

## **New Parish Tree Warden for Kinnersley District**

Kinnersley & District Group Parish Council – which covers Kinnersley, Letton, Norton Canon and Sarnesfield – has appointed a Parish Tree Warden for the first time and thus joined the growing army of more than 40 parishes in Herefordshire which now have tree wardens.

Richard Summerbell, who lives in Letton, is the new tree warden and he comes to the role with a wealth of knowledge about trees and arboriculture, as well as a great enthusiasm for trees and their place in the natural landscape.

The role of Parish Tree Warden is a voluntary one and he, along with his fellow wardens, is supported by the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network as well as by the Group Parish Council.

Richard's role is diverse, but primarily it is to offer practical, positive and up-to-date advice on best practice in managing trees, as well as encouraging the planting of new trees and hedgerows in our local environment. He will be able to offer advice on any matters affecting trees in the public realm, including legislation, or if next best, point us in the right direction for the advice we need. Speaking about his role, Richard said, "Educating the young – and not so young - about trees is a keen interest of mine, and to that end I'm already planning a series of talks and activities with Staunton Primary School in the Autumn. In time, and with a more knowledge of the most significant ancient trees in the parish, and working with the Parish Footpath Officers, I'm hopeful that a walk or two that pass trees of interest adjacent to the existing footpaths network can be developed and then publicised".

### **Working with the natural landscape – enhancing hedgerows**

In short, Richard hopes to build even greater enthusiasm for trees in the four parishes and with this in mind, he can now offer a free service to those with hedgerows and the thought that it might be good for the environment and the landscape to have just one or two more trees in those hedgerows. Simply put, if you have a hedgerow in a domestic setting, or hedgerows in an agricultural setting and are cutting them each autumn/winter, Richard would be happy to spend a bit of time walking any hedgerow with you to see if any potential specimen trees can be identified, then marked and left to grow on to maturity within the still otherwise trimmed hedge, and to this end he has already undertaken his first successful walk in the parish.

If, and at any time, parishioners would like advice on any aspect of tree planting, interim management, or occasionally, felling of a tree, Richard can be reached through the Group Parish Council Clerk through the Council website [www.kinnersleygrouppc.co.uk](http://www.kinnersleygrouppc.co.uk) or directly to himself on 07443 234153 or by email on: [summerbellr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summerbellr@yahoo.co.uk).

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