

From Our Chairman, Professor Sir Ron Cooke

After the major changes of last year, this year has seen sustained progress in the Arboretum.

We have been delighted to welcome our new full-time curator – Jan Hoyland. Jan is no stranger to Yorkshire, having worked previously at Nunnington Hall before moving to Trengwainton Gardens in Cornwall. She has already made a major impact, concentrating her initial efforts on the restoration of the woodland garden in Ray Wood, work made possible by new and generous grants from the Monument Trust and the Wespelaar Foundation, Belgium. We hope that Ray Wood will be returned to its former glory within a few years, and several threatened rhododendron species will be saved.

Our new general manager, Paul Nicoll, is also no stranger. Many members will remember Paul when he managed Castle Howard Estate and he helped to set up the Arboretum Trust. He has made a welcome return to the area after his retirement from the National Trust property at Wallingford, Northumberland.

All our established activities and trees have continued to flourish and grow. John Simmons and Jan report on the trees below.

The Sherwood Vista and John Simmons' vision of a wetland garden have been taken forward by Jan and Neil Batty. The support of local Rotary Clubs in planting over 14,000 crocuses in the vista will make a massive splurge of colour in the spring. We aimed to beat the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of people planting bulbs in one hour – we succeeded!! The project was in support of the "Thanks for Life Campaign", aimed at eliminating polio in the world. The new vista when complete, promises to be a major year-long attraction.

We can claim at least one other world first! – Joyce Kingman has created the world's first **Tree Forecast**, which appears monthly in The Press and is widely appreciated.

The second Wild about Wood Festival was even more successful than the first. Visitor numbers increased by 26% in spite of

one day's poor weather. The excellent Discovery Zone was twice the size and there were more demonstrations and exhibitions. Our impression is that we have created a very happy family day out and introduced the Arboretum to many new friends. Our thanks are due especially to David Miller and Anna Porter, who masterminded the event, to the 70+ staff and volunteers who gave so generously of their time and efforts, and to our sponsors: The Calmcott Trust, Holbeck Charitable Trust, the Sir George Martin Trust, McCain Foods (GB) Ltd, York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation, York Archaeological Trust, Carter Jonas, Harrowells, and Garbutt & Elliott. A superb raffle prize – "Ducks Away" – was most generously provided by James Morris of Sculpsteel, Terrington.

Within the festival was another spectacular first. The Liveries Wood Group (a consortium of the Worshipful Companies of Carpenters, Furniture Makers, Joiner and Ceilers, Turners and Upholders) admirably led by Andrew Varah and Penrose Halson, offered to raise funds for the Arboretum. Their idea was to take dead oak branches from the Arboretum, cut them into small logs, send the logs to celebrities and professionals inviting them to create works of art and to autograph the results. The triumphant outcome was some spectacular pieces and a contribution of about £20,000 to the Trust. We are immensely grateful for this wonderful initiative. The proceeds will all go towards our final major

capital project – a new centre on land generously donated by the estate, which will include a propagation and nursery facility, a proper workshop, offices for staff and facilities for our army of volunteers. We shall, of course, need to raise more funds to complete the whole project.

Those are the stories behind some of this year's headlines. Behind them, the work of the Arboretum goes on, and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts. The visitor Centre through the fine work of Diane King, Justin Edsall and Maurag Carmichael and volunteers is a growing success; the Education Programme, led by Dr Katherine Forsey and her volunteers,

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flourishes and introduces many new schoolchildren to our collections; the Grounds continue to be maintained by Neil Batty and his volunteers and they have overseen the new access road and extended parking facilities. Harry Kingman not only masterminds the website but is also our chief photographer and supplies our excellent cards. Nicola Hall, working with Jan, is managing the collections records and a new group of volunteers is working with Jan in Ray Wood and the Arboretum. We also thank Roger Cowdy for his excellent handiwork in the café and the centre over the winter, and the many volunteers who give their time and talents in a huge variety of tasks for the Arboretum. In addition, I would personally like to thank Maurag Carmichael and John Simmons for their continued massive and indispensable contributions, and the excellent support of our trustees.

Finally, may I thank our members for their continued support? There have been some changes to membership benefits this year, and we plan to extend facilities for members by, for example, opening a path round the second lake for summer use. I do hope you will see your continued membership in two contexts: your subscription is a charitable contribution towards sustaining a wonderful enterprise that is dedicated to preserving many tree species; and, hopefully, it also provides you with an enjoyable range of opportunities in a unique and glorious piece of English countryside. I hope many of you will be able to join us for a “Welly Walk” on Boxing Day or New Year’s Day which again are being generously sponsored and organised by David and Lesley Mather.

Sir Ron Cooke—Chairman of Trustees



Paul Nicoll, Business Manager

My appointment as part-time Business Manager for the Arboretum back in January was a particular pleasure for me, returning to the Charity which I helped set up during my time as Estate Manager at Castle Howard in the ‘90’s. Jim Russell had delayed his retirement to try to ensure a future for the Arboretum through some sort of association with Kew and he was disappointed not to have achieved that before he departed for Fife in 92/93, leaving us to manage the trees on a basic care and maintenance regime with Neil Batty and Ken Cherry. We continued working on labelling and database work over this period but it was not until 1997 that we were able to finalise the formal set-up of the independent Charitable Trust in conjunction with Kew and I was proud to be the first Secretary of the Charity before I left the Estate towards the end of 1998.

A great deal has happened in the development of the Arboretum since that time although the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers had already approached us about sponsorship at that time. Their support has been very important to us in many ways but it is especially gratifying to find on my return that, in conjunction with the Wood Liveries Group and with the great encouragement of our Chairman, Sir Ron Cooke, they have again made such a substantial contribution to funds for our proposed new Propagation Nursery, Offices and Workshop scheme as a result of Branching Out.



Our visitor numbers and membership continue to grow despite the economic climate but as all our activities increase so too has the workload for our limited staff so we are also particularly fortunate to be able to continue recruiting so many willing and able volunteers, without whose efforts we couldn’t survive. Having spent some 7 years with the National Trust prior to my retirement last year I know how important the role of volunteers is to such charities. I am also well aware that we owe a big debt of gratitude to the staff who often put in far more time and effort than they are actually paid for! One of the challenges of my task, apart from formalising various aspects of our business, is to make sure that we rationalise our efforts to enable the organisation to work as effectively as possible. Inevitably the business has grown like ‘topsy’ and John Simmons and I are reviewing the Business Plan

to take account of many of the changes so as to plan for the future aspirations and needs of the Trust.

Unfortunately, having carefully prepared my first budget at the beginning of the year with the historic information available and having completed the establishment of our new Trading Company for the purposes of our charitable status, I found that we had already crossed the income threshold for VAT registration. This has had an immediate impact on our income from membership, entrance fees and café income all of which have immediately lost 17.5% of income by way of Tax with limited expenses to enable us to reclaim any tax on our costs. Fortunately, in this year, we are likely to benefit substantially from past expenses on capital equipment by being able to reclaim VAT on those items and, subject to other complications of the scheme, we may end up with a one-off net reclaim for 2010. Nevertheless, to protect our future income, we have had to review all our procedures for this next year.

You may be aware that we lost our gift aid status on membership income when the Revenue decided that our reciprocal arrangement for 4 free entries to Castle Howard – which does not have Charitable status – disqualifies us for such tax reclaim. We feel it is unacceptable to increase our annual fees by the 20% it is now going to cost us in VAT and it is therefore vital to reinstate Gift Aid which is potentially worth an additional 28% on all such qualifying charges. This means that we have agreed with Castle Howard that this reciprocal entry will be removed this year but we are replacing it with 4 specific

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dates during the year when we will lead guided tours to Ray Wood so that members can enjoy the fine collection of plants that is our responsibility in that part of the grounds. Access to other parts of Castle Howard will not be available under this scheme but we are also considering whether there are any other charities similar to ourselves with whom we could make an alternative reciprocal arrangement to replace this benefit. Similarly Castle Howard members will only be able to visit the Arboretum on 4 specified dates.

In addition we are amending our entrance charges to introduce a gift aid ticket, in line with many other similar charities, in the hope that that too will significantly increase our income without making undue rises in the current prices and despite various complications in managing such ticketing arrangements.



The plans to create new working facilities are in their very early stages at present and very much subject to the approval of Trustees, Castle Howard and the local Planning Authority but such a development is vital to effective working in the future and we will need all the support we can get once a master plan has been prepared. At the same time there are many other new initiatives, through Jan in her new role as full time curator, Katherine in her ever developing role as Outreach Programme Manager, Maurag in her multi-faceted role as administrator, including promotion and marketing of the business as well as events in the Visitor Centre, ably supported by Justin and Katherine - we want to continue to build on the success of Wild About Woods and to prepare a comprehensive programme of events throughout the year. And, finally, through Neil who is now working closely with Jan and myself to

maintain the quality of his operations in the upkeep of the Arboretum with the sole support of his experienced volunteers. Tim Vines is helping him to prepare a user friendly track around the Lower Lake. As you know this is only available to us from June to September but it is an attractive wild life resource which is currently inaccessible. A new bridge and suitable path maintenance will make this a real bonus for members and visitors alike in June next year.

As you can see, we are all incredibly busy and, apart from getting to grips with our business management and current financial resources, I am also tasked with increasing income in various ways This includes the expansion of corporate support including membership and away days and any ideas or support for this and other initiatives will always be welcome!

Volunteering in the arboretum

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people and work in some beautiful surroundings. Whether you are looking for some work experience to put on your CV, just looking to get out of the office or home and have some fun and exercise, The Arboretum Trust has a variety of volunteer opportunities for people with all sorts of skills, such as Tree Carers, Horticultural Assistants, Education Assistants, Grounds Maintenance, Visitor receptionists and Clerical Assistants. More information is available on our website www.kewatch.co.uk or phone 01653 648650.



Notes of a volunteer.

I first became a volunteer for the arboretum back in 2002 when we were still in the blue portacabin up by the gatehouse. I can still remember the lonely wintery days, huddled over the convector heater, as the wind whistled around and the rain hammered on the building, when you saw no one, not even the hardened dog walkers ventured out. Some days you didn't even take a penny, you wondered what on earth you were doing there but at least you were able to read your book in peace and quiet. How things have changed! The last two sunny Sundays in October when I was on tickets were manic, with lots of new visitors, and hardly a moment to yourself, it was tiring but satisfying. You can't help but feel good when someone new turns up, you explain what we are about and when they return they say how wonderful the arboretum is and how much they have enjoyed their visit.

As well as helping out on the ticket desk I run the website, publish the newsletter, do a bit of graphic design work for posters & the promotional leaflet, organise & pack the Christmas cards & notelets and make the greetings cards. I am also the 'official photographer'. Most of these activities take advantage of me being a keen

photographer. I visit the arboretum several times a week, mainly with our dogs; I generally have a compact digital camera with me as there is always something new to capture (I only bring the SLR when the dogs are left behind as they tend to get bored if I spend too long taking an image). I enjoy taking photographs, but I really enjoy sharing them. Where else can you take pictures of Katherine dressed as a fairy, infants revelling in the arboretum, Justin on a buggy and Neil freezing on the quad?

Who knows what may come next?

Harry Kingman



Jim Russell and Maurice Mason

Working recently with Harry Kingman on a web page for Jim Russell (now up on our web site) I was reminded of Jim's many achievements and his large network of horticultural contacts. Coincidentally I have also been working on a gazetteer entry for Maurice Mason's two arboreta in Norfolk (Talbot Manor and Larchwood) and Jim and Maurice were great friends. Maurice died in 1993 and Jim in 1996, but until the end they exchanged plants and would tour continental nurseries together looking for rare bamboos and unusual trees and shrubs. Thus many of our plants came from Maurice and in Ray Wood for example his Argentinean form of the alpine water fern, *Blechnum penna-marina*, has proved hardy (it also occurs in Australia and New Zealand and other southern latitude islands) and has formed a densely vigorous and useful ground cover. It grows naturally in sphagnum bogs and by stream sides and Maurice collected his plant from Bariloche in the Andean foothills. In contrast his South American azara struggles in an over-shaded area of Ray Wood, but reducing this over-shading is part of the present recovery programme. He distributed this sweet smelling, yellow-flowered small evergreen tree as *Azara paraguayensis* but it was later found not to be this species and as a possible hybrid it now carries Maurice's name.

Another plant they shared is the spectacular red maple *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' as both arboreta have a large batch of this American cultivar that was introduced to cultivation in 1964. As Maurice had a dependable acid sand he set his plants in one large spectacular group at Larchwood (Beachamwell) whereas Jim was less sure how his trees would survive on Castle Howard's more varied soils so scattered them through the collection, but all have grown well.

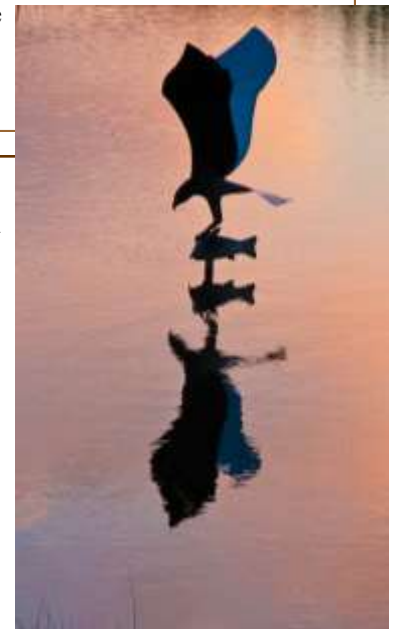


Autumn Glory flowers

The red maple itself has a wide natural range from Newfoundland to northern Minnesota, south to eastern Texas and east to southern Florida and usefully can grow on both dry sands and swampy soils, hence another of its common names is swamp maple. It produces its small red flowers in spring before it comes into leaf, and has a pale brown, easily worked, close-grained wood used for veneers, plywood, low quality furniture and flooring. This cultivar is noted for its long-lasting brilliant red autumn leaves, and in North America the species itself usually colours well, as I have seen in its arrestingly beautiful displays in the southern Appalachians. However, lacking sufficient summer ripening in the UK seedlings prove vary variable, as the trees planted above the Westonbirt maples and Rootery show, and often

seedlings have foliage that just browns and shrivels, falling early - hence the popularity of the clonally produced 'Autumn Glory'.

John B E Simmons - Consultant Curator



"DUCKS AWAY"

This beautiful piece of art created by James Morris of Sculpsteel, Terrington was generously donated by James to our Wild about Wood Festival. We decided to raffle the piece and many hundreds of members and visitors bought tickets for this striking sculpture.



The winning ticket was drawn by our chairman at a meeting of Trustees and the winner was Lyn Cowburn of Harrogate.

The picture shows James Morris and our chairman, Sir Ron Cooke presenting the sculpture to Lyn.

On your journey around the arboretum you will notice several pieces produced by James, the most recent being the striking stainless steel sculpture of an osprey emerging from the lake.

If you too would like to have one of James' unique sculptures or a bespoke piece of architectural metalwork – see www.sculpsteel.co.uk

The Visitor Receptionist is the public face of the Arboretum meeting and greeting all our members, friends and visitors, as such it is one of the most important tasks fulfilled by our volunteers. If you could give one or two days a month to this task, I'd love to hear from you. Training will be given.
Please contact me either on admin@kewatch.co.uk or 01653 648650 and leave a message. Maurag Carmichael

EXPLORE!

Come and **EXPLORE!** the Arboretum in 2011. We have put together an exciting and varied events programme, packed full of practical and interactive activities for adults or families. Keep your eye on the website or look out for posters in the visitors centre for full event details. Here's a taste of what we are planning.....



EXPLORE! Spring

'Den Building Day', 'Spring Into The Arboretum' Seasonal Guided Tour, 'Nature's Flying Machines' and 'Join the Arboretum Army' via one of our introduction to volunteering days.

EXPLORE! Summer

'Night Time Safari', 'Lazy Summer Afternoon' Seasonal Guided Tour, 'Wild Flower Wander' and 'Join the Arboretum Army' via one of our introduction to volunteering days.

EXPLORE! Autumn

'Wild About Wood' with the nearly world famous 'Discovery Zone', 'Amazing Autumn' Seasonal Guided Tour, 'Fungi Forays', 'Bulb Planting Day' World Record Attempt and 'Join the Arboretum Army' via one of our introduction to volunteering days.

EXPLORE! Winter on a festive 'Welly Walk'.

also keep your eye out for Junior Ranger Days during half terms and school holidays.



School Group Visits and Teacher Training

Our mission to excite future generations about all things nature continues in 2011 after great success in 2010. Thousands of children have explored the Arboretum through our hands-on schools programme.

To help us meet the increasing demand, we will be opening a second outdoor classroom in 2011 thanks to funding from the Howardian Hills AONB.



If you would like your child's school to visit the Arboretum just pick up an information leaflet from the Visitors

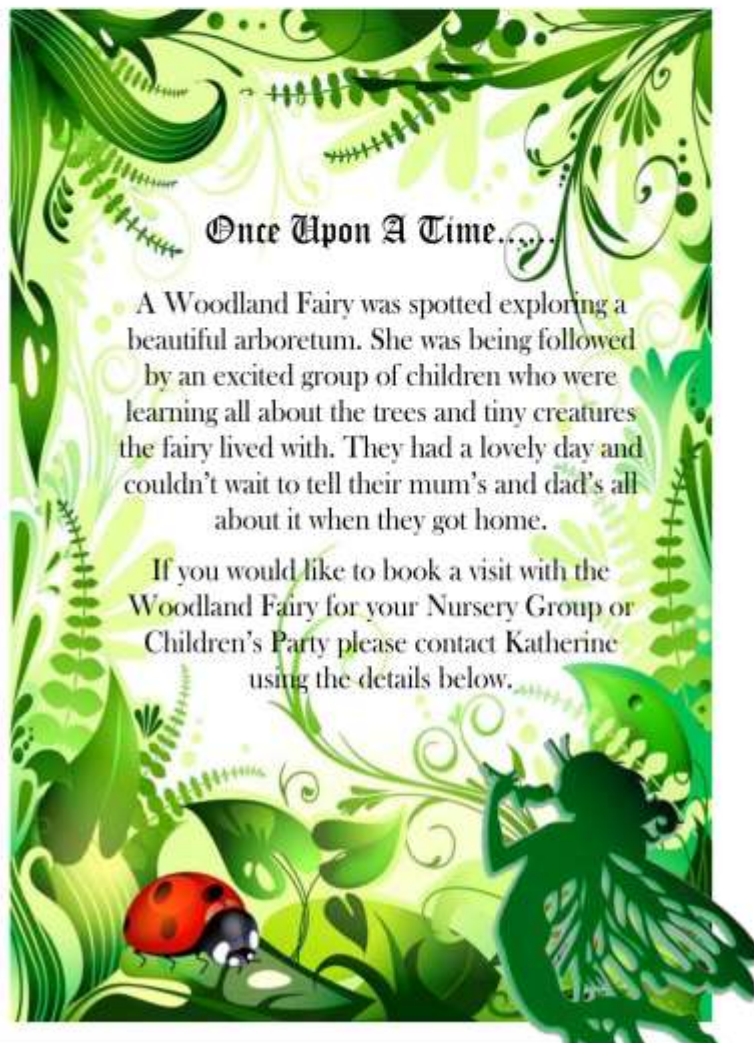
Centre to pass on to their teacher.

Parents and governors are also very welcome on our popular 'Using The Outdoor Classroom' teacher training days. See the education pages of the Arboretum website for 2011 course dates. Places are also available in the Education Programme Volunteer Team, please contact Katherine for full details.

Once Upon A Time.....

A Woodland Fairy was spotted exploring a beautiful arboretum. She was being followed by an excited group of children who were learning all about the trees and tiny creatures the fairy lived with. They had a lovely day and couldn't wait to tell their mum's and dad's all about it when they got home.

If you would like to book a visit with the Woodland Fairy for your Nursery Group or Children's Party please contact Katherine using the details below.



Further information and dates of events during 2011 will be published on the arboretum website www.kewatch.co.uk and displayed at the Visitors Centre. To contact Katherine about school group visits, children's parties, volunteering or **EXPLORE!** call 01653 648598 or e-mail education@kewatch.co.uk

Curators Notes

Well here we are at the end of the season and I am delighted to be writing my first article for the members newsletter! I started working for the Arboretum as the full-time Curator back at the beginning of April. I had been previously working for the National Trust as a head gardener at Trengwainton in West Cornwall, though some of you may know me from my days working at Nunnington Hall and Rievaulx Terrace, near Helmsley.

It has been a hectic few months with two very diverse sites to get to know. One of my main tasks this year has been to begin the restoration of the woodland garden in Ray Wood. This gem of a garden has suffered in recent years and had begun to revert back to a wilderness, with many of the paths becoming inaccessible and much of the collection overgrown by seedling trees and brambles. Quite a daunting task to undertake, so I began by advertising for volunteers to help me in this mammoth enterprise. Luckily, many people were as excited as I was to be part of a project to bring this lovely place back to life and I was able to recruit a stalwart team of volunteer gardeners. Several other groups have also been working in partnership with me, including various groups of students from Askham Bryan College, a team of staff from Aviva in York and volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Several months on now and we are starting to see the fruits of our labours as we coax the overgrown shrubs and trees back into shape. This winter will see the first phase of tree surgery and thinning which will allow light to reach the plant collection. This is painstaking work and initially it may be hard to see the benefit. Over time, though, this should improve the health and vigour of the under storey of plants, which will mean better flowering and hopefully reverse the decline of some of the more light-loving shrubs.



Meanwhile, back in the arboretum, I have been busy here too. The pond side planting has been the major new development this year, with around a third of the area planted up with late summer flowering perennials. All the plants have established well and gave us a bit of late colour into the season. I am hoping to continue planting up this area as funding allows. We have also planted several thousand bulbs this autumn, ranging from late flowering narcissi 'Pheasants Eye' around the pear glade to a patch of snakes head Fritillaries near the lakeside. Of course our biggest bulb planting effort was in association with Helmsley Rotary Club, when we planted 14000 purple crocus 'Ruby Giant' along the Sherwood vista, from the visitor centre to the pond. This was part of an attempt to raise awareness for their 'Thanks for Life' initiative, which aims to eradicate polio worldwide and we also made an attempt at the Guinness world record for the largest number of

people planting bulbs in one place. As I write, we are still awaiting verification from Guinness, as we had in excess of 350 people, which we believe beats the current record! I am looking forward to seeing them all in flower next spring and I hope that the many folks who helped with the planting will also come along to admire their handiwork.

Of course we have also been planting trees.... We are, after all an arboretum! We have had trees donated from Howick arboretum and Bedgebury pinetum, most of which have now been planted. We are expecting a delivery of fifty Katsura trees – *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* from Kew in the next few weeks, which will be planted in a large grove in front of the visitor centre. These are fabulous trees, graceful in habit with leaves that unfurl with a pinky-red hue and also have lovely autumn colour, with the added bonus of giving off a delicious aroma of burnt sugar as leaf-fall approaches. The grove will be named after the Liveries Wood Group as an acknowledgement of our appreciation of their help in raising money for the Arboretum with the 'Branching Out' project.

I would like to mention what a fantastic time I had at the Wild about Wood festival. This was my first time at the event and it was a sheer delight to see everyone who attended having such a wonderful time in the arboretum. An awful lot of work goes into planning and running such a thing and we couldn't do it without the help of scores of willing volunteers. I think it is an excellent advert for everything we do and I know that although for many people attending, it is their first time visiting, a great many of them subsequently become more regular visitors, members or even volunteers!

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff, volunteers and members who have made me feel so welcome in my first few months at the Arboretum. I have enjoyed my first season and I hope that I will get to meet many more of our supporters next season as you come to admire our hard work on the ground, or come along to one of our exciting events we have planned for next year.



Jan Hoyland - Curator

Mobility Vehicles in the Arboretum

Our mobility vehicles are in great demand throughout the season, every season, enabling less able walkers to enjoy the freedom and to reach further areas of the Arboretum. Our vehicles sponsored in 2009 by CPP Hamish Ogston Community Fund, York, The Howardian Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund and Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation are a great asset to our members. Just recently Eden Mobility Ltd of Hull Road, York, have very



generously offered to provide a twice yearly service for our vehicles, and as their donation to the Trust, this service will be provided by them free of charge.

Our thanks to all our sponsors and to Eden Mobility Ltd.

It was with great sadness that we learned in July of the death of Dorothy Wilson. Dorothy and her husband Denis were enthusiastic supporters of the Arboretum and Dorothy's smiling welcome to all visitors and members will be very much missed. Dorothy and Denis lived in Bulmer where her work as member of the parochial church council and a church warden spanned over forty years.



Acknowledgement of this long service was an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in 2006 – an event which she thoroughly enjoyed. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Denis, their three daughters, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Maurag Carmichael



Tree and Seat Adoptions

The adoption of a tree or a bench in the arboretum continues to be a popular way to mark a significant event or to commemorate a special life. It is wonderful to realise how much the arboretum means to so many people, providing a place of calm and beauty in many busy lives.

Donations from adoptions contribute valuable financial support to the Arboretum Trust, enabling the work to preserve and develop the collection of rare and beautiful trees to progress.

The attractive, well made, seats are appreciated by our many visitors, volunteers and staff, allowing them to take a moment to relax and admire the view.

For further information on the adoption scheme send your enquiry to; adoptions@kewatch.co.uk.

Joyce Kingman

All change at the Arboretum

Penrose Halson, Past Master, Worshipful Company of Turners

In September 2004 I visited the Arboretum, on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Turners. The Company had heard of the Arboretum, but nobody knew it, and I had no idea what to expect.

The visit was a revelation. Neil Batty drove us all round the site, and we marvelled at the enormous number and variety of trees, admired the small but healthy-looking specimens in the Walk planted for the Millennium by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers (like the Turners, a member of the Liveries Wood Group), and learned about the history and purpose of the Arboretum. We ended up in the large blue hut, full of information for visitors and delightful things to buy, such as Harry Kingman's beautiful cards, walking sticks and small turned objects.

What came over loud and clear was the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff and many volunteers. On my next visit, a few years later, this had led to the construction of the lake, a fascinating Cruck House, the Bird Observatory and, replacing the blue hut, a splendid Visitor Centre. During Wild About Wood this year it hummed with visitors coming and going, pausing only to eat and drink at the excellent cafe.

The Arboretum has developed into a thriving and exciting centre, where children and adults can enjoy and learn so much. The Liveries Wood Group is delighted to have supported, through Branching Out, such a terrific place.



WILD ABOUT WOOD FESTIVAL – 11TH/ 12TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The second Wild About Wood festival was a great success, with visitor numbers up by almost a quarter over last year!



Mother Nature toyed with us on Saturday morning as the team put together the finishing touches to the festival in pouring rain. But by mid-morning the skies cleared and the crowds arrived to enjoy the craft demonstrations, mini-tours, birds of prey display, chainsaw sculpting exhibition and the horse logging demonstration.

Sunday was, as last year, our busiest day as the sun shone and intrepid visitors had a go at tree-climbing, or unleashed their inner Robin Hood on the archery range. The Branching Out exhibition was a very popular add-on to the festival, with visitors keen to see what skilled craftspeople, and not so skilled celebrities, could create from an arboretum off-cut!



The Discovery Zone is now firmly established as one of the festival's highlights. Last year about 1,200 hundred young (and not so young!) visitors participated in a choice of 7 activities and workshops. This year more than 3,000 participants enjoyed a range of 13 Discovery Zone activities and there were still queues at peak times! We're grateful for the financial support of the Band Trust and the Howardian Hills AONB SDF which made this expansion possible.

A HUGE thank you to one and all who contributed to the success of the festival; to Neil and his volunteer team who worked so hard preparing the arboretum in the run-up to the weekend, and kept things running smoothly during the two days; to Katherine and her team of organisations and volunteers who made the Discovery Zone such a success yet again; to Maurag and the volunteers who ran the mini-tours and the CHAT marquee to give our visitors a taste of this glorious place; to Tim and the parking team, which ran with military efficiency despite a 43% increase over 2009 in the number of visitor vehicles; to Diane and the café team who kept the great British public happy with delicious refreshments; to the volunteer team who ran the smoothly efficient ticket office and didn't stop smiling from start to finish; to our corporate donors whose generosity is critical to the festival's success; to the Livery Companies Wood Group for the inspiring Branching Out exhibition and auction; to our exhibitors who gave our visitors so many fascinating opportunities to watch, try or buy; and to our members who publicised the event to friends and family by displaying a poster or selling tickets. Thank you all!



The next Wild About Wood Festival will take place on the **10th & 11th September 2011** – put the dates in your diaries now and we look forward to seeing you there!

Anna Porter

Congratulations to Diane King and her team for a very successful season in the cafe.

Their baking talents are appreciated by all, whether new or repeat visitors. In greatest demand is her famous Chocolate Brownie. Would you believe that they baked over 7000 pieces of it this season?

Do you have an e-mail address?

If so - have you received at least four communications from me during this year?

If not – I don't have your email address – please email me on admin@kewatch.co.uk to get into the system.

If you don't have an email address we will still contact you by post.

Maurag Carmichael

Photographic Competition

The Competition is open to members who are amateur photographers. Please submit no more than two images, not larger than A4, mounted and taken in the Arboretum during the 2010 season. Entries by post before 30th January 2011 to the Arboretum Trust, Castle Howard, York YO60 7DA.

First prize £50 voucher
Second prize £20 voucher,
third prize £10 voucher

Winning entries will be displayed in the centre.

If you would like to sponsor the 2011 competition or donate a prize, please contact admin@kewatch.co.uk

The 2009 Photographic Competition was won by Bernard Sharratt with a superb image of white sorbus berries. In second place was Pete Davies with "Eucalyptus tree" and in third place Susie Thomson with a striking picture of cones.

Finally, our thanks to all our members who continue to support the Arboretum and its work, without your support the Arboretum could not exist as it does today.