

Chairs AGM Report June 14th 2025

RF - 11.00-11.02 WELCOME Welcome to the inaugural AGM of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network CIO. It's lovely to see so many new and familiar faces here today. A good mix of saplings and veterans. .
PS - 11.02-11.05 Apologies
PS – 11.05 – 11.10 Minutes of 2023 AGM don't need approval as we're a different legal organisation now, but they are available to view on our website.
11.10-11.25 Guest speaker TIM OUTLAW SCC ecologist Suffolk Verges Project
RF 11.25- 11.35 You may recall our application to the Charity Commission to become a CIO was accepted on 3rd November 2023. The last 19 months has been, and still is very much a transitional stage. The following list of people and organisations who have supported us is a measure of our activities and progress. Our THANKS, in no particular order, : Will Hardy, Stuart Holm and Esther Rosewarne (WT) for their annual tree and hedgerow packs for tree wardens with 31,000 trees distributed last planting season composing of 3,400 trees and 5km of hedgerow Hedge = 26,000 trees = 5Km Clayland = 4,000 trees Riparian = 1,000 trees Total = 31,000 Paul Read and Dr Celia Stone STOG grafting courses resulting in us distributing around 50 of our own grafted trees and many more that grafters took home to their own projects. A generous donation of £5,000 from a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous. Mid Suffolk DC councillors- Terence Carter, Miles Row, Keith Scarff, Ollie Walters and James Patchett For their locality award grant of £1,630 to purchase materials. Jeannie Buckingham 2 F for hosting grafting and tree giveaway events and all the work she does at what is our largest tree nursery. SCC for free use of the barns in Barking and Great Barton for storage and events. Tim De-Kyser (Suffolk County Council (SCC) Head of Natural & Historic Environment) for the funding and opportunities SCC have provided us.

Stowmarket SQUAB a storage company for the free use of one of their storage units to store some of our equipment.

Polstead Press for their printing donations

Phil Montanjees Stowmarket Leading Lives Community Hub for storing our peat free compost.

Gary Battell for arranging this afternoons walk. (Suffolk County Council (SCC) Senior Woodland Advisor and Non-executive Advisor to STWN), for his unwavering and longstanding support to STWN, despite having “retired”

Kelda McChesney for supporting us in her joint role working with SCC and WT. We are grateful for the exceptionally high quality of support she provides.

Liam Judd of West Suffolk Council supporting us with the Nowton Park BP nursery and 2023s tree giveaway event

Gemma Marriage of Jimmy’s Farm also supporting us with a new BP nursery

Ben Potterton of The Otter Trust for his work on the BP project and sharing his expertise on much more.

Emma Black of Dedham Vale National Landscapes for their support of the black poplar project.

Peter Holborn and Haughley Parish Council for our walks in Gallowsfield wood

David Johnson of Barcham’s for the recent Trees on tour event at Lynford Arboretum

Frankie Turner consultant ecologist, who we have recently contracted to push forward various STWN projects. More of which you’ll hear about later.

Hannah Alred SBIS for her work on mapping trees you’ll hear about soon.

The Tree Council for their tree offers, their Branching Out magazine, training modules, webinars, excellent Good Tree Planting guide and many other materials.

The many landowners we have worked with who are so enthusiastic about tree and hedgerow planting at both small and large scale to enhance Suffolk’s Tree-scape.

I also extend our thanks to the many more individuals, organisations, and councils that support us and for their hard work.

And thank you to our Trustees and Leadership Team for their patience and tireless work in all they do to improve our operations. An extra special thank you to John Russell, who retired as treasurer at our last AGM, but being the stalwart he is he's remained in post as we've yet to find a replacement.

Most importantly of course, thanks to each and every tree warden and tree nurse for all you do to improve our treescape and communities in your parishes.

I'd like us to remember 4 Tree Wardens who have sadly passed away:

David Flowerdew TW for Denham

Richard Brunt TW for Kirton & Falkenham

John Preston TW for Redgrave

John Knight TW for Lavenham

In fitting with their passion for trees and the legacy they've left to Suffolk, we'll be holding a short eulogy during our walk at Staverton's most famous tree.

RF 11.35-11.40

Brief SUMMARY OF THE YEAR as more will be heard from our speakers

Over 5,000 trees from our tree nurseries

Growing success of Black Poplars that David will talk about later

Gazebo at events including WWW, Hadleigh and Suffolk Show, Stowmarket GoWild and drink festival, Apple Day at the Food Museum

Potato day

Hodmedods seed swap

Given talks to numerous gardening and other groups

We had a member's day at Wakelyns that many of you attended. The ideas generated are helping with the planning of future work such as more opportunities for tree wardens to meet other tree wardens in their locality.

Membership has increased to 280

Purchased various tools for orchard pruning and light tree maintenance, printers to improve print label durability

A four wheeled trolley to help move items at events.

Pots

Seed trays

Vermin mesh

Peat free compost

- WhatsApp group has been a great vehicle for information sharing and helping each other when problems arise.
- We decided to close down our X / twitter account due to our concerns regarding certain political matters across the pond
- We have a Facebook page, Colin Lay explained.

<p>RF</p> <p>LOOKING FORWARD capacity</p> <p>How much we can achieve is entirely dependent on our capacity. The more of you who can join the Leadership Team to help develop and manage our projects the more we can improve our environment and landscape. So please get in touch if you are able to help.</p> <p>Understanding of the necessity of trees for all our futures is growing and I sometimes think of our work in terms of a Suffolk Tree Health Service. Like all health services we need enthusiastic people and resources to thrive.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
<p>JR 11.40-11.50</p> <p>Treasurer's Report</p>	
<p>JR 11.50-12.00</p> <p>Retirement of Trustees: All Trustees must retire from office at the first AGM of the CIO. The Trustees standing for reappointment are Richard Frost, Colin Lay, Feadora Morris, and Graham Pleasants, and members are invited to endorse them.</p>	
<p>Close of formal business</p>	
<p>12.00-12.15</p> <p>Comfort break & light refreshments. Grab a drink and straight back please</p>	
<p>Hannah 12.15-12.30</p> <p>Presentation: Project between SBIS & STWN mapping Suffolk's ancient and veteran trees. Hannah Alred, Biological Records Officer (GIS)(SBIS)</p>	
<p>STWN updates</p>	
<p>GP 12.30 – 12.40</p> <p>- Google Workspace & Form to scope future tree demand</p> <p>Graham Pleasants, Trustee & Technology Projects Lead</p>	
<p>12.40-12.50</p> <p>- Native Black Poplar Project David Appleton, Leadership Team & Native Black Poplar Project Lead</p>	
<p>12.50-13.00</p> <p>- 2 Fields Tree Nursery Ben Robinson, Tree Nurse</p>	
<p>13.00 – 13.10</p> <p>Members' Welcome Pack Frankie Turner,</p>	
<p>13.10 - 14.15 LUNCH</p>	
<p>14.15 Drive to the Shepherds Cottage</p>	
<p>GB 14.30 Staverton walk</p>	

DA eulogy by Detectorists Tree
16.30 END