



Sunday April 13th – Arley Arboretum, nr. Bridgnorth @2pm DY12 1SQ
The 2025 Membership renewal form can be found at the end of the newsletter.
Please fill in as appropriate.

Chair's Report:

Firstly I would like to thank those members who were able to supported the recent AGM. As you will see from the AGM minutes I was re-elected as your chair for one more year, after that we really need a change which, as the saying goes, is as good as a rest. Many thanks to those committee members who volunteered to continue for another year. As there is quite a full newsletter this month I will keep my contribution short. Please do keep checking the newsletter for any updates of the programme just in case there are any alterations.

An extra reminder of the upcoming visit to Arley Arboretum on 13th April, always worth a visit but especially when we have some guidance. Organiser Peter Aspin has put details further in the newsletter.

STT has been contacted by the organisers of the Green Fair at the United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury, 10.30am to 3pm, Sat. 28th June 2025, with a view to our group having a presence at the event.

It would be a good opportunity to showcase what we do, so we will need to try and organise a display of some sort. I am able to attend for some of the time, but is there anyone who would be willing to help at the event in any way, even for an hour or so?

Please contact me by email – jkaye0848@gmail.com

I Look forward to seeing you at Arley in April. Best wishes *Julie Kaye*

Instructions for Arley visit are as follows:

The first Severn Tree Trust visit of 2025 is at Arley Arboretum which is just off the A442 between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, **DY12 1SQ**, and barely over the county border in Worcestershire. Simply follow the brown tourist signs. Unusually for STT it takes place on a Sunday, 13th April. The intention is to meet by the entry kiosk and cafe at 2pm though anyone who knows the village of Upper Arley there is far more to see than one of the finest arboreta of the Midlands so it might be well worth arriving long before.

There are two roads into the village and it is recommended that one never enters and leaves by the same one as the huge Arley estate straddles both and throughout the landscape there is interesting

tree planting which is complemented by groups of cattle from the famous Imperial herd of Pedigree Jersey cows.

There is nothing so uncivilised as a vehicle bridge over the Severn but simply a functional steel footbridge, once the longest of its type in England, which leads to Arley station, the mid-point on the Severn Valley railway. To sit on a GWR bench on a platform where nothing happens for a couple of hours, and then two trains cross and there is chaos for a few minutes before another two hours of nothingness, is an absolute delight. And it has its own small arboretum, perhaps the only station in the country with one such. Halfway up the bank to the station is the lovely "Harbour Inn" (the name tells a tale). The last time we had a meal there the food was excellent and at reasonable cost. And there is also a riverside cafe with outdoor tables. Far too much choice.

Arley was a "lost" arboretum and there is a plaque by the walled garden which mentions an old friend of STT, John Bulmer, who identified the trees therein and has also led a few of our past visits in Shropshire. And by the entrance is a small area of memorial planting for a Midlands hospice. And there are well-signposted walks through the commercial forestry belonging to the estate. There really is far too much to do. £8 entry, £7 concessions, open 10am to 5pm. NB. A Sunday visit! *Peter Aspin*.

Prunus Fugenzo?

I came across this story a couple of weeks ago. I can't remember whether it was a book or academic paper. But I looked it up because it sounded so bizarre. Its title was "Will the real Prunus Fugenzo please stand up?" By Christopher Sanders 2010! I searched through my dozens (yes dozens) of tree books and eventually found it in *W J Bean's Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles*, Eighth edition supplement by D L Clarke. (John Murray 1988). What I found was even more bizarre.

It's a Japanese Garden Cherry and "according to this authority, the name literally means Fugen elephant" the tips of the petals being curved like those of an elephant's trunk. Fugen bosatu is a Japanese name for Buddha, who rode on an elephant in a famous legend.

If you have a copy of the book it is on page 399, and I think I have used the right word, bizarre. I am sure you will agree.

Now don't get me started on the botanic name for the Hiba, *Thujaopsis dolabrata*.
John Tuer

AGM talk: Lessons regarding Agroforestry, a talk by Peter Aspin

We were shown 2 photos per screen which provided lessons learnt through more than twenty years of experimentation.

The alleys are planted in lines in the fields of 400 metres by 20 metres, the trees being 5 metres apart with alternate species. Electric fences protect the trees, leaving a line of grass which absorbs rain/flooding quickly. Cattle can browse leaves as fodder.

The cattle are moved daily and grazed in 30-40 days rotation.

The planting is laid out North to South in order to manipulate the microclimate within the alleys. The trees provide shade for shelter while convection currents between the trees draw cool or less frosty air into the centre of the alleys.

The trees and the longer grass between the alleys are beneficial for birds, wildlife and invertebrates.

In hot years, for example 2022, many cattle throughout the country had to be kept indoors out of the heat and only allowed to graze at night. Agroforestry principles would mitigate this.

Wind has particularly damaging effects on trees, so necessary as wind breaks. Recent extremes of high and low pressure cause more frequent and violent winds. Slow growth is desirable for sturdy trunks and root structures. Araucaria is the most wind resistant tree. Siberian elm is particularly hardy and resistant to Dutch elm disease. Ash is good for cattle fodder.

In the UK there is very little good timber left, 90% is imported. Food security is a pressing concern with high percentages imported. Arguably the most important foodstuff of all is tree seed, ie nuts, 99% of which is imported.
(Notes taken by Johanne Brachi)

Minutes of the Severn Tree Trust Annual General Meeting on 11th March 2025

Held at the Shropshire Wildlife Centre, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Apologies: Angela and Roger Hughes, John Tuer, Graham and Lynn Pearce, Dr Richard Gulliver, Sue Bosson, David Woodhouse, Robert Bland, Sonia Swain

Present: 13 members

Minutes of 2024 AGM accepted and signed.

1. Chair's Report

The Severn Tree Trust has existed under that name for 15 years, providing interesting visits and talks.

The move to the Wildlife Centre last year has proved successful, owing to good parking, a comfortable room and in an organisation linked to our ethos.

Last year's visits and talks were listed.

Finding speakers can be difficult, partly due to distance that they might need to travel. Judging how much we can offer depends on how many are likely to attend and that is unknowable.

It has been decided only to have a raffle at Christmas and the October guest Talk. More committee members are needed and volunteers are requested.

Sonia Swain did a fantastic job setting up the new website severntreetrust.co.uk but keeping it up to date has proved more demanding.

Roger Hughes is going to adopt the Facebook page.

A Secretary is needed to look after organisation, beyond the taking of minutes which is willingly shared by two members.

We have no Tree Planting Officer at present. It was suggested that we combine with other organisations such as the CPRE, Earth Protect, Stepping Stone project, the Wildlife Trust.

David Martin who looks after the Newsletter would like to build up a library of articles, whether written by members or copies of interesting articles they have noted.

Possibly a poster could be designed for placing in libraries and village halls. Ideas for speakers are always welcomed.

The current committee were thanked for their contributions. John Tuer was praised as a long standing member who was an outstanding tree planting officer, his notes on Talks were legendary and who has continued as an excellent Treasurer despite serious ill health.

2. Treasurer's Report

SEVERN TREE TRUST

Receipts and Payments Account as of 31st December 2024

(End of year accounts)

Receipts

Balances brought forward

Current Account 2464.35

Petty Cash Balance 68.55

£2,532.90

Payments

Gifts/Donations 19.00

Hall Charges/Insurance 396.27

Publicity/Website 245.00

Stationery/Postage 158.48

Speakers' fees 170.00

Refreshments 28.00

Visit expenses 10.00

1026.75

Donations 25.00

Memberships 820.00

Raffle 157.25

Refreshments 9.00

Sales 4.00

Guest tickets 67.00

£1,082.25

£3,615.15

Balances carried forward:

Current Account 2,519.85

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)

Single Adult membership (£15) _____ Under 21s Membership (£5) _____

Double Adult Membership (£20) _____

Title (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Ms.) (Miss) (Dr.)

Name(s) _____

Please confirm your email address.

Address

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.