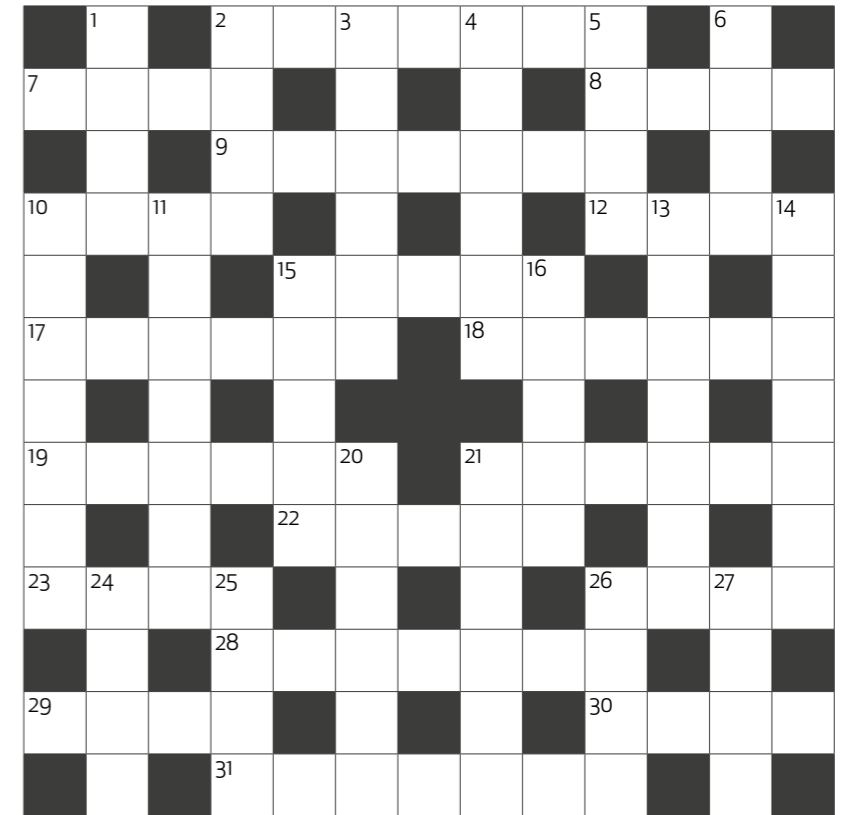
Malcolm Potter, Pat Parsons, Moira Hargreaves, James Myatt, Gill Parker, Steve Boulton, Linda Tillotson, Sandy Fotheringham, Darren Galpin, Ann Farrington and Colin and Karen Falder.

Crossword

A challenging crossword mainly about trees, cities with trees, wood from trees, animals amongst trees etc. Some additional cryptic clues are intended to be helpful!

Across

2. A plant finder who had a tragic end; a conifer is named after him. (7)
7. Low spiny shrub with soap substitute from roots. (4)
8. Red berried tree, used to ward off evil spirits. (4)
9. City which once had a celebrated 200 year old pear tree. (3,4)
10. Large crafts or chests; a famous one had "ribs of cypress." (4)
12. "There was an old man in a tree who was horribly bored by - ----." Lear. (1, 3)
15. In Scotland a steep rocky treeless cliff, if Dan could be Bond. (5)
17. A rare sheep that forages amongst trees. Native to North Africa. (6)
18. Trees, shrubs etc. - and animals! (6)
19. Zone, north and south of equator suitable for Rattan Palm, Coconut etc. (6)
21. Tree, leaves fan shaped, unchanged for 200 million years. (6)
22. A cycad, "Cardboard Palm." (5)
23. A colourless acetate also known as "Banana Oil." (4)
26. A fruit tree that may suffer "Orange Spot." (4)
28. Made of *Curtisia dentata* wood and thrown. (7)
29. City with Horse Chestnut tree as its symbol. (4)
30. Evergreen tree, known as Indian Lilac, with good wood for furniture. (4)
31. Racecourse hidden amongst other names for *Koelreuteria* and Laburnums. (7)



Down

1. Material from coconut trees used for rope making. (4)
2. Homes for lions in forests. (4)
3. Do seeds detect gravity? To grow this way. (6)
4. "is unto me as a ---- -- the forest" Jeremiah 12, 8. (4,2)
5. A forest dwelling deer. (4)
6. Word for a group of badgers, sometimes seen on edge of woods. (4)
10. Legendary mythical world also seen in Srinagar that has an oak collection in its Botanic Gardens. (7)
11. "Forest Ox", national animal of Cambodia. (7)
13. Old word (Scottish) of a branch liable to break. (7)
14. "Thus we have taught ---- -- trees to be wine drinkers" Pliny. (4, 3)
15. City with noteworthy old large *Ficus* trees. (5)
16. Type of melon, cross between Ha-Ogen and Krimka. (5)
20. Small tree producing edible fruit. (6)
21. Spice from SE Asian bamboo like plant. (6)
24. Born 1838 in Scotland, went to America, studied trees in Africa and Australia, founder of Yosemite Park. (4)
25. Type of tree resulting from volcanic action; seen in Hawaii. (4)
26. Coniferous tree grown for softwood and turpentine. (4)
27. Tree with many varieties in Silk Wood. (4)

Get your thinking cap on and email a photo of your completed crossword to magazine@fowa.org.uk to have your name featured in our next magazine!

Outdoor live music at...

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Credit: Johnny Hathaway



Let's talk rubbish



As part of our drive to help reduce waste and increase recycling we held a waste event as part of COP26 to talk to our visitors and members about waste and recycling.

Sophie Nash, Programme Manager,
Forestry England

The event gave us the opportunity to talk with you about waste and recycling. Hubbub also came along for the day, an environmental organisation who have helped companies like Starbucks and Wimbledon Tennis Association to improve recycling.

During the event we were able to discuss ways in which we might improve how we manage waste. We tested different messages for signs that explain about recycling and contamination. Contamination is rubbish from which the waste collection teams are unable to easily remove from any good quality recycling, so the whole lot ends up in the incinerator.

The contamination of recycling waste is a nationwide issue because what can be recycled differs from place to place. Due to our volume of rubbish bags it is not practical for us or Bristol Waste, our waste collectors, to sort it out. So, we need to make the bins and signs as clear as possible, which is exactly what we are planning to do.

The most common topics that came up:



Most on-the-go coffee cups are compostable so why can't I put them in the recycling bin?

Compostable coffee cups, are only industrially compostable as they are made of PLA/plants (there are only a few facilities in the UK that can compost them). Putting them in the recycling bin contaminates the entire load so please put them in the general waste bin. If you bring a reusable cup, not only will you save 30p off your hot drink but you help us to reduce single-use items, whilst we look for a better alternative.



Can I recycle or throw wooden cutlery in the food waste bins?

Wooden cutlery cannot be recycled, partly due to the size and volume of cutlery in our recycling. It also shouldn't be added to our food waste bins as wood cannot compost in the large anaerobic digestion plant. Why not bring your own reusable steel knives and forks?



What if I don't know where it goes?

If you don't know which bin to use, put your rubbish in the general waste. This avoids contamination and ensures we can recycle everything in our recycling bins.

Shaping the way we approach our need for trees



Trees have always been an important part of my life, and I have worked in arboriculture

(tree care) for around 14 years as a Tree Manager, Technical Director and now Chief Executive. Part of my motivation for becoming a Trustee at The Friends was the hope of facilitating a closer working relationship between the arboricultural profession and Westonbirt, and arboreta and botanic gardens more widely, so that we can further benefit from sharing knowledge and experiences.

John Parker, CEO of The Arboricultural Association & Trustee with The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum

I work for the Arboricultural Association, the largest UK membership organisation and charity for amenity tree care professionals. One of our charitable objectives is to advance the public understanding of arboriculture, and this is something that institutions such as Westonbirt are uniquely placed to do. Based in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, we are also keen to work more closely in our community with established sites like Westonbirt as well as new projects such as the Stonehouse Community Arboretum.



Tree planting with the community in Stonehouse

Public and political interest in trees has never been higher, particularly in light of the climate emergency. This is of course a welcome development but all too often the focus is exclusively on planting ever-increasing numbers of trees, usually restricted to 'native' whips (very small saplings) in rural areas. Planting is of course very important but it is only one small part of the process. We know that trees bring considerable social, environmental and economic benefits but if we want to make sure that they fulfil their potential then we need to give proper consideration to the arboricultural professionals; the growers, tree officers, contractors, consultants, policymakers, researchers and educators, who all make it happen.

One important aspect of the wider tree planting debate is the argument over 'native' and 'non-native' trees. Space doesn't permit me a full explanation here, but if we are to future-proof our amenity treescapes against the threats of climate change and plant pests and diseases, then we must plant a diverse range of species, responsibly sourced, planted and established. Westonbirt is perfectly placed to help with this sort of work, growing a wide range of species and monitoring how they might perform as a tree of the future in our towns and cities.

Something else to consider is the question of green equity, or green inequity. Trees and green spaces bring benefits to people, but the pandemic and associated restrictions on movement proved what we already knew; those benefits are not equally distributed across society. Improving access to Westonbirt for more people was another reason for me wanting to get involved.

Arboriculture can be defined as the science and practice of the cultivation, establishment and management of amenity trees for the benefit of society. I first became involved in this profession simply because trees are brilliant, and endlessly fascinating. Communicating this fact to society at large and increasing awareness, not only of trees but of the tree care community, is a key objective of Westonbirt, the Arboricultural Association and our profession in general, and I am excited about what we can all achieve together in the coming years.

To find out more about the Arboricultural Association, visit treecare.org.uk or contact John at john@trees.org.uk

Serbian spruce, one of my favourite trees at Westonbirt



London planes in the Stonehouse Community Arboretum



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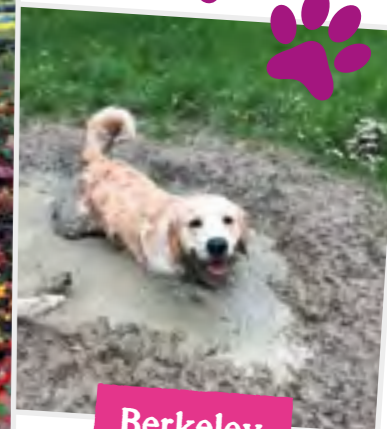
cotswoldoutdoor.com

 **Westonbirt**
walkies

Every Saturday we share your #WestonbirtWalkies on our Instagram feed @FriendsofWestonbirt - here are some of our favourite loveable adventures with your furry friends.

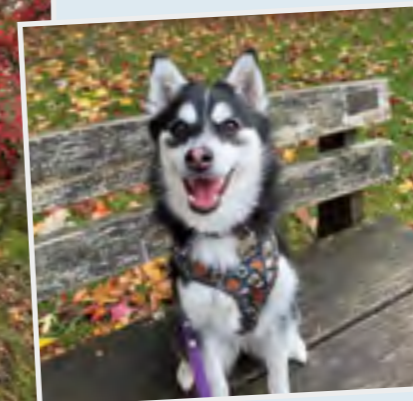
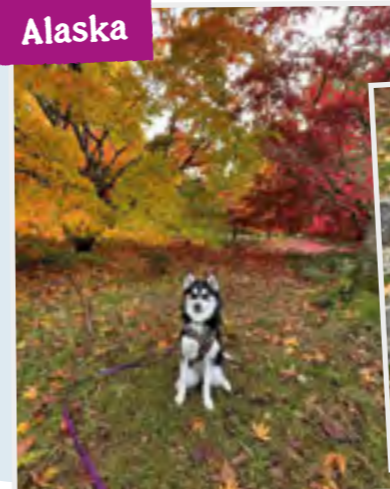
This is Berkeley, the school dog at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School in Wotton-under-Edge. He loves his trips to Westonbirt and visits at weekends and almost every day in the school holidays! He's too slow to chase the squirrels but still has a go occasionally! He loves every season. Unfortunately for his owners, he loves nothing better than to wallow in the mud baths he finds after it's been raining.

Dog: Berkeley | **Owner:** Hannah
@berkeley_klb



Berkeley

Alaska

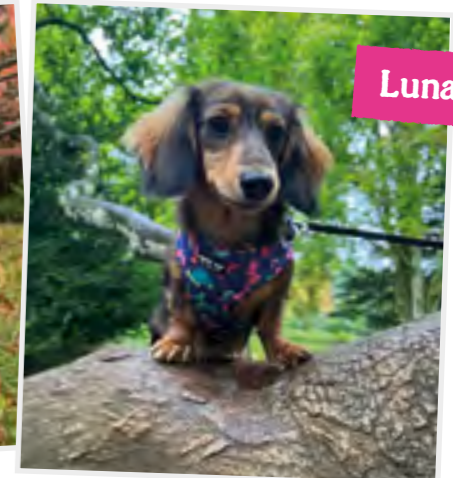


Hi my name's Alaska and I'm a Pomsky. My favourite place to go for adventures is Westonbirt. I have lots of space to run around and meet lots of new dog friends. My favourite thing after we have done a long walk is to get a 'doggie ice cream'. It's the best day out!

Dog: Alaska | **Owner:** Alice
@alaska_thepomskyx

Luna loved her trip to Westonbirt. She enjoyed playing in the leaves and running around the trees and she made lots of new friends along the way! Westonbirt is a gorgeous place to visit, especially in the autumn when there is an array of beautiful colours. It's a fantastic place to walk the dog.

Dog: Luna | **Owner:** Gemma
@lunatheminidachshundx



Luna

More #WestonbirtWalkies stories coming soon!

Trees I have grown and mistakes I have made



Friend and supporter, Roger Gorst, shares some wonderful insights into his home planting experiences.

We bought our present property in Gloucestershire in 1965. The property had been a farmer's home with surrounding fields that had been sold off leaving the house surrounded by rough grass, brambles and general scrub. There was just one noticeable tree, an old weeping ash near the road. We then found out the road was to be widened and the tree had to go. It was dramatically removed by explosives placed under the roots.

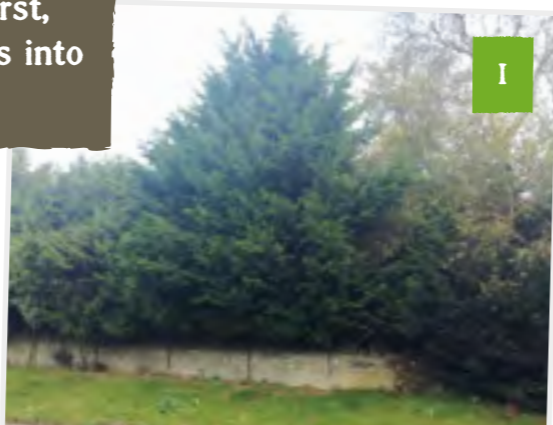
The council then built us a low stone wall; too low to prevent sight or sound of the ever increasing traffic on the road. Our garden is just over one acre, with alkaline soil.

In haste to provide a screen from the road I planted a hedge of *Cupressus X Leylandii*. This was in 1966 so before *Leylandii* became very well known as a tree to avoid for hedging. We have struggled to keep it in check ever since (photo 1). *Thuja placata* might have been a better choice.

We then found out the road was to be widened and the tree had to go. It was dramatically removed by explosives placed under the roots.

I had included a *Picea omerica Glauca* in the roadside line of trees. A pleasant tree with blue/green foliage but it grew rapidly with branches tending to spread over the road. I felled it and the local timber merchant was happy to take the trunk away (photo 2).

Elsewhere I planted a weeping willow, *Salix chrisocoma*. I lately read in 'The Garden Tree' that "It soon becomes too big for a small garden". It's roots started pushing



1



2

up the block paving I had painstakingly laid. I replaced it with a *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (on right in photo 3) having failed to notice in 'The Garden Tree' that it also "grows very quickly". It is a pleasant tree, green leaves turning yellow and gold with sweet scent in October.

In the same area (left of photo 3) there is a *Koelreuteria paniculata*. This has interesting yellow flowers in September that turn into three sided capsules, sometimes called "lanterns". The leaves turn golden yellow. This one is planted amongst shrubs and I notice the trunk has split. Simon Toomer recommends an open position which this tree does not have.

Back to the front of the house; to fill the gap left by the removal of the *Picea* I planted some small yews which have grown to a 2 metre hedge in about six years

– with an *Acer palmatum Katsura* (in a pot with acid soil) as a focal point (photo 4). In the same area we now have a *Cryptomeria Sekkan sugi* (photo 5). "It grows slowly into a small tree" according to one book. Here it has grown quickly into a large tree. However it is an attractive tree with gold green foliage and a pleasant egg shape. The clipped yews to the right are *Taxus baccata Elegentissima*.

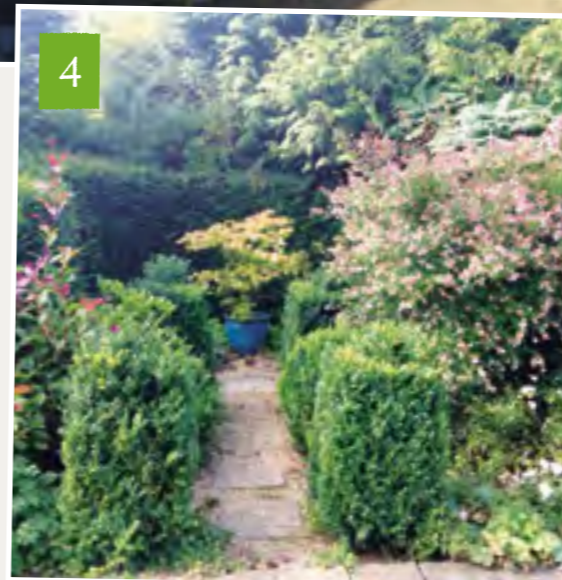
To the east of the house, back in 1979 I planted an *Acer platanoids Drumondii*. This has grown steadily into a pleasant tree with green and cream leaves. I have had to prune off many shoots which had all green leaves.

To the west of the house I planted a *Gleditsia triacanthus* "Ruby Lace". Dark chocolate coloured leaves provide contrast – but perhaps a bit dull? At least it has not grown too big – yet!

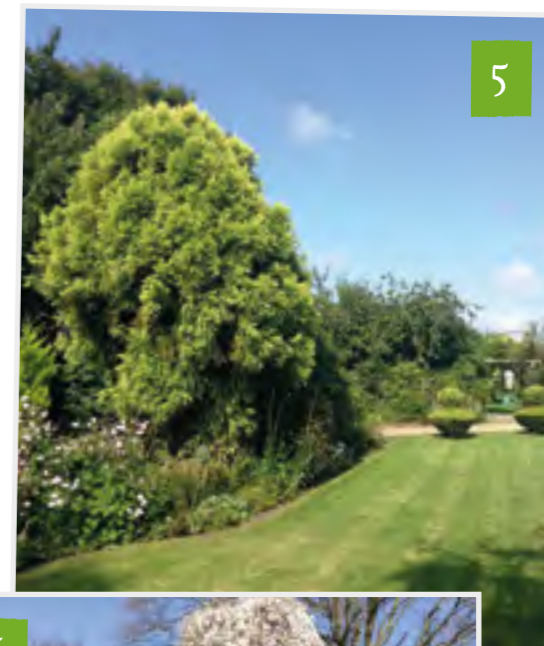
We have several small silver birches. For whiteness of bark the *Betula utilis* 'Moonbeam' wins. Near here we have a *Prunus jamasakara*, *Kursar*, an attractive small tree with early pink flowers. Also I planted a weeping *Prunus yedoensis* (photo 6).



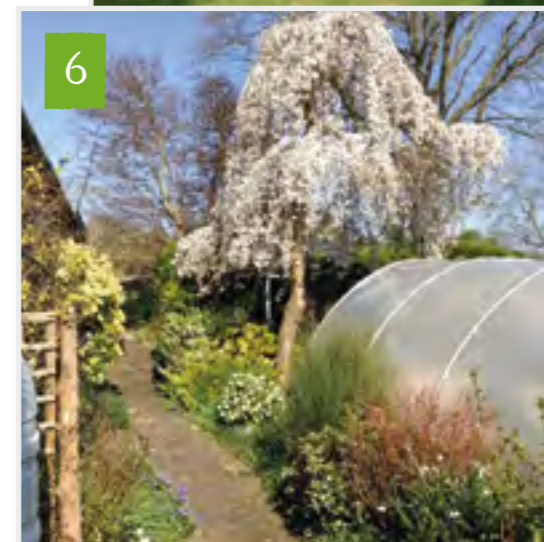
3



4



5



6

Near the swimming pool I have planted trees to give a warm tropical illusion; *Chusan Palm*, *Cordyline australis*, *Yucca gloriosa* and unfortunately a Tulip tree which has grown far too big. The tulip shaped flowers being green are hardly noticeable.

Overall I have enjoyed selecting and growing the trees but many have proved too big for a one acre garden. They do reduce noise from the ever increasing traffic and hopefully do a bit towards reducing carbon dioxide.



Tree books I have used:

- **The Garden Tree**, by Alan Mitchell and Allen Coombes
- **Choosing Small Trees**, by Peter McHoy
- **Trees for Small Gardens**, by Simon Toomer

How I came to woodworking at Westonbirt



What Westonbirt means to me

My first visit to Westonbirt must have been in 1983 on a day out with my family. I could not have imagined then the important role the arboretum would play in my life or how much I would come to love the place.

Paul Hayden, Director, Westonbirt Woodworks



As the courses became more and more popular, we outgrew the craft shelter that stood where the walkway now stands in Silk Wood and in 2009 we moved into the wonderful Silk Wood Barn. We worked from there until 2016 when we moved once more, this time into the old Plant Centre site under the walkway.

We now have a very well-equipped workshop, showroom and shop, the sawmill funded by The Friends and the yard where, along with a small group of skilled craftspeople, I will be teaching 14 chair making courses with about 150 attendees this summer! We also hope to be offering a range of other activities.

I haven't kept precise records but I think that over the years that I have worked at the arboretum I have taught about 2,500 people to make Windsor chairs.

To find out more visit westonbirtwoodworks.co.uk

By the turn of the millennium I was making a living making chairs in a workshop behind my house. I was also running some chair making courses under a tarpaulin hung amongst the trees in Longleat Forest and writing for Good Woodworking Magazine.

At some point someone in Westonbirt phoned the magazine and asked if they knew of demonstrators who could attend what was then called 'The Festival of Wood'. The magazine suggested me and I have worked here pretty much ever since. In those days of limited internet I relied mainly on demonstrating at events or busking with my lathe outside the shop to drum up customers for a growing number of courses.



Credit: Johnny Hathaway

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Arboretum opening times

9am-5pm (last paid entry March - Nov 4.30pm)
(Dec - Feb 4pm) closed Christmas Day

Please pre-book your visit at
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General Enquiries Monday-Friday
Tel: 0300 067 4890
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