Newsletter – October 2026

TDAG EVENTS

Our next free online seminars are:

18 November 2026 from 2-4pm GMT

Growing a resilient research base for urban trees – the Second TDAG/The Mersey Forest Ideas Lab Early Career Research Prize
TDAG supports getting research out into practice for the greater benefit of urban trees and us all. Practice may be in the built or natural environment, arboricultural practice or a combination of benefits that the research can deliver. For this seminar we put out a call for new and emerging research by early career researchers offering inspiration & greater success in practice for urban forestry. Six people were shortlisted to present.
With the generous support of The Mersey Forest Ideas Lab, a modest prize of £500 will be awarded to the 'winner' and £250 each to two 'runners up.'
The audience will make the final choice to determine the winner and runners up for the Trees and Design Action Group/The Mersey Forest Ideas Lab early career research prize.

Chair: **Dr Susannah Gill,** Research and Policy Lead at The Mersey Forest

Keynote:

Reflections on 35 years of developing The Mersey Forest and how research has contributed to our success
Paul Nolan, Director, The Mersey Forest

There will be 6 Research presentations from early career researchers, followed by an opportunity to question them and the audience will then vote for their preferred winner.

Details of the presentations will be made available after 2nd November.

Registration: https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/CZNcVlUxQ6ib2yb4fNoTfQ

20 January 2027 from 2-4pm GMT

The Genius of Trees and the Internet of Nature: Designing Cities That Can Listen
In this seminar Harriet and Nadina will tell us more about what trees know and do and how technology, through the 'Internet of Nature' can" help us better understand the complex relationship between urban living and the nature we rely on."

Chair: **Johan Östberg**, Co-Owner of Trädkontoret and Director at Nature Based Solution Institute

with

- **Harriet Rix**, Tree Science Consultant and author of *The Genius of Trees*
- **Nadina Galle**, Ecological Engineer and author of *The Nature of Our Cities*

Registration:
https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/0jRnYV5WTnOWoPPowXCuAg#/registration

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

URBAN TREE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE CONFERENCE – TPBE 6

Trees People and the Built Environment 6.
23rd June 2027 at the University of Birmingham

How to submit
The closing date for submissions is **Monday 2 November 2026** at 17:00.
All abstracts will be reviewed by the TPBE6 Steering Group and seconded members. We will aim to inform all potential participants by Friday 4 December.
It is anticipated that successful papers will be presentations of around 20 minutes in length. Some of the submitted papers that do not make the day-long programme will be invited to be presented as online posters.

We are looking for abstracts that focus on research and also those with a focus on practice.

To submit your abstract, please complete the following **Abstract Submission Form**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZB92J83
The word limit is 300 words maximum.

EVENTS BY OTHERS

The Softscape Lectures 2-5 November from 12-2pm GMT daily
Vital basics in softscape masterplanning, planting typologies, plant selection, tender documentation, handover and long-term maintenance.
We cover the entire journey from concept to completion and beyond.
Tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-softscape-lectures-tickets-1997879222536

Arboricultural Association Wednesday Webinars 4, 1 and 18 November
https://www.trees.org.uk/Training-Events/Webinars

Ecosystems Knowledge Network (EKN) Nature Finance UK Conference 12 November 2026, London
Building a climate-resilience future requires collaboration across business, finance, government and the environmental sector. How do we advance financial innovation and investment for the restoration of land, water and nature.
https://ecosystemsknowledge.net/event/nature-finance-uk-conference-2026/

Landscape Institute Awards 13 November 2026
Get your early bird tickets for this prestigious event where we celebrate the incredible work being done in the landscape sector. The Awards showcases the very best in landscape planning, design, management and research in the UK and internationally, and demonstrates the vital contribution that landscape professionals make to address societal challenges in climate, nature and health and wellbeing across the globe in creating better places to live. Find out more here.

TCPA Annual Conference - Planning: A Matter of Life and Death 24 November London
Planning increasingly determines our resilience in the face of climate change and its impacts on our health. See https://www.tcpa.org.uk/event/tcpa-annual-conference-2026-planning-a-matter-of-life-and-death/

TDAG PUBLICATIONS

Trees as Infrastructure (2026)
This short guide considers the practical relationships between trees, buildings, engineering infrastructure and the multidisciplinary teams responsible for their design and delivery. Architects, arboriculturists, landscape architects, engineers, planners, developers, contractors and maintenance teams may each view trees from different professional perspectives. Developing a shared understanding of these perspectives—and of the architect's wider design vision—can help establish trees as integral components of a scheme rather than as additions considered later in the process.

Download here: https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-as-infrastructure.html

CONSULTATIONS

NUAR (National Underground Asset Registry) is currently consulting on the use cases for which sharing of the NUAR dataset should be allowed. Currently, non-disclosure agreements limit the instances where the documented location of underground utility assets can be shared by those having access to NUAR (such as local authorities) with third parties – such as their contractors or project partners.

Tree planting and existing tree enhancement projects **are not** currently considered as a legitimate use case warranting access to NUAR data and yet there needs to be better coordination for street-works and reinstatement work which provides an opportunity for retrofitting SuDs and/or trees and so it would be helpful if the wider urban forestry network could take part in the consultation and put forward some tree-specific use cases for access to NUAR data.

You can contribute here - submit tree-focused business use case

CALLS FOR EVIDENCE

Call for evidence on nature recovery barriers in England
The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) has opened a call for evidence looking at blockers to on-the-ground nature restoration, conservation and management. The call for evidence will feed into a wider project examining nature recovery barriers across England. The call closes on 14th December 2026. Read more here.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

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

COP17 UN Biodiversity Conference
This is taking place in Armenia to review progress on nature goals. The UK government committed to protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030 ('30 x 30') but it has not been followed up by delivery.
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/oct/19/can-countries-deliver-on-a-deal-to-save-the-worlds-plants-and-animals?CMP=GTUK_email

Tree Guards: Research into plastic-free alternatives. Woodland Trust
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/research-and-evidence/plastic-tree-guards/

How can the same El Niño cause drought in one part of the world and floods in another? Ligin Joseph, University of Southampton. https://theconversation.com/how-can-the-same-el-nino-cause-drought-in-one-part-of-the-world-and-floods-in-another-293013

Climate Resilient New Towns: A Vision
What would a New Town look like if it were designed with climate resilience at its heart?
https://www.tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/A5-Single-Pages-TCPA-The-Climate-Resilient-New-Town-June26-AWr1-hi-res-1-1.pdf

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/

Sue, Emma and Dee for the Trees and Design Action Group