



The Acorn Autumn 2011



Cheshire Landscape Trust



• The Acorn Spring 2011 •



SCORELINE

139 Parishes 184 Wardens

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The Acorn is funded by:



Cheshire West
and Chester



Cheshire East
Council

Cheshire Landscape Trust



Musings from my tree

I feel I should start my musings with a short apology for not issuing a copy of The Acorn since the spring. Other work has simply taken over this year as we had a stand at RHS Tatton and then had our 30th birthday event to organise; all on top of the never ending search for new funding and other everyday things. However, I hope you have been keeping up with our goings-on via the news page on our website, Twitter and Facebook.

The tree planting season is nearly here again so enclosed with this edition of The Acorn is a list of trees we have available from our Marbury nursery and the tree application form. If you let me know which trees you would like I'll then be in touch to let you know when I'll be at the nursery to distribute the trees. We will start during National Tree Week so only a few weeks to go!

We will also be planting several community orchards this winter thanks to some funding we have received from Natural England, The Big Tree Plant with Mersey Forest and from an anonymous donation.

So a bit about what we've been up to over the past few months.....

RHS Tatton

RHS Tatton was a great success for us. We highlighted our work on community orchards with our display featuring a small orchard, a display of fruity produce and a 'lambanana' which really drew in the crowds. We were delighted to be awarded with a certificate of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society for all our hard work. Three of our Tree Wardens generously gave their time and helped to man our stand during the RHS Tatton week so thanks are due to Alison Wilks (Knutsford Tree Warden), Paul Quigley (Aston Tree Warden) and Pete Tonge (Christleton Tree Warden). I'd also like to say thanks to our other helpers: Murray Graham (CLT's Vice Chairman), Nick Carey, Ruthie, Chris Mahon, Steve Fitzpatrick, John & Sue Gittins and in particular Helen Carey, CLT's Chairman, and Rachel Fitzpatrick.



Continued overleaf...

Musings contd & Dates for your diary



We're 30!

2011 is the 30th birthday of the Cheshire Landscape Trust. We were established by Cheshire County Council in 1981 to undertake some of the work they were no longer able to do due to reductions in funding (sounds familiar). Since then the Trust has built up an enthusiastic band of Tree Wardens, a unique junior Tree Warden scheme called Tree Guardians, we have donated thousands of trees and shrubs to community projects and we've facilitated over 25 Village Design Statements including the first in Cheshire (Tarporley) and the very first Town Design Statement (Frodsham). Not bad for an organisation with only 2 members of staff!

We couldn't have achieved everything we have without the help of all our volunteers so it was great to see some of you at our 30th birthday celebration at Capesthorpe Hall recently. Our new President, Lady Bromley-Davenport, very kindly provided us with the use of Capesthorpe Hall for an evening at the end of October to hold a fund raising event and celebration of the past 30 years. We had three interesting and inspiring speakers, Dr Rita Gardner, the Director of the Royal Geographical Society, John Darlington, National Trust Regional Manager (North West) and Sara Mogel, Principal of West Cheshire College.

To date, the event has helped us to raise over just over £3500 so a big thank you to everyone for all your generosity. If you would like to send the Trust a donation then you can do this by sending us a cheque to our office in Runcorn or donating via our JustGiving page on www.justgiving.com

The next Tree Warden event will be on the evening of Tuesday 13th December at the Memorial Hall in Northwich. This will also be a celebration of our 30th birthday so if you can make it please do come along.

Katie Lowe
Cheshire Landscape Trust



Dates for your Diary

National Tree Week

Starts 26th November 2011

Hedge Laying Workshops

Sat 26th Nov 2011

Friday 9th December 2011

Both workshops will run from 10am-3pm and will be held at Moore Nature Reserve, Warrington. For more information or to book your place please contact the trust.

Pruning Workshops

Tues 29th Nov 2011

Sat 3rd Dec 2011

Mon 16th Jan 2012

Sat 21st Jan 2012

All workshops will run from 10am-1pm and will be held at Norton Priory. For more info contact Norton Priory on 01928 569895 or alternatively visit their website www.nortonpriory.org

Tree Wardens Meeting

Celebrating 30yrs of Cheshire Landscape Trust past, present and future

Tuesday 13th December 7pm

The meeting will be held in the Hayhurst Room at the Memorial Hall in Northwich. For more information please get in touch.





Some thoughts from a few of Our dedicated Tree Wardens

It is often said of volunteers that 'they do not necessarily have the time but they do have the heart'. And this is true of our volunteers, particularly those who have been with us from the start. Volunteers are often very busy people simply because they are not prepared to sit on the sidelines & watch as things disintegrate. We want to commend in particular: *John Hess, Ernest Croley, Tom Elwood, Ian Gee, Albert Scott, Ruth Benson, Tom Blundell, Frank Auty, Rob Maddock, Gordon Squire, Colin Lythgoe, Rex Broughton and Doug Butterill*

REX BROUGHTON|

"When I was asked to contribute a few words on my time as a Tree Warden, I hazarded a guess that I had been in the job for 16 years—only to be told that it is more like 21. How time flies when you are enjoying yourself!"

There is pleasure in being a working part of a small rural community (under 300 in Marton) and making what should be a lasting contribution to the landscape and the enjoyment that locals and visitors continue to gain from it. Being part of the Tree Warden network has a special significance for many of us and I value the contacts and friendship it provides. I count myself lucky indeed to be the Warden with one of the greatest trees of Britain, the Marton Oak, almost on my doorstep!"

FRANK AUTY|

"I first became a tree warden when it was launched in Cheshire, about 20 years ago but have had an interest in tree related matters since childhood. I grew 20 horse chestnuts to give to my school in Nottingham for their playing fields.

Therefore when I heard about the Tree Warden scheme I applied to my Parish Council for the post. I was lucky enough to get a grant with the Cheshire Seedcorn Fund to buy hedgerow for 200 yards of a parish field and was allowed to get young trees for an acre of that 6 acre field. After 3 years a fire wiped out half of the trees so I started again, growing many from seed on my allotment. Now, 20 years on, I can walk through this small wood and am amazed that it has established itself so quickly.

The Cheshire Landscape Trust has been the local organiser for tree wardens from the start. They have organised interesting talks, where wardens can compare notes, and arrange for tree based courses (Hedge-laying, pruning, and grafting are but 3). Long may the Tree Warden scheme last!"

TOM BLUNDELL|

"I first became aware of trees when I was in primary school. We played in a park which had a "punch tree". Many years later I discovered that it was a Wellingtonia with its soft spongy bark. Apples trees next got my attention - when we went scrumping. After that I noticed the many trees that came into blossom in the spring and had fruit in the autumn. My father showed me how an old dead laburnum could be made into multi-coloured small furniture and tool handles. I've been fascinated by trees ever since.

I joined Frodsham Tree Group 35 years ago when a local estate was built without a single tree. Today the trees we planted are a distinctive feature particularly in the springtime, and are appreciated by the residents, Over the years the group has planted thousands of trees around Frodsham.

I am currently working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and we are hoping to plant a community orchard at Marshlands Tree Garden. Money has been allocated and the first tree was planted earlier this year by pupils from Weaver Vale School, Frodsham."





The race to find connections between the UK and all 206 Olympic and Paralympic participating nations by July 2012

On 31 October, explorer and broadcaster Nick Crane launched *Walk the World*, a London 2012 Cultural Olympiad project that invites everyone in the UK to explore their neighbourhoods to find connections to all 206 nations taking part in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The idea is to discover international links in buildings and monuments, place names and street names, people and communities, trade and commerce, plants and animals and find out how these have shaped our country. Dr Rita Gardner, Director of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) says: "Geography and history are all around us and it's easy to find evidence of connections in your neighbourhood – past and present - between the UK and the Olympic and Paralympic nations. The stories behind the connections can be fascinating and surprising. Who would have thought that there is a link between the sheep in our fields and Iran, Iraq and Turkey?"

Through the new *Walk the World* website (www.walktheworld.org.uk) people can look at the world map to see what country links have been found so far and submit their own links. The challenge is to find evidence of connections to all 206 participating nations before the opening ceremony. It's easy to find links to some countries such as India, France and Canada but more difficult to find others such as Kyrgyzstan, Equatorial Guinea and Tuvalu. Let's get Cheshire on the map! If you know of international links in your neighbourhood, why not submit them to the Walk the World website (www.walktheworld.org.uk/find/submit/).

Also on the website are a series of specially-created walks in different parts of the UK that offer the chance to explore particular towns and cities to discover the range of international links and the stories behind them. These excellent walks are informative and fun, and suitable for people of all ages. All the walk resources can be downloaded for free from the website (www.walktheworld.org.uk/create/). There's also the challenge to create and submit your own walk showcasing all the international links in a place you know well.

So this is your chance to take part in London 2012. Discover a myriad of international connections all around you, explore new places and get your local area on the map.

Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance). For more details visit www.walktheworld.org.uk or email walktheworld@rgs.org





Where have all our apples gone?

Taken from 'Grow Your Own' Magazine June 2011

DAVID BELLAMY: EXPERT OPINION

The search for heritage apples has begun and leading the hunt is botanist, David Bellamy. He tells GYO how we can help preserve many, largely-forgotten, UK varieties

In the last 40 years, England has lost – wait for it – 90 percent of all the orchards that grow our wonderful heritage apples. To add to the trouble, two out of three apples that are eaten in Britain are imported so we have a real problem and this is that great heritage apples, which most people haven't even heard of, are now starting to disappear.

When you hear some of the wonderful names of these apple varieties you'll be transported to another time ('Kidd's Orange Red', 'Laxton's Superb', 'Sheep's Nose' and 'Sops in Wine' are just a few). However, if you can't find a 'Cox's Orange Pippin' in today's shops then there is something going wrong with the system!

In some villages in the UK you can find apples that are so specific they might as well be called 'Fred' or 'George's' apples! The problem is that people know these trees are on their doorstep, but still we all pop down to the shops and buy other ones that have been imported. This is very bad news for biodiversity. Because, you see, once we've lost an orchard we lose all of the wildlife and natural history that goes with it.

Of course, back in the old days, all those creepy crawlies kept the whole thing in kilter and farmers didn't have to use so much energy or chemicals to keep everything in check. Having faced the credit crunch it looks like we are now facing the biodiversity crunch.

The apple is a truly amazing piece of gear. How can we chuck these things away? There are 7,500 types of apple that have been recorded and they are all distinctive. In fact, they are as different as your and my fingerprints. When we lose one of these we may have lost something that can never be replaced again in the world. So don't let it happen!

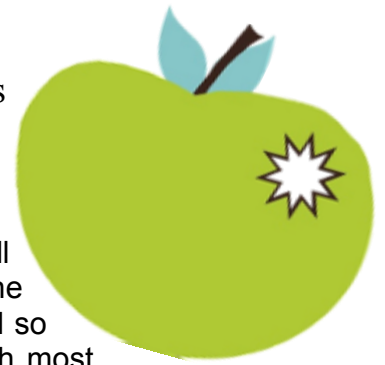
Some people may say 'old Bellamy's standing up and blowing his trumpet again', but why not?! Apples are just wonderful. When I was a little boy in London the country was a very different place and there were thousands of small farmers who grew a whole host of trees.

Now, the land is covered with either buildings or grass which is no good because there's nothing there to attract pollinating insects.

Ultimately, however, we've forgotten that amazing 'wow' feeling of eating a really flavoursome apple. The ones on the shelves today are all much blander than apples I remember as a child. I am convinced that the Copella and National Trust campaign is going to bring a change so find out as much as you can about the apples in your garden, or buy a different variety to plant and start to make a difference today. They say that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, so just make sure it's a different variety every day!



David Bellamy is supporting the Copella 'Plant & Protect' campaign to save traditional English apple varieties. The campaign was created in partnership with the National Trust. To pledge your support and register or buy your own apple tree, visit www.copellafruitjuices.co.uk.





Cheshire Landscape Trust is running workshops at Upper Moss Side by Moore Nature Reserve, Warrington to give a basic introduction to hedge laying.

**The workshops will take place on
Saturday 26th November and
Friday 9th December 2011
from 10.00am to 3.00pm**

Expert tuition will be given on the techniques and traditions of hedge laying with full instruction on the tools and how to use them. We will be outside all day so please wear appropriate clothing and stout footwear.

Bring a packed lunch.

Places cost £20 and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. To book a place on the workshop complete the booking form below or contact Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01928 518018 or email cltoffice@tiscali.co.uk

Cheshire Landscape Trust working in partnership with the Forestry Commission



Hedge Laying Workshop Booking Form

I/We will attend on Saturday 26th November ☐ or Friday 9th December 2011 ☐ (please tick appropriate box)

You can attend one or both workshops at £20 per person per workshop

Name(s).....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

I enclose payment of £20 per person (cheques made payable to Cheshire Landscape Trust)

Return to:

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



Orchard Workshops

Cheshire Landscape Trust and Erddig Hall are running workshops to help you learn all about orchards.

**The workshops will take place
at The National Trust's Erddig Hall, nr Wrexham
on Saturday 4th February 2012
and Sunday 26th February 2012
from 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

Topics covered will include; history of fruit growing, rootstocks and their influence on tree size, tree forms, fruit tree planting, watering, pest and disease control, harvesting and storing fruit and pruning.

The day will consist of a classroom session followed by a practical session on pruning in the Erddig Hall gardens and will be lead by the Head Gardener at Erddig, Glyn Smith.

Places cost £25 and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. To book a place on one of the workshops complete the booking form over leaf or contact Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01928 518018 or email cltooffice@tiscali.co.uk

Booking form overleaf





I would like to book place(s) on the Orchard
Workshop on (please tick the appropriate box)

Saturday 4th February 2012 ☐ or
Sunday 26th February 2012 ☐

Name.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

I enclose payment of £25 per person (cheques made payable to Cheshire Landscape Trust)
If you would prefer to pay via bank transfer please let us know.

NB: PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE WORKSHOP. BOOKINGS WILL BE CONFIRMED ON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT. PAYMENT IS NON-REFUNDABLE UNLESS CHESHIRE LANDSCAPE TRUST IS INFORMED OF NON-ATTENDANCE AT LEAST 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE WORKSHOP.

Return to:

Cheshire Landscape Trust, Rm A022, The Heath Business & Technical Park,
Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4QX



THE NATIONAL TRUST



Planning is for people

The National Trust has championed a strong, effective land use planning system in England since the 1920s. It is the means by which our beautiful and productive countryside, heritage and landscapes are protected; and by which we ensure there are good, vibrant villages, towns and cities in which to live and work.

Here we set out our positive vision for planning and the changes we believe are necessary to the draft NPPF.



Our vision for planning

Planning exists to create great places for people to live and work, both today and tomorrow. Effective planning should promote good development, which contributes to prosperity and growth. It should not be used merely as a tool to drive short-term economic gain.

A robust planning system guides good, necessary development to the right places. It ensures that poorly designed developments and those in the wrong place don't get built. It protects the things that matter to us all, from open spaces, green fields and productive agricultural land to much-loved historic city centres, towns and villages. And a robust system should deliver the new homes, shops and services that communities want, where they want them.

At the same time, effective planning should minimise the burdens of bureaucracy, cost and delay. It should provide certainty about the ground rules by which decisions are made. But it should ensure freedom within this framework, so that individuals, companies and communities can exercise choice for the long-term in a balanced way.

Any new planning system should therefore:

- **Be balanced**, establishing a framework for integrating economic, environmental and social concerns.
- **Safeguard the public's interest** by recognising the value of and protecting the countryside, heritage and nature.
- **Start from what people value about their place**, and their aspirations for its future.
- **Give people a genuine say**, and not undermine localism by insisting on an automatic 'yes' as the response to development proposals.
- **Work in practice**, by using clear and consistent definitions so that everyone has the same understanding of the rules and we do not see planning by appeal become the norm.

Planning is for people!

To view the full manifesto please visit https://www.planningforpeople.org.uk/Content/Pdfs/NT_Planning_Manifesto.pdf





A Moving experience

By Barry Fowler

In the spring of 2005 we decided that our old house and garden were becoming too difficult to manage and we thought we should move before we became too old but the question was where should we go. It didn't take us very long to decide that flat living wasn't for us and we needed a house that was easy to maintain and small garden that as keen gardeners we could easily manage.

After a lot of searching we finally found a house in a courtyard development by Redrow in Little Sutton. Things moved very fast and within a month had sold our old house and moved.

Normally when a builder gets planning permission he agrees that on completion he pays a lump sum to the Council the interest from which pays for the maintenance of open spaces. This estate is different and the residents manage it themselves paying a monthly fee to the Management Company to cover Maintenance charges. As one of the few retired residents I became one of the Directors responsible for the maintenance.

The managed area is just over two acres and consists of a mixed woodland area of oak beech and sycamore some of which are over 130 years old an open area and various border with paths through the woodland connecting the various parts of the estate. Since taking over management the borders have been replanted with shrubs and bulbs. The woodland under planted with holly blue bells, daffodils and crocus. Hedges have been thickened by planting Field Maple, Hazel, Blackthorn and Wild Rose.

We have worked closely with the Cheshire Landscape Trust in developing the area and are currently working on a program of tree planting and have so far planted 20 beech and oak together with a number of horse chestnuts to replace our single tree which has bleeding canker and will need to be felled in the short term. The Trust kindly provided these trees free of charge and in addition gave us some silver birch, crab apple, bird cherry, mountain ash, and small leaf lime trees. We are restricted by a covenant to only plant British trees.

The attached photographs show the woodland in two different seasons with the winter one taken during the recent cold weather.



All is not well in the Golden Age

John Bratton, Menai Bridge www.nbn.org.uk



When I was four years old I was lent to a neighbour for a few days. She took me 'fishing' (with a pond net) to the steelworks-polluted tidal drain that runs through Winteringham, North Lincolnshire, and apologised that we only caught shrimps - *Gammarus duebeni*, though I can't claim to have known it at the time. I assured her these were much more interesting than fish, and that is still my view 48 years later.

At age 10 I became apprentice to local ornithologist and wildlife artist Miles Hopper, who was a huge influence on my views of wildlife and the countryside. I was hooked into proper biological recording, with grid references, record cards and everything, at a Scunthorpe Museum meeting in 1973, by the Lincolnshire mollusc recorder John Redshaw. The first specimens I sent him produced a new vice-county record (*Ashfordia granulata*), and it made me realise that not everything is yet known about which species occur where. Consequently identification keys started to accumulate in the bookcase.

There is the attraction of a treasure hunt in the identification of a specimen: the couplets of a key form the trail of clues, the fascination of seeing the tiny distinguishing structures on, say, the post-abdomen of a waterflea or the mouthparts of a water beetle make the process enjoyable, and there is the final prize of creating new information in the form of a unique biological record.

I wish I could cite contribution to wildlife conservation as a motivating factor, but increasingly it feels like recording the type and position of the Titanic's deckchairs as conservation slides into translocations, reintroductions and support for the tourist industry. Contrary to the prevailing view, I believe we are in a Golden Age of British natural history, with more active naturalists and more intensive study of more groups of wildlife than ever before. Unfortunately, there is an increasing divergence between wildlife conservation and natural history. Knowledge of wildlife, or even interest in wildlife, seems to be thought no longer necessary for a professional wildlife conservationist. In 2008 I attended a conference in which 17 graduates of a Countryside Management MA presented their ideas for improvement of Bangor's green spaces. They covered views of the sites, views from the sites, footpaths, even likely effects on house prices. But when it was pointed out none of them had mentioned wildlife, the answer was that it is a specialist subject which they couldn't be expected to know about.

As a consequence of this decline in naturalists in conservation jobs, I've known golden-rod be cleared from pasture in the belief it was ragwort; I've seen a pick-axe being used among frog orchids to hack out cotoneaster from limestone pavement in a National Nature Reserve; we've had conservation staff responsible for an SSSI to protect the hornet robberfly not realising that a fly associated with herbivore dung requires its habitat to be grazed; and in 2011, 39 years after Alan Stubbs wrote on the importance to wildlife of dead wood, 22 years after Martin Speight's recommendations to the Council of Europe on the entomological value of dead wood, and 19 years after Peter Kirby's book on habitat management, I still see old trees being tidied away along footpaths in conservation woodland instead of footpaths being routed away from old trees.

The challenge for British natural history is not so much to recruit more naturalists, but to persuade the conservation organisations to value naturalists and to include knowledge of wildlife in their recruitment criteria. At present, we suffer from Little Man Syndrome: "We have this marvellous little man who comes along and tells us all about the bugs. It goes over my head, but the children love it."

Perhaps the most personal satisfaction in biological recording comes from seeing a species' distribution map where one of the dots lies 100 miles from the rest, and knowing that is my record. Or else it makes me think I should have had the identification checked.





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Cheshire Landscape Trust