



**Eastern Training Alliance**

**Anita Chadney—Training Officer**, 1 Eagle Farm, Baythorne End, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4AF

Tel/Fax: 01440 788888 Mobile: 07979054375 E-Mail: anita@eastertrainingalliance.co.uk

www.eastertrainingalliance.co.uk

**Gill Hicks—Accounts**, 7 Summerfield Close, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0FD Tel 07958007993

**Newsletter, March/April, 2007**

### Members Course Rates

Enclosed is your annual Membership Subscriptions invoice. Please note that once again there has been no increase in the cost of membership.

### Training Needs Assessments Visits

With winter now behind us my mind is now turning to annual farm visits and your pre harvest training requirements. I will be beginning my visits after the Easter Break and will be contacting you in due course to arrange dates and times so please use this time to start thinking training and what your requirements may be. Please use the Busy Farmers Guide to Training that I sent out last winter as a guide to what your legal requirements are and there fresher training guidelines. I won't take up much of your time and these visits need only last about half an hour, so please try and fit me in.

Also if you have any pre-harvest training requirements or any ideas for the programme please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss them.

### RECENT NEWS RELEASE IN THE TELEGRAPH

"A warning was issued yesterday about the growing danger of death and injury from fallen trees as the frequency of stormy weather appears to be increasing. Many trees planted 80 to 150 years ago are at or beyond maturity and pose an increasing safety risk, say experts.

Local authorities and landowners were reminded yesterday that many of these trees are old and more vulnerable.

Paul Smith, technical officer of the UK Arboriculture Association said: "Tree owners are highly recommended to have them regularly inspected." He said checks should be carried out annually in high risk areas where trees are old and more vulnerable.

"Old trees should be monitored regularly and often need pruning to reduce their size. In the most severe cases they may need to be removed. However they provide a amenity and there has to be a balance."

He added "A prolonged period of wet weather combined with high winds poses the highest risk of trees being blown down. The tree structure can be overloaded by the amount of water in the soil, high winds and the size of the tree. Excessive water lubricates the soil so we find trees effectively losing their footings and slipping over"

An inquest heard last year that Timothy Sutton, eight, died from severe head injuries after a beech landed on top of him in winds up to 67 mph at Durham Massey Park, near Altrincham, Great Manchester.

His parents criticised the National Trust at the hearing for failing to spot the beech was rotten. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive is continuing."

*This newspaper article highlights a serious issue to landowners. We now have a course available which will help owners/managers identify trees that have **obvious** defects and therefore in the current climate a potential risk to your employees and the public. This is the **BASIC TREES SURVEY COURSE**. It was run in January and was very well received so this course will be running again on the **13th April at Babraham, nr Cambridge. Places still available on this one day course, Members Course Rate £60.***

### Fire Risk Assessment

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2006 - Commenced 1st October 2006

This new regime of fire safety enforcement came into force on 1 October 2006 and affects employers and those who are responsible for non-domestic, industrial, commercial and residential premises. Self-employed people and the voluntary sector will also be brought within this regime.

The new Order simplifies, rationalizes and consolidates existing fire safety legislation. It provides for a risk-based approach to fire safety allowing more efficient and effective enforcement by the fire and rescue service.

At the core of the legislation lies the fire risk assessment. This is an organised appraisal of your work activities and the workplace to enable you to identify potential fire hazards, and to decide who (including employees, non-employees and visitors) might be in danger in the event of fire, and their location. You will then evaluate the risks arising from the hazards and decide whether the existing fire precautions are adequate, or whether more needs to be done.

*Bearing these new regulations in mind a Fire Risk Assessment course was held in February and was very well received, with these new responsibilities in mind this course is being run again on the **17th April for all those people who may have missed it. Places still available 1/2 day course, Members Course Rate £50**.*

### Course Place Availability in April

**FLTRough Terrain Telescopic 2 -day**—17th & 18th April  
Members Course Cost £165.

**FLTRough Terrain Telescopic Refresher 1 -day**—19th April  
Members Course Cost £110

**PA1**—18th April Nr Haverhill, Members Course Cost £50

**PA6**—25th April Nr Haverhill, Members Course Cost £70

## Employment Opportunity

For anyone interested in travelling to Australia you will find this an ideal job opportunity  
A Farmer/contractor who has a straw baling operation covering a large part of Western Australia requires drivers for the period Oct - Dec 07. If you are interested in further details please contact Rodger Birdon -01284830274

## Sugar Beet Study Group Meeting

The dates for the rest of this seasons Sugar Beet Study Group meeting areas follows:

Wednesday 25th April —2.00pm  
Wednesday 23rd May —2.00pm  
Wednesday 20th June —2.00pm

Venue—Rougham Estate, Ipswich Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP309LZ.

If members would like to meet up for lunch before the meeting there is a very nice pub locally which does good food. Pub Venue —The Five Bells, Hessett, Nr Beyton, IP309AX, meeting time —12.30 –1.00pm.

*Wishing you all a Happy Easter*

*Anita & Gill*

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