

PERTH & KINROSS TREE WARDENS NETWORK

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

Reviewing the Tree Wardens' Network

Report of Recommendations

By Julia Henriksson

Hon. Assistant Secretary/Student Intern

December 2018

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Background to the Review	3
History and Current State of the Network	3
Placement Background	4
Expected Outcomes.....	5
Work Achieved to Date	6
Views of Existing Members.....	6
Working with the Tree Council	7
Website Review	8
Programme of Events & Liaison with External Organisations.....	8
Recruiting of New Members.....	9
Overall Recommendations	11
Acknowledgements	14
List of References.....	15
Appendix I – Views of Existing Members – Questionnaire Results	16
Appendix II – Website Review Report.....	24
Appendix III – Programme of Events 2019.....	27
Appendix IIII – PKTWN Committee Meeting 22nd November	30

Background to the Review

History and Current State of the Network

The Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network (henceforth referred to as ‘the PKTWN’ or ‘the network’) is a network of volunteers that work towards reversing loss of historic landscapes, trees and woodlands in Perthshire. The local scheme was started by the local authority in 1993, as part of a bigger scheme of 200 networks of volunteers across the UK. The Tree Council, a British charity founded in 1974, started this national scheme of networks in 1990 following a series of quite severe gales that had caused significant landscape and tree loss. The PKTWN are *“the eyes and the ears of the community regarding trees and woodlands”*, and all members are professionally trained to monitor tree loss and promote replacement. Essentially, all the work carried out by the network is based on the belief that trees are a crucial part of our heritage, both the natural and cultural, by reducing carbon emissions and helping to secure biodiversity (PKTWN, *n.d.*; Tree Council, 2018).

As the PKTWN is purely volunteer-based, and many Tree Wardens and committee members have other jobs or things on their agenda that might prevent them from spending as much time working for the network as they would ideally like, a new Assistant Secretary position was advertised on Volunteer Scotland. The position was described as a role which would include helping the network Chair and Secretary with a number of tasks, such as: looking into how more members might best be recruited; carrying out a review of the network; working alongside a web designer to update the network website; and attempting to organise a number of suitable joint events by getting in touch with other organisations.

Placement Background

I originally applied to the position 'Secretary Assistant for the Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network' whilst searching for placement (volunteering) opportunities that I could take in as part of my university's (the University of the Highlands and Islands, Perth College) Environmental Science honours module 'Engaging with External Agencies'. I applied through Volunteer Scotland with my CV and covering letter, and a few days later the PKTWN Hon. Chair, Catherine, contacted me via email. We discussed the position and my ability to take on the proposed tasks, and shortly after we also had a meeting to discuss it further. My module leader outlined that the placement had to run over at least 14 days, and I proposed that I work two half-days a week (Monday and Thursday afternoons) throughout the semester (15 weeks, running from the 13th September to the 20th December). Please refer to *Appendix IIII* for an outline of the committee meeting on the 22nd November 2018 on my progress and the future of the PKTWN.

Expected Outcomes

(i) For the Network

- a. To gain members' feedback on how to best go forward into 2019
- b. An updated website
- c. A draft events programme for 2019

(ii) For Julia

- a. To gain experience in working in a network, in a field related to studies
- b. To gain experience in collaborating with other agencies and planning events
- c. To establish important contacts for potential future work

Work Achieved to Date

Views of Existing Members

To strengthen the network, I have created a questionnaire for the current Tree Wardens where they have expressed any thoughts they have about their role as a warden or about the network as a whole, any suggestions they might have for improvements, and which tasks they would like to take on in the future. The response of the questionnaire was positive and showed that the majority of the Tree Wardens are very keen to help in any way they can. It was already known that some Tree Wardens are unable to undertake practical work in different ways, but the questionnaire revealed that most are instead interested in doing secretarial or other, mostly desk-based, work, for example producing newsletter articles or giving talks on tree recording. One member expressed their interest in becoming a PKTWN committee member. Out of the 12 members that answered the questionnaire, 67% stated that they are able to carry out practical work such as tree planting. Of these, 38% said they are able to do practical work for 1-2 hours, 38% for up to 4 hours (a half day) and 25% for 5-7 hours (a whole day). Most members (72%) are able to bring their own tools.

When it comes to the 2017-18 PKTWN Pledge that describes different activities that the members of the network might help with, 91% of members said they are able to attend meetings and training sessions. 83% said they would be able to take on a 'Member's Square' and look out for trees in that area; 73% said they could partake in Ancient Tree Hunt Surveying, 73% would also take part in local events with a PKTWN

stand or exhibition; and 55% would like to help create new leaflets or review existing ones.

Regarding the annual membership fee, 92% of members expressed that they think £10 is a fair price, as long as it covers what is necessary. 75% of members did however state that they would be prepared to pay more than £10 a year for their PKTWN membership. One member suggested introducing different classes of membership – where a free membership could be offered to ‘associate members’; i.e. members who are not interested in attending meetings, training sessions or events but still want to receive newsletter updates. A full membership could then be offered (the price could be discussed), which would include training and events. This was further discussed in the PKTWN committee meeting on the 22nd of November (see *Appendix IIII*).

Please be aware that only 12 out of 22 members answered the questionnaire and that these results might therefore be biased. Refer to *Appendix I* for the full questionnaire results.

Working with the Tree Council

I have been in touch with staff at the Tree Council who are keen to help the Network gain new members and to engage the existing ones. On the 10th December Catherine and I had a tele-conference with the Tree Council in which my work and the future of the network was discussed. We also discussed a possible collaboration between PKTWN and Eco Congregations in 2019. The Tree Council will make first contact with Eco Congregations in Scotland, and more information will be announced in the new year.

Website Review

I have been working alongside Clare Bailey, the Network's web designer to make the PKTWN website more user-friendly. Our reasoning was that an easily navigated website would attract more potential members. There are already some updates to be seen at <http://www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk>. Please see *Appendix II* for a report outlining mine and Clare's recommendations for the website. These recommendations were also discussed in the PKTWN committee meeting on the 22nd of November, as can be seen in *Appendix III*.

Programme of Events & Liaison with External Organisations

Along with the National Trust for Scotland an event (for both tree wardens and the public) was organised for the 6th December. The event included tree species identification and data collection to monitor beaver activity along the banks of the River Tay in Dunkeld. Where recruiting new members is concerned, I know that two of the attendees are not currently members of the PKTWN. My hope is that this event, and similar events in the new year, will give attendees an idea of the sort of work that a Tree Warden may be involved in, and perhaps they will then be interested in becoming wardens themselves.

Also on 6th December 2018 I represented the PKTWN at the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's 20th anniversary seminar by giving a short talk on the history and future of the PKTWN. The interest in the network was very positive and I made a few contacts for events in 2019. I have also been in contact with the Woodland Trust, the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust and Observatree regarding potential tree planting and other

events for 2019. I have collected several ideas for a draft PKTWN Events Programme 2019. Please refer to *Appendix III* for a list of possible events for 2019.

Recruiting of New Members

My main thought of recruiting new members is to engage with students at my university (University of the Highlands and Islands, Perth College). My fellow students studying, for example Environmental Science or Forestry, are very passionate about topics such as environmental conservation and biodiversity. Throughout the four years of study we are continuously encouraged to search for volunteering opportunities and engage with external agencies. I therefore reckon that many students would be interested in joining the PKTWN. I have contacted my university and student union about organising something to enlighten students about the network. Ideas so far have included:

- a talk at the college, perhaps given by one of the current Tree Wardens;
- a field trip, perhaps to Megginch Castle to tie in with the Church Yew Project and to see at first hand the old orchard and new National Collection of fruit trees;
- advertisement of the PKTWN as a volunteering opportunity in the UHI 'Environmental Students Support Group';
- the setting up of a 'student tree planting volunteering group'; and
- distribution of leaflets around the college.

In January, the Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network will be publicised in the Environmental Students Support Group on our Virtual Learning Environment 'Blackboard'. This means that it will be shared with all students on relevant programmes as a volunteering opportunity.

In liaison with the Perth UHI Student Engagement Officer, the Perth College Marketing Department and HISA (Highlands and Islands Students Association), I have been working to create a 'student volunteer group'. Posters advertising the group will be designed by myself over the holidays to then be distributed around the college in January. This group could volunteer and help an array of different causes all over Tayside, including volunteering to plant trees with the Tree Wardens. It would be a great 'learning-in-the-field' experience for students, and also a helping hand for local communities and groups.

Overall Recommendations

- Further analyse the results of the members' questionnaire. Engage with members in a January meeting and try to assign specific tasks to members who would like to take them on. For example, someone who is unable to do practical work such as tree planting might be interested, instead, in writing articles or giving talks.
- Further discuss the annual membership fee and potentially offer members another year or two of free membership, to then put into action the different 'levels' of membership (associate/student/young person – free; full member – e.g. £10/year).
- Create a final 2019 Events Programme and distribute it as widely as possible, i.e. feature it on the PKTWN and Tayside Biodiversity Partnership websites, Facebook pages, prepare a press release to publicise it in the local newspapers and ensure copies are available in all local libraries, community campuses, volunteer organisations, etc.
- Work with webmaster Clare Bailey to go ahead with the website updates and publicise the launch of the new website.
- Use the Facebook page to advertise events and attract new members.
- Work with Perth College and perhaps local schools to highlight the PKTWN and the Tree Council to students.
- Work to highlight that although the PKTWN might currently be a small network, it is part of a nationwide organisation (the Tree Council) and working towards UK objectives. Its actions are also included in the 2nd Edition Tayside

Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026 which are reported back to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Woodland and Urban Working Groups.

- Finalise the Bluebell Trail Leaflet with further research and design, and organise a Bluebell Walk in May/June 2019 to officially launch it (Julia to take this forward).
- Finalise plans for the Church Yew Tree Project and liaise with Perth and Kinross and Angus Councils, as well as Eco-Congregation Scotland for future graveyard planting.
- Officially launch the Church Yew Tree Project in the summer of 2019.
- Create a newsletter, perhaps emailed or posted out every 3-6 months. Discuss with the PKTWN committee as to the newsletter's form, i.e. a pdf to distribute via email/print, or liaise with the webmaster to set up a MailChimp E-News Bulletin format and circulate only via email (with links given on the website and Facebook page).
- Individual Tree Wardens to contact and work with their local community councils through the adoption of 'Member's Squares'. All existing Tree Wardens have these squares set up, but more publicity/training is needed to roll this out across the area, as well as Community Councils officially told about the system.
- Work to enlighten different organisations about 'gaps' in Member's Squares – ask if they have people to fill the gaps and become Tree Wardens to protect trees in these areas. This could be via the website/Facebook page but also as part of an updated travelling display which could be lent to libraries and other community venues as part of a Summer Roadshow.

- Liaise with Forest Schools and Community Woodland Association to raise awareness about the PKTWN and to link Tree Wardens with the groups (potential training visits, etc) (Julia).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Hon. Chair, Catherine Lloyd, for giving me this placement opportunity, and for all her helpful advice and great ideas. Thanks also to Hon. Secretary/Treasurer Jim Low, as well as long-term member Christopher Dingwall, for giving me this chance. Thanks to all the Tree Wardens for their support and help throughout, and to Clare Bailey for the help and advice regarding the potential website changes. I would also like to thank the Tree Council as well as all external organisations who have kindly helped me in many different ways.

Report prepared by Julia Henriksson,

Assistant Secretary of the Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network

December 2018

List of References

PKTWN Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network (*n.d.*) *Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens – Home* [online]. Available from <<http://www.perthandkinrosstree wardens.co.uk>> [20/11/18]

Tree Council (2018) *Our History* [online]. Available from <<https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/About-Us/What-We-Do/Our-History>> [20/11/18]

Appendix I – Views of Existing Members – Questionnaire Results

2 How long have you been a member of the PKTWN?



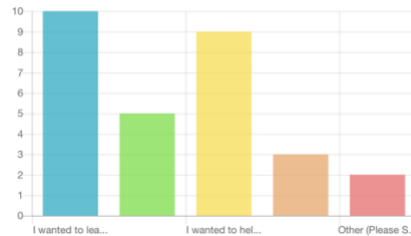
42% (5)
1-5 years

8% (1)
More than 10 years

25% (3)
5-10 years

25% (3)
I have been a member since the
PKTWN was first started

3 Why did you join the Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network?



83% (10)
I wanted to learn about
trees and
woodlands

42% (5)
I wanted to
teach others
about trees
and
woodlands

75% (9)
I wanted to
help safeguard
our local trees

25% (3)
I wanted to
make a
difference in
the local
community

17% (2)
Other (Please
Specify)

I am not a member but am Lead Voluntary Verifier for the Ancient Tree Inventory run by the WT. I wanted to be involved with this group as we have much in common, and a few expressed interest in what I do, and told me of old and / or interesting trees to visit. I did some training on tree recording with the group too. I am keen to help the group keep going, it is the only local one near to me in Fife and there are some very special trees in P&K that need their care.

David Penman, who started the group asked me to join him in sharing the responsibility of our trees in our local Community Council - Bridgend Kinnoull & Gannochy CC

Figures AI 1-3 – Results of questionnaire questions 2 and 3 (zoom in for clearer view).

Question 4 – Briefly, please describe your thoughts on what your role as a Tree Warden consists of:

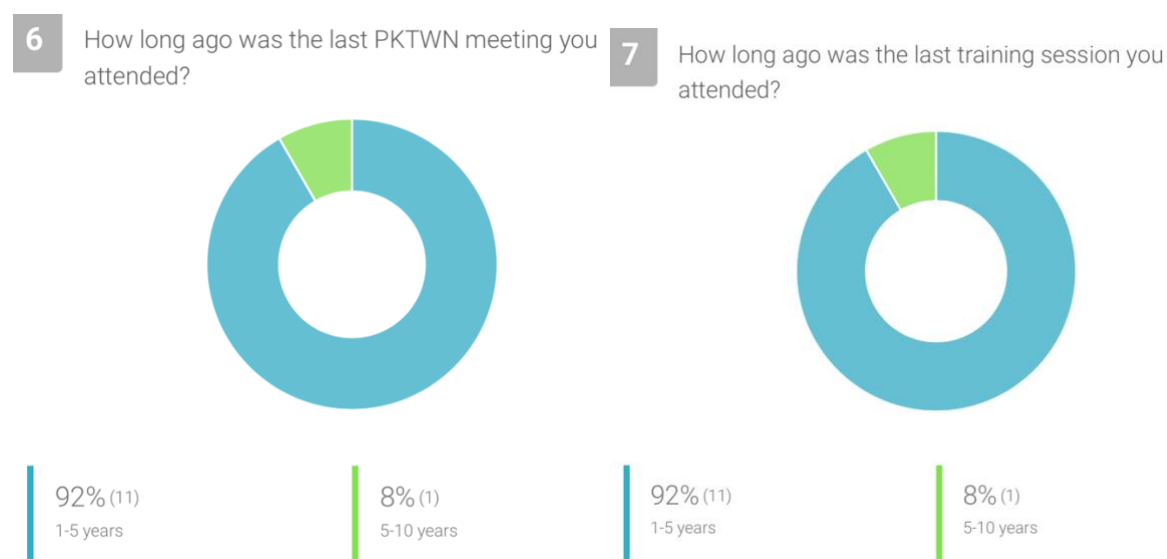
- *“I’m afraid I don’t do anything.”*
- *“Locating and monitoring local trees and woodlands as time allows.”*

- *“Building up knowledge of the history of trees and woodlands throughout Perthshire. Keeping an eye on local trees and woodlands. Offering advice on identification and protection of trees and woodlands.”*
- *“Helping to safeguard woodland and develop appreciation of it.”*
- *“To protect trees and encourage others to and to plant trees.”*
- *“To gain understanding of environmental issues especially the importance of trees for bio-diversity, to raise awareness of the importance of these issues in local communities and to safeguard woodlands from threats.”*
- *“Historically I did guided walks, investigated trees on behalf of pkc, be involved or run events.”*
- *“To identify threats to trees and woodland”*
- *“I don’t think of myself as a warden, more a tree friend, or advoc”*
- *“Protecting the trees new have in Perthshire – despite this being “Big Tree Country” the few trees we have seem constantly under threat.”*
- *“To look after our trees in our community and help and give advice when applicable To work with the PKC tree officers”*

Question 5 – Are there any tasks you would like to take on as a Tree Warden in the future?

- *“As I am now almost 82, I cannot do much, but could help with Newsletter etc.*
- *Do a local newspaper feature. Catherine and I have talked about this before but not seen it through. I’ve a good relationship with PA editor and one of their journalists and often get stories about red squirrels and other conservation matters.”*

- *“I plan to retire in a year or two and will then have time to offer in any capacity where I can be of use. Tricky at the moment because I work full-time but I could help with secretarial tasks maybe?”*
- *“The yew tree project in fortingall, tree planting....”*
- *“Committee member”*
- *“As I am now 80 with macular degeneration, this is limited, but I can still speak.”*
- *“Although not a member I am happy to do more training on tree recording with any new members, and also could do a talk (with PowerPoint maybe) about my work with ancient trees.”*
- *“Actively planting some trees, and encouraging children to do likewise, so they may respect trees in adult life.”*



Figures AI 4-5 – Results of questionnaire questions 6 and 7 (zoom for clearer view).

8 How long ago was the last walk, talk, or other event you attended?



92% (11)
1-5 years

8% (1)
5-10 years

9 As of right now, do you consider yourself able to carry out practical work such as tree planting?



67% (8)
Yes

33% (4)
No

Figures AI 6-7 – Results of questionnaire questions 8 and 9 (zoom in for clearer view).

If yes, for how long at a time?



38% (3)
1-2 hours

38% (3)
Up to 4 hours (i.e. a half day)

25% (2)
5-7 hours (i.e. a whole day)

Can you provide your own tools, or should we invest in a suite of new tools for practical tasks?



78% (7)
I can bring along some tools to an event

22% (2)
I would need to use the Network's tools

Figures AI 8-9 – Question 9 continued (zoom in for clearer view).

10

Do you consider yourself able to help out with any other activities as described in the PKTWN Pledge (2017-18)?

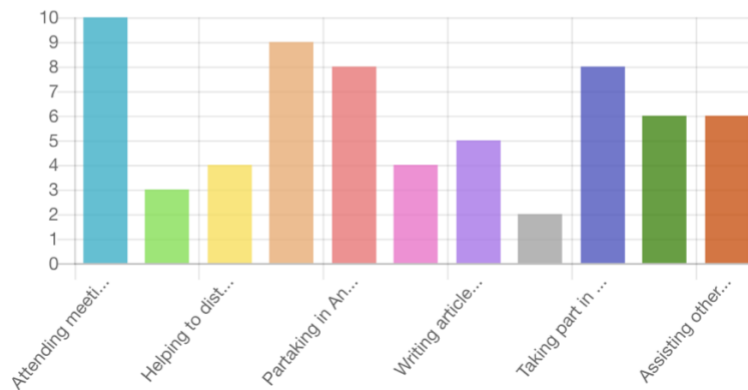


Figure AI 10 – Results of questionnaire question 10 (zoom in for clearer view).

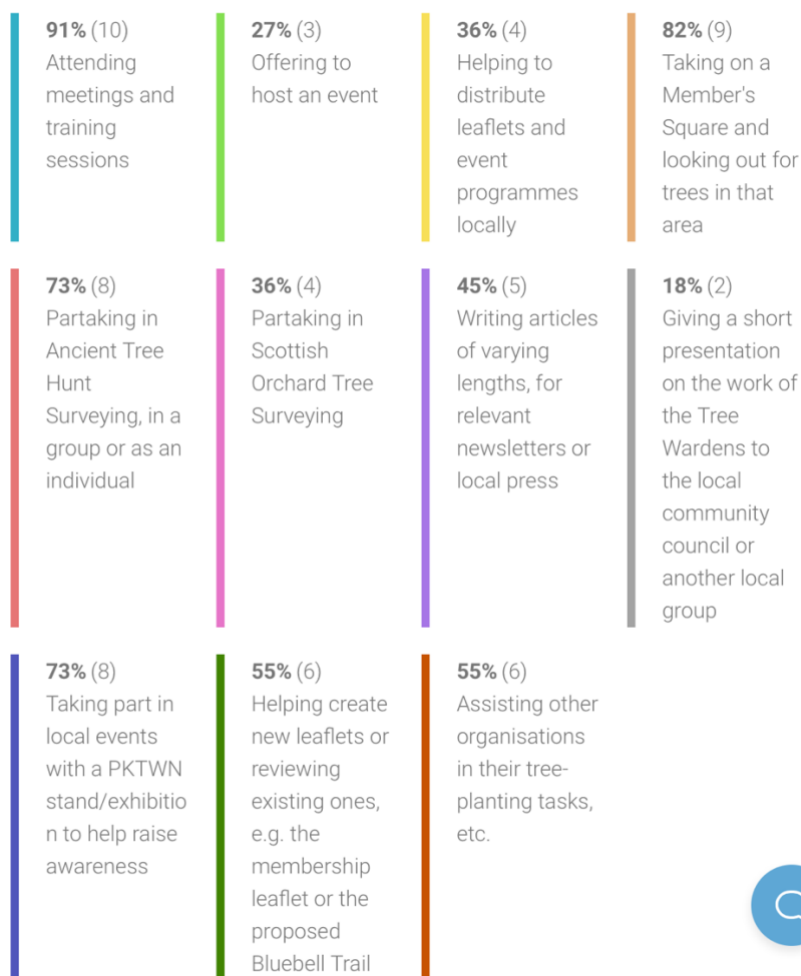


Figure AI 11 – Question 10 continued (zoom in for clearer view).

Question 11 – What else might you consider contributing to the Network?

“Happy to help where I can. That said, I work part time and am studying for an MSc.

Not enough hours in the day!”

“Can offer advice on history of trees and woodlands in Perthshire based on personal reference library.”

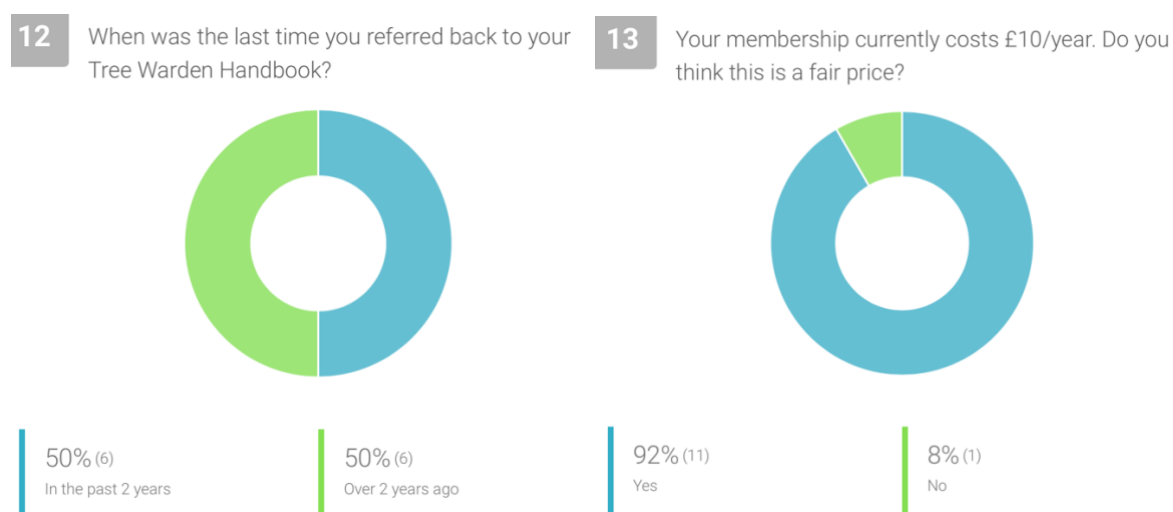
“As a ranger I could lend out tools and provide some tasks.”

“General support; involvement in any local Woodland Trust events, maybe seed collection too. Attend some meetings and AGM as have done in the past. Possibly help at some Fairs on a stand. Maybe help with some orchard surveys.”

“Helping with checking the effects of planning applications on trees.”

“I have now been directly involved with the group for some time now as I am not able to attend Saturday meetings/outings etc

I am still active in a Tree Warden role – had a meeting couple of weeks ago with Richard Brough and neighbour re a tree/boundary dispute.”



Figures AI 12-13 – Results of questionnaire questions 12 and 13 (zoom in for clearer view).

If no, what would you be prepared to pay annually?

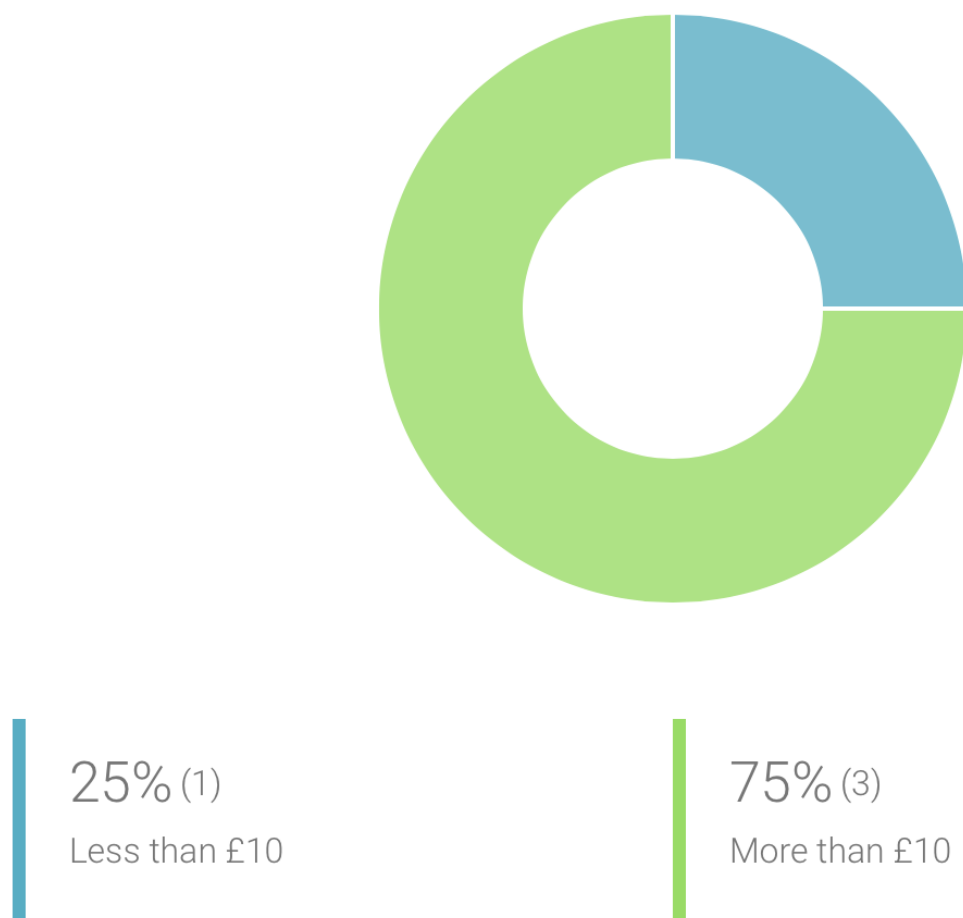


Figure AI 14 – Question 13 continued (zoom in for clearer view).

Question 13 continued – If yes, please explain why:

“May be a bit low but it keeps the door open for everyone.”

“A small price to pay for a way of keeping in touch with people who share and interest in trees and woodlands.”

“Just feels right although I haven’t paid an annual subscription in well over a year.”

“It is probably too low but I am not clear on what the membership pays for – maybe there could be different classes of membership – e.g. some people might like to receive newsletters etc but not necessarily to engage in activities? Those (associate)

memberships could be a lower price maybe with full membership giving opportunities to provide training etc. Sorry, I haven't really thought that through and it would have to be costed – maybe over-complicated!"

"I haven't paid this year..... sorry"

"If it pays for what is needed"

"I am not currently aware I pay this?"

14 Do you have a Facebook account?

If yes, do you keep up to date with what is posted on the Facebook page 'Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens'?



75% (9)
Yes

25% (3)
No



60% (6)
Yes

40% (4)
No

Figures AI 15-16 – Results of questionnaire question 14 (zoom in for clearer view).

15 Would you like a Twitter account to be set up for the Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens?

16 Would you like a 'Members' Only'-section to be set up on the PKTWN website where you can access Tree Council papers, news and information?



25% (3)
Yes

75% (9)
No



83% (10)
Yes

17% (2)
No

Figures AI 17-18 – Results of questionnaire questions 15 and 16 (zoom in for clearer view).

Appendix II – Website Review Report

Website Review – Report

Thursday, 25th October 2018

On 25th October I met with web designer Clare Bailey to discuss potential changes to the PKTWN website. The following are my recommendations to update the website:

- The header - replace the leaves and the words 'Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens' at the top of the page, inserting a photo that really captures what the network stand for. I imagine this photo stretching across the screen, similar to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's website (<http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk>). Clare and I discussed the possibility of making it a slide-show header, with multiple photos changing every few seconds, depending on how many photos the network has in its library and also the cost involved. I would also suggest adding the PKTWN logo to the header, along with the words 'Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens Network'.
- The horizontal menu - I would recommend the menu is condensed to make it easier to navigate. For example, 'walks and talks' and 'become a member' are currently separate menu items but could potentially be inserted into a drop-down menu under, for example, a category named 'get involved'.
- The front page - I would recommend the text on the front page is condensed and separated into different sub-headings in order to further draw the eye to different

things. I would suggest adding separate boxes, and Clare suggested we also add a sidebar on the right-hand side where 'news' items could go.

Updating the software – regardless of this Review, Clare is recommending the Network needs to move the website to WordPress as soon as possible. The reason for it not being hosted there already is because when she designed the website some 6 years ago, she used a different programme. Today close to all professional websites are WordPress-hosted. There are endless options of website layouts with WordPress, whereas the other older programme can be a bit restricting. It is also easier for someone who is not an expert in web design to change or add things to a website through WordPress.

Clare and I discussed choice of colours (I would suggest green to replace the current brown theme, with different hues to highlight certain things on the page), width of the page (I would suggest it stretching wider across the screen) and font (again I would suggest Calibri, a sans-serif font that looks smart and is easy to read).

As you might have seen, <http://www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk> now takes you to a page that says the 'website is under construction and will be back shortly'. The reason for this is because Clare is currently looking into what she is able to do with the layout and how long it would take. Clare will provide a quote for all the above work in due course. Clare mentioned to me during the meeting that she did not think it would take long to complete. Provided that my recommendations for changes to the website are supported, and that any other recommendations are raised and forwarded

to Clare, the website with its new interface could be up and running by the end of January 2019.

I am very much looking forward to hearing your thoughts and recommendations regarding the website and its new design.

Appendix III – Proposed Programme of PKTWN Events 2019

Physical events:

Past: 6th December 2018 (FYI) • Beaver Monitoring + Tree Identification Event

- *Beaver monitoring event with the National Trust for Scotland. Very interesting and informative event that helped the National Trust for Scotland with data collection to monitor beaver activity in Dunkeld, and also taught attendees a lot about tree ID. There is a possibility to attend similar events in 2019 (Julia to liaise with the NTS and add the details to this report if possible).*

9th February • PKTWN Meeting + Woodland Walk

- 10.30 am, in Forestry Commission venue in the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park in Perth. *More information will be available shortly.*

16th March • Woodland Trust Public Planting Day

- *More information (venue, time, booking details etc.) TBC.*

January – March • Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust Planting Days

- Larch tree planting at Innerpeffray near Crieff.
Dates TBC.

January – June • UHI event? Leaflets/Displays/Speakers

- Contact: Julia Henriksson.

21st March – 21st September • Tree Council Tree Care Campaign

- Visit to Kinclaven Bluebell Wood, short walk + introduction to the future plans of the Woodland Trust. *Date TBC.*
- Observatree to send speaker on tree disease. *Date TBC.*
- Eco Congregations event. *More information TBC.*
- Church Yew Tree Project launch: Megginch Castle day out + tree planting (plenty of possibilities to liaise and work with other agencies)

here: e.g. UHI, YMCA, Princes Trust, John Muir Trust, Woodland Trust, Yew Tree Society, Forestry Commission, Observatree). *4th April at 2 PM – more information will be announced shortly.*

- May/June - Bluebell Trail Leaflet launch + walk in the woods. *Date TBC.*
- Tree planting at Aberfeldy golf course. *TBC.*
- Beaver mitigation + tree planting. *TBC.*
- Beaver mitigation + tree identification. *TBC.*
- Event to link in with Dobbies Garden Centres Community Grow Campaign, possible sponsorship.

23rd September – 23rd October • Seed Gathering Season

- No specific events organised as of yet

October • Scottish Coppice Festival

- Liaise with South Perth Greenspace Group for PKTWN members to help with their coppice planting/management
- Work with Community Woodlands Association, Reforesting Scotland and Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Other:

January – June • BBC Radio Scotland: Out of Doors / BBC: Landward

- Could feature some PKTWN work, for example Church Yew Tree Project, the UHI volunteer group, the Bluebell leaflet launch/walk in the woods – link to national Tree Council events for national publicity.

Throughout 2019 • PKTWN Meetings Regarding:

- The Church Yew Tree Project – liaise with P&K/Angus Councils to research the best church yards where trees could potentially be planted. Start looking into the logistics of taking cuttings from the Fortingall Yew.
- Bluebell Trail Leaflet
- Membership Leaflet
- Ancient Tree Hunt Surveying

- Scottish Orchard Tree Surveying
- Newsletter
- Member's Squares
- Distribution of leaflets and stands/displays locally

More information TBC.

Events suggested at PKTWN committee meeting on the 22nd of November 2018:

- Coupar Angus Butterybank project – tree planting
- Five Mile Wood (Forest Enterprise) needs work undertaken
- Dronley Wood near Muirhead (Angus, rather than Perth & Kinross) will need work undertaken
- Tullibacart Community Woodland
- Ardler old village hall site – could become a community garden – tree planting
- Perth & Kinross scheme for Species Champions (for councillors) – local schools could become involved in specific sites such as local woodlands and/or species, i.e. Red Squirrel, Oak, and practical volunteering tasks, etc. The PKTWN could take the lead for this in Perth & Kinross.
- Perth Cathedral – tree planting
- Woodland Trust volunteers currently check all planning applications – perhaps the PKTWN could offer to help, or alternatively Tree Wardens sign up to be contacted by the WT volunteers as local contacts

Appendix III – PKTWN Committee Meeting 22nd November

Network Review – Note of the Meeting

Thursday, 22nd November 2018

The Queen’s Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth PH2 8HB

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Hon. Chair
Jim Low (JL)	Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher Dingwall (CD)	PKTWN Member
Jackie Polakowska (JP)	PKTWN Member
Julia Henriksson (JH)	Hon. Assistant Secretary/Student Intern

Background to the Review

Julia’s interim report had been circulated before the meeting. It outlined the reasons behind the urgent need to review the current Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens’ Network. CL added that following her attendance at the Tree Council’s meeting of Tree Wardens in Birmingham last summer, it became clear that the PKTWN is well-regarded; there is also a desire for the Tree Council to champion its only Scottish network.

Julia’s report on her questionnaire findings, new contacts, event programming

Julia updated us on how much more work was needed on the questionnaire. There had only been nine responses so far and she would outline the full results in the final report. Most comments had been positive, although there is of course a question mark over membership at the moment. No fees have been requested for over a year. CD pointed out that our funding position is good at the moment, so we do not need to pursue membership funding until we are back on our feet. We could, in fact, offer free membership to everyone for a year or two to encourage more people to become part of the Network.

Regardless, it was suggested that until our membership numbers increase and diversify, we could offer free Student Membership (perhaps in return of x number of hours' practical assistance per year). Julia outlined the issues of the Perth UHI students perhaps not being able to get involved in "outside organisations" through the university. CL suggested the students could, perhaps, set up their own environmental volunteering group to undertake work on the campus but with opportunities to go outside the campus a few times a year to help other voluntary groups. In that way we could welcome the group to occasionally help us with practical tasks.

The proposed membership layout in the future might therefore be:

Members	£10 per annum (incl. Tree Council handbook and full access via website/emails)
Supporter	Free (no handbook but an invitation to all training days and field trips)
Young Person/Student	Free (ditto)

[Not discussed at the meeting, but an idea by CL – we could offer free t-shirts or jackets to all those who undertake practical volunteering tasks (or who take on the mantle of Newsletter Secretary, Events Secretary, etc). These could either be sponsored by a local organisation/company or financed by the Network. CL has recently purchased 20x t-shirts at c£5 each which included embroidered logo for a group within the TBP.]

It was agreed we should aim for a core of members who are happy to assist other organisations with practical volunteer tasks. This could ultimately lead to our own practical projects where we could lean on our own members to take matters forward. A round up of potential projects included:

- The Coupar Angus Butterybank project is ongoing (the Tree Wardens joined a very successful tree planting event there some time ago)

- As many volunteers are needed as possible for the Woodland Trust's Kinclaven Bluebell Wood planting; Julia has already advertised this via Facebook and an email to all PKTWN members
- Julia has also circulated an invitation to join the SWT beaver survey workshop in early December; three people have signed up to this and Julia will also go along, representing the PKTWN
- Five Mile Wood (Forest Enterprise) is very poor in structure and needs work undertaken
- Dronley Wood near Muirhead (Angus, rather than Perth & Kinross) – now purchased; will need work undertaken
- Tullibacart Community Woodland
- Ardler old village hall site – some half an acre that could become a community garden. It would be good for the Tree Wardens to get involved from the start and suggest tree planting
- CD confirmed that Bob Ellis, ex-Councillor, is now involved in the Meigle & Ardler Community Council
- CL suggested that the new Perth & Kinross scheme for Species Champions (for councillors) could extend to a number of local schools whereby they can become directly involved in specific sites such as local woodlands and/or species, i.e. Red Squirrel, Oak, and practical volunteering tasks, etc. There is currently a successful scheme run by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership in Angus. The PKTWN could take the lead for this in Perth & Kinross.
- CD mentioned that there will be an opportunity for tree planting at the newly-reopened Perth Cathedral.
- JL said Woodland Trust volunteers currently check all planning applications and he wondered if the PKTWN could offer to help, or alternatively Tree Wardens sign up to be contacted by the WT volunteers as the local contacts in case of query.

It was suggested that Julia could liaise with both the Forestry Schools and the Community Woodlands Association to see if any of their members/schools would like to get involved in the PKTWN.

There was a need to use the monies granted to us by the Forestry Commission. CL had asked Julia if she would be willing to review the old bluebell trail leaflet and update it. This could be printed and launched next May/June to coincide with a walk in a bluebell wood. JL offered to lead a Tree and Wildlife ID walk for this. Julia will confirm her availability to help take on this task in the New Year.

Website Review proposals

Julia had had a very successful meeting with Clare Bailey, the PKTWN webmaster. She has added her recommendations to the interim report and would welcome feedback on this before she finalises the report. Clare had confirmed that the most urgent need was to upgrade the website to WordPress software as the original website is now very out of date. She will send a quote for this, plus a quote for the review of the website itself.

CD reminded CL that GDPR had to be adhered to strictly. She will check that the initial letter (and replies) have been logged and will follow up all existing members if necessary, to bring this up to date as necessary.

The Way Forward: general discussion

JP said there was an urgent need to campaign for change in tree legislation and JL said it would be worth asking the Woodland Trust's stance on this and if they would lead on it nationally. The PKTWN could then add their support of this. Or, if agreed by the majority of the membership, set up their own campaign.

Community Councils – CL had hoped we could circulate details of all active Tree Wardens to all the Community Councils so that they too have a local contact for any matters concerning trees. There might also be an opportunity for short presentations to be given by Tree Wardens at CC meetings to raise awareness of our work.

CL wondered if we could plan an exhibition to show the maps of where our current Tree Wardens are. This will in turn outline where the gaps are and where new members would be welcome. We could run the exhibition as a “road show” and take it round to different parts of Perth and Kinross, adding publicity via the media as

necessary to raise awareness. Alternatively, we could add this information to the website and publicise it on the Facebook page.

CD confirmed he has a number of contacts by way of local estate owners; this might prove useful in arranging future field visits. JP suggested we contact the various heritage societies when we have a new programme of events available. Someone suggested we visit Dun Coilich to see the latest tree planting project there. CD outlined the talks he undertook in Fife about Repton (the Valleyfield Estate, with lunch at Broomhills); something similar could be replicated in our area, perhaps. There was also a Japanese garden being restored near Dollar which would make a nice field trip outwith our patch. Julia reminded us that we will also be able to plan a site visit to Megginch in 2019 to plant the yew cutting from Fortingall; this would effectively launch the Church Yew Project that CL is liaising with the Conservation Foundation and the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Again, it would be an opportunity for the Tree Wardens to get involved across the region.

Julia's deadline for submitting the report to Perth UHI is 20th December so the report will be available to circulate to all PKTWN members immediately after Christmas. CL suggested she could do this and ask members if they would like to continue and if they are free to attend one or two pre-arranged meetings in the first quarter.

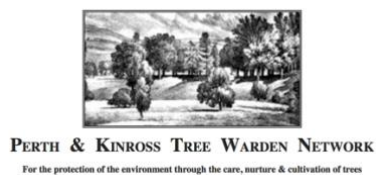
Although Julia's placement will finish at Christmas, she was asked if she would consider staying on as Assistant Secretary to continue the work she has started. CD confirmed a small honorarium would be available and we would be completely flexible as to how much work could be expected. CL suggested 2x days per month or half a day per week would be helpful. Possible tasks would include

- the preparation of the bluebell trail leaflet,
- compilation of either a Newsletter or E-News bulletin,
- a small programme of events for 2019, and
- help planning the Church Yew Project.

Julia will consider this and let us know at the end of her placement. She might be available for the first six months of 2019. It might then be possible for the Network to

advertise for a permanent Assistant Secretary to take over from her in the autumn of 2019.

Everyone thanked Julia for her hard work and interesting report. CL thanked everyone for attending the meeting.



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

