



# Trimblings

News from Tree Maintenance

No. 3

Welcome to our third newsletter, bringing you some latest developments in our neck of the woods. We have seen some big changes, all aimed at giving you the customer a better service!

I hope you enjoy it.

- Geoff March

TM news in brief

Several of our staff completed 9 months of study at a weekly evening class prior to successfully sitting the Certified Arborist exam in 2006. This scheme allows working arborists to expand their professional development and is promoted by The International Society of Arboriculture, of which we are corporate members. Congratulations to Henry Greenland, Martin Jenkins and especially office manager Abi Fisk, our very own 'virtual arborist'...

After a gap of several years we have again been able to send Yew trimmings from the famous Painswick churchyard trees for use as an anti-cancer drug.

Geoff's son Alex has started his own computer-aided design business madmarchhare. This specialises in the plotting of tree survey information for arboricultural consultants. He is already very busy and proving a godsend to us mere tree folk!

## So what happens to the debris?

Brush, arisings, cordwood, timber... call it what you will, the results of our hard work usually means there is an awful lot of debris to dispose of. Sometimes our clients like to keep any log wood, and also the woodchip that results once the brushwood has been fed through one of

our powerful machines. An excellent mulch, it keeps moisture in and weeds out – however be prepared to leave it in a stack for 4 or 5 months to partially break down, as if used fresh it can deplete the ground of nitrogen. Heavy timber can sometimes

be saved for planking but is more often valueless. These days environmental legislation restricts our options and expensive reprocessing is sometimes necessary back at our yard. Rest assured though - we can take the weight off your mind!

## Consultancy update



Damage to roots has always been the price paid by trees on construction sites. The recently revised British Standard 5837 2005: *Trees*

and *Construction – Recommendations* allows us to specify special techniques such as this 'no dig' drive near Tetbury that uses a

cellular containment method. This allows minimal compaction or disturbance to the roots - are all too easily overlooked. Like all living things, roots must have not just moisture but gaseous exchange – this accounts for the surprising fact that about 80% of tree roots are found in the top half metre of soil!

The new British Standard is proving effective in giving trees the priority and protection they deserve – and in my experience good developers welcome that.

## Life after death...

When this large old Oak died the decision was made to retain it as a wildlife habitat rather than condemn it as firewood. The dead branches were shortened for safety, then 'coronet cut' to mimic natural fracturing, leaving a more natural appearance and helping to start the natural process of decay and colonisation.

The management of veteran trees is a fascinating subject that has, quite rightly, become a hot topic in the last decade or so. Remarkably, the UK contains about 80% of Northern Europe's veteran trees – and all of us are their custodians for the future.



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## Toys for the boys...

Dismantling and removing this dangerous 135-year old Monterey Cypress was a challenge! In a landlocked back garden of one of the famous Georgian squares in Bath, the 25 tons of timber and brushwood were lifted out in pieces over a mews terrace using a giant crane. Meticulous advance planning (including temporary re-routing of 18 phone lines!) ensured the job went like clockwork, being completed in two days. You can just spot Martin and Nick catching an unusual lift to work.



### INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

is helping us reflect this throughout all our procedures. Steve steered the complex operation, receiving the award with Abi, Geoff and mentor Gerry Moutry (left).

We are now one of a tiny handful of UK tree care companies to achieve this goal. Our highly skilled staff are not just our greatest asset, they ARE our company and IIP



## Hedge rejuvenation

This Beech hedge in the Cotswolds had got much too wide – but would a rejuvenation be successful...? →



← ...yes! Species knowledge, how hard to cut and choosing the right time of year are all essential.

A coach full of us, along with families and friends, headed down to Kew Gardens on a hot Saturday in August. Totally inspirational, despite some severe drought damage (right).



### Meet the staff – No. 3



Your phone calls will more than likely be taken by Marion Wood, who breathes an air of peaceful calm over our busy office! Marion lives in nearby Minchinhampton.

Our two newest recruits to the teams are trainees Ron Hayward (left) and James Edwards. Both are undergoing training and certification and are rapidly learning the ropes – literally!



## The things we get up to...



This live willow shelter has given our client a little hide-away in her Wiltshire garden. Choosing the right material was important; some varieties can attract wasps – not quite the thing when enjoying your gin and tonic! Steve on the left and Nick on the right – just 6 months later.

