

Take three trees - Ash, Mountain Ash and Alder

Start date 24 July 2020 **End date** 26 July 2020

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Patrick Harding **Course code** 1920NRX058

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact the Lifelong Learning team Zara Kuckelhaus, Fleur Kerrecoe
shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 764637

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Patrick taught ecology and genetics to undergraduates for 7 years before spending 20 years at Sheffield University where he ran the science programme in the extramural department. Freelance for over 20 years he has taught at Madingley since 1988 and is the author of eight popular books about trees, flowers, herbal medicine and fungi. He contributes to both radio and television programmes and teaches day courses for, among other organisations, what most people still call the Forestry Commission. Patrick likes to include sessions on folklore and literature along with the scientific base of his courses, together with a little humour – learning does not have to be dry.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1: Alder - Natural History, History and Folklore
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2: Ash – Natural History, History and Folklore
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3: Mountain Ash – Natural History, History and Folklore
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4: Field visit to see the trees in their habitats
18:00	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 - 21:30	Session 5: A look at the many uses of Ash, Alder and Mountain Ash
21:15	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6: Alder, Ash and Mountain Ash in literature Inputs including readings by class members of their favourite pieces (not compulsory)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7: A look round the gardens and grounds at Madingley where there are specimens of all three species.
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To enable students to evaluate the roles played by alder, ash and mountain ash in British history and folklore.
2. To provide students with the practical skills to be able to identify our native species of alder, ash and mountain ash and some of the commoner cultivars and related introduced species.
3. Students will be able to use source material in a more rigorous investigation of the flora and fauna associated with the three species.

Content:

The Madingley based sessions on history, natural history and usage of the three species will take the form of illustrated lectures backed up with handouts where necessary. The Sunday literature sessions will include inputs from members of the course and time for discussion about the chosen pieces.

The Saturday afternoon outing and part of the final session will offer chances to put theory into practice and help draw together the different strands of the subjects under study.

Presentation of the course:

There will be illustrated lectures with handouts, field visits to examine the trees, a group presentation and time for discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Identify, making use of practical skills learnt on the course together with available source material, our native alder, ash and mountain ash together with their common cultivars and introduced related species.
2. Evaluate the relative importance of the three species in both legend and history.
3. Appreciate both the current and historic importance of a wide range of products sourced from the three species.
4. Demonstrate by way of discussion, an understanding of the way in which the three species have been portrayed in literature.

Participants are asked to bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear (walking boots or wellingtons – it might be muddy) for the field excursion on the Saturday afternoon and for the Sunday walk at Madingley.

Participants are also asked to bring two or three short prose extracts or poems which relate to one or more of the tree species for the literature session. If you have any small objects made from any of the three species and are willing to display them on the Saturday evening then please bring them along.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Fowles, J	The Tree	Sumach Press 1992
Hemery, G & Simblet, S	The New Sylva	Bloomsbury 2014
Howkins, C	Rowan, tree of protection	Howkins 1996
Johnson. O & More, D	Collins Tree Guide	Collins 2004
Llewellyn-Williams	The Tree Calendar	Poetry Wales 1987
Piling, C	Tree Time	Red Beck 2003
Rackham, O	The Ash Tree	Little Toller 2014

There will be a large display of books about trees.

Website addresses

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided as outlined in the timetable. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 02 March 2020