













A Note from the Cheshire Landscape Trust Chairman, Helen Carey

First of all, a huge thank you to all the Tree Wardens, Tree Guardians and everyone who has helped the Trust over the past years in whatever capacity. As guardians and champions of our local communities your work enriches the local landscape of Cheshire, adds to its diversity and wildlife and makes it a county to be proud of.

The Cheshire Landscape Trust – its Past, Present and Future

Past

The Cheshire Landscape Trust was formed in 1981, following a decision by Cheshire County Council to stop its pioneering environmental and landscape work in local communities. For the past thirty two years the Trust has championed its constitutional aim - "to conserve and enhance for the benefit of the public the natural beauty and amenities of the countryside of Cheshire" - working throughout the rural and urban communities of Cheshire and beyond, in partnership with local authorities, other organisation, schools and parish councils. Its staff, volunteers, partners, army of Tree Wardens and Tree Guardians have planted thousands of trees, gapped up and laid miles of hedgerows and enriched local neighbourhoods with community orchards.

With the help and expertise of its former Director, John Gittins and current Chief Executive, Katie Lowe, and with funding from the local authority, many Cheshire towns and villages have been enabled to draw up their Parish Plans, Town or Village Design Statements and Landscape Statements which have helped to influence and guide local authority planning policy.

The Trust has always had to work hard to find funding for its work and until recently has been supported, to some extent, with local authority service level agreements (SLAs). It has regularly been a hand-to-mouth existence but in spite of this, it's true to say that its output has been huge and it has given great value for money. When I look at some of the past CLT Annual Reviews and our website I am always amazed at how much has been achieved over the years by such a small organisation.

Present

Over the past two years, as well as its normal activities the Trust has been particularly active on two fronts. It has planted 32 community orchards in a wide variety of landscapes including school grounds, the grounds of a business and technical park, on a nature reserve, along a public footpath and in the Lord Lieutenant's garden. A new venture was to run a pilot Landscape Wardens project with money from Awards for All. This was so successful that the Landscape Wardens project is continuing this year with funding from Cheshire West and Chester local authority.

However, in the continuing difficult economic climate, funding, at both national and local level is virtually disappearing and all environmental organisations are finding survival challenging. All organisations must look for new avenues of work and new partnerships, without acting in direct conflict and competition with each other.

The Future



Continued

A Note from the Cheshire Landscape Trust Chairman, Helen Carey

The Future

It is vitally important that the legacy of the past thirty-two years is passed on to future generations. We know, from the success of current and past projects, the strength of our Tree Wardens network, our work in schools and local communities and the commitment of our volunteers that we have a valuable role to play in enhancing the local landscape and environment. However the Cheshire Landscape Trust is a small organisation, working in a specialised area and unless it actively adapts to these changes its voice will get lost amongst louder ones.

Over the past few months, the Trustees of CLT have been discussing what is the best and financially viable way forward for our work. As some of you may know, Katie Lowe and her partner, Pete Tonge are expecting their first baby in November and Katie will be going off on maternity leave for a year, from the end of October. Rachel Fitzpatrick, our Administrative Officer, left CLT at the end of June to develop new interests.

These two events have provided the trustees with various options and at the heart of our decision making has been the important and valuable role our Tree Wardens, Tree Guardians and volunteers have always played in "conserving and enhancing for the benefit of the public the natural beauty and amenities of the countryside of Cheshire".

With this in mind, over the past few months the CLT Trustees have talked with other organisations and environmental experts and have reluctantly decided that the Trust will have to be wound up at the end of the financial year, March 2014, due to the difficulties mentioned above, for small organisations like ours in attracting funding. We believe that in the current climate, we can work more effectively within a larger organisation and have already had some useful talks with other organisations about the best way forward. We will ensure that the Tree Warden, Tree Guardian and Landscape Warden Schemes continue within another organisation and that your roles within these projects are able to continue.

So, it's work in progress and of course we'll keep you up to date with any further information when we have it.

Thank you again for all you have done and I hope will continue to do for the benefit of the people of Cheshire. It is vitally important that we look after our environment for future generations, not only for our wildlife, biodiversity and landscape but also our leisure, health and wellbeing.

Helen Carey OBE DL Cheshire Landscape Trust Chairman

Musings from my tree......

I hope you have all read the note from the Cheshire Landscape Trust Chairman regarding the future of the Trust. As you can see it is the end of an era for both the Trust and for me personally.

So Cheshire Landscape Trust will be no more as of the end of March 2014. We are trying our hardest to pass on the Tree Warden and Tree Guardian schemes to another suitable organisation who we hope will be able to take things forward, not only for the benefit of the trees and hedgerows of Cheshire, but also for you, our volunteers.

However, before the end of March, we still have plenty of work to be carrying on with. As usual, we will still be donating trees from our tree nursery at Marbury Country Park during the winter. A list of the trees we have available is contained within this issue of The Acorn. Please complete the Tree Order forms and return them to the Trust office before the end of November, my colleague Catherine will then be in touch to let you know when the nursery will be open for collection days.

This will be the first winter in 16 years that I will not be present at the nursery to help you lift trees as I will be having a baby in November. However, my partner Pete, who many of you have already met at various events and at the nursery in previous years, will be keeping things running and will be on hand at Marbury to help you with your tree requirements. Pete will also be leading on the remaining Landscape Warden events we have planned for the next few months which will include landscape history, geology, ecology and practical skills workshops.

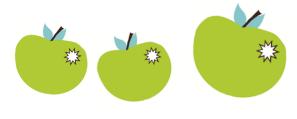
I still hope to see many of you after my time with the Trust ends as I will continue to undertake various projects on orchards across the county. I have been grafting and growing on Cheshire varieties of apple tree and now have these for sale. If you are interested in purchasing some or would like a stock list then please do get in touch (contact details below). I will also be continuing to work with Norton Priory and others on pruning, grafting and orchard management workshops and with Pete we will also be running hedge-laying and woodland management workshops. If we can run any workshops for you then just get in contact with us.

I will finish with a big thanks to all our Tree Wardens and Tree Guardians. I've met some lovely people in my time with the Trust and will miss you all a great deal.



Katie Lowe Chief Executive

(After 1st November I can be contacted via email on kjlowe[at]tiscali.co.uk)



Trees from Cheshire Landscape Trust

Enclosed with this issue of The Acorn is your annual Tree Order Form. If you would like to request up to 25 trees, fill in the application form and return it to the Cheshire Landscape Trust office. You will then be informed of dates when the nursery will be open in order for you to come and collect your trees. Make sure that up to date contact details are included on the form so we can get in touch with you in due course.

The following list is all the trees we have available from the nursery at Marbury Country Park. If you add anything to your order form that is not included in the list below then we will not be able to supply it.

Acer campestre (Field Maple) * Alnus glutinosa (Alder) Betula pendula (Silver Birch) Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam) Corylus avellana (Hazel) * Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) * Euonymous europaeus (Spindle Tree) Fagus sylvatica (Beech) Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple) *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) Prunus padus (Bird Cherry) Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn) * Quercus robur (English/Common Oak) Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan/Mountain Ash) Tilia cordata (Small-Leaf Lime) Viburnum opulus (Guelder Rose) *



Please return completed application forms to the Trust's office (Cheshire Landscape Trust, Rm A022, The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4QX) or email a copy of the form to cltoffice@tiscali.co.uk





^{*} Those trees marked with an asterisk are suitable hedgerow plants



Last year Cheshire Landscape Trust had funding from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Awards for All' programme to run a series of workshops in Ellesmere Port and Broxton district on our new project — Landscape Wardens. These proved to be very successful and the demand for places on the workshops was high. At the beginning of 2013 we approached Cheshire West and Chester Council to see if they would be willing to support the Landscape Wardens project and in due course they awarded us a grant through their Community Empowerment Fund to expand the initiative across the whole of Cheshire West.

Cheshire Landscape Trust now has some funding to run workshops on a variety of landscape based topics across the Cheshire West area. We have already coordinated some workshops on 'Bats and the Landscape', 'Butterflies and Ladybirds and the Landscape' and 'Invasive Species in our Landscape' with another session focussing on 'Landscape Character'.



We have plans to run further ecology focussed sessions on 'Breeding Birds and the Landscape' and 'Mammals and the Landscape' which will be based at Chester Zoo. We will also have workshops on Landscape History, how the geology of the landscape influences biodiversity and Landscape and Soils. In addition we will have some practical events focussing on trees, hedges and community orchards.



We will also run the Landscape Character workshop again due to a demand for places. Landscape Character is a valuable tool when undertaking any community planning projects such as Neighbourhood Plans or Parish Landscape Statements and as such I would highly recommend coming along if you are involved in one of these documents. Places are free and are open to all.

Keep an eye on the Trust's website for full details on workshop dates, times and locations and check out the 'Dates in the Diary' in this edition of The Acorn for up and coming events. Information on events we have already run are listed on the News page too. Just get in contact if you would like to book a spot at any of our events and we look forward to seeing you there.



Project Funded by



'Queen Bee'

Enclosed with this issue of The Acorn is a pre-order form for the new Cheshire Landscape Trust rose, 'Queen Bee'. All proceeds raised from the sale of the rose will go to the work of the Trust until the end of March 2014 and thereafter to the Tree Warden scheme.

Queen Bee is a floribunda rose with clusters of amber yellow flowers and olive green foliage which complements the flowers. It has a bushy but compact habit and flowers later than other yellow varieties of rose but repeats quickly following dead-heading. It is an ideal rose for bedding and for growing in containers.

The Rose has been kindly donated to Cheshire Landscape Trust by Fryer's Roses of Knutsford and was featured on their stand at RHS Tatton 2013. Fryer's Roses are also selling the rose in their garden centre but buying direct through the Trust will be for the cheaper price of £10 potted or £8 barerooted (additional costs will apply if you require the plants posting).

If you would like to order a rose then please complete the pre-order form and return with payment to the Trust's office. Your rose will then be posted out to you (if you have requested mail order) or you will be informed when you can go and collect your rose from Fryer's Roses in Knutsford.





UK scientists have mapped the genome of the British ash tree, in research to find a way to protect woodlands from a deadly fungus. The data has been released on the internet for use by the global scientific community.

The ash tree genome map is the latest advance in fighting *Chalara*, which causes ash dieback. According to new figures, ash dieback is spreading rapidly in Britain and has been found in more than 200 woods. Evidence from continental Europe suggests that as many as 90% of ash trees could eventually die from the infection.

Scientists are searching for genetic clues to why some trees appear to be able to survive. A team at Queen Mary University of London, has mapped the genome of a native ash tree for the first time, as part of the research. The tree came from a wood in Gloucestershire owned by the Earth Trust.

Dr Richard Buggs of Queen Mary University of London, said it was a big leap forward. He told the BBC: "This is the best available sequence for ash - and it is therefore a very good reference for anyone working on anything to do with ash trees."

In June, the DNA sequence of a Danish ash tree with resistance to the disease was revealed by a team at the Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL), the John Innes Centre and the Genome Analysis Centre in Norwich. They have also sequenced the DNA of the fungus.

An online game, Fraxinus, which the public can use to help scientists improve their data analysis, has been launched by the Norwich team. It has been played by nearly 20,000 people from more than 100 countries. The long-term goal is to map the genes that give a minority of ash trees resistance to the pathogen. "The genome sequencing work is really increasing the number of genetic variants we've identified, which will help us to associate sources of variation in the tree with the genetics," said Dr Dan MacLean of TSL.

Ash dieback was first discovered in the UK in February 2012 in an import of nursery stock. In the autumn, a small number of cases were discovered in ash trees in established woodland in Norfolk and Suffolk. Forests in the south and east are among the worst affected, and the disease has now spread to woodland and nurseries across the UK, according to the Forestry Commission.

Ash dieback facts

Chalara does not pose a risk to human or animal health;

Government guidelines state there is no need to restrict public access to woodlands; The main source of spread is from the transport of infected ash plant parts; When visiting the countryside people are asked not to move ash trees and leaves; Steps should also be taken to try to remove mud from boots, clothes, bicycles, baby buggies, dogs, vehicles etc.

Source: Forestry Commission Wales

Taken from: www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment 23rd September 2013



For the latest information on Chalara fraxinea for to the Forestry Commission's web page on the disease http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8UDM6S

Strategy focuses on UK Broadleaved Trees' Future



An official strategy is due to be unveiled that aims to protect the UK's broadleaved tree species. The strategy has been developed by Forest Research, part of the Forestry Commission, and two charities, the Earth Trust and Future Trees Trust. The Strategy encourages people to choose seeds and saplings carefully to ensure that the trees which they plant do well.

Broadleaved trees are those which have wide leaves rather than the needle-like leaves of conifers. They include ash, beech, birch, elm, holly, hornbeam, lime, oak and poplar. The document's authors say broadleaved woodlands have declined over the past 200 years, resulting in 95% of hardwood timber now having to be imported. The 16-page vision, called 'A Future With Broadleaved Trees', says the trees have a "very special place in our national psyche" but are "much more than just beautiful things".

Co-author Dr Steve Lee from Forest Research - the scientific arm of the Forestry Commission - explained: "If they are good quality and grow well, they will lock up carbon for a long period of time. Also, you can make good quality products from the timber, which will last for a very long time. The act of planting a tree, and the cost of that tree, is probably going to be the same regardless of where you get it from," he told BBC News. "So you could plant a maladapted tree, wait a long time and it does not grow very well. Yet you could invest the same amount of money in another tree, which grows very well and remains more resilient to any changes that come along in terms of climate, pests and diseases. What we are really saying is that the effort is the same, so look around before you plant and think hard about what it is and why it is you are planting those trees."

The strategy, which looks ahead to 2025, is centred around three core objectives:

- Improving broadleaved trees through research
- Raising awareness of the benefits of using improved broadleaved trees
- Encourage the planting of improved broadleaved trees by establishing a strong policy framework

Earth Trust chief executive Jayne Manley explained: "Our much loved broadleaved trees could provide significant benefits to people and the environment as well as the rural economy. We need to focus on these trees rather than take them for granted and part of this is identifying and planting 'improved' trees which are productive, healthy and adaptable."

Dr Lee added: "What you are really after is something that will remain well adapted on that site and will remain resilient to any environmental impacts that may occur over the 80-year or so rotation period. The suggestion is that the local material, which you might have planted in the past without really thinking about it, might not be the most resilient in the future."

Taken from: www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment 9th October 2013







Saturday 7th December 2013 10am-3pm Mickle Trafford Landscape Character Workshop

Part of the Landscape Wardens Project

Come and join the Landscape Wardens for a free workshop where Cheshire Landscape Trust will lead a day looking at landscape characterisation — the process of understanding and explaining what makes your local landscape distinctive and different from neighbouring areas. It is about identifying the particular features of the landscape that create special character.

Contact Cheshire Landscape Trust to book a place.

Sunday 26th January 2014 10am – 1pm Norton Priory Museum and Gardens Pruning Workshop



Part of the Keeping Traditional Skills Alive Project

Come along to Norton Priory to learn how to winter prune your fruit trees. The workshop starts with the theory behind pruning followed by a practical pruning session in the Priory's gardens.

Contact Norton Priory to book a place on 01928 569895

Saturday 22nd February 2014

9am – 2pm Chester Zoo

Mammals and the Landscape

Part of the Landscape Wardens Project

Come and join the Landscape Wardens at Chester Zoo where ecologist Jeff Clarke will lead the day looking at various mammals found in Cheshire and showing how different landscapes influence them.

Contact Cheshire Landscape Trust to book a place



Dates for the Diary



Sunday 23rd February 2014 10am – 1pm Norton Priory Museum and Gardens Grafting Workshop

Part of the Keeping Traditional Skills Alive Project



Come along to Norton Priory to learn how to graft fruit trees, a traditional propagation technique in use for thousands of years. The workshop starts with the theory behind grafting followed by a practical grafting session where you will also be able to take away heritage trees you have grafted.

Contact Norton Priory to book a place on 01928 569895



Saturday 8th March 2014 10am – 3pm Caldy Valley

Breeding Birds and the Landscape

Part of the Landscape Wardens Project

Come and join the Landscape Wardens in Caldy Valley, Chester where ecologist Jeff Clarke will lead the day looking at various birds found in Cheshire and showing how different landscapes influence their distribution and breeding habits.

Contact Cheshire Landscape Trust to book a place.

Sunday 9th March 2014 10am – 4pm

Location to be confirmed

Hedge-Laying Workshop

Part of the Keeping Traditional Skills Alive Project



Come along and have a basic introduction to hedge-laying. Expert tuition will be given on the techniques and traditions of hedge laying with full instruction on the tools and how to use them. This is an outdoor event so please wear appropriate clothing and stout footwear. Bring a packed lunch.

Contact Norton Priory to book a place on 01928 569895

Other events over the next few months will include Landscape History, How Geodiversity affects Biodiversity, and Landscape and Soils. Keep an eye on the Trust's website for the latest details on the dates, times and locations of all our events.



• The Acorn Autumn/Winter 2013



SCORELINE 140 Parishes 186 Tree Wardens

Cheshire Landscape Trust, RmA022, The Heath Business & Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4QX

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Cheshire Landscape Trust