



Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025

Foreword

DEAR SUPPORTERS

Over the past year the Board has focused on a range of activities to promote tree conservation and environmental stewardship within the Epsom and Ewell area.

Key Activities and Achievements

EETAB engaged in a variety of educational outreach activities, including delivering presentations to the public. We fostered community engagement through participation in local events, where informational stands were used to raise awareness about tree conservation. Significant tree planting initiatives were also undertaken, involving site preparation, planting of diverse tree species and installation of hedges.

Furthermore, the Board established collaborative partnerships with numerous organisations to enhance planting efforts through tree and sapling donations. Tree maintenance and conservation were supported through activities such as staking, mulching, and watering. Elm seeds were also collected and dispatched for hybrid resistance research, contributing to scientific advancement in tree health.

This year, we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of EETAB. To commemorate this, we launched the "30@30 Tree Trail" - a publicly accessible tree map showcasing 30 notable trees across the borough, nominated by EETAB members and residents of Epsom and Ewell. Do look it up and walk or cycle the trail.

Specific Project Highlights

Long Grove

Extensive site preparation and tree planting activities were conducted, involving collaborations with the EEBC Tree Officer, Elms over Epsom and Rainbow Nurseries. Community planting days were also held with volunteers from EETAB and the Church of God.



Aspect Nature Reserve (Sussex)

EETAB donated oak and other saplings which were planted in a new hedge line.

Horton Country Park

Enhancing a hedge line, organised by the EEBC Countryside Team and helped by their volunteers. Oak saplings were donated and planted, and disease-resistant elms. Tree guards provided.

Manor Park, Old Malden

Downy Birch and Lime tree saplings were donated to the Friends of Manor Park. A disease-resistant elm (*Ulmus Saporro Autumn Gold*) was identified during a park survey.

Epsom Downs

6 new trees planted in collaboration with EEBC, Epsom Downs Conservators, Epsom Business Improvement District (BID) and Go Epsom. Maintenance work efforts included staking, mulching, and watering of trees.

30@30 Tree Trail

Launched to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Walk or cycle the trail at <https://eetab.org.uk/index.php/tree-trails/>.

EETAB actively contributes to the enhancement of our local environment through our various activities. We remain committed to promoting tree planting, conservation, and education in the coming year.

Howard Gregory

Chair, Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board

Our Mission

Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board (EETAB) is the Surrey Tree Warden Group for Epsom and Ewell,

The group will collaborate where appropriate with the Borough and County Councils.

EETAB is made up of volunteers. Any individual with an interest in trees is welcome to attend meetings and become involved in the activities of the group.

EETAB aims to:

- create an external forum that is instrumental in the addition, promotion, management and conservation of trees and hedgerows
- help secure strong tree policy, protection, and husbandry by participation in the planning consultation processes
- inform people, neighbourhood groups, schools and other groups about the importance and care of trees
- participate in working groups for tree care and planting projects.



Diary of activities

June to October

Date	Location	Activity
13 June 2024	Dorking Library	EETAB gave a talk "Enigmatic Elms" at Dorking Library.
15 June 2024	Shadbolt Park, Cuddington	Shadbolt Big Day out. EETAB hosted a stand.
21 Sept 2024	Rosebery Park	Party in the park. EETAB hosted a stand, and gave away saplings for planting in gardens.
15-18 October 2024	Long Grove, Age Concern Woodland	EETAB set out beds at Long Grove with EEBC Tree Officer and worked with Elms over Epsom and Rainbow Nurseries to lift the turf and prepare the beds.

Diary of activities

November to February

Date	Location	Activity
3 Nov 2024	Long Grove, Age Concern Woodland	EETAB supervised the Church of God volunteers to help plant the main trees in the Age Concern Woodland.
22 Nov 2024	The Horton Community Centre	EETAB grown Oak saplings delivered to The Horton Community hall.
1 Dec 2024	Long Grove Park, Age Concern Woodland	A community planting day with volunteers from the Church of God.
2 Jan 2025	Rushett Farm at Malden Rushett. Organised by Mole Valley Partnership.	EETAB assisted the Mole Valley Partnership volunteers with the planting of a new hedge. Dead hedges were also installed to gap up the existing hedge.
3-14 Feb 2025	Aspect Nature Reserve, Ifield near Gatwick. aspectnaturereserve.com	Oak saplings and other saplings were delivered to Aspect Nature Reserve. They were planted in a new hedgeline on the estate.
8 Feb 2025	Horton Country Park	EETAB assisted EEBC Countryside Team and their volunteers to gap up the new hedge line. Elms Over Epsom supplied new longer tree guards for the 10 disease-resistant elms. EETAB donated 12 Oak saplings.

Diary of activities

March to July

Date	Location	Activity
9 Mar 2025	Epsom Club	EETAB met on a Sunday morning at Epsom Club Epsom to plant a small mixed species hedge. Despite uncovering concrete in the area, EETAB planted a small mixed species hedge using trees from the Tree Nursery. A successful planting was achieved.
15 Mar 2025	Manor Park, Old Malden	Downy Birch and Lime tree saplings were donated to Friends of Manor Park by EETAB and planted. During a park survey, a disease-resistant elm called Ulmus Saporro Autumn Gold was also found.
6 & 27 Apr 2025	Epsom Downs	Staking and mulching enhancements were made to 6 trees (4 Oaks and 2 Elm Lutece) planted on the Poly track at Epsom Downs in collaboration with EEBC and Go Epsom. The elm trees were later watered.
29 April 2025	John Innes Research Centre, Norfolk	Field elm and Chichester elm seed were collected in Belmont for new hybrid resistance research. The seeds were sent by overnight post to the research scientists.
April	Epsom and Ewell	Launch of 30@30 tree trail. Available at https://eetab.org.uk/index.php/tree-trails/
4 May 2025	John Innes Research Centre, Norfolk	Field elm and Hollandica elm seed were collected in Epsom for new hybrid resistance research. The seeds were sent by overnight post to the research scientists.

Street tree success story!

It has been another positive year for street tree planting by Surrey County Council (SCC) – with well over 100 new trees appearing in grass verges across Epsom and Ewell alone over the autumn 2024/ spring 2025 planting season.



PHOTO CREDIT: HOWARD GREGORY

Most of the new street trees were resident-requested – demonstrating a widespread appreciation of the environmental and aesthetic benefits of tree-lined neighbourhoods. However, one of the most positive aspects of this year's planting has been a renewed drive to proactively replace street trees that have succumbed to old age or disease in recent years – with an increase in stump-grinding and gapping-up planting beginning to address a backslide in our urban environment that has long been highlighted as a cause of serious concern by EETAB.

The turnaround in SCC's stance on street trees has been impressive: From a position just several years ago where there was no proactive replacement of failed street trees at all, no fewer 880 resident-requested trees have been installed in verges County-wide in the planting season just gone.

A further 550 are lined up for planting next winter, with any requests lodged since March 19 being considered for the 2026/27 planting season.

Finances

Over the last financial year (April 2024/25) EETAB has retained a healthy bank balance – despite expenditure of £2,157 far outstripping total income of £100 derived from a much appreciated annual donation from a long-standing supporter.

At the time of writing (May 5) the EETAB bank balance stands at £8,900.93 (down from £11,058.13 this time last year) – though we are currently awaiting reimbursements totalling nearly £670 from EEBC and

Go Epsom, our partners in the planting of four Oaks and two Elms on Epsom Downs at a cost of £1,003.20.

Another source of as yet unrealised income this year is our successful £5,000 EEBC CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bid for £5,000 for street tree planting in Waterloo Road – though, if ultimately approved by Surrey Highways, that funding will be 100% ring-fenced to that project.

Other headline items of expenditure over the past year have included:

- **£1,552.80** on trees from Barcham Tree Nursery. This includes the six trees planted on Epsom Downs, the magnificent 12ft-plus London Plane planted in Rosebery Park this spring in memory of EETAB founder and longtime chairman, Mike Ford and several other smaller trees for planting projects.
- **£408** on backdated (this year and last) EETAB Tree Nursery allotment contribution and EETAB website hosting costs
- **£143.15** on our public liability insurance for multiple planned planting and street tree watering activities over the coming year
- **£64.29** on ancillary items including tree stakes and ties & equipment for the Tree Nursery including a new padlock and sprinkler system
- **£50** on payments to EEBC for park planting approvals
- **£39** on meeting room fees and bank account management charges.

Plans for the year ahead

OUR MAIN AIMS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD ARE:

- to reduce the stock at the Tree Nursery by finding good projects for the stock.
- to then find further projects in partnership with other organisations with compatible aims and ideally to source new stock from certified sources, targeted at specific projects and therefore held/grown on in the Tree Nursery for a limited period.
- to continue to promote the work of EETAB and to actively recruit new members and Tree Champions.

