



- Talk: Tuesday February 11th @ 7.30pm Richard Gulliver will talk on *The Fascination of Trees* – a journey starting with garden trees, moving on to personal selection of 'X-Factor' trees with further insights into Black Poplars and the world of the Elm in Britain and what we should be calling them! At the Shropshire Wildlife Centre as before.

Dear Members

I am writing this with bright sunshine streaming in my window but still white frost on the grass.

What a start to the New Year with so many named storms devastating so many trees!

Who, in the various Met offices, comes up with these names? Always interesting although we could do without the severity of these weather events.

We had escaped damage from Darragh, then Eowyn came along and took out a 30 year-old Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), approx. 25 feet tall, which narrowly missed our new neighbours garage.! On dealing with this we found that a 40 y-o- Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) was leaning a little too much and, sadly, it was decided to fell it. Always sad to see a tree one has planted having to go, but nothing is forever – so, what do we plant in its place? Seems as though I will just have to go tree shopping!!

Tuesday February 11th at 7.30pm Richard Gulliver will talk on *The Fascination of Trees* at the SWT. I must give everyone an early reminder, **March 11th is our AGM**, not wishing to frighten anyone off, but we would like to see as many members as possible, to hear first hand your thoughts and ideas for the future of the group. Volunteers for the committee would, of course, be very welcome, different views and fresh approaches are most necessary to any committee – please think about it.

Keep going out in whatever sunshine we get, we all need our Vitamin D and it's cheaper than buying the tablets!!

Julie Kaye

Storm damage: The recent storms appear to have had a devastating effect on the trees of Northern Ireland, northern England and Scotland. as reported in the news. See various newspaper and National Trust reports.

The local CPRE group are doing some hedge planting this winter: Please liaise with CPRE direct.

Monday 3rd February – Great Poston Farm, Craven Arms/Ludlow; email Lucy directly on lucy.grove@outlook.com

Tuesday 4th February- new site/date!

Pasford Farm, Pattingham (Staffs/Shropshire border)

Worth Reading: *The Lost Rainforests of Britain* by Guy Shrubsole and published by Harper Collins

Temperate rainforests were, a long time ago, widespread throughout western Britain and Ireland. Now only fragments remain, in Shropshire too, threatened, “sheepwrecked”, by the demands of providing human livelihood, by deer predation and by climate change.

Their damp green beauty and sometimes spooky atmosphere have not just great aesthetic value but also as vital carbon sinks, as catchment for wild flowers and the abundant forms of mosses, lichens, lungworts, ferns celebrated here.

Guy Shrubsole provides much thought provoking material. He calls for extensive enclosure fencing to allow regeneration. Although Wales is famed for its sheep studded bare hills and mountains, this identification is questioned as we are told the true tradition, found in medieval literature, was cattle and pigs reared in widespread wood pastures. Pastures that are now barren of biodiversity.

This Sunday Times Science Book of the Year 2023, winner of several prizes, was recommended to us by member Pete Bound. *Johanne Brachi*

THE SEVERN TREE TRUST – Membership Renewal 2025

To renew your membership by cheque, please complete the following and send it to our Treasurer.

John Tuer, Evergreen, 5 Woodside, Homer, Much Wenlock, TF13 6NQ

(please tick as appropriate)

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Receipt of newsletter. If possible we would like to send you the newsletter by email as it saves on postal costs. However our editor will post it to you if you have no email access.

The newsletter is always available on the website <https://severntreetrust.co.uk>

Thank you for renewing your membership.
We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.