



# Newsletter – April 2026

## TDAG Events

**Our May seminars will be in person at Futurebuild, ExCel, London – see below.**

### **Forthcoming seminars both online and in person**

All our events organized by TDAG or in association with others are on our Events page: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/events.html>

### **Past online seminars**

You can find all the recordings, presentations and chat here: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html>

You can also go to our YouTube page if you just want to see the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/@treesanddesignactiongroup7020>

### **Putting nature at the heart of urban design and planning, 17 June at the University of Stirling**

Co-organised by Future Woodlands Scotland, the Institute of Chartered Foresters and the Trees and Design Action Group. this conference invites audience participation as it explores the importance of early and sustained collaboration between planners, designers, developers, arboriculturists and engineers in improving outcomes for trees.

Details and booking here:

[Scottish conference to put nature at the heart of urban design and planning - The Institute of Chartered Foresters](#)

### **Futurebuild + UK Construction Week at ExCel, London 12-14 May**

We invite you to visit us on stand F92 by the Placemaking seminar stage.

There will be a wide range of experts on the stand who will be happy to offer guidance on urban trees.

### **TDAG curated seminars**

13 May 11.30-12.15 Urban trees – biodiversity value, climate resilience and canopy cover – what we need to know.

14 May 13.30-14.15 Integrating Trees and Buildings – they don't have to be in conflict!

### **Urban Tree Walk - looking at the species choices, planting and general condition of local trees**

Join Tony Kirkham MBE, former head of the arboretum at Kew Botanic Garden, and Kenton Rogers, Co-founder and director of Treeconomics, on 12 May from 12.30-13.30 in association with the Urban Tree Festival. Meet at the TDAG stand at 12.15.

Entry to Futurebuild is free:

<https://register.visitcloud.com/survey/00jckvxw5jvn9?actioncode=NTWO000094VSG>

The full [knowledge programme](#).

## **SURVEYS AND QUESTIONNAIRES**

### **TDAG Case Study Library**

Thanks to the University of Birmingham, we have a small amount of funding and are looking to update and expand our case study library and so we are inviting expressions of interest from those who would like a project they have worked on to be developed into a short, 3 to 4-page case study. To take part, please complete this short form by 18 May 2026.

[Expression of interest: TDAG case study – Fill in form](#)

### **Concerns about trees and the law**

One of the most watched seminars from 2025 was about tree protection, but there are wider issues relating to tree law. We are planning a seminar to take place online on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 to discuss legal issues relating to trees 'in plain English'.

To identify the most useful topics to cover, we would appreciate it, if you could complete this short survey.

[Concerns about trees and the law – Fill in form](#)

### **Invitation to contribute to the GP4Streets Environmental Expert Questionnaire**

Professor Prashant Kumar and the wider [GP4Streets](#) team are currently inviting environmental experts and practitioners to take part in a short questionnaire designed to gather expert judgement on the likely impacts of common greening features across five key parameters: air quality, overheating, flooding, biodiversity, and health & wellbeing. GP4Streets is a UKRI-funded project focused on greening living spaces at household and street levels. The project brings together researchers, local authorities, and community partners to develop practical, evidence-based guidance and decision-support tools to support healthier and more climate-resilient neighbourhoods.

Your input will help us refine our impact scoring framework and strengthen the evidence base underpinning the GP4Streets project outputs.

The questionnaire can be accessed here:

[https://surreyfbel.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_099dAU5H0tAjJdQ](https://surreyfbel.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_099dAU5H0tAjJdQ)

(See also the New Introduction to Urban Greening course below)

## **CAMPAIGNS**

### **Fund raising campaign to tackle green inequity running from 22-29 April 2026**

The Arboricultural Association is taking part in their first ever fundraising campaign - the Big Give Earth Raise campaign from 22–29 April, raising funds to tackle green inequity - and we'd really value your support in sharing the campaign.

<https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS00000C8t8TYAR>

For queries, contact Steve Hodson, Marketing Manager: [steve@trees.org.uk](mailto:steve@trees.org.uk)

### **When will we end Drax's tree burning?**

Drax receives large sums – billions of pounds – in subsidies from our energy bills to burn trees and much comes from some of the most diverse forests. 38 Degrees is calling on Ed Miliband to say no to new subsidies and, instead, invest in genuine climate solutions. You can see the petition here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/will-you-help-us-end-drax-s-planet-wrecking-tree-burning>

## OFFERS

### **BSI 8640 – special offer for TDAG members**

The BSI is offering a reduction of 15% to purchase BS 8640. The offer is open until 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The code is:

To benefit from it, visit [BS 8640:2025 | 13 Oct 2025 | BSI Knowledge](#) and use promo code **BS8640TREE** at checkout.

## EVENTS BY OTHERS

### **Making it Happen! 2026 6 May Nottingham Annual Joint East Midlands Conference – RIBA- RTPI- UDG**

Learn about the latest policies on planning and design and best practice in creating resilient, viable communities.

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/events/make-it-happen-east-midlands-conference/>

### **futurebuild + National Construction Week 12-14 May at ExCel, London**

These two events will now run in tandem, each with their own identity but with admission to one also providing admission to the other. There will be a TDAG stand and two TDAG seminars on the Placemaking Stage. Tony Kirkham and Kenton Rogers will lead a local tree walk on 12<sup>th</sup> May from 12.30-13.30.

The **knowledge programme is available here:**

<https://www.futurebuild.co.uk/knowledge-programme>

### **Urban Tree Festival 9-17<sup>th</sup> May London and UK wide**

The Urban Tree Festival is an annual community celebration of trees, including their benefits, beauty, majesty, and magic, in cities, towns and all urban environments. Events, celebrations, walks, talks and storytelling are held across London and the UK, bringing all our communities together to educate, inspire and share their enjoyment of trees.

Put forward your suggested event here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemk\\_fKgc9gtUpyQFZfiU043ovDt4SPW-apHR2fpZyxmEz\\_Tg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemk_fKgc9gtUpyQFZfiU043ovDt4SPW-apHR2fpZyxmEz_Tg/viewform) and find further details here: <https://urbantreefestival.org/>

### **ICF National Conference 19-20 May in Caerleon, South Wales Innovation for a resilient tomorrow – reimagining forestry and arboriculture**

Registration end date is 5<sup>th</sup> May.

<https://charteredforesters.org/event/national-conference-2026-innovation-for-a-resilient-tomorrow-reimagining-forestry-arboriculture>

### **The Softscape Lectures 18/19/20/21 May online**

Vital basics for softscape masterplanning; plant typologies; plant selection' tender documentation; handover and long-term maintenance. Qualifies for 8 hours CPD  
The sessions are repeated on 2/3/4/5 November 2025

Book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-softscape-lectures-tickets-1983991680524>

### **CIHT National Conference 21 May in London Roads to Net Zero**

The next 10 years will see the future vision of the highways and transport sector in the UK being defined as the new government sets out its plan on how we deliver growth and decarbonisation whilst addressing the challenges of climate change.

<https://www.ciht.org.uk/event/ciht-national-conference/>

### **Urban Design Group Conference 5 June Lewes More Homes, Better Places**

<https://www.udg.org.uk/events/2026/more-homes-better-places>

### **New introduction to Urban Greening CPD Course. 23 – 25 June, University of the West of England.**

The Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments at the University of the West of England has launched a new CPD course to support professionals in addressing the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and poor population health by developing their understanding of how green infrastructure can be integrated into urban environments. This 3 day course introduces participants to the principles, functions and applications of green infrastructure, exploring what it is, where it should be applied and how to use it effectively in real-world planning and design contexts. More information and registration can be found here: <https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/Z51000230/introduction-to-urban-greening>

### **Arboricultural Association Conference 7-9 September 2026 at Lancaster University**

The call for abstracts will be announced shortly.  
Enquiries can be directed to [conference@trees.org.uk](mailto:conference@trees.org.uk)

### **Futurescape 13-14 October, Farnborough**

<https://www.futurescapeevent.com/>

### **10<sup>th</sup> Healthy City Design International Congress 20-21 October, Salford**

The programme embeds health and climate-resilience at the heart of city developments locally, nationally and globally.

Details are here: <https://www.healthycitydesign.global/>

### **Town and Country Planning Association Annual Conference 28 November, London**

Details to follow.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Responses from TDAG are on the website either in 'News' or 'Resources' - <https://www.tdag.org.uk/resources.html>

## **AWARDS**

### **Landscape Institute**

The Awards are now open for submissions until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026:

<https://landscapeinstitute.org/awards/>

## **RESEARCH ROUND-UP: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS**

### **A reminder to researchers to submit and share your work with practice.**

Send us a 200-word overview of a completed project or completed output/thing to look at/read/use outlining why it is relevant to those working with trees in the urban environment along with a link to the research itself for those who want to know more!

Complete this form to have your research included in a future TDAG newsletter:

<https://forms.office.com/e/HA5t0rqg0A>

Research outcomes in a TDAG newsletter will be moved to the Research section of the TDAG website for future reference <https://www.tdag.org.uk/research.html>

### **This month's research submissions:**

No submissions were received this month. Do please submit if you have some research that would be of interest to the wider TDAG membership.

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS**

With thanks to the Natural Cambridge Partnership, TCPA, GI Partnership, Urban Design Group, the Reclaim Network, and others.

## **New land regeneration resources for creating green spaces on previously used land now available. Forest Research**

A series of free resources to help when creating green spaces on previously used land, including when planting treescapes and woodland, are now available. The new resources from [Forest Research](#), bring together the latest learnings on land regeneration and climate change, and optimal soil thickness for planting on previously used land. Resources include:

- **A comprehensive handbook**, '[Woodland and grassland creation on sites requiring intervention: guidance for land regeneration](#)', providing information to support those involved in the successful establishment of woodland and grassland on previously used land including: Site selection; Planning and design; Site preparation; Establishment and Management.
- **A free tool**, [Optimal Thickness of Soil \(OpTS\) Model](#) that calculates the optimal soil depth for planting on previously used land, while accounting for future climate change.
- **A factsheet**, '[Climate change and woodlands on previously used land, What are the additional risks to trees?](#)' exploring how reclaimed land, the creation of woodland and climate change interact.

For more information, visit [New land regeneration resources for creating green spaces on previously used land now available - Forest Research](#)

## **Trees vs. Housing – The argument we should have settled years ago?**

**Treeconomics.**

<https://mailchi.mp/be73be302610/why-every-council-should-know-its-tree-canopy-cover-5761926?e=adea203bb0>

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Just a reminder that TDAG now has two social media accounts (we decided to delete the Twitter/X account):

- BlueSky <https://bsky.app/profile/tdagtalktree.bsky.social>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-trees-and-design-action-group-trust/>

Let us know of any events, publications, or other matters of interest to share!  
Sue, Emma and Dee for the Trees and Design Action Group