

# rowse tree services

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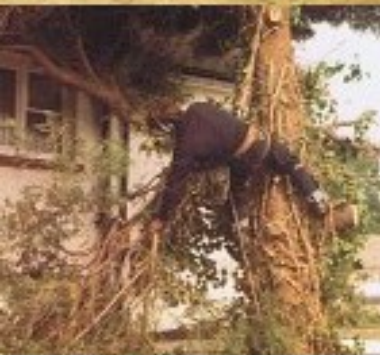


## SPRING NEWSLETTER

# 25 Years

In May we will have been going twenty five years.  
Thank you for helping to keep us busy all that time.

## The Good Old Days:



It may not look that different—still rope and harness and chainsaws but to see tree surgeons climbing without PPE (personal protective equipment) is quite shocking—no helmet, no chain-saw trousers, no chainsaw boots. The ropes are very different now—the one in the picture on the left is a three strand nylon rope whereas now we use a braided rope (on the right) which absorb shocks better. The chipper (about 1989) was gravity fed without rollers to pull the branches in so if you caught your fingers that was it. The stump grinder was very basic, hardly any guards and very hard work to use as it relied on heaving it across the stump whereas the new one uses hydraulics. There have been great changes in equipment available to use: on the left they are using rigging techniques—in this case making a zip line with rope and pullies—to lower the logs as they section down the tree. Hand saws have become available as I am sure many of you are aware that are extremely sharp and quick to saw through smaller branches that we use regularly. Without wishing to dwell too much on paper work the amount of legislation that we now have to comply with in comparison to the 1980's is a lot. There has been the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences 1995. Management of Health



## Continued:

and Safety at Work Regulations 1999—risk assessments. Then there is the Provision And Use Of Work Equipment 1998—making sure your machines are maintained. The Lifting Operations And Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998—involves checking all of our ropes and harnesses, karabiners, winches and things like the fore end loader on the tractor. Lastly The Work At Height Regulations 2005—this involves a hierarchy of choice of how to tackle a job from working from the ground as safest to using a mobile elevating work platform to climbing and needs to be noted down on the risk assessment. We are also required by the Environment

## Spring:

Spring is a time to avoid major pruning of trees where large amounts of wood is removed, energy reserves are low because they have used all their stored energy in coming out into leaf and have not had enough time to restore the balance. In this phase of growth they will have less energy to combat pathogens than later on in the summer.

It is a good time to check tree-ties on recently planted trees and keep grass and weeds away from the base for 1m diameter. This will also help prevent mower/strimmer damage.

Good spring flowering trees include:

*Crataegus* sp. (Hawthorn)

*Aesculus hippocastanum*/Horse Chestnut

*Magnolia* sp. *Prunus* sp. Cherries

*Malus* sp. Apples, *Amelanchier laevis*

*Cornus nuttali* 'Altona'

Agency to have a Waste Carriers Licence—Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations 1991. It all amounts to a lot of paperwork and will give you some idea of the preparation needed before we arrive on your doorstep. However all this training does have benefits and accidents are horrid and no one wants them. The chainsaw trousers for example although hot in the summer have been great all this winter and have, in the past, saved some nasty cuts on a couple of occasions (before Riddor!). These are the main ones that affect us day to day in the records that we have to keep. The other huge change is the office. We started out with an electric Smith Corona typewriter.

Delayed bud break—if bud break is delayed in Spring or new foliage is more sparse than usual it could indicate a root or vascular disorder. Some newly planted trees can be expected to have delayed bud break.

Cover Peach trees where possible to protect them from water splash to lessen the need for measures against Peach Leaf Curl. Hot dry summers helps check the disease and it's rumoured to be one this year!

Birds nests—birds will be building nests in trees and hedges. Before carrying out any hedge trimming or tree work part of the risk assessment involves checking for protected species which include bats and birds.

This will be the last Newsletter on paper (unless you haven't got a computer and let us know you would like one sent by post although we will print them individually on the printer so the quality will not be brilliant). But we wanted to be able to thank as many of you as possible for your custom.

Next issue will be about planning—tree preservation orders, conservation areas, hedges and so on. In the Autumn it will be about fungi.

