



Arboricultural  
ASSOCIATION

Cornwall Branch

## 2024 AGM

- Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024
- Time:** 7 – 9pm
- Location:** St Erme Village Hall, Church Close, St Erme, Truro, TR4 9BJ
- Chaired by:** Jennifer Shailes
- Membership:** Members and Non-Members

### Minutes:

Arrivals & Start

1 Welcome, Apologies & Introductions [JS]

2 2023 recap, regroup, realign for the next year. [JS]

AD/JS/KS – Representative committee members

Note from acting chair.

Members elect to renew branch representatives.

- 🌿 Discussed & members vote for Cornwall Branch representatives: Jen Shailes to continue as Chair, Kate Sparrow to continue as Secretary, Oliver Bennett to take Vice Chair.

3 Guest John Parker CEO with

AA updates & recent activity

- 🌿 Open group discussions with industry activity centred around the following areas:
  - 2-rope icop risk assessment, general feedback and development with HSE.
  - No Standard Industry Classification (SIC) code for Arboriculture. AA working to achieve changing views in central government & the media.
  - Supporting an ongoing piece of work with Data City using analytics and core insurance/HMRC data to attempt to more effectively map Arboriculture GDP as a UK industry sector exempt from Forestry.

Branch email: [cornwall@trees.org.uk](mailto:cornwall@trees.org.uk)

- A small but key example of this is how AA have changed educational portals and platforms to include Arboriculture as a career pathway.
- Thank you for the Arb' Association Wednesday webinars!
- Further to this, the webinars have now successfully reached international audiences into the thousands. John gave an example of how an Arboricultural professional in India had logged on to the UK webinar that was hosting an American based Arb' professional. This resulted in a trade and knowledge sharing of best practice from one country to another which was really humbling for the Arb Association to have learnt about.
- Subject of EA'21 s.115 "A local authority in England must consult..." no further formal definition offered, however, John to share update/details of IHE consultant Jim Smith recent comments that may be of value.

**Action:** **John P** to share update/details of IHE consultant Jim Smith - recent comments that may be of value to branch members?

#### 4 Branching Out [KS]

Experience & take aways?

Branch goals & future

Schools & educational focuses (Future Arb's /Providers)

Events

Other entries to arb (Horticulture/ Gardening/ land management etc.)

What would the branch like to get involved with?

- 🌳 Cornwall Gardening Society, similar society's (Horticultural)
- 🌳 Talks from professionals.
- 🌳 Schools and Career pathways
  - Alan has a contact in education who may be able to explore/ open to opportunities locally?
- 🌳 Bats, Pests & Diseases
- 🌳 Importance of stalls – Planned and themed – i.e., tree care/ tree establishment - the trick is to make them competitive!
  - Examples of kid's tree climbing (AA have a Pilon type thing they can break out for bigger areas?) Or knot tying competitions?

**Action:** **Kate S** to share details of Branch stats for any members interested

**Action:** **Alan R** to explore routes to education with contact, **Jen S** to query careers fairs and engagement from Corserv group point of view to see if there are opportunities to expand involvement in locally to involve trees.

#### 5 Future events

Volunteers wanted for the Spring Flower Show @RSG Wadebridge 6th & 7th April.

🌳 No takers, many of the branch are on leave or prior commitments.

🌳 Kate has got volunteers from Birch for tree pruning but need to confirm AA sponsorship for the cost of the table.

**Action:** **Kate S & Jen S** to check in with Sarah J (AA) around feasibility of Spring Flower show reservation.

- 🌱 Cornwall Contractor session – targeting practical operators

- What do they want from the branch – CPD/VTA
- Suggestion around Static Rope Technique training? (– Paul Smith AA?)
- Maybe if a day is arranged at some point Sponsorships from kit suppliers?

**Action:** **John P** to have a chat with Paul Smith at AA around SRT and possible opportunities in Cornwall/ South West?

- 🌱 Suggestion around Bracing, Specifications and CPD? – CPD needs to be recognised - John to explore any expertise and EU standards of application vs UK application (Ben Wah?)

**Action:** **John P** to check out EU/UK standards of Bracing specification and application. Can we source an introduction to someone with high level of applied experience to do a CPD talk in Cornwall / South West?

- 🌱 Duncan Slater – Branch would love another South West session covering pruning techniques but last time this was expensive (£800+) and the Branch aren't sure this would be a route that is accessible? – John to explore if there are opportunities?

**Action:** **John P** to explore opportunities and appetite to support CPD in the South West. Is Duncan an option? Alternatively (or as well as!) other speakers from conference in September – are there any specifically who would be willing and able to come and do a talk down this way?

- 🌱 Field visit walk about – Lanhydrock

**Action:** **James G** to lead planning for a date later on?

Tim Scott-Ellis @Evolve - sends apologies but wishes to offer the below by way of ideas/aspirations:

- a. BNG Canopy Cover session/workshop

- 🌱 Paul Dymond (absent) may be able to assist or support Tim in establishing this.

**Action:** **Oliver B** to have a conversation with Paul - knowledge and willingness to support Tim with getting this session off the ground?

- b. Kenton Rogers – I-Tree training day for CAVAT session/workshop Cornwall & Devon

- 🌱 Strong appetite for this, definitely worth pitching to a wider county/ South west audience. Cornwall & Devon + etc.

**Action:** **Alan R & Kate S** offer their knowledge and support in helping with arrangements for this.

- c. Royal Cornwall showground host a farm to plate education day involving schools

<https://www.royalcornwallshow.org/farm-and-country-days> Perhaps this is something that could be looked at for 2025? (March 24 now passed)

- 🌱 Like the idea and this fits with the education/ pathways branch goal

**Action:** **Tim SE** worth having a follow up conversation to understand if we could plan for 2025?

- d. Silva Cell – Deep Root

- 🌱 General branch thoughts were cautious about these type of CPD sessions as they're predominantly business development opportunities and of little value to knowledge or practical benefit?

- 🌱 ... General branch feedback was that 'Stockholm tree pits' might be a preferred route to explore for the branch?

6 Agree branch commitments & Actions.

7 AOB

- 🌿 Apprenticeships in Arb/ the Arb Association – difficulties as the Charity aren't that 'Arb' but have done a lot to open up pathways.
  - Cormac have an opening for an Arb Apprentice – first time to see how it goes.
  - Devon CC have had them in the past...
  - Greens have had apprentices before poor experience with Bicton but highly recommends Lyner who support comprehensively right through to L3.
- 🌿 Facebook groups! More than one local one?
- 🌿 Johns offer to arrange a mini bus if there are numbers of people planning to attend the conference this year – If this is something that anyone is interested in please email the [Cornwall@trees.org.uk](mailto:Cornwall@trees.org.uk) email as soon as possible to express interest.

8 Thanks, and Close.



**Call out for stand staff!**

**Cornwall Society Spring Flower Show**

**Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April  
at The Royal Cornwall Showground near Wadebridge**

A pitch has been reserved – if you are able to come along and help on either/both days, please email Jenni Shailes at: [cornwall@trees.org.uk](mailto:cornwall@trees.org.uk)