

May 2022

It was time for a visit from Forest Research. A selection of Pathologists (Pathogen specialists) and Entomologists (Bug specialists) visited, to look at trees in the Pinetum that have been noted as potentially diseased/dying back. The specialists take a mixture of bark and soil samples to analysis when they get back to the lab. They are always great at explaining potential scenarios that may be going on for the tree to be reacting in a certain way. It is such an interesting day, but also sad to hear about how much of an impact small beings can have on so many tree species.



I spent a day helping Emma, the Nursery Supervisor, around the nursery. Every spring, we have to paint our glass house with a special white paint, to reduce how hot it gets inside, as the days get warmer. Too much heat negatively affects the species that are inside. My next task was weed some saplings, that are for a project with Forest Research. The project at Windy Ridge is based around finding more drought tolerant trees for future forestry species. The rise in temperature due to climate change, means this is an especially important. We must think ahead, otherwise future generations will have little to no supply of timber which as such an incredible renewable material used for so many products.

At the end of May, we headed over to Westonbirt for their 'Tree Care Forum' a new event they were trialling, which was held over a period of two days. The event held tree related talks, guided walks, wellbeing workshops, meet the machines and children's activities. It was such an amazing event, I felt truly inspired listening to all the speakers, thinking about all the various aspects my career could involve. One of my favourite parts, was on Friday afternoon, when some of the Bedgebury tree team and I went on a guided walk with Dan Crowley, the Dendrologist (tree specialist) at Westonbirt and Tony Kirkham, who is well known for his work with Kew Gardens. Their passion for the Westonbirt tree collection was so clear, they shared stories of trees that around the arboretum that they liked, pretty much every one we came across, until we ran out of time. Some of the tree team stayed Friday night in Westonbirt's tree team mess room, ready for



Saturdays talks. It was also so cool meeting all the Westonbirt team, during our stay. We are looking forward to their visit to Bedgebury in a couple of months.