



PERTH & KINROSS TREE WARDEN NETWORK

For the protection of the environment through the care, nurture and cultivation of trees

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

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Chairman's Report

The 2016 AGM (5th March 2016) welcomed 15 people to the meeting and a further 8 guests to Syd House's talk. Syd had recently retired from Forestry Commission Scotland and gave a fascinating talk on the Perthshire Redwoods with a focus on the tree hunters who discovered them in America. He led a walk to the Inchtute Redwood Avenue after lunch to outline the issues relating to this rare collection of Redwoods. This meeting was an excellent one and it was a pleasure to welcome non-members to be part of it, something to continue at future events, perhaps.



The 2016 AGM, Inchtute © C A G Lloyd

Although the Tree Wardens had been invited to be part of the community tree planting sessions at Butterybank in Coupar Angus, very few members were able to attend beyond the first highly successful event.

In June we returned to the Alyth Estate near Bamff to enjoy another privately-led walk to see the beavers and discuss how the area is managed for (or by) them. Before the meeting we were treated again to a networking meal at the Lossett Inn.



Evidence of beavers at Bamff Estate © C A G Lloyd

Unfortunately our two Ancient Tree Hunt Recording Days at Drummond Castle Estate were postponed again during the spring and summer. However, Hedgelaying training opportunities arose when the Tay Landscape Partnership offered a series of free training days in and around Perth in the

autumn. Assistance was also offered with undertaking surveys for the Scottish Orchard Inventory Survey.

In September, the Chair set up and manned the Tree Wardens' 3-day exhibition in the Woodlands4Yew marquee, Dundee Food & Flower Festival and fielded many queries.



The Tree Wardens' stand: Dundee Flower & Food Festival (Woodlands4Yew marquee) © C A G Lloyd

Illness postponed the Christmas get-together, but the training workshop held at Perth & Kinross Council offices on 9th February 2017 was very well attended. Members enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about "Trees: the Planning Process and the Law" courtesy of David Williamson, PKTWN member and Biodiversity Officer for the Council. An Information Pack on the subject has subsequently been circulated to all members.

Two projects were discussed during the year: the Church Yew Project and the Tree Memories Project the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service would like to take forward in Highland Perthshire. Further details are outlined below and will be taken forward in 2017.

The Chair hopes every member will still consider committing at least 10 hours a year to the Network and the original short paper discussed in 2016 will be circulated again at the 2017 AGM. Several members have increased their involvement with the Network and local tree matters, for which many thanks.

Throughout the year Jim Low acted as both Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, although Christopher Dingwall assisted with the finances. Catherine Lloyd remained Hon. Chair and Barbara Prettyman acted as Minute Secretary and Telephone Contact for the group. Paul Prettyman took on the task of publicising events and taking bookings. Paul and Barbara offered to work with Jim to prepare a Membership Newsletter but this is currently outstanding with a plan to circulate the newsletter mid-2017.

Objectives and Progress 2016-17

Website and Facebook Page - the website continued to be regularly updated by the Chair. The membership leaflets and publicity posters were distributed across the area, and the training and events programme rolled out where possible.

The PKTWN Facebook page continues to attract new members – and stands at 44 members – this includes both Tree Warden members and "the interested public". It is hoped that in the future recruitment might occur via both the website and Facebook page.

Recruit more wardens with better geographical spread – As at the end of February 2017, the total number of Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens stands at 28. In addition to receiving a Tree Wardens' Handbook, each member is given copies of the membership leaflet to distribute in their local area; more copies are available on request.

Develop external relations –

We are extremely grateful to our advisors:

- Richard Welch continues to act as advisor from the Perth & Kinross Planning Department.
- Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission Scotland Policy & Development Officer for the Perth Conservancy, also continues as professional advisor to the Network, often liaising with other colleagues who can help us.
- Christopher Dingwall is seconded to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Woodland Working Group and continues to pass on his expertise on individual cases.
- Judy Dowling acts as an External Adviser with regard her Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt Survey role.

Plans for 2017 to 2018

As with 2015, 2016 continued to be an extremely difficult year for the Chair and key members, but regular contact via email ensured the Tree Wardens kept in touch and met when possible.

Plans for 2017 include:

- Training Workshop on 'Trees: the Planning Process and the Law' (achieved February 2017)
- Talk by Bill Gray with walk through Kinnoull Woodlands and the Arboretum (AGM event)
- Survey work to assist the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt
- Ongoing Scottish Orchard Inventory survey work
- Dundee Food & Flower Exhibition – September: volunteers required to help for a few hours
- Community Woodland contributions across the area where requested (including input regarding the Ballathie Woodland sale potential to the local community)
- Working with the Perth & Kinross Greenspace Ranger Service on their Highland Perthshire community project
- Review and publish leaflet on the Bluebell Woods of Perth & Kinross
- Assistance with research/format for a set of postcards highlighting Wildlife Trees for the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
- Planning a future Church Yew Project to roll out late 2017 or during 2018
- Input and event planning for the Scottish Coppice Festival 2018

As before, to ensure the Network has a secure future, every member is asked to commit at least 10 hours a year, be that attending events, helping with the Ancient Tree Hunt or Orchard Surveys, or taking on a voluntary task such as hosting an event, or helping with any of the projects outlined above. Most importantly we need to encourage new faces in the coming year.

C A G Lloyd - Hon. Chair, Perth & Kinross Tree Warden Network
March 2017

CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1 - Finance Statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditure 2016-2017:

There has been little expenditure this financial year, save for

AGM Room hire and refreshments	£ 198.50
Tree Council Membership	<u>£ 250.00</u>
i.e. a total of	£ 448.50

Income, as recorded in the pay-in book or via BACS :

Membership paid by those attending AGM	£ 288.36
Bank interest	<u>£ 1.88</u>
i.e. a total of:	£ 290.24

Bank Balance as at 29.1.16 - £3,949.30

C Dingwall on behalf of J Low, Hon. Treasurer
Perth & Kinross Tree Warden Network: March 2017

Appendix 2 - Executive Committee of P&KTWN

Catherine Lloyd	Hon. Chairman
James Low	Joint Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer
Barbara Prettyman	Minutes Secretary and Telephone Contact
Paul Prettyman	Events Secretary

External Advisers / Observers

Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission Scotland
Richard Welch	Perth & Kinross Council
Richard Brough	Perth & Kinross Council
Judy Dowling	Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt Scottish Verifier

Appendix 3

Membership of P&KTWN at 15th March 2017

Clive Bowman / Christopher Dingwall / Adrian Dirkzwager / Mary Dirkzwager / Richard Duncan / Brian Fagg / Louise Garthwaite / Paddy Garthwaite / Jeannie Grant / Catherine Holmes / Neil Hooper / Rosie Hooper/Ron Leslie / Catherine Lloyd / James Low / Don Morris (resigned mid-year) / Tamara Penman / Jackie Polakowska / Barbara Prettyman / Paul Prettyman / Simon Poots/ Dick Salvin / Lynn Salvin / Dallas Seawright / Archie Smith / Sandy Watts (Mrs.) / Richard Taylor / David Williamson / David Wood