Newsletter – September 2026

TDAG EVENTS

Our next two free online seminars are:

21 October from 2-4pm BST
Trees and Planning – tools for planners and design teams.
Register here: https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/hQrEFjcfRHCS5NYqpLycjw#/registration

On 18 November the short list for the Second TDAG/Mersey Forest Ideas Lab Early Career Research Prize aimed at those new to research – Growing a resilient research base for urban trees
A short list of submissions will be invited to present their research at an online seminar on 18th November from 2-4pm.
There is a first prize of £500 and two runner up prizes of £250 each – with many thanks to The Mersey Forest for sponsoring again.
The first prize winner in 2025, Elle Smith, went on to also win Young European Urban Forestry Researcher of the year. European Young Urban Forester of the Year awarded to Elle Smith | Leeds Ecosystem, Atmosphere & Forest (LEAF) Centre

To submit your research project: Please complete this short form https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/09AP4mtt1W by **9th October 2026.** We will let you know by **2nd November** if your research has been chosen for a presentation on **18th November**. The seminar audience will make the final decision.

Looking ahead to 2027 TDAG online seminars – Save the date!

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*

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

Urban Tree Research and Practice Conference – 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.

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

PUBLICATIONS WITH TDAG INPUT!

Street Trees: A Guide to Planting, Establishment and Aftercare.
Forestry Commission (August 2026)
The Trees and Design Action Group was a member of the steering group for this new guidance document for the Forestry Commission looking at all aspects of street tree planting in both new streets and retrofitting supported by technical drawings by Team Civic. You can access the pdf on the link below and an accessible version will be on the government website in due course.
Street Trees: A Guide to Planting, Establishment and Aftercare

Standard for New Trees in the Landscape - for healthy establishment.
Homes England (September 2026)
This Tree Standard speaks to all involved in new tree planting. Everyone needs to know what they should know and what others should know and act on. It sets out what the responsibilities and accountabilities are of all these involved people. There will also be two short videos, one on how to plant trees offering guidance to all working on site and the second on maintenance and aftercare. The project was led by Lee Heykoop, Homes England and Sue James, TDAG, was a member of the project team.

Information on where to access will be on the TDAG website once the guides and films have been published.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Kerbside Greening Report
Possible recently published their Kerbside Greening report, highlighting the role that repurposing parking spaces for tree planting and other green infrastructure can play in making our streets more climate resilient and liveable as the effects of climate change are felt more acutely on our city streets.
The report, written by University of Westminster's Active Travel Academy, includes policy and literature review on kerbside greening, findings from our community engagement workshops in heat-vulnerable London Borough of Newham, and insights from councils in London which are leading the way in kerbside greening and other key stakeholders.

- You can download the full report here
- Read our shorter summary briefing for local authorities here
- Read our guest blogpost from Wheels for Wellbeing about how kerbside greening can make streets more accessible for Disabled people here

- Some of our press coverage can be read here
- And please also look out for more about Kerbside Greening on our social media platforms in the coming weeks.

Stockholm Tree Pits – Ben Rose
Version 2.0 of our Guide to Designing Tree Pits with Stone-Based Structural Soils is out now.
This was produced this with Jim Hallybone, landscape architect at Logika Consultants. It sets out the current structural soil and raingarden tree pit designs we recommend.
The document also provides three case studies: Kings Square in Gloucester, Rosendal in Uppsala, and Markhouse Corner in Walthamstow.
The guide is on the Stockholm Tree Pits website, https://tinyurl.com/k5en2fmh
You can also download the drawings as DWG and PDF files from the website: www.stockholmtreepits.co.uk

The Permeable Paving Manual, MPA Precast (formerly Interpave)
This guidance provides the comprehensive, detailed information on Concrete Block Permeable Paving (CBPP) necessary to satisfy *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) and *National Standards for SuDS: 2025* requirements. It covers all aspects and stages relevant to the various professions constituting the project design team, from master-planning through to engineering design and construction, and finally maintenance. Its primary aims are to ensure that CBPP delivers predictable, robust solutions and to minimise costs, maintenance and adoption issues.
Download here: https://www.mpaprecast.org/Paving/permeable_paving_manual.aspx

SURVEYS

Public Mapping Survey - Where would you place trees and pocket parks in Birmingham?
A fun activity that takes less than 20 minutes and will contribute to an important European research study is now live (until end of September). The Public Mapping Survey is a research task, led by members of the CARMINE research project, and it should be noted that the data won't necessarily lead to trees / pocket parks being installed, it is more so about understanding what influences decision making.
Find out more at https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/carmine-brum-heat

Forest Research: project evaluating the impact of i-Tree Eco projects across the UK.
Have you used i-Tree Eco? Forest Research wants to hear from you - Forest Research

Urban Forest Indicators Survey, The International Network for Urban Forests (INTUF COST Action CA23148)

We are interested in how local authorities use, or could use, indicators to plan, manage and monitor urban forests and urban trees. The survey is intended for professionals involved in the planning and management of urban forests, urban trees and green spaces, as well as others working in related fields.

Responses from municipalities and cities both with or without existing indicator systems are welcome. The survey asks about current practices, possible barriers to using indicators, and which indicators may be useful in the future.

The survey can be accessed here: https://redcap.link/intuf
And takes 10–15 minutes to complete.

Fields in Trust – new survey exploring nature and green spaces.
https://tinyurl.com/5aad247k

EVENTS BY OTHERS

3-30-300 Webinar: Three Numbers, One Town, Plenty to Learn. 30 September
A Treeconomics webinar with Cecil Konijnendijk, Nature Based Solutions Institute.
Register for free: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2125949070170282842

Soils CPD Conference 1 October
A great line-up of leading industry experts will cover a range of topical subjects and use live case studies to evidence the importance of soil health and regeneration, greenfield soil management and re-use, green roof design & substrates, Agricultural Land Classification, SuDS, landscape construction and urban tree planting and amenity turfgrass management.
Book here: https://www.toha.co.uk/soilscon-2026/

TPCA - The planning system: The UK's greatest adaptation opportunity? 6 October online
Policy experts from across the UK explore how climate adaptation can be integrated at the centre of the planning process.
See: https://tinyurl.com/y3tuaazb

Futurescape 13-14 October, Farnborough
https://www.futurescapeevent.com/

NHS Forest Conference online 15 October
The 2026 NHS Forest conference will explore the impact of green spaces on healthcare sites. Sessions will cover the impact of green spaces on health and wellbeing, the practical delivery of projects, and evidence sharing. Sign up here

London Park City Festival 17 October
https://tinyurl.com/3r73y2y2

10th 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/

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, 11 and 18 November
https://www.trees.org.uk/Training-Events/Webinars

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://tinyurl.com/pmaxddrm

CONSULTATIONS

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

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION FROM OTHERS

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

Suitability of Important Landscape Trees to UK Cities.
Report by Andrew Hirons and Kevin Martin. Hilliers and Urban Plant Lab (2026)
https://trees.hillier.co.uk/climate-change/

A *HortWeek* Freedom of Information (FOI) request to UK councils has uncovered death rates of newly planted whips of up to 70% in 2025.
Tree-death rate up to 70% in heatwave + interactive MAP | HortWeek

Could 2027 be the hottest year on record? Met Office
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/blog/2026/an-unprecedented-el-nio-and-its-implications-for-the-weather-forecast

Extreme drought is changing Britain's wildlife – and some effects won't be seen until next year. Paul Ashton, Professor of Botany, Edge Hill University
https://theconversation.com/extreme-drought-is-changing-britains-wildlife-and-some-effects-wont-be-seen-until-next-year-289419

Trees for climate change
RHS https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees/for-climate-change

More trees are needed to cool down European cities in heatwaves – but must be planted nearer to homes
https://tinyurl.com/5ambsvt4

Urban heat's overlooked fix: Greening the land upwind of cities
https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2026/08/urban-heat-overlooked-fix-greening-the-land-upwind-of-cities

BOOKS

- **The Genius of Trees.** Harriet Rix. Vintage (2025)
- **Eat the planet well.** Dave Goulson. Jonathan Cape (2026)
- **The Nature of Cities**. Nadina Galle (2024 and 2026)

Please let us know of any books that you think will be of interest to TDAG members.

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