

2017 London Tree and Woodland Awards

On the 11th July 2017, London City Hall hosted the awards to celebrate the work of individuals, communities and professionals to protect, improve and expand the capital's tree and woodland cover.

Photos from the 2017 awards evening are available on the [FC Flickr page](#).

Dick Turpin Orchard & The Orchard Project receiving their Community Tree Award.

From left to right: Sir Harry Studholme (Chair of the Forestry Commission) Robert Cosgrove (Bartlett Tree Experts), Shirley Rodrigues (Deputy Mayor), Chris Gannaway, Lorna Batey, Robert Batey, Suzanne Batey (Dick Turpin Orchard) Stephanie Irvine (The Orchard Project)



Journalist **Adam Shaw** conducted the awards ceremony and marvelled at the fantastic range of winners. **Shirley Rodrigues**, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy, welcomed everyone to City Hall and confirmed there will be a £5M Mayors Tree programme to support people and projects like those who have won tonight; further details will be announced this summer. **Sir Harry Studholme** (Chair of the Forestry Commission) congratulated everyone in London for their hard work and highlighted the connection between people and trees. 17 year old **Timo Bracht** gave a talk on Plant for the Planet, which has planted 14 billion trees in 130 countries and aims to plant a trillion trees across the world.



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The aims of the awards are to:

- Celebrate the work of individuals, communities and professionals to protect, improve and expand the capital's tree and woodland cover
- Inspire others to manage trees and woodlands, and plant more trees
- Raise the profile of London's trees / woodlands and the need for management

Craig Harrison, Forestry Commission London Manager said: "The Awards help raise awareness of the fantastic work taking place in London. I hope they inspire others to plant and manage trees that help ensure the capital remains one of the most attractive cities in the world to live and invest in"



Adam Shaw



Shirley Rodrigues



Sir Harry Studholme

The winners received:

- A framed certificate signed by Sadiq Khan Mayor of London and Sir Harry Studholme, Forestry Commission Chair
- A turned wooden bowl, made from London timber, milled, dried and turned in London by Tom Biddulph
- A voucher for apple juice or cider made by The Orchard Project, which has just been launched and made from London apples from community orchards and gardens. The proceeds from the juice and cider go entirely back into community orchards

The bowl and apple juice/cider are wonderful examples of what London's trees and woodlands – referred to collectively as the urban forest – provide. As well as being beautiful, cleaning the air, storing carbon, reducing flooding etc – these products help connect trees with people and are a tangible example of the circular economy.



Timo Bracht



City Hall Chamber



Winners bowl – London plane

Award Winners

The London Borough Tree & Woodland Award Winner:

Brent Council Tree Planting Project, Sudbury Town, Barn Hill, Harlesden and Kensal Green

This award is for a tree planting and management project that has been led by a London borough.



Planting the Barn Hill Oak

This Borough went over and above a standard tree planting programme. They invited requests from communities for locations to plant trees, ensured the species chosen suited the site and chose trees that gave a sense of place, such as Elms Lane. The response was fantastic and planting requests continue to come in, which the Borough are holding for future years. Local residents have been empowered to maintain the tree near their house to help ensure establishment.

The London Tree Officers Association Individual Commitment Award Winner:

David C Dowson

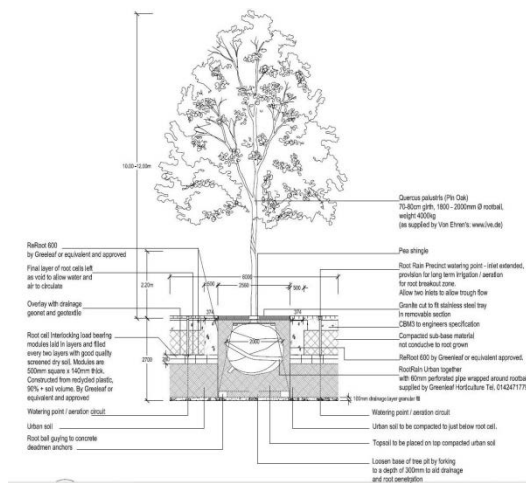
This award is decided by the London Tree Officers Association Executive Committee. It is an award for an individual employed professionally within London who has shown consistent dedication and commitment over a prolonged period. David has for many years been providing high level arboricultural training to tree officers and other professionals in London, operating out of Capel Manor college. He wrote the LANTRA tree inspection course, which has been accepted as the industry standard. His exceptional training standards and enthusiasm have ensured the highest standards of tree management in London by professional arborists that we all reap the benefits of.

The Trees and Development Award Winner:

Wembley Park – Arena Square and Wembley Park Boulevard. Market Square (meantime planting). by Quintain, London Borough of Brent, LDA Design, Randle Siddeley, Macfarlane and Assocs

The award recognises the importance of integrating trees into development and highlighting the valuable role that trees play; it is sponsored by Derwent London.

Wembley Park demonstrates high standards of master planning coupled with good practice to establish large standard trees. It has resulted in a valuable treescape that complements building and other greenspace design, and creates a sense of place. The meantime planting at the market square provides an attractive shaded space for pedestrians while providing space for market stalls and mass movement of people during events.



The Trees and Business Award Winner: **Cleaner Streets, Greener Streets, Smarter Cities – Clear Channel and Trees for Cities**

This award is for a tree planting or management project with significant business involvement.



Alongside a programme of telephone box replacement for modern kiosks, Clear Channel are working with Trees for Cities to plant trees nearby. By the end of 2017 there will be 500 trees planted across all London Boroughs, in locations agreed with the local Tree Officer.

Phone kiosk carers have been trained in tree maintenance, and Clear Channel has supported community tree planting projects in Hounslow and Haringey.

Highly commended: London Fire Brigade's Braidwood Forest

London Wood Enterprise Award Winner: **Woodberry Wetlands Roundhouse – London Wildlife Trust, UPS & Thames Water**

This award is for a wood product made in London of sustainable timber from London's urban forest.



Tree felling and horse extraction to improve chalk grassland habitat at Chapel Bank, Croydon



Left: Construction of the roundhouse cobwood walls

The end result at Woodberry Wetlands – a wonderful, sustainably sourced place for volunteers to relax and enjoy the views

Highly commended: Heliconia Furniture

The Acorn Award Winners: **Alona Sheridan & Mani Dhanda**

This award is for members of the public who have made a particular contribution to promoting or conserving trees.



Below: (far left) Mani has played a pivotal role in the creation of the Southall Orchard Group and identifying new orchard sites across Southall. He is passionate about getting the community involved in the management of local public spaces including planting and maintenance of trees. Mani's key role leading volunteers at Southall Park Orchard helped revitalise the park with 50 trees and 2000 fruit bushes planted and tended by local people.

Above: Alona is well known for her help with a range of community orchard projects, including her work at Mayow Park since 2011. As an orchard leader, her passion and drive inspires a wide range of other volunteers. In her recent role of mentor, she has provided help and support to people and orchard projects across London including liaison with Boroughs and identification of new orchard sites.



Highly commended:
Margaret Burr, Tony O'Dell and David Hughes

The Tree Council Trees and Learning Award winner: **Friends of Pinner Village Gardens and Nower Hill High School**

This award is supported by The Tree Council and the winner received a £300 prize towards future work. The award is for a project that has engaged and involved children of any age up to 16.



The Friends group do a range of work to enhance Pinner Village Gardens and make them publicly accessible. This project was particularly good at involving Nower Hill School pupils in the tree planting and maintenance, enabling educational learning and cross generational working. The presence of 12 year old Maxi Bugler helped unite children and adults – Maxi being a Westie dog!

Highly commended:
The Trees for Schools Project in London, delivered by Trees for Cities

The Community Tree Award Winner:

Dick Turpin Orchard & The Orchard Project

The award is for a tree project that has been inspired, driven, and delivered by local community groups; sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts.

Site clearance of litter and bramble before tree pruning and mulching began



New fruit tree planting



The local community came together and engaged with the local MP, the leaseholder, experts, girl guides and many others to restore an old orchard in Aldeburgh Hatch. The Orchard Project helped the volunteers with training and community engagement activities. Litter and bramble was cleared; old trees pruned and propped up; trees mulched; new trees planted.

Highly commended: Thames Central Open Spaces

The Community Woodland Award Winner:

Managing Wick Woodland – Tree Musketeers & Hackney Marshes User Group

The award is for is for a woodland project that has been inspired, driven, and delivered by local community groups; sponsored by The Woodland Trust.

Wick woodland is 30 years old on a site that was previously a playing field. The Tree Musketeers and Hackney Marshes User Group have spent many years improving what was even age into a diverse woodland with glades, rides, deadwood piles and coppice areas creating wonderful habitats for wildlife including some rare species.



Coppicing of birch and creation of deadwood habitat piles

www.forestry.gov.uk/london-awards

#TreeOscars



*The volunteer team in 2016
enjoying a well-earned break!*



*Ride management to create a graded
edge from tree-shrub-grass layer, to
improve access and increase wildlife
habitat
Right – birch coppice 1 year on*



The volunteers clearly relish
managing the woodland; the
habitat has been improved and
local people can also enjoy walking
through the woodland.

Highly commended:

Friends of Winsford Gardens

Hobayne Woodlands Community Regeneration Project

Thames Chase Trust Conservation Volunteers

Many congratulations to all of the winners, highly commended, other nominees and everyone else helping manage London's urban forest. Case studies of the winners will be published later in the summer, with more details about their work to inspire others and give ideas to others about how to initiate similar projects.

Thank you to everyone involved in organisation of the awards including speakers, sponsors, London Tree Partnership members, Awards judging panel and volunteers.

Further information about the Awards and London's urban forest

London Tree & Woodland Awards

2017 was the 9th annual awards in London and is organised by the Forestry Commission and Mayor of London.

The judging panel for this year's awards included Forestry Commission, Greater London Authority, Natural England, Trees and Design Action Group, Woodland Trust, London National Park City and the London Tree Officers Association.

The 2018 award categories will be announced later in 2017. Many of the categories are likely to stay the same but the London Tree Partnership does alter them each year to reflect recent activity and high profile themes.

The awards would not be possible without the kind support of sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring future awards including a particular category, please contact craig.harrison@forestry.gov.uk.

London Tree Week

The awards are linked to **London Tree Week** which this year was held between 27th May & 4th June 2017. Over 70 celebratory events took place from forest bathing, to guided walks of historic mulberry trees, to photography and poetry walks. We will start preparing for next year soon and would welcome suggestions and ideas. In 2018 London Tree Week will be held again during the spring bank holiday at the end of May.

More details are on london.gov.uk/londontreeweek; Twitter: @LDN _environment; Instagram: @LDN _gov

Promoting the awards

As well as sponsorship, there are other ways you can support the awards. The awards are about celebrating the hard work undertaken by everyone involved in managing London's urban forest, and inspiring more people to get involved – so please promote the awards, winners and cases studies through your own communication channels. For social media please use [#TreeOscars](#) and [#LondonTreeWeek](#).

London's urban forest

We are very fortunate to have a capital city with around 20% tree canopy cover, much of which is a legacy of enlightened previous generations who recognised the importance of trees and greenspace for the welfare and future of the city. The term 'urban forest' is a collective term we use to describe all the trees in the urban realm – in public and private spaces, along linear routes and waterways and in amenity areas. It contributes to green infrastructure and the wider urban ecosystem.

An analysis of London's urban forest and the benefits it provides can be found in the London i-Tree report which was launched in the House of Lords in December 2015. For example, did you know that there are 8.5 million trees in London – 1 per person – and that their amenity value is over £43 billion? www.forestry.gov.uk/london-itree for further information.

Photos from the London Living Room at City Hall after the Awards Ceremony

Baroness Young (Chair of the Woodland Trust) & Lord Framlingham



Kerry Clarke, Woodland Trust



John Everest (Pinner Village) & Russell Ball (Ride for Trees)



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