Tree Warden Report - 6 May 2019

**New Broadland Tree Warden Network**

In November 2018 Broadland District Council closed it’s Tree Warden Scheme as part of a cost cutting exercise. Fortunately, John Fleetwood, a Tree Warden of 28 years, with active support from both Broadland District Council and the Tree Council set up the Broadland Tree Warden Network. Although an independent body, it operates under the auspice of the Tree Council and has gone from strength to strength. It is now stronger than it has ever been. There are 36 voluntary Tree Wardens covering 26 of our 63 parishes.

Broadland District Council allocates the Network a £3000 per year tree planting budget for trees to be planted on public amenity land and also arranges training sessions on subjects such as TPO’s and Conservation Areas, planning and trees, planning and woodlands.

The Role of the Tree Warden varies on the different needs of their Parish ,but basically involves activities such as planting trees on any patch of bare land they can source, surveying the trees in the Parish, their health, possible threats, proposing new TPOs, commenting on new TPOs and proposed works on trees covered by a TPO, keeping the Parish informed on Tree Matters and running activities/ events in conjunction with the Tree Council Annual events which are aimed at promoting and educating the general public about Trees and their crucial importance to the fundamental well – being and survival of the our planet.

On behalf of the Broadland Tree Warden Network I would like to like to thank the Parish Council for their contribution to the running of the Network.

**Orchard Survey**

I would also like to say thank you to those people who gave me their time to talk about Orchards in the Parish as part of the Orchards East Parish Orchard Survey. Sadly, none of the traditional orchards on the 2nd edition Ordinance Survey exist anymore, although there may be a possible fragment left in Woodbastwick, and orchards that were planted later have now come and gone. I would be grateful if anyone who has planted a new orchard or knows of an existing orchard could get in touch with me.

**Parish Tree Survey**

I’m slowly making progress with surveying the trees on public land in our Parish. The only trees that have official protection are the trees in the Conservation Area in Woodbastwick and there is 1 Tree Protection Order ( TPO) on an oak in Panxworth.

The trees in the areas under the planning control of the Broads Authority do not have any special protection.

**Current Status of Trees in England**

The current status of trees in England is that more are still being lost than are being re-planted. Ash dieback is predicted to kill 95% of Norfolk’s ash trees over the next 20 years. At least 20 introduced pests and diseases are attacking our native trees, six have reached epidemic levels and at least 11 more diseases are nearing our borders……. so the situation is dire !

I have been saddened at the number of mature trees that have been felled in Ranworth alone over the last few years – each mature tree is an important habitat in it’s own right, and even if dead, as long as not posing a threat to anyone or property, is a valuable wildlife resource.

Whilst it’s good that new trees have been replanted in many instances, a small tree or sapling does not provide the same habitat or biodiversity potential as a mature tree.

A new landmark United Nations report on biodiversity due to be released today but leaked over the weekend warns that the “here is no question we are losing biodiversity at a truly unsustainable rate that will affect human wellbeing both for current and future generations,” “ that a perilous and miserable future awaits both the natural world and human civilization unless we rapidly bring an end to humanity’s destructive “ business as usual.

Whilst the loss of mature trees in our Parish may not be comparable to what is happening in globally, each mature tree felled is a loss of habitat and has a negative effect on our local biodiversity.

**Ancient Woodland,Ancient Trees,veteran Trees, Notable Trees, Champion Trees**

Ancient Woodlands, Ancient Trees ( gnarled, knobbly, huge, bent and hollow),Veteran Trees ( a tree which shows ancient characteristics)Heritage Trees ( part of our history and culture) Notable Tree/ Trees( creating an impact locally) & Champion Trees are increasingly under threat often from development. Whilst legislation is being brought in to afford them extra protection, the main problem is that many have not been identified and mapped.

If you know of a tree that may fall into this category please inform me and /or the Woodland Trust or Ancient Tree Forum. Further information can be found on [www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk)

**Tree Diseases & Pests**

As already mentioned, Tree Disease and Tree Pests are continuing to have an increasing effect on the health of many of our native trees. Ash dieback has now reached the NW coast of Scotland, Chronic Oak Dieback is being reported more frequently although the Oak Processionary Moth outbreak seems to be being contained within the London area.

27 cases of Horse Chestnut canker have now been identified in Norfolk, and Phytophthora alni, a lethal disease is now widespread in Alder Trees. Sweet Chestnut, Pine, Larch, Conifers, Juniper & Plane are also increasingly susceptible to related diseases.

Get to know the trees around you and if you suspect any disease or pest may be attacking it, please REPORT IT. Early intervention could save it

**See below:**

**The Forestry Commission’s advice and guidance on tree pests and diseases is being transferred to the Forest Research website. Specific tree pest and disease tools, resources and information on specific tree pests and diseases will be available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/toolsand-resources/pest-and-disease-resources**

**Tree Alert, the Forestry Commission’s tree pest and disease reporting tool, is also now hosted on the Forest Research website, at** [**www.forestresearch.gov.uk/treealert**](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/treealert)**.**

Whilst legal restrictions are being put on the felling and export of many endangered tree species in some countries, the illegal trade in wood is huge, convoluted and difficult to police so please do your bit by ensuring you buy wood of any sort with a FSC label.

 ( FSC - The Forest Stewardship Council is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world’s forests. The FSC does this by setting standards on forest products, along with certifying and labelling them as eco-friendly)

**The Woodland Trust** is also a good source of information on all Tree related queries

( + has great resources for children)

**Tree Council Public Events**

Every year the Tree Council promotes Public Events to raise public awareness, understanding and knowledge of Trees and the Natural World that they are such a vital part of.

See Below:

**March – September - Tree Care Campaign** The annual campaign highlights the need for better care for all trees, in order to ensure their survival and increase the numbers reaching maturity. It is important to re-visit them to carry out a few simple tree care tasks that can save young trees from dying and allow them to develop into the mature trees.

**May - Walk in the Woods** - an annual reminder that more trees and woodlands need to be planted now if there are to be any for future generations to enjoy

**September – October 2019** Seed Gathering Season Through this autumn festival The Tree Council aims to inspire everyone, particularly school children and families, to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees of the future. Growing trees from local seed can have great benefits in re-stocking areas with trees of local provenance. The concept of local provenance suggests that trees that are adapted to the local circumstances and so are likely to flourish and help restore, conserve and beautify local urban and rural spaces.

**National Tree Week – November – December**

I hope to set up a self – guided walk / quiz along the Bridlepath in Ranworth for the May half – term week. I hope to make contact with the Broad’s Authority Ranger for our Parish to discuss this and other possible events but as yet have not heard back. I also plan to discuss ideas with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

**Young Tree Wardens**

I am not sure how many children we have in our Parish but if there are any and they would like to set up a Young Tree Warden group or be involved in organising and running Tree related activities and events please contact me – **the youngsters are our future and it is their future that is in our hands.**

**Hedgehogs**

and finally…… a plea for Hedgehogs. We know they are in trouble, we’ve lost a third of all our hedgehogs since the millennium…… so a couple of things you can do.

1 - Map your hedgehog sighting on [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)

2 - They love and are great for gardens , but non – wildlife friendly slug pellets will kill - them ( along with slug & snail eating birds).

* They will travel around 1 mile a night in search of food and a mate so please ensure they can move between gardens . Look on the website above for DIY Hedgehog Highways……. Great to do with children and great grandchildren .

**Book**s

* A fascinating read – The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben – you will see trees in a completely new light
* An inspirational read - The Man Who Planted Trees, a short story by Jean Giono

Thank you,

Carol Champion. Tree Warden – Woodbastwick, Ranwoth & Panxworth Parish

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