

Tackling the threats to London's Trees

24th January 2013, City of London

Speaker profiles

Mark Boleat: Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, City of London

Mark Boleat has been Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London since May 2012, leading on strategy, resource allocation and engagement with legislators and regulators in the UK, Europe and across the world on policy issues affecting London as a key international financial centre. This also involves taking a lead on relations with local and regional government, along with building links with other International Financial Centres such as New York, Beijing, Shanghai and Mumbai. He represents the City on the boards of TheCityUK, Centre London Forward, London Councils and London and Partners.

Mark was born in Jersey in 1949 and went to school in the Island. He has a BA in Economics following study at Lanchester Polytechnic (now Coventry University) and an MA in European Studies awarded by the University of Reading. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

Mark has published a number of books on housing finance, regulation and trade associations and has done consultancy work on housing finance and regulation for international agencies and governmental bodies.



Sir Harry Studholme: Forestry Commission Chairman

Sir Harry Studholme has owned and managed forests in South West England for over 20 years. He has been a GB Forestry Commissioner since 2007 and was Deputy Chairman of the Independent Panel on Forestry, which reported in July 2012 on the future of English forestry. He also chaired the National Tree Safety Group.

His current commitments include chairing the Phaunos Timber Fund, a quoted investment trust owning forestry across five continents.

Sir Harry was Chairman of the South West Regional Development Agency from 2009 to 2012.

He chaired the Finding Sanctuary project, working with environmentalists and the fishing industry on proposals for marine conservation from 2007 to 2011. He is an Engineering graduate of Cambridge University, a Chartered Accountant (FCA), a Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) and accredited Commercial Mediator (CEDAR).



Martin Ward: Chief Plant Health Officer, DEFRA

Martin is Head of UK Plant Health Service, Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera). Martin studied plant pathology at Imperial College then worked in MAFF's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate inspecting imports and exports of plants and plant produce, and eradicating and containing outbreaks in the W Midlands then Essex, before moving into policy work on plant health. Has also undertaken secondments on strategy for non-food crops and pesticides policy.

He currently heads the policy programme at Fera covering plant health, bee health, plant varieties and seeds. Chair of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation – a regional plant protection organisation with 50 member countries



Tony Kirkham: Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, RBG Kew

Following an apprenticeship in the forestry industry and 2 years as an arborist, in 1978 Tony started at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the 3 year Diploma course, graduating in 1982

In 2001 he became the Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, responsible for the management and curation of the 14,000 trees in the collections. He has participated and led several plant collecting expeditions to Chile and the Far East of Asia, including China, Taiwan, Japan, S. Korea and Russia. In 2004 he completed the revision of the "Pruning of Trees Shrubs and Conifers" with Timber Press.

He featured in the BBC2 series "A Year at Kew" and presented the "Trees that made Britain" for BBC2. He represents Kew on the RHS bursaries and woody plant committee, Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, International Dendrology Society, and is a trustee of TROBI, (Tree Register of the British Isles). In 2009 he was awarded the Associate of Honour by the RHS for distinguished service to horticulture.



Jago Keen: Keen Associates

Jago Keen has qualifications and experience in arboriculture and nature conservation and applies complex system thinking to the challenges presented by town planning, green infrastructure management and projection planning; two decades spent in the 'natural capital' sector, managing our natural assets to ensure ecosystem services are delivered. In private practice, Jago Keen is consulted by clients in local government, healthcare trusts, property development companies and private individuals, throughout the UK and Eurasia, to deliver pragmatic solutions to build resilient ecosystem provision.



Jake Tibbetts: London Tree Officer Association Chairman

Jake has worked in Arboriculture for over 15 years and currently manages the London Borough of Islington's tree service having previously worked for Camden, Ealing and Wokingham district council. He is the current Chair of the London Tree Officers Association.



Dr Joan Webber: Principal Pathologist & Head of Tree Health, Forest Research

Joan Webber graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, with a BSc in Botany and Microbiology in 1975. She studied for her Ph.D in tree pathology as a SRC CASE student with the University of Wales and the Forestry Commission from 1975-78.

From 1979 Joan then worked as a research fellow and lecturer employed by the University of Southampton where her research focussed on Dutch elm disease and the interplay between the tree pathogens and insect vectors.

She joined Forest Research in 1989, initially as Head of Forest Products research and then transferred to Pathology in 1996, becoming Principal Pathologist in 2001.

In her current role as Principal Pathologist and Head of Tree Health Research Group, Joan is responsible for leading and managing research into the health of trees, with particular emphasis on recently arrived pests and pathogens.



Nigel Straw: Entomologist, Forest Research

Nigel Straw joined Forest Research in 1989 and has carried out research on a wide range of insects that damage trees, particularly species that cause defoliation such as spruce aphid and horse-chestnut leaf miner. Current research includes studies on the effects of forest management on insect abundance and diversity, and projects monitoring the spread and impact of new invasive species. He has been closely involved with the control programme against oak processionary moth since the moth first appeared in



London in 2006.

Sue Ireland: Director of Open Spaces, City of London

Sue is Director of Open Spaces for the City of London, responsible for 4,330 hectares of land including the special landscapes of Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and City Commons. She also manages a series of parks including West Ham and Queens Parks and more than 200 gardens and green spaces in the City of London. With a net budget of £17m, the City of London has and is, providing substantial investment in London's open spaces, operating charitable trusts for many of these sites and as a local authority too.



Following a first degree in Geography at Aberystwyth, she went on to study for a Masters in Landscape Ecology at Wye College, London University. Sue has for more than 25 years, been responsible for management of Parks, Open Spaces, Leisure and Heritage facilities, with 15 years senior management experience in Local Authorities. Previous experience includes Heritage Lottery restoration projects, creating new parks and planning and managing large scale events - V Festival and World Scout Jamboree. When she gets the time, she seeks to retain her pruning skills, practising on the fruit trees in her garden.

Bruce Rothnie: Plant Health Team Manager, Forestry Commission England

Bruce Rothnie is Plant Health Team Manager for FC in England and manages a small team of 4 officers who have full-time plant health responsibilities. This team is largely responsible for organising programmes of surveillance for pests and diseases in woodlands and leading early investigations of new outbreaks, providing advice and support to wider FC teams and linking with research colleagues. The team also have close links with the plant health teams in Fera.



Dr John Morgan: Head of Forestry Commission Plant Health Service

Dr John Morgan was appointed Head of the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service in April 2011 to lead its efforts to protect Britain's trees and forests from pests and diseases.

John had previously been Head of the Commission's Plant & Seed Supply business unit for 13 years, overseeing the production and supply of more than 300 million forestry plants from the Commission's tree nurseries in that time.

He holds a PhD in Forestry and a BSc in Ecological Science from Edinburgh University, and has worked in a variety of research, advisory, management, policy and technical support roles during his 20-year career with the Commission (which began on the Suffolk Coast).

Areas of responsibility have included forest management, harvesting and marketing, conservation, recreation management, forest restocking standards, legislation and use of pesticides, Christmas tree production and wildlife management. He has also published research reports and bulletins.

Dr Morgan lists his interests as spending time with his young family and looking after his own small woodland.



Jim Smith: National Urban Forestry Advisor, Forestry Commission

Jim Smith has been an arboriculturist for over 25 years. He first worked for the Forestry Commission on leaving school and returned to London to work as an arborist in the Royal Parks in the early eighties. He worked as a tree contractor in North London before becoming a tree officer to work in a number of local authorities in London.

He has twice been Chair of the London Tree Officer's Association and been involved in the production of many national and regional guidance documents involving trees.

Notably the original and current versions of NJUG 10 Guidelines for the Planning Installation, Maintenance and Repair of Utility Services in Proximity to Trees (Now NJUG Volume 4), The



Institution of Structural Engineer's document Subsidence of Low Rise Buildings 2000 (Co-Authoring Chapter 8), The LTOA's document, A Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims 2007, The Joint Mitigation Protocol (current Chair of the working group), is a member of the British Standards Institute committee on standards for trees and is author of local authority guidance for producing a comprehensive tree and woodland strategy (currently in draft). He was appointed the London Tree and Woodland Framework Manager in 2006 and is now Project Development Manager and works in the Forestry Commission's London Office. He is also Forestry Commission England's principal advisor on arboriculture and urban forestry. He is married with a son and lives in North London.

Dr. Linda Davies: OPAL Director, Imperial College London

Dr Linda Davies is an ecologist with research interests in environmental management, ecosystem services and citizen science. She has worked in the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London since 1999 where she established a research group involving academics, policy makers and the wider community, many of whom are partners in OPAL today. Linda developed the concept for OPAL which received a £14m grant from Big Lottery Fund in 2007. She leads the OPAL consortium of fifteen institutions who work together to deliver the OPAL objectives which aim to get the nation involved in exploring and recording local wildlife and habitats.

Environment Agency and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) are Associate Partners. OPAL is affiliated to Living With Environmental Change (LWEC).



Peter Massini: Urban Greening Team Leader, Greater London Authority

During the late 1980's Peter worked for the London Wildlife Trust, dirtying his hands and boots managing nature reserves.

In the 1990's he moved indoors, to work for the London Ecology Unit on spatial planning issues and having become accustomed to the allure of a computer screen, Peter went on to work for English Nature (latterly Natural England) where he had responsibility for strategic planning and policy work for the London region.

He currently works for the Greater London Authority on green infrastructure, developing and promoting policy and overseeing implementation of Mayoral programmes on tree-planting, parks improvement and green roofs.



Andrew Jones: Policy & Programmes Manager, Urban Greening, Greater London Authority

Andrew has over 20 years of working in the natural environment sector. In his current role at the Greater London Authority he manages a team responsible for the development of urban greening and food policy (including the Mayor's Biodiversity and Food Strategies) as well as the delivery of a suite of associated programmes. Current programmes include: mayoral commitments to increase tree cover in the capital including the planting of a further 10,000 street trees; improve parks and green spaces including establishing 100 pocket parks; working with the public and private sector to delivery green infrastructure

Prior to joining the GLA in 2006 he was Head of Natural Environment, Coasts and Countryside Partnerships for Kent County Council. He is a past chair of the Association of Local Government Ecologists

