

# TDAG Online Seminar Series 2024

Registration will be available four weeks ahead of each seminar



**Working in collaboration  
for better places**

# TDAG Online Seminar Series

## Hosted on Zoom

We will provide full details of each seminar as part of a rolling programme

### **TDAG provides knowledge exchange for issues relating to urban trees**

The topics selected for 2024 are based on suggestions put forward by the many, cross-sector TDAG supporters and reflect some of the critical issues relating to urban trees with which many are working.

We are starting the series with a look at some of the positive examples taking place both in the UK and internationally.

Subsequent seminars look at specific challenges and most asked questions:

- Which tree species should we plant in particular locations for longevity in a changing climate?
- How should we both plant, maintain and manage street trees?
- How can we best engage with communities and support their ambitions for trees in their neighbourhoods?
- In times of financial constraint, how can local authorities fund support for their existing and proposed tree populations?
- How can we best design with trees as vital parts of our townscapes?
- How can we use planning and the legal framework and delivery to achieve the best outcomes for trees?

NB. In curating these seminars, the Trees and Design Action Group prioritises having the best qualified speaker for a topic. It is also mindful of ensuring as much diversity of contributors as possible.

### **Seminar One (See Past Events)**

**Time for optimism: tree stories from around the UK**

16th January, 2-4pm GMT

### **Seminar Two (See Past Events)**

**International update – common challenges, common barriers**

15th February, 2-4pm GMT

### **Seminar Three (See Past Events)**

**Tree species selection and how to get it right in a changing climate**

20th March, 2-4pm GMT

### **Seminar Four (See Past Events)**

**Getting it right for trees on streets and highways**

21st May, 2-4pm BST

### **Seminar Five (See Past Events)**

**Engaging with communities to support local tree planting and deliver change**

18th July, 2-4pm BST

### **Seminar Six**

**Local authority investment in trees and green infrastructure for multiple benefits**

24th September, 2-4pm BST

### **Seminar Seven**

**Designing with trees**

23rd October, 2-4pm BST

### **Seminar Eight**

**Urban trees and planning – policy, legal framework, delivery**

21st November, 2-4pm GMT

Date  
16th January

Time  
2-4pm GMT

Registration  
Zoom

Trees have undoubtedly risen up the agenda significantly in both local policy-making, recognition of benefits, delivery and research. This session looks at some of the approaches taking place across the UK.

## England - Urban GreenUp

This EU funded project aims to develop, apply and validate a methodology for Renaturing Urban Plans to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve air quality and water management and increase the sustainability of our cities through innovative nature-based solutions.

## Northern Ireland - Belfast's 10-year tree strategy

Developed after extensive public consultation, the Belfast tree strategy's vision is: "*That Belfast is a city which focuses on protecting, enhancing and expanding its woodlands, hedges, and trees, connecting people to nature, and ensuring that these continue to be a major asset to everyone who lives, works in, and visits our city*" – a vision that 97% of consultees 'definitely agree' or 'agree' with.

## Scotland - Clyde Climate Forest

We have identified 16 'Target Neighbourhoods' across urban parts of Glasgow City Region which have low levels of existing tree canopy cover and are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In each of these areas we will run a '1000 Trees' Campaign aiming to plant 1000 trees in each of these local neighbourhoods.

## Wales - Trees and Planning

*Future Wales - the National Plan 2040* is a development plan for addressing key national priorities through the planning system. In Wales *The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* influences the planning of new development and land use. *Woodlands for Wales* aims to ensure that trees and woodland play a greater and more valued role in towns and cities to improve quality of life and surroundings for people who live in urban areas.

## Agenda

**Chair: Tony Kirkham** MBE, former Head of Arboretum, Gardens & Horticulture Services, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Vice-President of the Arboricultural Association and TDAG Patron

### Urban GreenUp - lessons from Liverpool

**Juliet Staples**, Senior Project Manager, Urban GreenUp, Liverpool City Council

**Elaine Cresswell**, Director, reShaped Landscape Architecture

### Belfast's new 10-year tree strategy led by public consultation to connect the city's residents to nature

**Alan McHaffie**, Senior Woodland and Recreation Adviser, Belfast City Council

**John Rose**, Senior Urban Forest Consultant, Treeconomics

### Target Neighbourhoods, Clyde Climate Forest

**Chris Stark** MICFor, Head of Forestry & Land Services, GAT & Director, Clyde Climate Forest

### Trees and Planning in Wales

**Siobhan Wiltshire**, Planning Policy Team, Welsh Government

### Partners: Arboricultural Association, Green Infrastructure Partnership

Date  
15th February

Time  
2-4pm GMT

Registration  
Zoom

The challenges and barriers presented by difficult environments can be common issues for us all. This seminar explores three very different situations – Brussels, Riyadh and Ukraine and how to respond to each.

Brussels: Julien Ruelle will outline the ‘renature.brussels’ campaign to create and spread a story around the ‘Nature City’ as a desirable and beneficial environment for all Brussels’ residents. The message is clear – we must learn to share the city with Brussels’ other inhabitants, namely its fauna and flora.

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Dorella Pinter Burus will outline the ambitions and aims of the Green Riyadh project illustrating the scale of planting being carried out in the city. She will focus of specific projects discussing their complexities and challenges to be faced in harsh climatic conditions.

Ukraine: John Parker and Yana Bobrova will discuss the situation in Ukraine and how even in times of conflict trees remain on the agenda and can be seen as a focus for the positive.

## Agenda

**Chair: Tony Kirkham** MBE, former Head of Arboretum, Gardens & Horticulture Services, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Vice-President of the Arboricultural Association and TDAG Patron

### Introducing ‘renature.brussels’

**Julien Ruelle**, Head of the Department for Nature Development, Bruxelles Environnement, TDAG’s European partner

### Landscape at the edge

**Dorella Pinter Burus**, Consultant, BPLA, Riyadh

### Protecting trees in places of conflict

**John Parker**, Chief Executive, Arboricultural Association  
**Yana Bobrova**, Executive Director and Co-founder Peli can live, Rotarian

**Partners: Institute of Chartered Foresters, Urban Design Group**

**Date**  
20th March

**Time**  
2-4pm GMT

**Registration**  
Zoom

'Which species should we plant?' is one of the most common questions sent in to the Trees and Design Action Group. How do we answer that?

Firstly, what is the strategic context? Many local authorities have developed Urban Forest Masterplans/Tree Strategies and the starting point for these should be the strategic vision – the mission statement.

Evidence now shows us that we need to consider our local tree populations as a whole so that we avoid becoming over dependent on one species such that there could be a catastrophic decline in the urban forest if this species is compromised by a changing climate, pests or pathogens.

Secondly, having got our strategic vision, what do we do? There are several principles to understand before decisions about species selection can be made. These principles span issues from climate change and risk to how to tree establishment.

Thirdly, another vital element in species selection for the future is to know what you already have. What is your tree inventory?

Finally, with the above clearly understood, you can consider which species of trees to select; this is where TDAG's *Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers* will help. However, the guidance is not prescriptive, it simply helps to lead the specifier through a decision-making process.

This seminar will explore the issues surrounding species selection and how all those engaged – landscape architects, developers, planners and arboriculturists – can make decisions that will support future resilience of the urban forest.

## Agenda

**Chair: Phil Askew**, Director of Landscape and Placemaking, Peabody

### The strategic context

**Glenn Gerner**, Natural Environment Manager, Leeds City Council

### 10 principles for tree success

**Andy Hiron**, Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture, University Centre, Myerscough and co-author of *Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers*

### Know what you have – how to use tree inventories creatively

**Kenton Rogers**, Director and Co-founder, Treeconomics

### Using TDAG's *Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers* – a review and update

**Andy Hiron**, Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture, University Centre, Myerscough and co-author of *Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers*

**Partners: Institute of Highway Engineers, Landscape Institute**

Date  
21st May

Time  
2-4pm BST

Registration  
Zoom

How can we ensure that street trees are regarded as assets, part of our critical infrastructure, rather than as liabilities? One of the key requirements is to ensure that planting is carried out in the correct way to support tree establishment and avoid some of the common concerns expressed by highways departments asked to adopt them. TDAG was invited to produce technical working drawings for street trees in a number of typical scenarios/ common locations in both new streets and retrofitting in existing streets.

The document, which is being developed by the Forestry Commission and TDAG, Civic Engineers and Urban Design Learning with DLUHC support, will be useful for the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework Clause 136 (all new streets to be tree-lined), for local authorities for the development of the required Authority Wide Urban Design Codes and, in due course, to support the updated *Manual for Streets 3*.

## Agenda

**Chair: Jim Smith**, Urban Forestry Adviser, Forestry Commission

### **The challenges for existing streets**

**Robert Huxford**, Director, Urban Design Group

### **Why highway engineers welcome technical planting guidance**

**Hen Abbott**, Highways Engineer, Gloucestershire County Council

### **The benefits for developing Authority Wide Urban Design Codes**

**Esther Kurland**, Director, Urban Design Learning

### **Understanding the process to get the specification and contractual/technical drawings right**

**Chris Kendrick**, Associate Director, Civic Engineers

**Partners: Institute of Civil Engineers,  
Institute of Highway Engineers, Institute of Chartered Foresters**

# Engaging with communities to support local tree planting and deliver change

Date  
18th July

Time  
2-4pm BST

Registration  
Zoom

The importance of 'community engagement' is a big topic for many trying to deliver development projects or tree planting on public land. There is often an implication that the community will be 'engaged with' as and when it is necessary. However, there is another side to local groups which want to engage in their own right to plant trees in their own communities but often do not have access to, or the funds to access, the level of professional advice and guidance that will enable successful outcomes to reflect their aims which, when all works well, are demonstrated by the 'arboretum town' status that some community groups are achieving. So, we have the classic 'top down or bottom up' situation. Given the increasing community interest in trees and the need to capture and encourage this enthusiasm, what guidance do local communities need? This session will explore these challenges.

## Agenda

**Chair: Esme Jones**, Engagement and Marketing Director, Trees for Cities

### Public engagement to build a shared vision

**Phil Bixby**, My York Central

### The importance of community engagement roles in Urban Forestry

**Catherine Nuttgens**, Consultant Urban Forester

### Creating our urban arboretum

**Audrey Jarvis**, Lewes Urban Arboretum Project

### Stonehouse Community Arboretum

**John Parker**, Chief Executive, Arboricultural Association

### Useful arboricultural guidance for community tree projects

**Keith Sacre**, Urban Forestry Director, Barcham Trees

**Partners: Landscape Institute, Arboricultural Association, Town and Country Planning Association, Urban Design Group**

# Local authority investment in trees and green infrastructure for multiple benefits

**Date**  
24th September

**Time**  
2-4pm BST

**Registration**  
**Zoom**

Trees are part of our critical urban infrastructure.

The majority of councils in the UK have declared climate emergencies and are committed to achieving net zero targets along with the need for climate resilience, economic development and improvements to health and wellbeing. The evidence shows that trees and green infrastructure can make a positive contribution towards achieving these ends.

However, these ambitions are also being declared at a time when councils are financially challenged. Council budgets, along with national government, NHS and other budgets, are also controlled in silos and so the investment in one area of activity may not be reflected in the benefits gained by another. This is particularly so in the case of trees and green infrastructure which is actually an integral part of several budget areas such as health and wellbeing, placemaking and housing and job creation to name a few.

This is particularly problematic in the case of trees, as trees potentially have, and should have, the longest lives of all elements of the natural environment in urban areas. This means that they may require a longer timeline to ensure that they have become established for longevity. This timescale, which may be 10 years in the case of street trees, is usually outside the budget timetable such that an annual tree revenue budget is rarely ring-fenced for this purpose. Trees and green infrastructure, despite the multiple benefits delivered, are not often given the priority spending that is needed - but trees have moved up the agenda from 'nice to have' to key players in future urban climate change resilience and healthy placemaking.

How do we resolve these conflicts to provide a better environment for trees and people?

## Agenda

**Chair: Julia Thrift**, Director, Healthier Placemaking TCPA

### **Making the case for local authority investment in green infrastructure**

Speaker TBC

### **Demonstrating the cost benefit for trees and green infrastructure using CIRIABest**

CIRIA Speaker TBC

### **How we did it - two case studies**

Speakers TBC