

Registrars Report

David Alderman

Tree Register gains European appeal

Interest in heritage trees and particularly county champion trees, has certainly increased over the past year, with many enquiries being handled by Pamela our stalwart secretary. This is a good opportunity to clarify to new and old members that, unlike most other national charitable tree organisations the Tree Register is run solely by volunteers. Inevitably, personal and family life occasionally has to take preference over what is a labour of love and I therefore apologise to anyone who perhaps hasn't received information as quickly as they would have liked. It is always difficult responding to the immediate requests of the press who always work to tight dead lines, but we have managed to get the Tree Register mentioned in various articles and have been approached several times by television companies. The Woodland Trust have always promoted our partnership in the Ancient Tree Hunt and many more people have become aware of us through this project.

Pan-European Tree Register

In Europe we are not alone in our enthusiasm and quest for champion trees and it is not unusual for Pamela to be in a challenging conversation with people from other countries. Many likeminded individuals have been collating records for their own country or region and our new European Representative, Chris Carnaghan – based partly in France, will be contacting these in an attempt to bring together our datasets to compare records. An idea of Thomas Pakenham's back in 1996 of a Pan-European Tree Register may yet become a reality. How many of our biggest trees are the biggest in Europe or even the world? Such status for a tree can only help provide more incentives to promote the importance and preservation of trees in our custodianship. Elm expert Peter Bourne has, following research in the USA, now confirmed that the two English Elm known as the Preston Twins in Preston Park, Brighton are the biggest in girth anywhere in the world! We were pleased to see Hendrik Relve, the Estonian national recorder of big trees, attend the Alan Mitchell Lecture at Birr Castle. Following a tour of Britain and Ireland, Polish recorder Krzysztof Borkowski has provided us with a number of tree photos now showing on our new web site members photo gallery.



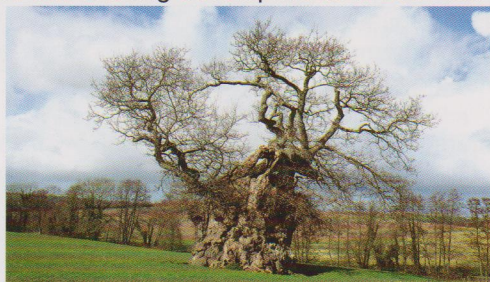
Irish recorder Aubrey Fennel re-measures the Great Oak at Abbeyleix (Tree Register)



Jeroen Pater (left) and Krzysztof Borkowski at Much Marcle during their tree tour (K. Borkowski)

New web site

Our web site www.treeregister.org (no hyphen now!) was updated in June 2007, so if you haven't had a look for a while please do so! Apart from looking better the site is now fully compliant under the Disability Discrimination Act and provides us with a web site we can update more easily ourselves – when we get the time! The champion tree database in the members area has already had more than 250 new or updated entries in 2007. Our support for the Ancient Yew Group continues and Tim Hills must be congratulated for all the hard work he has done in making our other web site www.ancient-yew.org such a success. The German group Friends of the Yew, Eibenfreund, are helping create a European section of the web site which should see exciting developments in 2007-08.



Judge Wyndham's Oak, Silton, Dorset. One of many photos that can now be viewed on our web site (K. Borkowski)