

Old Trees as a Living Heritage

A one-day conference organized by the Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen

When? Tuesday April 14th, 2009.

Where? Provinciehuis, Universiteitslaan 1, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium

The conference will deal with four different topics relating to older and veteran trees (1) history, (2) biodiversity, (3) management, (4) future. Awareness among participants and subsequent newsreaders will be raised on the occurrence and value of older trees. Older trees, most notably older oak trees, in England and in the village of Lummen, Belgium will serve as focal points. At Lummen, more than 600 neglected oak pollards have yet been discovered. The data and historical information collected at Lummen are used to describe these tree's occurrence and former uses in the whole of the Campine area. The trees belonged to and were part of hedges around agricultural fields and their wood most often served to heat ovens for baking bread.

The older trees are vectors of biodiversity and will be described as such. But they will also be presented as elements of a now defunct ethno-ecosystem.

Throughout the day simultaneous translation from Dutch into English and from English into Dutch will be provided by professional conference interpreters.

Programme:

09h30 Arrival, coffee will be offered

09h50 **Welcome and setting the scene**

by Frank Smeets, a local minister in charge of the Environment, Financial Affairs and Education

10h00 **Securing the future of ancient and veteran trees and pollards in the United Kingdom**

by Jill Butler, Woodland Trust, UK

10h40 **Van wortel tot kruin: recept voor het vergroten van verbondenheid met levend erfgoed**

[How to raise awareness on living heritage]

by Ilse Ideler, director Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen

and

Knoteiken in Lummen en omgeving: verspreiding anno 2009

Een toekomst voor autochtone bomen en struiken

[Oak pollards at Lummen: distribution in 2009 – Securing a future for indigenous trees and shrubs]

by Ilse Plessers, biologist with the Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen

11h00 Coffee break with pie

11h20 **Knoteiken en hakhouthagen als elementen van een cultuurlandschap**

[Oak pollards and coppiced hedges in former landscapes]

by Joël Burny, ecologist with the Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen

11h50 **The management of lapsed pollards**

by Ted Green, Ancient Tree Forum, UK

12h30 Lunch, sandwiches will be offered

Throughout lunchtime possibility to visit the poster session

13h20 **Lopen kleine beestjes nog warm voor onze huidige landschappen?**

[The role of heat – reaching soil and trees when coppiced – in today's landscapes as a vector of insect life]

by Hans Van Dyck, zoologist, professor at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

13h45 **Knotbomen in West-Vlaanderen, hun natuur- en cultuurhistorische betekenis**

[Pollards in West-Flanders: natural values and cultural significance]

by Arnout Zwaenepoel, botanist, professor at Ghent University

14h10 **WorldCafe** – participants in small clusters will be invited to exchange information and opinions concerning the ways and means of securing the future of living heritage

15h15 Break

15h30 **A debate will be held with:**

(1) Els Hofkens, chief of staff with the Flemish Department of Protected Landscapes, Buildings and Monuments (VIOE);

(2) Filiép Cardoen, chief of staff of the Management Unit of the Flemish Department of Nature en Forests (ANB);

(3) Peter Van Bossuyt, Rural Area's Commission expert of the Farmer's Union (Boerenbond);

(4) Luc Wouters, mayor of Lummen.

Marcel Kerff will be serving as a moderator. This debate is scheduled to end at 16h30.

Fee: € 5,- (five euros) to be paid before April 3rd, 2009

Bank account of Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen, Grote Baan 176, 3530 Houthalen-Helchteren, Belgium;
BIC GEBABEBB; IBAN BE83

0013 9495 8515.

The Provinciehuis can be reached from the Hasselt railway station and from several stops in town by means of bus line H3 (free).

Any participant who would like to present a poster of his/her organisation or of any relating topic, will find us at: www.rlk.be