



Kent Tree Health Information Day

18th December 2012

The Orchard Suite
East Malling Conference Centre
East Malling
Kent, ME19 6BJ

Programme

09.00	Registration	
09.30	Introduction to the day	Mr Simon Hodgson FC Chief Executive
09.35	Opening remarks	Mr Jeremy Kite KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities
09.40	Science update	Dr Joan Webber Principal Pathologist and Head of Tree Health Research Group, Forest Research
10.00	Where we are now and the potential rate of future spread	Mr Bruce Rothnie Plant Health Manager, Forestry Commission England
10.20	The Plant Health Legal Framework & The Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Task Force	Mr Martin Ward Head of UK Plant Health Service, FERA
10.40	The chalara control plan	Mr Andrew Smith Head of Sustainable Forest Management, Forestry Commission England
11.00	Coffee	
11.40	Trees in the landscape	Dr Gary Kerr Principal Silviculturist, Forest Research
12.00	Trees in the built environment	Mr Jim Quaife Arboricultural Association
12.20	Panel Q & A	Chair: Mr Chris Reynolds Kent Downs AONB
13.00	Summing up	Mr Simon Hodgson FC Chief Executive
13.10	Closing Remarks	Mr David Brazier KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste
13.15	Lunch	

Institute of Chartered Foresters Professional Members - delegates attending this event will be able to generate CPD hours in accordance to the relevance to their own personal development plan.



Speaker Biographies

Mr Simon Hodgson

Simon is Chief Executive Forestry Commission England. Simon joined the Forestry Commission in 2005 as Chief Executive of Forest Enterprise the FC Agency that manages the Public Forest Estate for the Commission. Previous roles include Director West Midlands Assembly, Head of Corporate Affairs and Internal Audit for the South West Regional Development Agency, Regional Director Rural Development Commission, Head of Corporate Planning and Internal Audit for the Rural Development Commission, Regional Manager for the Woodland Trust in Wales and Director of Conservation for the BTCV.

In his spare time Simon chairs a rural enterprise organisation running a retail community shop and café in his village.

Mr Jeremy Kite

Mr Jeremy Alan Kite was elected to the County Council in June 2009 as the Conservative Member for Dartford Rural. He was educated at the University of Westminster, before working in magazine publishing and later joining News International, publisher of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Mr Kite has been Leader of Dartford Borough Council since February 2006 and serves as a Borough Councillor for Longfield, New Barn & Southfleet. He is also Chairman of the local Parish Council. Under his leadership, the Council has transformed to an Authority high on delivery and low on bureaucracy with some of the highest profile examples of public consultation and community-led decision making in the country.

Mr Kite worked alongside designer Wayne Hemingway on a new housing scheme in the shadow of Dartford Bridge and he is now spearheading the Edwardian restoration of Dartford's Central Park.

Mr Kite is a Director of Dartford Football Club and the Leigh Academies Trust. He is a Governor at the Longfield Academy and The Leigh Technology College.

Dr Joan Webber

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.



Mr Bruce Rothnie

Bruce Rothnie is currently the 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.

Mr Martin Ward

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 West Midlands then Essex, before moving into policy work on plant health. He 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. He is Chair of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation – a regional plant protection organisation with 50 member countries

Mr Andrew Smith

Andrew is Head of Sustainable Forest Management, Forestry Commission England, Bristol. He is their lead for tree health and woodland management including grant and regulatory systems. A Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, Andrew was previously Head of Grants and Regulations, Cambridge; and Forest District Manager, North York Moors.

Andrew states that he is sometime resident of East Anglia (22 years), currently 'travelling'.

Dr Gary Kerr

Dr. Gary Kerr is a Silviculturist in Forest Research. He obtained a first class honours degree from the University of Wales, Bangor University in 1985 and then went to work for the Forestry Commission as a forest manager. In 1990 he moved to Forest Research to work as a Silviculturist and gained his PhD in 2003 from the University of Wales, Bangor; his thesis was on the silviculture of *Fraxinus excelsior* L. Gary also holds two significant posts that supplement his research activities. First, he is Editor-in-Chief of *Forestry: An international Journal of forest research*, published by Oxford University Press. Second, he is co-ordinator of the International Union of Forest Research Organization's Research Group 1.05.00 on uneven-aged silviculture.

The main thrust of Gary's work has been applied silvicultural research and this has led to over 40 papers in peer reviewed journal, 16 Forestry Commission publications and over 50 articles in professional publications communicating the results of his research.



Mr Jim Quaife

Jim is a Fellow and Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association. He is also an Arboricultural Inspector for the Planning Inspectorate for the determination of Tree Preservation Order appeals and a Chartered Environmentalist with the Society for the Environment.

Jim has worked in woodland management and arboriculture since 1973, mostly Kent based, dealing with all aspects of lowland forestry and woodland management, land use integration and conservation, as well as the establishment of a successful contractual and advisory arboricultural service. His own business, set up in 1991, is now a busy consultancy practice for arboriculture and woodlands.

Jim has twice been Chairman of the Arboricultural Association and lead assessor for their Arboricultural Association's Registered Consultant scheme. Jim has also served on planning committees as an elected councillor for 24 years since 1983 where chairmanships at Sevenoaks District Council have included Development Control.

Mr Chris Reynolds

Chris Reynolds was born and brought up on a small family farm at Benenden, educated at Cranbrook School and then read agriculture at Wye College. He spent his early working years managing the Monks Horton estate on the edge of the Kent Downs between Ashford and Folkestone. This consisted of 1100 acres of mixed farming with dairy, arable, sheep and potatoes, as well as latterly 200 acres fruit near Faversham. Subsequently, he now runs his own independent farm management business in the same area and is also actively involved in an aircraft maintenance business. He is married to Jane with three grown up children.

He was Kent County NFU Chairman in 1996/7 and was co-opted to become the independent Chairman of the Kent Downs AONB in 2000.

Mr David Brazier

David Brazier was elected to the County Council in 1997 and is now the Member for Sevenoaks North East. Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste, he leads on the authority's Environment agenda and is deputy chair of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee. Keenly interested in the natural environment, David is committed to promoting renewable energy, especially woodfuel, and also speaks regularly on waste recycling methodology.