What does a Tree Warden do?
Wardens CAN do ANY of the following, depending on their individual skills, interests and local support – but you must always do a RISK ASSESSMENT, and you should not try to do EVERYTHING:

• planting and caring for trees, and managing local woodlands in your community,
• setting up tree nurseries,
• surveying your local trees,
• keeping an eye out for, and (when appropriate) reporting tree disease, decay or vandalism,
• taking part in training organised by the Kent Tree and Pond Partnership, or others,
• helping with, or applying for grants,
• working with local groups, youth organisations or schools, for example: seed collecting, tree-planting, tree care or surveying
• developing initiatives such as tree adoption schemes in your area
• leading guided tree walks and giving talks in your community
• spearheading initiatives such as Tree Planting week, the Hedge tree campaign, the Tree care campaign, hosting the Kent Men of the Trees village trees competition or participating in the Kent AONB’s Ash Project, Old Chalk New Downs Project or other projects
• Know which trees in their district have TPOs on them, check they are all still there.
• Apply for more TPOs on sites under threat if appropriate – not always appropriate.
• Encourage street tree watering and care.
• Get supermarkets, etc to replant more good trees in grounds and car parks, and water them.
• Survey, celebrate and map important trees in their area.
• Work with local amenity, historical and community groups for trees
• Campaign nationally and locally for more trees and green spaces, the right trees in the right place.
• Tree Wardens MUST NOT:

• EVER advise whether a tree is safe or not – this is for the experts and volunteer wardens are not insured to do so
• undertake practical work beyond your capabilities or without appropriate permission
• enter private land without the owners permission
• attempt to handle tree disputes yourselves
• carry out chemical weed control without the certified training
• use a chainsaw or powered tools without the necessary certified training and extra insurance
• carry out work that disturbs wildlife during the breeding/nesting season
2. What to do if you think a tree is damaged, ill, or has a disease?

• Never state that a tree is safe OR dangerous
• Look and think - see if it is possible to diagnose more accurately, and gain more information,
• Get the professionals in (+ there may already have been regular VTAs). Discuss with other tree wardens,
• Consider potential outcomes and possible actions, short and longer term
What would you consider doing, as a Volunteer Tree Warden, if you saw the following situations, pictured in the next few slides?

• What might you try to find out?
• Who might you want to contact?
• What action might you consider?
• How might such situations be avoided in the future?
• ND There are no right answers, this is a discussion
Photos from Jasper Sharp's post in Thanet Trees
• Don’t mourn, organise (Joe Hill)
• If not me, who?
• If not now, when?