



# JERSEY TREES FOR LIFE



The Newsletter  
Issue 46 Autumn 2012

Issue 46

Editor; Michel Morel

## Message from the new Chairman—Jon Dyson

Hello All !

At the first committee meeting subsequent to the Association's July AGM, I was elected the Chairman of Jersey Trees for Life - whilst away on Annual leave in Australia! That'll teach me to be absent from committee meetings in future!

In all seriousness, I am honoured to be the Chairman of an Association which has such a proud history and exciting future on our Island.

By a way of an introduction, I have served on the Committee for some 12 years. I'm an Architect by trade and as such was co-opted onto the Committee originally by Bob Godel, to continue the lineage of having an Architect on the Committee. I just haven't been able to pass that mantle on!

I would like to welcome Susie Robins back onto the Committee, who was Chairman when I first became a committee member. She was elected the Vice Chair and I am delighted that I shall be able to call upon her experience.

It is with regret that Peter Norman and Jonno Le Maistre have resigned their positions on the Committee. In both cases this is due to personal circumstances which have resulted in them experiencing greatly increased commitments. I thank them, on behalf of the Association, for their work on the committee, particularly Peter Norman who served as Peter Townend's Vice-Chair for four years.

I am delighted to welcome Philip Le Brocq, as a co-opted member, onto the committee who will sit until the next AGM.

We are also indebted to Peter Townend, who remains on committee, for all his hard work over the last four years as the Association's Chairman. Both he and Peter Norman spent countless hours in meetings, with a variety of parties, to convert our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary project, the restoration of the Val de la Mare Arboretum, from dream to reality.

Since the changes much has happened: we've had our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, with Guest Speaker, Sir Tim Smit, of Eden and Heligan Fame. His talk covered every other aspect of life! I hope those of you who attended enjoyed this celebration of our first 75 years.

Special thanks must go to Peter Townend, Peter Norman, the staff and everyone else who helped with organising the event,

which was well attended by both our members and the public. We are grateful to Jean Le Maistre and Philip Le



*Jon Dyson (right) planting the hawthorn tree at Radisson Blu with former Lieutenant—Governor Sir Andrew Ridgway.*

Brocq for the saying grace and proposing a toast to the association respectively. I'm still finding my feet, but looking to the future, we're working on strategic long term plans for the Val de la Mare Arboretum, the Jersey Hedgerow Campaign, and exploring other long term projects. We are looking to provide a framework for our projects which takes into account maintenance of all the sites and recent planting schemes to ensure they survive.

Sadly the most devastating news since our AGM must be the latest developments confirming that Ash dieback disease is now present in the wild in the UK. We can only hope and pray that its effects do not mirror the horrors of Dutch elm disease. This is something about which we will need to be extremely vigilant. Whilst any Island wide action that may be required will need to be States driven, we must stand ready to provide all the resources and help we can to ensure that the Island does lose its native ash popula-

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tion.

On a brighter note, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Radisson Blu Hotel has decided to support us as their nominated charity over the next two years. To celebrate this new partnership Conrad organised the planting of a hawthorn tree near the front entrance to the hotel on the occasion of its 5<sup>th</sup>, or 'wooden' anniversary in Jersey on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

As ever, we are indebted to all our other supporters and sponsors, who are named elsewhere in this newsletter. Without you we would not be able to do as much as we can to protect and promote the Island's trees.

Finally, our next function is the Christmas Lunch, details of which are within these pages. I really hope to meet some of you on this occasion. If you're unable to make it, may I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the holiday period.

*Jon Dyson*

**Christmas Luncheon Thursday 6th December**

**The Trinity Arms with guided walk beforehand.**

**11-45 am for guided walk, 12-30 pm for 1 pm for lunch only**

**REPLY BY 03 DECEMBER.**

## A New British Standard for Trees on Building Sites *Michael Felton*

### Why are new recommendations necessary? What does the New Standard Cover?

BS 5837:2012 entitled 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' replaces and extends BS 5837:2005 'Trees in relation to construction'.

Jersey's latest Island Plan highlights in Section 2 The Natural Environment that 'Trees and Woodlands' are significant elements in the landscape and townscape of the Island, providing vital habitats which support Jersey's biodiversity and at the same time assist in reducing air pollution and enhance built developments.

The Island Plan goes on to state that 'in all cases where the removal of the trees or hedgerow is proposed the Department now require Planning applications to include a tree survey detailing the location, ground levels, species, canopy size and root spread together with an assessment of their condition in order to properly assess and consider the implications of the development for these important features'.

Members of the Association should further note and be reminded that the removal of hedgerows, including trees on a boundary constitutes development under Article 5 of the Planning & Building (Jersey) Law 2002 and requires permission from the Minister.

If permission is forthcoming it is likely Planning conditions will be attached to a permit requiring protection of existing trees during construction plus replacement planting as compensation for any trees lost as a result of building activities on a site.

Following site survey and feasibility studies the new BS 5837 recommendations reinforce and extend the importance of below ground elements, in particular the root protection area (RPA). The earlier 2005 document reveals a different and more complicated arithmetic method for calculating the RPA around each tree on site and subsequent tree protection plans (TPP) in order to avoid damage to both the roots and the rooting surrounds of those trees to be retained. There is considerable reference to root protection throughout the new standard.

Ideally the constraints imposed by the higher value trees identified in the TPP above and below ground should inform the site layout. It is recognised however especially in Jersey that an increasing lack of space and the competing needs of development and cost means that trees are only one factor requiring assessment in the external environment.

However certain trees, e.g. 'ancient Oaks', are of such importance and sensitivity as dominant and major elements in the landscape that they become major constraints on development or justify significant modification of plans. To ensure important trees are provided with comprehensive protection they can be added to the Island's standard List of Protected Trees.

Under Policy NE4 of the Island Plan the Planning Department has indicated that applications affecting trees, hedgerows and woodland which do not contain ade-

quate information on the impact of those proposals on the vegetation will be rejected.

Care through objective assessment and not emotive responses can avoid misplaced retention of trees. Efforts to keep too many, or trees unsuitable for a site can result in heavy pressure during demolition and rebuilding leading to demands for removal after the scheme is complete.

The new standard also includes monitoring during construction works and recommends a best practice methodology for carrying out aspects of development that may have the potential to result in loss or harm to a tree.

Protection measures and avoiding damage to built forms by future growth of trees is also covered. These are tables showing minimum distances between new planting and main dwellings, plus lighter ancillary structures, e.g. garages, sheds and porches. Clearance guidelines for planting young trees in proximity to underground services, boundary walls, paths and driveways are also included.

There are currently 53 'protected trees' in Jersey. Further details can be seen on the States of Jersey website page: <https://www.mygov.je/Planning/Pages/ProtectedTrees.aspx>

## Radisson Blu Partnership



The Radisson Blu Hotel in St Helier is the latest organisation to have chosen to support Jersey's only tree charity.

The announcement was made to all those attending the lavish 5th anniversary celebrations on 1st November at the 5th Floor Le Hocq Suite which was suitably adorned with a variety of trees to set the sylvan theme which was much in evidence throughout the night.

Chief among the reasons to support JTFL is that a 5th anniversary is often associated with wood. Those involved with the hotel also wished to support a

charity which would fit in well with its Responsible Business Programme.

The partnership makes sense for both organisations as, once fully established, Jersey Trees for Life will be able to showcase its projects to both visitors and islanders who are guests at the hotel. Discussions have raised the prospect of guests having the opportunity to tour the Forgotten Forest at Val de la Mare. The charity will welcome staff volunteer parties who have offered to assist with planting and maintenance activities at various times throughout the year.

The partnership will last for two years and, as a start, Radisson Blu has pledged to plant 500 trees in 2013. Lydia Smith, the hotel's Director of Sales and Marketing commented: "We're very much looking forward to working with you".



A BIG THANK YOU to all the walkers and trustees involved in this year's Rotary ITEX walk. They raised £18,500 for JTFL. (pictured: Peter Townsend receiving the cheque from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor). Grateful thanks are also due to the staff of RBSI, especially James Weber, who supplied tools and equipment to re-roof the Val de la Mare shed. The RBSI staff additionally raised funds for the required materials.

In the presence of the Lieutenant Governor Sir John McColl and Lady McColl, 40 members and 95 guests celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association in fine style. We were treated to a very eloquent toast to the Association by Mr Philip Le Brocq. This was followed by a response from new Chairman Mr Jon Dyson, who, after advising that after-dinner speaking was not his forte, added that being dyslexic was not going to help him – so what he had written down may not be what comes out on the night'. Needless to say Jon coped well and excelled himself being well received by all present.



*Sir Tim in full flow!*

Our guest speaker Sir Tim Smit, gave an excellent 45 minute 'off the cuff' presentation, described by Philip as maverick as usual, and despite his verbal wanderings and wonderings, was a tonic and an inspiration - a great choice

primarily to encourage us to think outside of the box'. Jon also thought Tim's wanderings where inspirational and should lead JTFL onwards in our current projects of The Forgotten Forest and Jersey Hedgerow Campaign with renewed vigour and enthusiasm from all our members and sponsors. Attached is Philips 'sonnet' which he suggested we might like to publish for the benefit of all who did not attend the celebrations.

As a result of donations of £305 before; on the night £421; and the event itself of £1829 we managed to raise £2,555 for JTFL projects in our anniversary year.

To those members and guests who attended the evening - thank you very much for your on-going support which is greatly appreciated.

**75yrs "Trees for Life"**

We know from tiny acorns oak trees grow  
And they can last three hundred years or more:

"Men of the Trees" – now "Trees for Life"- can show

We're growing well, with good wood at the core!

For five and seventy years we've shown our care

Confirming Jersey's woodlands will increase,  
And so allow us all to have a share  
In shaded valleys, where we roam at peace.

Like all old trees our roots have grown down deep

To make foundations certain – safe and sure-  
So when we wander leaf-fringed valleys steep,  
Their trees, like US, are firm – so we'll endure!

So raise your glasses – let us make a toast:  
"Trees are for life" and that's no idle boast!

*Philip Le Brocq October 5<sup>th</sup> 2012*

**Ash Dieback Disease**

Few people reading this article will not have heard the terrible news that the disease has now reared its head in the UK in a significant way.

At the time of writing, it is thought that Jersey remains clear of the disease which is spread by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*. Advice is to replace native ash trees in planting schemes with other native species beneficial to wildlife.

Jersey Trees for Life can identify the location of all the ash trees it has plant-

ed in recent schemes and will be carrying out inspections in due course and remaining vigilant. Fortunately the majority of ash trees we have planted have been grown locally from seed collected in Jersey.

The Forestry Commission has some interesting and useful information on its website which shows the symptoms to look out for and the latest information regarding the disease's spread: [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

**Route Orange: nature assists man *Susie Robins***

On the night of 15<sup>th</sup> October 1987 the mature 50 year old Monterey cypress trees lining Route Orange in St Brelade were toppled by hurricane winds coming from the unusual southerly direction. Residents spoke of the sound of gunfire as they snapped off and landed in gardens and onto roofs. Miraculously no-one was injured or killed.

Ironically, discussions had been held in the months leading up to that night concerning their gradual removal following complaints from residents whose homes were overshadowed by the aged pines, and for whom the pine needles created a nuisance.

After the clearance process the road

looked unspeakably bare and one felt a great sense of loss for these mighty trees which had been so dominating. Looking back one now realises that the pines had created a gloomy alleyway, blocking light from neighbouring houses. For some their disappearance that night must have come as a blessed relief. The selection of trees for replanting by the States had already been discussed with residents who favoured deciduous species rather than pines, so the resulting choice was standard sweet chestnuts planted at final distances, with some intermittent small pine groves which would ultimately be removed. The sweet chestnuts have struggled in the dry sandy soil, not fulfilling their potential



size after the subsequent 25years, but creating a very pleasant tree-lined street scene.

Those residents who have arrived since 1987 and younger people would not even remember the former dark road that was Route Orange but can now enjoy the much more appropriate planting. A happy outcome from a devastating night.

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*Don't forget your 10% discount on labour when employing our services; if you've been a member for 2 years!*

**Your committee:**

Chairman: Jon Dyson

Vice-Chairman: Susie Robins

Secretary: Anne Haden

Treasurer: Peter Beamish

Other members: Michael Felton, Sally Fillieul, Brian Hamon, Peter Townend, Philip Le Brocq (co-opted) Conrad Evans (Ex-Officio) Michel Morel (Ex-Officio)

*Our plan is one in which every citizen of the world can make a contribution. It has for its object the saving of the world's greatest asset- trees"*

Founder, Dr Richard St. Barbe-Baker 1956

**Dates for the Diary!**

**December**

Thursday 6th December

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

@ The Trinity Arms

(with walk before)

From 11.45am

**January 2013**

Saturday 5th

**FORGOTTEN FOREST OPEN MEETING**

@ The Frances Le Sueur Centre

10.30 am

Member walks around the Forgotten Forest Val de la Mare Arboretum are being planned for Spring 2013. If you would like to come on such a walk, register your interest by calling 857611.

**World Record 'Cracker Pull'**

JTFL will be manning a stand at an event which could end up in the record books! Jersey Goldsmiths are holding an event to mark their departure from the Lion Park on Sunday December 9th. Jersey Trees for Life's stall will showcase some of our projects and provide some child friendly activities. The event will be publicised in the local media.

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS!**

We would respectfully like to remind our members that on 1st January 2013 membership renewal is due. Consequently we request all members who pay by cheque to send us their payment of £25, made payable to Jersey Trees for Life.

Members making payment by standing order should also check that their bank makes the correct payment in the New Year. In a few rare cases, banks have made payment into our account without referencing the donor's name and/or making incorrect payments. Please do check and contact us if in doubt.

**Deeds of Covenant**

*You can help us even more by signing a Deed of Covenant which will enable us to benefit from a tax refund of 20%. Members pay nothing extra.*

**Donations:**

*We are extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs White, Lord and Lady Brownlow, Mr and Mrs Haas, Normans, La Robeline Cider Company, University of the Third Age, Waitrose, CBRE Trustees, Mrs Lerche-Thomsen, RUBIS card donor, Mrs du Feu, Mr and Mrs Ayles, Mrs Briggs, Mrs Ling, Mr and Mrs Touzel, Mr and Mrs Falle, Mr and Mrs Le Moignan, Vipin Shah and numerous others.*

***A BIG thank you to all!***

**VdIM Open Meeting**

Following the inspirational talk given by Sir Tim Smit at the 75th Anniversary Dinner, the committee has decided to hold an Open Meeting at the Frances Le Sueur Centre, St. Ouen, on Saturday January 5th at 10-30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ideas and to gain volunteers and supporters to help this successful project develop further. Hot soup will be served, free of charge! The meeting is expected to last until lunchtime.

**Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the office on 857611 to register their intention to attend.**

**Goodbye to a great friend *Anne Haden***



*Margaret pictured at Adelina Wood in September 2009. She had kindly volunteered to be on hand to identify the moths observed that night at our community woodland.*

It was with great sadness that we heard that Margaret Long had died. Margaret along with her husband Roger have been

staunch supporters of JTFL for many years. Margaret was the island's leading botanist, her knowledge of local plants was phenomenal and this included trees as well. She was out and about around the island monitoring and observing the changes that occurred during the seasons to plants and trees almost every day of the year. Roger and Margaret carried out a moth trapping evening at Adelina Wood when many different species of moth were identified. Margaret was often to be seen searching for rare specimens near the Frances Le Sueur Centre and always offered a friendly smile and a cheerful disposition. She will be very much missed by those who knew her. We extend our sympathies to Roger and the family.

**Christmas Luncheon Open Garden**

This year we've organised a tour of a private garden in advance of the Christmas Lunch to allow members the chance to work up an appetite! The garden of Mont Pellier, open to us by kind permission of Mrs B Overland, though not large is both romantic and informal, with some surprising elements. It contains many fine examples of trees and shrubs in a woodland effect,

including London plane and blue cedar, with evergreen azaleas and magnolias, a camellia walk and lake. Even in winter with bare trees the design is enchanting, and then the exquisite bronze sculptures are perhaps even better appreciated. Some of the tour will require us to walk over sloping lawns which may be slippery. If you'd like to come on the walk, please indicate on the luncheon reply slip. Places are limited, so book early!