

Survey of Wokingham's veteran trees



A trio of speakers from the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA) talked to a very full town hall meeting about its survey of trees across Wokingham Borough, the data it has gained and the future for the survey.

In 2006, Wokingham Society awarded a grant of £10,000 towards the initial organisation of the veteran tree survey in Wokingham town. In 2007 this was expanded to a district/borough wide survey funded by a National Lottery grant and contributions from the councils across the borough.

The aims of the organisation are to:

- identify, protect and conserve local veteran & significant trees
- raise awareness of their environmental and historical importance
- promote the care and nurture of all trees.

The organisation has a website containing a plethora of useful information, maps, related resources and links at www.wdvta.org.uk.

The timeline of the development of the organisation is shown below:

2005	2006	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2017	2022	2024
Oak tree felled in Manor Road	Town tree survey started & Wokingham Society Grant	WDVTA formed & Lottery grant	Survey complete in 4 parishes /towns	Website launched	Tree Warden scheme & Wokingham Town report published	60 Diamond Jubilee Trees planted	10 th Anniversary Report	Platinum Jubilee Trees	Survey closed

8500 trees across the borough have been surveyed by the army of volunteers.

English Oak is the most common species of veteran tree found across Borough, which reflects the history of the town as part of the Windsor Forest and its industry.

The protection of old trees and information to inform planning decisions as well as supporting environmental research in the local area will continue.

Why trees matter! - Trees give us oxygen, store carbon, absorb pollutants and are hosts to wildlife. They provide an invaluable quality to the environment in which we live, as well as help reduce stress levels and blood pressure. They are part of our history and culture and strengthen the distinctive character of places. Wooded areas can encourage a feeling of community, enabling people to come together for activities. They provide space for children to play and discover their sense of adventure.