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Chairman’s message

In the previous issue of our newsletter you will have read of our new members of staff: Mark, Beverley, and Karen; Tree Surgeon, Community Fundraiser, and Education Officer. Well, thanks to their hard work we’ve all been kept very busy here at TFL, we’ve hardly had a moment to take a breath! We are making great headway in all of our activities and I commend them all for their efforts and in these few pages we’ll tell you more of what they’ve been up to.

Partly because of these increased activities and the subsequent need for actual places to plant I was reminded that our Association Constitution permits us to purchase or accept donations of land or property, something which in the past we have shied away from. Times are a-changing though and we are now seriously considering the potential advantages of owning land, principally for the opportunity to plant more trees, but at the same time to provide the security of permanent locations that can be enjoyed by all for the study, appreciation and care of trees. I believe the pressures of population (or the “population problem” as I like to call it) and it’s compounding effect on the environment make it all the more important to take steps to protect what we have whilst trying to regain some that we have lost. Therefore, I am happy and confident to say that we would welcome offers to consider the purchase of woodland or land as potential woodland, or better still, to accept donations or bequests of land to be kept as nature intended, for the common good of the island, the environment, and us all within it.

Gerard Farnham

Ivy

Historically Ivy has been considered a pest or parasitic problem in woodland and traditionally we were taught to cut it off wherever possible. This could be because in earlier times the woodland habitat wasn’t facing the threats it is now and there was actually plenty of “habitat” around, so removing Ivy in plain sight didn’t actually affect the overall environment very much. Now though, our understanding has changed significantly, and perhaps it has had to change, as we need to protect threatened habitats at every opportunity.

The agreed scientific view now is that Ivy generally does not harm trees. There will be immediate cries of “Yes it does I’ve seen it strangle trees”, but those are extreme cases, cases where management or intervention would have been beneficial. In general Ivy causes no harm to trees and does provide an invaluable source of shelter and food for wildlife. It flowers from September to November providing late season nectar for numerous insects including the Admiral butterfly and its fruit ripen from November to January providing a valuable winter food source for birds.

As part of our education programme and to support our Ivy Campaign we’ve produced a poster as a general guide to demonstrate these principals. Ivy is hugely beneficial to bird and insect life and as long as it isn’t overwhelming the crown of the tree it is generally harmless. It does not harm the bark as it grows and it nourishes itself independently through its own root system. If Ivy spreads into the crown of the tree it can add weight which can harm the tree, especially in wind or snow, and it also eventually reduces the amount of light the tree gets, either of which can weaken or harm the tree. The general advice if Ivy has spread through the crown of the tree is to cut it back to the first branch. Or where there are numerous trees and in severe cases, perhaps cut it back to about twenty four inches from the ground on one tree in five, or one in ten every year. Or just reduce the worst offenders each year. Take a flexible approach, and just do what you need to manage risk to the tree. Some trees’ bark can be damaged by sun scald if all of the Ivy is removed rapidly so another reason to manage it sensitively.

Now being more aware of Ivy and its benefits, like me, you may also start to notice more of what is going on in there. It was only because of the birds coming and going while I took the photograph that I realised the wren’s nest was there at all, right in front of my face.
Are you worried about **too much Ivy**?

Ivy doesn’t harm trees. It only sticks to the bark and has its own roots to feed and gather water.

Ivy is an important habitat for birds, insects, bats and small mammals, and like pollen and nectar in the summer, ivy berries are an essential winter food source.

...Sometimes though there can be just too much!

**WHAT TO DO**

Don’t prune ivy during or right before nesting season starts!

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Ivy in the canopy can eventually smother the tree or make it top heavy.

Cut only a little each year.

If you must cut lower down don’t remove it all.

Cut carefully so as not to damage the tree bark.

Cut out about 12 inches of ivy.

Ivy will grow back so this is how to properly manage your ivy for the environment.

MIN. 24 inches
Val de la Mare Arboretum

The winter hasn’t been too hard on the Arboretum thankfully, but there is still a considerable amount of work to do, so Summer maintenance has started and various activities are underway. We’ve increased manpower available so we hope we can really get a lot done this year. Will and Tom from The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh team are back shortly to continue the Woody Plant survey, the results of which we are very much looking forward to as it is key to our long term strategy.

Volunteers have been busy already this year, especially the staff of local business “Onogo.com” who have been restoring the footpath from the new Chinese section to the Walnut & Wingnut section.

Also, after last year’s success we were again joined by 120 JCG students for a half day of activities at the Arboretum. Activities included a mapping group measuring tree heights and age, dead hedging, creating eco-bins, clearing sycamore saplings, and this year we invited Alcindo Pinto to come in and host one of the activities - willow weaving, which was a big hit. Again a tremendous success and something we are delighted to be able to offer.

Some of you may have noticed a news story in the JEP about the construction of a natural amphitheatre at Val de la Mare and with a headline like “Jersey’s answer to the The Minac Theatre” you could be forgiven for imagining some sort of great “development” was under way. Thankfully the facts are less exciting, as what we are doing we hope will achieve something lovely whilst remaining almost invisible to the casual observer.

The valley at the base of the Chinese section of the arboretum creates a natural “bowl”, a natural focal point, and as we had to remove the Sycamore that were spilling down the valley and badly affecting the Oak growing on either side we saw an opportunity to use the the trunks to make natural seating in the valley sides. Those trees have now been felled and the first trunks will soon be trimmed and put in place. The unfortunate, and unavoidable, thing about this is that at the moment everything looks a bit of a mess as nature hasn’t had time to settle back down yet. Soon though the forest floor will be grassed and soft and the trunks blending into the banks, ideal for a cushion or blanket to sit on.

In a couple of years this area will look marvellous, and in few more years the Oak canopy will meet overhead and will be absolutely beautiful for many years to follow. So bear with us and when you visit next see how it is progressing. We are hoping to have a little “test” event in the summer - Watch Facebook for details.

There are definitely another 118 students somewhere around here...
Retirements

One news item of note this time. Sadly, this year has started with a couple of retirements. In January Don Jones retired after twenty seven years leading the grounds team. And in February Conrad Evans, who has been with the association for thirty five years finally hung up his gloves. Conrad and Don have seen the Association through a lot over the years; many trees and woodland projects and many miles of hedges and wildlife corridors have been planted by their hands. Furthermore the creation of the Jersey Hedgerow Campaign ten years ago and its miles of wildlife corridor planting has been an enduring achievement for them both. We wish them both happiness and comfortable retirements!

Jersey Post Leaflet Drop

Jersey Post very generously provided an island wide leaflet drop for us in February which has helped greatly in raising awareness of the Association and gaining memberships and supporters. Big Thank you Jersey Post!

St Peters School

We received a lovely Thank You from Reception Class at St. Peters School to Robin and Lee who spent a day with them planting hedges and trees around the school boundary. They were really surprised and delighted to receive this beautiful thank you card from the children. Thank you, It made their day.

Hedgerow Campaign 2018/19 Planting Season

This year the planting team was again working in St Brelade and has been super busy, excelling themselves yet again by exceeding last year’s planting numbers for the Hedgerow Campaign. The final count is just over five thousand hedging plants and two hundred trees planted, all contributing to the restoration of rural wildlife corridors and natural habitats.

We are also pleased to announce that we are now using only bio-degradable tree spirals on our hedgerow planting, and whilst a little more expensive they are a huge improvement and benefit to the environment as they breakdown into harmless organic matter over time. We also sell them as part of our cheap tree scheme so anyone interested in commercial quantities can buy them too.

Roy Overland Charity Fund

As managers of the Roy Overland Environmental Fund we invite applications for funding for environmental and ecological community projects for the 19/20 season. Applications can be made online on our website, or contact the office for paper forms. Closing date is 31st July.
Volunteers

We’ve had lots of volunteer activity so far this year, and have benefitted from much generous support. Courtesy of BCR Law 25 trees were planted at Hamptonne with volunteers from Les Amis and we’ve had volunteers from Santander, Whitmill Trust, Onogo.com, Hawksford, and many others helping with The Hedgerow Campaign or Val de la Mare. Thank you everyone for your help.

Seedy Sunday

In February we were the Chosen Charity for the excellent seed exchange event: “Seedy Sunday”. Organised by the lovely Fiona Murphy and held this year at Le Rocquier School. Seedy Sunday is a very enjoyable event and was a great success, raising £1,248.62 for us! Thank you Fiona and all involved.

Squirrel Bridges update

We’ve had lots of enquiries for Squirrel bridges since we agreed to step in and help. We’ve replaced two and are in the preparation stage for several possible sites. We are learning a great deal now that we are more involved and there are some pointers that should help save furry little lives which we’ll be publishing on the website soon.

Education

Our education programme is taking shape already with successful outdoor learning classes in the Arboretum for primary and secondary school students and whole year groups, learning about tree care, our carbon footprints, seed collecting and back to nature. We are also running very successful groups for vulnerable students and from the next school year we will offer whole school year projects. For teachers interested in participating please contact Karen Painter on 857611 or email her at karen@jerseytreesforlife.org.
Donations

BNP Paribas have made a tremendous donation this year to the Association for the Squirrel Bridge project, Hedgerow Campaign, and Amphitheatre project and have already joined us on one volunteer day. We’re looking forward to working with them again this summer on various group activities.

A personal donation (And a big Thank you to Angela Jeune!...) After seeing our planting team working by hand from his window a while back Mr. Jeune said to his wife, I wouldn’t want to be doing that by hand - I’d want machinery” to which his wife replied “Well don’t just go on about it, get them something then” I don’t know if this is exactly how the conversation went but that was the gist apparently. So, Dave got in touch with us and after some discussion agreed to personally buy us a new rotovator! Thank you Dave! The boys love it.

We have also had a donation of Tug rope from Ports of Jersey for squirrel bridges, free advertising at the Bus Station from Shooht Advertising, Jersey Posts’s leaflet drop to 43,000 addresses, and many others.

Investec, who have been supporting us for the last three years signed off this year with a final surprise donation to support the cost of future maintenance on the hedges they planted as part of The Birds on the Edge programme at St. Ouens. A very kind and generous gesture. Thank you all.

And Finally, we are delighted to be one of the “Chosen Charities” for the TMF State Street Round the Island walk on Saturday 22nd June. We’ll be handing out water at Le Braye on the day so stop by and say hello if you are passing. Or stagger by gasping for water if you’re participating. We’ll look forward to seeing you.

JTfL membership

Our membership subscriptions help fund our activities. We welcome new members keen to support our work, so please help spread the word and encourage interested family, friends or colleagues to join and help us do more to help trees and the environment.

Family membership is £25 a year and corporate membership is £250 a year (there is no limit on the number of employees) and includes the following:

- A one hour consultation with our Arboricultural Officer
- A copy of the book Trees In Jersey to help you identify island species
- 10% discount on labour on commercial work
- The opportunity to become involved in in tree planting programmes and activities
- Invitations to events including the AGM, summer and Christmas luncheons
- Six-monthly newsletter and occasional email updates with progress reports and items of interest
- Know you are genuinely helping something worthwhile.
About us

Jersey Trees for Life (JTfL), formally Jersey Association of the Men of the Trees, is registered charity No.10 on Jersey’s new Charity Register. We support the protection, planting and care for trees in Jersey, as well as education regarding their value and importance to the environment.

Since 1937, we have been working to plant and protect trees and to manage existing woodland in order to provide maximum benefit to the island’s ecology and wildlife.

We offer expert advice on planting, management and care of trees and hedges and their associated environments, to individuals and businesses, as well as delivering educational services to schools.

We work with, and alongside, community focused organisations and States’ departments as well as coordinating and managing environmental projects. We provide volunteer opportunities for a range of social, charitable, and corporate groups and individuals.

Amongst many other activities, our main projects include:

Val de la Mare Arboretum where trees can be adopted or sections can be sponsored.

The Jersey Hedgerow Campaign - Annual planting project restoring Jersey’s hedgerows and farmland trees. Currently over 25 miles of hedgerows planted.

Adelina Wood - A community wood in St. Helier planted 14 years ago and coming on nicely.

The Alder Collection in St Brelade where, in conjunction with the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), we planted, monitor and maintain a group of Alder comprising 25 different species grown from seeds collected from many countries around the world originally as part of a study to identify possible alternatives to Elm after the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease.

JTfL committee members and staff

Chairman: Gerard Farnham
Vice Chairman: Anna Robertson
Hon. Treasurer: Greg Bestwick
Hon. Secretary: Helen Pulley
Committee members: Joy Carry, Joel Freire, Phillip Le Brocq, Terrence Thuillier & Nick Armstrong
Commercial Manager: Mark McCarroll
Senior Community Fundraiser: Beverley Dallas-Chapman
Education Officer: Karen Painter
Administration Officer: Sue Harvey
Outdoor Volunteer Coordinator: Robin Hart
Groundsmen: Ricky Walklett (Climber) Colin Langlois & Lee Tucker