

Perth and Kinross Tree Wardens' Network

Quarterly Newsletter

Introduction

First of all, we were very sorry to postpone our proposed visit to Fortingall and Cluny yet again – with the resurgence of Covid we realised it was just adding to the risk factor. Christopher kindly visited Cluny House earlier in the year to check everything and we fully intend to try again in 2022. Thank you for bearing with us.

My own news is two-edged. I now have a full-time job at Scottish Woodlands, which is great, but the hours and travelling are proving onerous, and I need to cut back on my Tree Warden duties. As from next April I am happy to continue as Membership Secretary, but at the next AGM there will be a vacancy for an Hon. Secretary. Further details will be available in the New Year, but I hope with this amount of notice someone will feel able to step up. We will also need help with the newsletter and planning events. These tasks can all be split up or someone could take them all on as I have in the past. If anyone can help, please contact either myself or Catherine for further details.

- Julia Henriksson, Hon. Secretary - Events & Membership

Chair's Update

Although things have been extremely quiet on the events and training front, as ever there is a lot going on behind the scenes. At long last the Tree Council is publishing its training modules and we will very soon be able to roll the first set out online. Ormungandr is our Hon. Training Officer and like most of us would prefer we met on site for some of the modules. We will consider all options and timings where this is concerned. The modules will be mandatory across all the Tree Warden groups in the UK, perfect for new members and equally useful for long-term members. We will circulate further details this autumn.

There are increasing opportunities for Tree Wardens to get more involved in local community projects. We greatly welcome new members from Guildtown and Blairgowrie, in particular, which are part of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's 'Biodiversity Villages, Neighbourhoods & Towns Initiative'. Discussions are underway on a number of exciting projects we can get involved in – more details soon. As restrictions lift over 2022, wouldn't it be

We need new members!

With high quality training for all the UK's Tree Wardens about to start, now is the perfect time to bring more people on board. Can you recommend a neighbour or a friend in a different part of Perth & Kinross to join us? Membership is still free, and everyone is welcome. Please contact Julia at secretary@perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk.



wonderful to have several planting projects up our sleeves? If you have some ideas as to where we could get involved, please contact me in the first instance. - Catherine Lloyd, Hon. Chair

School Orchards

In its pilot year, the Tree Council has been achieving one of the fastest growing education programmes in the UK - going from 0 to over 1,300 active schools in less than a year, planting over 33,000 trees. Indirectly the campaign #BeAForceForNature has reached 340,000 children. In Perth & Kinross there are now a total of 12 schools each with a new orchard. More details here: [Orchards for Schools free orchard and hedgerow packs \(treecouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/orchards-for-schools-free-orchard-and-hedgerow-packs).

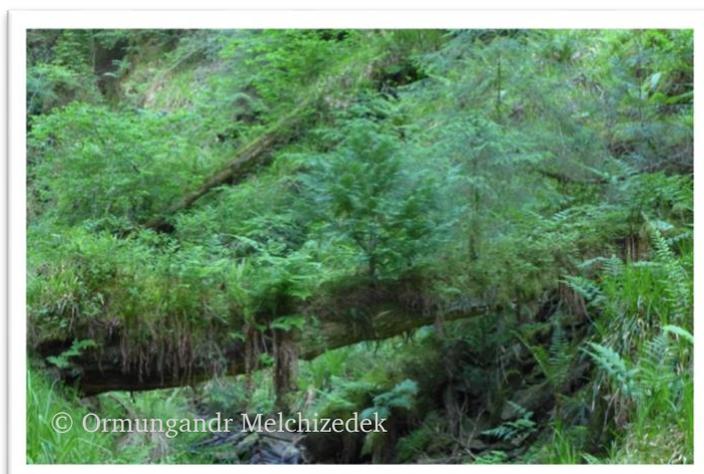
Grants for Planting

The Tree Council has a variety of grants available, the key one being the Branching Out Fund. This is currently open for applications with planting ideally taking place within National Tree Week – 27th November to 5th December 2021, although this is not essential. This year's deadline is 17th December. The projects must involve young people up to the age of 21; the fund supports schools, community groups and Tree Warden Networks to plant trees, hedges and orchards. Please get your thinking caps on – find out more: [Grants for planting - The Tree Council](https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants-for-planting).

Website Photo Gallery



Our stalwart past member, Don Morris, created the photo gallery we feature at [Gallery – Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens \(perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk\)](https://www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk/gallery). It would be fantastic to add new photos so if you have any you would like to share, please check the website for more details and how to contribute.



The Effect of Trees on Soils

“A fallen tree (Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)) across the river-formed ravine of Puck’s Glen in Argyll Forest Park, Scotland. The rotting CWD provides a habitat for various plants including mosses, ferns and functions as a nursery environment for young trees. Species present on the trunk include Vaccinium myrtillus, teaming with bacteria, saprobes and mesofauna. When it inevitably collapses it will dam the stream, thereby creating new niches and continuing to add its slowly

releasing nutrient store to the existing soil environment.” - Ormungandr Melchizedek

Our Hon. Treasurer & Trainer Ormungandr wrote a fantastic essay on the effect of trees on soils for his MSc in 2018. Those of you who attended the virtual AGM this year will also have heard his presentation on the topic. For the full article, please head to: [Resources – The Effect of Trees on Soils \(perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk\)](https://perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk). There is also a useful (if slightly out-of-date) booklet on 'Managing Woody Debris in Rivers, Streams & Floodplains' – download it from: [Woody Debris Booklet v2.p65 \(therrc.co.uk\)](https://therrc.co.uk).

Let's Create Some #TreeTrails

There is a very useful new resource from the Tree Council. Using the free TiCL App a #TreeTrail can be created by Friends Groups and Tree Wardens – just download complete instructions on how to go about creating a new #TreeTrail. Visitors and local communities alike can then explore and learn about the trees in a park, village or town without the need for any printed map or physical signage. Discover more here: [Create a #TreeTrail near you - TiCL - The Tree Council](https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/creating-a-tree-trail) and let us know where you think we should focus our attention.



Webinars and Online Events

In the absence of us availing ourselves of Judy Dowling's expertise with recording trees this year, there is a free interim webinar available on 10th November where the Welsh Verifier will take people through the steps on how to contribute to the Ancient Tree Inventory. Book: [Recording trees for the Ancient Tree Inventory Tickets, Wed 10 Nov 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/recording-trees-for-the-ancient-tree-inventory-tickets).

The UK charity Plantlife will be offering a programme of 'Fall into Nature' online events [Plantlife :: Fall into nature with Plantlife](https://www.plantlife.org.uk), including the highly relevant lunchtime seminar on 22nd October "Right tree, right place - why there is more to tree-planting than meets the eye".

The Arboricultural Association's website is worth exploring where it's training courses are concerned. Most are for its members, but there is a suite of fascinating recorded webinars everyone is welcome to download and watch. Check [Arboricultural Association - Training & Events \(trees.org.uk\)](https://www.trees.org.uk) to see what is currently available.

ZoomIn2 - A MONTHLY TIME-LAPSE PROJECT

Do you have a favourite tree you would like to study throughout the seasons?

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership have relaunched the photography project 'ZoomIn2'. To get involved, take a photograph of your chosen subject and submit it to web@zoomin2.co.uk. Go back to the same spot each month and repeat the process until you have a year's worth of photos. These can then be made into a time-lapse showing you the seasons changing! Photos will be displayed at www.zoomin2.co.uk.

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- Newsletter compiled by Catherine Lloyd & Julia Henriksson -