

# FRIENDS OF OLIVER RACKHAM #20

UPDATES, UPCOMING EVENTS, RACKHAM RESEARCH NEWS  
& STORIES, IN MEMORIAM, PAST EVENTS, and BOOKS  
February 2024

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## UPDATES

### THE RACKHAM ARCHIVES AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, IN TEXAS AND IN CRETE

#### Cataloging, Indexing and Scanning Oliver Rackham's Archives

##### RECORDS AT CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Dr Genny Silvanus, College Archivist and Records Manager at Corpus Christi College Cambridge, has kindly sent the following update on the Rackham Archive:

On a bright, sunny February morning Paula Keen, Simon Leatherdale and David Morfitt made the trip to Corpus to bring more of Oliver Rackham's notes which had yet to be deposited with the main archive collection. The five boxes are now sitting on my desk waiting to be processed.

When archives are deposited it is best practice to write an accession form and make a list of all that is deposited (and on what terms) so all parties know exactly where everything is. This deposit (Acc. 2024/4) includes:



Box 1 — Stansted Airport enquiry reports and correspondence (3 box files & 2 ring binders).

Box 2- ring binder entitled 'Woods of SE Wales 2013', box file entitled 'WALES' and metal box containing OS maps and twig samples.

Box 3 — files directly from filing cabinet beginning with 'W'; printed digital photographs in ring binder marked 'Wales, Scotland, Ireland', 'Incomplete Rough Draft, 2 May 2016 Preface for Oliver Rackham's account of the Helford River woods', 'Research & Survey in nature conservation No 40 Research on the ecological effects on woodland of the 1987 storm'.

Box 4 — box files entitled 'Accounts of Woods- Suffolk', 'Accounts of Woods- Essex', 'Lizard', files directly from filing cabinet for Helford, pink folder containing notes and tree record cards for woodlands in Wales.

Box 5 — files directly from filing cabinet including Scilly and F-M, green folder marked ‘Timber frame buildings’ and ‘signatures’, binder entitled ‘The Woods of South-East Wales (Gregynog Lectures 1997)’, ‘Stability & Change in the Cretan Landscape’, ‘The Ancient woodland of England: The Woods of South-East Essex’, ringbinder entitled ‘Ash’; box folder marked ‘Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire’.

These will be weeded\*, repackaged in archival packaging and then transferred to the archive over the coming months. Space is at a premium in historic college settings, with students and fellows needing bedrooms, tutorial rooms and meeting rooms, plus staff offices so my quest for more space is ongoing. Currently the Collection is split over several rooms across two courts, most of it in the original packaging it was transferred to the college in.

If money can be raised, then the remainder of the Oliver Rackham Collection can be similarly processed and made available to researchers.

[\*as per the terms of the accession form, the weeded items will be offered back to the depositor.]

Visitors are welcome to come and study materials in the Rackham Archive at Corpus by appointment. Please direct any enquiries regarding the Rackham Archive at Corpus to Dr Genny Silvanus at [archivist@corpus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:archivist@corpus.cam.ac.uk).

Also see Genny’s contribution ‘Walking with Constable and the Rackham Notebooks’, first published in *FOR Newsletter #19*, but also available in this newsletter on pp. 27–28, and Lucy Hughes contribution ‘Working on the Rackham Archive’, *FOR Newsletter #17*, February 2022, pp. 13–17.

Please note too that Corpus Christi College’s website includes a webpage for Oliver: [oliver-rackham-alumnus-fellow-and-master](http://oliver-rackham-alumnus-fellow-and-master).

## RECORDS IN CRETE

- Oliver's books and papers stored in Crete deal with his research there and in other parts of Greece. They include files and binders on Medieval architecture, Venetian archives, Greek plants, landscapes and weather.

If you would like to volunteer to help index this material, Jenny Moody would be happy to host you at her house at Boutounaria in Crete, Greece, while you work. Please contact her [hogwildjam@mac.com](mailto:hogwildjam@mac.com).

## RECORDS IN TEXAS

- Oliver’s slide collections of Albania, Greece (including Mount Athos, the Greek Mainland, the Cycladic and Dodecanese Islands and Crete), Turkey, Central and South America (Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama), the ‘Caribbean’ (Cuba, and Jamaica), and the USA (Texas and California).

## OLIVER’S COMPUTER ARCHIVE

- Another wealth of material is Oliver's digital records stored on his computer hard drives and thumb drives. The originals reside in Texas but copies are available on hard drives stored at the Rackham Archives at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and in Crete.

- Oliver switched to digital cameras in 2005. Thus, most if not all his photographs from 2005 to 2015 were stored on his computer drives or on SD cards and have not been catalogued.
- If you are interested in volunteering to help index any part of this computer archive, please contact Jenny Moody [hogwildjam@mac.com](mailto:hogwildjam@mac.com). (She owns the copyright to this material.) *This could be done remotely.*

## Digitising, uploading and transcribing Oliver Rackham's Archives

Since 2016, Huw Jones and his team at the University of Cambridge Digital Library (CDL) have been working to make Oliver's scanned notebooks and slides available to the public. The archivist at Corpus Christi College prepares and sends the scanned notebooks to CDL, where they are uploaded to the webpage CDL created for him: <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/rackham>. At present, 459 notebooks are available online.

About 140 of the uploaded notebooks have also been transcribed by volunteers, allowing word searches and other data processing on the content. If you would like to volunteer to help transcribe Oliver's uploaded notebooks, please sign up here: <https://cambridge-digital-library.github.io/Crowdsourcing/>.

CDL also hosts some of the Rackham slide collections that have been scanned. At present collections from Mount Athos, Hatfield Forest, Hayley Wood, Shropshire, and Worcestershire are available online, including the annotations Oliver wrote around their margins: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/rackham/49>.

Also see Huw Jones's contribution 'Transcribing Together: Digitising the Rackham Archives' *FOR Newsletter #17*, February 2022, pp. 19–22.

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We (FOR, Corpus Christi College and CDL) continue to extend our warmest thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers for your generous support for the Rackham Digitization Project. Your contributions are making Oliver's unique archive available to the world. Thank you so very much!

The Friends of Mount Athos	Guy Corbett-Marshall	Michael Kelly
Henry Art	Corpus Christi College,	Keith Kirby
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 Alison Stacey  
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 Denis Vickers  
 Peter & Elizabeth Warren  
 John Wayman

Scott Wilson

\* The Ted Ellis Trust  
 \*\* Mediterranean Garden Society  
 Portugal

## THE RACKHAM HERBARIUM AT CAMBRIDGE

The Oliver Rackham Herbarium consists of 17,000+ specimens in their original handmade boxes. The collection contains items mainly from Britain (see Euan McKenzie's contribution 'Digitisation of Oliver Rackham's British Herbarium Collection' *FOR Newsletter* #17 February 2022, pp. 17–19) and Greece, especially Crete. There are, however, also sizable collections from Texas, Japan, and Australia. Oliver's herbarium is stored at the Cambridge University Herbarium (CUH), part of the Department of Plant Sciences ([cambridge-university-herbarium](http://cambridge-university-herbarium), enquiries: [herbarium@plantsci.cam.ac.uk](mailto:herbarium@plantsci.cam.ac.uk)).

Dr Lauren Gardiner, the curator of CUH, does not have a detailed update for this newsletter but continues to work hard to get the Rackham and other herbarium collections digitized and online. Lauren discusses some of the Rackham collection in this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/TCPhm9KZ8IU>.

## THE OLIVER RACKHAM COLLECTION AT THE GREEN WOOD CENTRE

The Small Woods Association (SWA) holds an eclectic collection of tools, papers, and furniture from Oliver's home. The collection is now stored at the Green Wood Centre, near the Iron Bridge in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Much of the material relates to Oliver's early scientific research and his various carpentry and construction projects.

In January 2024, Ian Baker retired from his position as CEO of Small Woods Association [small-woods-news/ceo-ian-baker-to-step-down/](http://small-woods-news/ceo-ian-baker-to-step-down/). We thank him for championing and guiding the initial accession, cataloguing, and exhibiting of the Rackham Collection. For example, see David Reeve's contributions 'Oliver Rackham—Roots and Branches' *FOR Newsletter* #17, February 2022, pp. 11–13, 23–25.

Simon James is the new CEO [small-woods/meet-the-team/our-ceo-and-senior-management-team/](http://small-woods/meet-the-team/our-ceo-and-senior-management-team/). We congratulate him and look forward to a continuing collaboration on the Green Wood Centre's Rackham Collection.

If you would like more information about the Rackham Collection at SWA, please send an email to [office@swa.org.uk](mailto:office@swa.org.uk).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 20 March 2024 — Walking with Constable: The Cambridge Edition

A continuation of the ‘Constable’ project led by Cambridge Digital Humanities, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Cambridge University Library (*see pp. 27–28*). Using augmented reality and the field journals of Oliver Rackham (1939–2015), participants can explore how local landscapes have changed since Constable’s time. The event will be part of the Cambridge Festival 2024. [Walking with Constable Cambridge](#).

### 2–6 April 2024 — Field Studies Council at Flatford Mills course: *Ancient Trees of the British Landscape*

This spring Gary Battell, Simon Leatherdale and Jonathan Spencer will teach the course *Ancient Trees of the British Landscape* at Flatford Mills. Their course is modelled on fieldtrips Oliver Rackham gave there for 25 years.

Battell, Leatherdale and Spencer have been offering this and similar courses since 2019. All three tutors have made significant contributions to British forestry, woodland and ancient tree management, PAWS restoration, rewilding, and resilience that have brought natural capital and ecosystem service benefits.

Field trips include visits to Bradfield Woods (*see pp. 19–25, 29–31*), Chalkney Wood, Tyler’s Wood, Arger Fen, Groton Wood (*see pp. 13–19*) and Staverton Park.

Full details are available on the Study Council’s website: [Flatford ancient-trees-of-the-british-landscape](#) There are still a few spaces available.



**Left:** Staverton Park. (© G. Battell). **Right:** Course visit to the Bradfield Woods with David Hooton talking deer management, April 2021. (G. Battell)

### 25–26 April 2024 — Landscape Conservation Forum seminar: *Trouble in the Woods — the new ‘Locust Years’ and the destruction of ancient woodland heritage.*

This is a two-day seminar from the Landscape Conservation Forum dedicated to Oliver Rackham, Melvyn Jones, David Hey, Donald Pigott, and Frank Spode. It will be chaired by Ian D. Rotherham and Ken Smith.

This two-day event begins on Day 1 by celebrating the remarkable and unique heritage of ancient woodlands. To do this we introduce recent and current research in

woodland archaeology and management and update on progress since the landmark publication of the 'Woodland Heritage Manual' in 2008. Day 2 will focus on the threats to this irreplaceable heritage and ecology posed by current forestry policies and woodland management prescriptions.

The book *Woodlands: Ecology, Management and Threats*, edited by Ian D. Rotherham, will also be launched at the conference. Many chapters relate to the



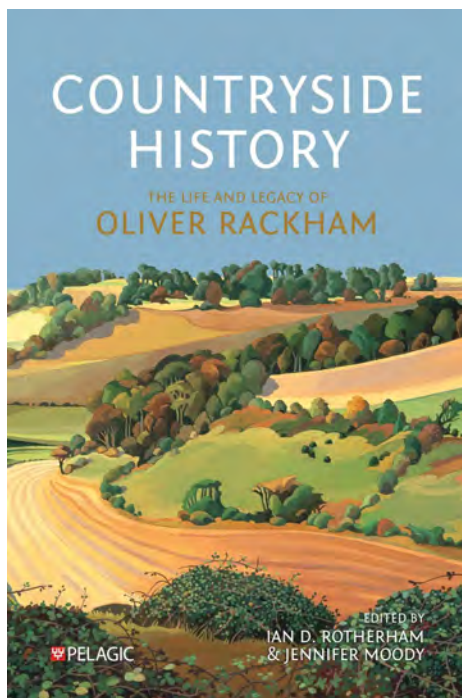
Tracks through a major monument in Whitwell Woods described as 'acceptable' because they only went through it twice. (I. Rotherham)

conference, including: Chapter 1: 'Issues and problems for the conservation of heritage and archaeology in ancient woods'. Chapter 15: 'A case-study approach to reconstructing evidence for relict ancient woodlands from ecological indicators and archival sources.' Chapter 14: 'Oaks, acorns, and jays: three reasons for replacing Europe's conventional oak silviculture with woodmanship and covid-generated groves.' Please see page 34 below for book details. (Also see Rotherham, I.D. 2024 'The new 'Locust Years' of ancient woodland destruction' *British Wildlife* February 2024: 244 ff. downloadable here: [The New Locust Years ianswalkonthewildside.](#)

For more details about the seminar *Trouble in the Woods*, please visit this webpage: [Trouble in the Woods.](#)

To book your place, please follow this link: [Bookings Trouble in the Woods.](#)

## MAY 2024 — *COUNTRYSIDE HISTORY: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OLIVER RACKHAM.*



This book, edited by Ian D. Rotherham and Jennifer Moody, is a collection of 25 chapters written in honour of Oliver Rackham. Professor Peter Grubb, Oliver's undergraduate supervisor and long-time mentor, has written the foreword, and many of Oliver's colleagues and friends have contributed to an extensive Rackham bibliography at the end of the book.

The chapters are contributed by leading landscape and countryside historians from around the world: Japan, Australia, Canada, The United States, England, The Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, and Greece. We believe that this collection will be a fitting tribute to the breadth of Oliver's research, writing, collaboration, and inspiration.

The book is richly illustrated in full colour. It will be published by Pelagic Publishing: [countryside-history-pelagic.](#)

## RACKHAM RESEARCH NEWS and STORIES

*This section comprises short reports about research or other activities that carry on the Rackham Tradition, or use the Rackham Archives, the Rackham Herbarium, or other Rackham legacy materials. Anecdotes and short stories about Oliver are also welcome. If you would like to share a paragraph or two with this List, please contact me at [hogwildjam@mac.com](mailto:hogwildjam@mac.com).*

I am pleased to share three new contributions in this issue. ‘Walking with a Giant — Reflections on working with Oliver Rackham’, is by Paula Keen (pp. 8–13). In the 1990s Paula worked with Oliver in Suffolk and Essex as part of the Forestry Commission, and from 1999 as part of Coed Cadw, the Woodland Trust in Wales. She tirelessly led the effort to complete and publish his unfinished manuscript *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales* (see p. 35).<sup>1</sup> Paula continues working at the Woodland Trust to protect, conserve, and promote British woodland, championing Oliver’s legacy.<sup>2</sup> Originally from Oxfordshire, Paula has degrees from the School of Global Development at the University of East Anglia and the former Oxford Forestry Institute; she has lived in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park continuously since 1997 where she and her husband raised their two bilingual Welsh children.

‘In Oliver Rackham’s Footsteps’, is by Denis Vickers and Antranig Basman (pp. 13–19). Denis has been involved in wildlife and nature conservation in Greater London for more than 30 years. He has worked as a nature reserve manager, as a biodiversity officer for a London borough and as an ecologist within private practice. Currently, he works as a freelance ecological consultant specialising in habitat surveys, botanical surveys, and conservation projects. Denis particularly enjoys working in ancient woodland settings where he continues to find using Oliver Rackham’s approach to the subject of great value in the interpretation of fieldwork. Antranig Basman is a mathematician and software programmer with a passion for nature. He is a strong promoter of open-source programming and machine learning and automated information structuring, especially as applied to data of a biological origin. Both authors have contributed to the Oliver Rackham Digitization Project.

‘Ann and James Hart, Oliver Rackham and The Bradfield Woods’ (pp. 19–25), is by Ben Hart, grandson of Ann and James who with Oliver and a team of other friends and colleagues saved the Bradfield Woods from destruction in the 1960s. Ben is a Chartered Energy Manager and Head of Operations at Nattergal. Previously at Highlands Rewilding and Associate Director at Carbon Intelligence (now part of Accenture.) He wrote the piece in collaboration with Annie Sommazzi (granddaughter), Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager at South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council. Previously Climate Change and Environmental Policy Manager at North Norfolk District Council, and Green Infrastructure Officer at Broadland District Council; it was fact checked by Bryn Hart (son) and Alison Sommazzi (daughter).

I also include the essays from *FOR Newsletter #19*: ‘Oliver Rackham, Jeremy Grimsdell and me — starting with the Cambridge Botany School Trip to Bavaria, June 1961’ by Dr John Gibbs (pp. 26–27); ‘Walking with Constable’ and the Rackham Notebooks’ by Dr Genny Silvanus (pp. 27–28).

<sup>1</sup> *FOR Newsletter #18*: ‘Official online launch of *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales*’ pp. 25–28 and ‘Hay Festival launch of *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales*’ pp. 28–29.

<sup>2</sup> Woodland Trust Memorial Event 2021: dedication of the Curley Oak, Wentwood, to Oliver Rackham’, *FOR Newsletter #17* pp. 25–29.

# WALKING WITH A GIANT – REFLECTIONS ON WORKING WITH OLIVER RACKHAM

by Paula Keen

Who would have the audacity to meddle with the work of Oliver Rackham and then publish it?

I first met Oliver in the early 1990s when I worked for the Forestry Commission (FC) in South Suffolk and North Essex as Operations Manager and then Forest District Manager. Oliver had kindly agreed to join our external advisory panel, supporting Simon Leatherdale's pioneering work to gradually deconiferise the ancient woods there and manage them through woodmanship. Thanks to a diverse network of 'higglers' who would buy and work firewood, charcoal, hurdles, and the like, we delighted in the recovery of the woods with oxlips, herb Paris, orchids and so much more starting to re-emerge. In response to this and in discussion with the Conservation Forester, Richard Davies, I made it district policy that conifers would not be planted there again and created the unusual '5-year higggle' category to support flexible coppice management through the FCs mandatory production forecasting system.

The merger of this small Forest District with the rather more industrial Thetford Forest coincided with my departure for a Voluntary Service Overseas placement in Kavango, Namibia. Through Simon's occasional and furious letters, I learned that the new regime was doing its best to reverse our approach; a lack of conifers, flexible rotations and small diverse markets were clearly not yet wholly popular concepts, but the day was won by Simon's tenacity, Oliver's robust support and the army of higgglers.

Upon my return from Namibia the FC posted me back to the district that I had trained in, in industrial South Wales, but I found little motivation in the priorities there at the time and sought to start afresh with a conservation body. My next contact with Oliver was when I 'phoned him to ask tentatively if he would support my application to the Woodland Trust (WT) with a reference; to my relief he decided immediately that I was 'the sort of person the Woodland Trust ought to employ' and fortunately they agreed.

I took up post with WT in South Wales in 1997 and in 1999 Simon brought Oliver to visit; his first trip back to the area since the 1980s. Jerry Langford, the WT



Director for Wales, had been inspired to specialise in woodland conservation by reading Oliver's books; he readily agreed that WT should sponsor the visit by Oliver, and this was the case for all subsequent

**Left:** Above Coed Cefn y Crug, the highest natural wood in England and Wales, with Oliver Rackham and Valerie Cooper, September 2012. (I. Nicholas)



visits, where more and more colleagues revealed their early inspiration by Oliver's work. A landscape visited with Oliver was one seen through the sharpest lens of understanding; he revealed the significance of every component, influence, and layer of history.

Oliver's work in Wales had begun in the 1980s, when George Peterken and Peter Williams of the then Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) commissioned him to assess woodland sites in the South Wales Coalfield, and whilst reports were provided at the time, the work was not published. George Peterken discusses this era and the lead-up to it in the forward that he kindly provided for the eventual posthumous publication, *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales*, along with appendices and photographs.



Considering the ancient features of Cadora Woods in the Wye Valley AONB, with (left to right) Paula Keen, George Peterken and Oliver Rackham, September 2007. (S. Leatherdale)

Between 1999 and 2013, I arranged Oliver's trips back to Wales and joined in with his visits to sites that were new to him (such as Wentwood) and some of those that he had got to know in the 1980s (such as Coed Allt-y-rhiw). He also revisited Gwent Archives and the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth and mentioned several times his wish to write up a book on the woods of the area and find a publisher.

Working with Oliver could be both challenging and fun. During a visit to the Black Mountains in 2012 we searched for a rare whitebeam in some of the steeper limestone areas. It was not fully in leaf and difficult to identify through binoculars, so dutifully, I set off to retrieve a specimen from a candidate that Oliver had pointed out. As the route became more of a cliff than a slope, I glanced down and wondered at what cost I might achieve the last, rather slippery-looking 20m or so upwards. Whilst the odd bruise, scrape, tick, or even mild electrocution were all par for the course, on this occasion I had to put the instinctive priority of living long enough to support my children growing up first. I descended cautiously, somewhat abashed to have failed my

teacher and friend on this occasion, suggesting that I might return at a later date with my daughter's climbing club. Oliver very politely explained that the tree he had pointed to was rather more to the right than the one I'd been heading for and considerably lower-down. The sample was gathered hastily, and our explorations continued.



**Top:** Identifying charcoal samples at Wentwood with members of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, September 2007. **Bottom:** Investigating the largest lime pollard at Cadora Woods in the Wye Valley AONB, with Oliver Rackham and Paula Keen, September 2007. (S. Leatherdale)



Counting the growth rings of an oak stump, with Oliver Rackham, Valerie Cooper and Paula Keen, May 2012. (S. Leatherdale)

Oliver was a man of many talents and was able to put his skills of observation and analysis to work in many situations. After a long day in the field and an evening considering its implications with some rather good Herefordshire cider around the family dinner table, Oliver experienced a problem with his room at a nearby guest house and found himself locked out. Well after midnight, and after initially reporting the problem to Valerie Cooper who was staying in the next room along, it proved impossible to make contact with the owners or staff. By the time my kindly supportive and ever-practical husband came to the rescue with his toolbox, he was impressed to find that Oliver had fully assessed the situation, worked out how to gain entry without leaving a trace and knew precisely which tools of a particular dimension would be needed for the job. We are fortunate that Oliver chose to devote his abilities to woodland conservation rather than a life of crime!

Oliver downloaded his unpublished work on the *Ancient Woods of South-East Wales* onto my computer in 2012, towards the end of his penultimate visit to the area. He said that this was in case I could make use of it or use it to further the work of the Woodland Trust. This was a surprise. It was a huge honour, and it was also very puzzling if not somewhat alarming. Initially I did very little other than share specific parts with relevant colleagues because I still expected that Oliver would complete and publish the book.

I met Jennifer Moody for the first time in March 2015 at Oliver's funeral reception, and when I introduced myself, her response was 'Oh, you're Paula! Oliver so wanted to finish the SE Wales book, what are you going to do?'

After talking to Jenny more, and to a number of others, my attitude began to change from believing that I couldn't possibly be worthy of taking forward the work of such investigative genius, to believing that it was my duty to do so. My children were teenagers and increasingly independent, I was still employed only four days per week, my husband and I had always shared all things domestic, and the last of our elderly

parents had died a few months before. Working through loss and making the most of whatever I could was my normal state of mind at the time and, though an immense challenge, taking forward Oliver's book was somehow cathartic.

There followed a voyage of great learning and discovery, during which period I spent far more time working with Oliver, in the form of his legacy, than I ever had



before. Some of his draft chapters were very sketchy, so I drew on all the resources that I could find to complete them. From Oliver's house these included his files for each part of the study area, notebooks, and botanical record cards (all now in the Corpus Christi College Cambridge Archives). For a few key points I was able to draw on personal correspondence and for some generic passages I drew on Oliver's published material, courtesy of Jenny Moody. In a few instances I invited other specialists who had worked with Oliver to contribute passages, and these are acknowledged in the text.

**Left:** Finding beech at the ruins of Ffawydd farm in the Black Mountains, with Shirley Williams, Michael Rippin, Susan Mabberley, Paula Keen and Valerie Cooper, May 2012. (O. Rackham)

I revisited many sites that Oliver had not been back to since the 1980s or since 1999 to better understand his observations, whilst checking for any changes since they were made. Involving others who had worked with Oliver in these visits added both rigour and good cheer to the process. It was a particular honour to work with some of those that Oliver had worked with during his first visits to SE Wales, and it was important to me that all involved should be happy with the book.

The work, of course, was not simply a matter of completing the chapters with their verified and updated observations. Perhaps more exhausting was the process of project managing, copy editing, completing the many references, selecting, and sourcing illustrations and exchanging draft after draft with the publishers, checking detail after detail each time. Fortunately, Jenny Moody and Susan Ranson, volunteered their experience, time, and commitment to this, bringing uncompromising quality to the book and providing me with a steeper learning curve than I could have imagined. The illustrations prepared by David Morfitt and the index prepared by Simon Leatherdale are hugely important components, and the five of us were a very close-knit team. My list of acknowledgements is long and more about the process is explained in my Preface.



**Left:** Early posthumous publication planning, with David Morfitt and Simon Leatherdale, March 2016. (P. Keen). **Right:** Paula Keen holding a copy of *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales* for the first time at the Hay Festival, June 2022. (Photograph by a helpful stranger)

Who would have the audacity to meddle with the work of Oliver Rackham and then publish it? Having read some very positive reviews of the *Ancient Woods of South-East Wales* and received appreciative comments from a number of specialist and non-specialist readers, I am very glad now that I did.

## IN OLIVER RACKHAM'S FOOTSTEPS

By Denis Vickers and Antranig Basman

### Denis Vickers: My return to Groton Wood



Back in the early 1980s I was walking in Epping Forest near Chingford Plain when I came across the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. It was then set up as a forest museum (I am not sure what it is currently used for). On sale was the booklet *Epping Forest – the natural aspect?* This included the chapter 'Archaeology and Land-use History' by Oliver Rackham. This was the first of a number of works by Oliver that fired my enthusiasm for ancient woodland history and ecology and which continue to reside in my library and in me to this day.

**Left:** Denis Vickers and the patch of Herb Paris recorded by Oliver Rackham, Groton Wood, 24 April 2021. (S. Gahagan)

In the early 1990s there was a proposal to build an M12 motorway through the Essex countryside (and into Suffolk). An intention was to reduce congestion on the A12 and lower the amount of traffic running through small villages. I was acting as

volunteer ecologist for the Stop the M12 campaign group. A broad corridor between Brentwood and Chelmsford had been identified within which the road would be built, there were several wildlife sites including ancient woodlands which could be impacted. I wrote to Oliver at Corpus Christi College. He identified Writtle Forest as being particularly important and sent me an account of the site he had written the previous year. There was fierce local opposition to the road construction proposal. It was finally dropped in 1996. On Oliver's passing I requested that the University library digitise a key notebook covering Writtle Forest so I could compare it with the written account he had kindly sent me.

Oliver gave a free talk on the theme of Hampstead Heath and Woods at Rosslyn Hall Chapel for the Hampstead Society during October 2010 which my partner Sheila Gahagan and I attended. The subject matter included the past uses of the site and management of trees, deer, and the urban heat island. Characteristically, he was using two overhead projectors for seamless transition from one set of slides to another. The hall was filled to the rafters.

I finally met Oliver (one to one) in April 2014 as part of the 'Flatford party' as he termed it. This referred to the participants in an ancient woodlands course hosted by the Field Studies Council at Flatford Mill (Suffolk). We were fortunate enough to benefit from four days of site visits, which were followed by socialising over an evening meal and pint, then onwards to an evening lecture and preparation for the following day. Each day included a venture to a different woodland often stopping off en route to view other woodlands, trees, or buildings of note. Oliver would refer to 'Hitler's photographs' when using Luftwaffe aerial photography from the late 1930s-40s as historical evidence. Each of the woodlands visited were quite distinct: Staverton Park and the Thicks with its savannah like woodland of ancient oaks with huge hollies and birches; Bradfield Woods with its working coppices and population of oxlip, Hatfield Forest described by Oliver as the last forest, with wood-pasture, coppice, and grassy rides. Last, but certainly not least, was Groton Wood.



**Left:** Oliver Rackham and some of the 'Flatford party' at Staverton Park, 14 April 2014. **Right:** Oliver Rackham and one of the 'Flatford party' at Hatfield Forest, 16 April 2014. (D. Vickers)

Groton is a woodland of contrasts: The southern two thirds probably date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Scattered coppice stools of ash and hazel were present together with individual oaks and some large specimens of wild cherry. The northern part was much older with possibly links to the wildwood. It was characterised by huge stools of Small-leaved lime and an abundance of colourful wildflowers associated with ancient woodland.



**Top:** Oliver Rackham and some of the “Flatford party” in Groton Wood, 17 April 2014. **Bottom:** Ancient Small-leaved lime coppice, Groton Wood, 17 April 2014. (D. Vickers)



**Left:** Pry seedling 11 May 2021. **Right:** Sweet Woodruff and Wood Sanicle, Groton Wood, 17 April 2014. (D. Vickers)

Oliver was particularly fond of Groton Wood. He visited it more than 50 times during the course of his lifetime. The first record of him visiting the site was from December 1972 when he conducted a survey of the wood. He remarked ‘my information is derived from field visits (unfortunately only in December) ...’.

Nonetheless, his analysis of the site, its history and key features were spot on. Sadly, 2014 was to mark his penultimate and last springtime visit to the wood. I was impressed by Oliver’s encyclopaedic knowledge of so many subjects and was deeply saddened by his passing, He was an inspiration to me and so many others, the world is now a poorer but better-informed place.

Antranig Basman contacted me in January 2019 after viewing my online pictures of a Small-leaved lime seedling, Herb Paris and other species taken at Groton Wood nearly five years previously. After a to-and-fro of emails, we decided to meet in Sudbury (Suffolk) in April 2019 (a stopping off point on the way to Groton Wood).<sup>1</sup> Thus, the scene was set, I will now pass you on to Antranig to continue the story.



**Left:** Antranig Basman and Sheila Gahagan in Groton Woods, 4 April 2021. (D. Vickers)

<sup>1</sup> In selecting the photographs for these short accounts, I came across a plant not specifically recorded by Oliver from one of the photographs I had taken back in 2014. In one of the above photos, the Wood Sanicle is nestled between the shoots of Sweet Woodruff.



## Antranig Basman: My journey to Groton Wood

I have had a lifelong interest in forests and nature, although for a long while this was largely unconscious. The home that my mother chose out for us in 1974 turns out to be near a marvellous network of Scheduled Ancient Woodland in Chessington, laid out in freeform interlocking trails over many miles. But in early years, other than a few exploits with my father armed with the



**Left:** Antranig Basman and the patch of Herb Paris recorded by Oliver Rackham, Groton Wood, 24 April 2021. (S. Gahagan)

"I Spy Book of Trees" this was an unrecognised delight. As I grew older, I felt more and more connected with this habitat, but it wasn't until a friend of my wife's in Norfolk mentioned that Oliver Rackham was our foremost national expert on woodland that I got bitten by the bug. Increasingly I branched out from Oliver's more public-facing works to the more esoteric such as his monograph on Hayley Wood and his magisterial *Ancient Woodland*. An in-passing note that "the black poplar is England's rarest native tree" led to an intense phase of tracking down rare clones through the south of England, assisted by Ken Adams' fantastic guide, and finally I was guided, via the Cambridge University Library's fantastic digitisation project, to the Oliver Rackham archive in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where the enormously helpful archivist Lucy Hughes assisted me through the treasure trove of Oliver's notebooks and papers. From these resources, we were even able to track down the fleeting reference to "a black poplar at Groton" which turned out not to be in Groton Wood itself but near the garden of a neighbouring landowner. I was particularly taken with Oliver's very first notebook starting as a 10-year-old, with startlingly mature sketches of bird beaks, and put in a special request for it to be digitised.



**Left:** Black poplar near Groton Wood (fallen trunk in background) 3 September 2019. (D. Vickers)

I was captivated by the meticulous detail and steadfast attention to Oliver's favourite places, which he would visit religiously twice a year for decades, and in particular to Groton Wood which stood out as a more intense avatar of the peaceful Surrey woods I enjoyed as a child. I became obsessed by the Groton notebooks and resolved to transcribe each of Oliver's species records into digital form, becoming more and more familiar with his sometimes-spidery handwriting and obscure abbreviations such as "Scroph nod" and "Senec eruc". So long did I spent poring over the Groton notebooks that I felt I needed to create a little facsimile of one based on the library scans, which included the notebook covers, so that I could have the experience for myself of hefting one of these small notebooks sourced from WH Smith dense with botanical annotations.



I sadly arrived on the scene too late to catch Oliver himself, but finally I was lucky enough to light upon the marvellous naturalist Denis Vickers who had been taken around Groton himself by Oliver on one of his last trips. Denis and his partner Sheila very generously accompanied me around Groton, and I had the miraculous experience of being able to see in the flesh what I had known for months only as names and symbols, Denis patiently and expertly letting me understand what I was seeing, as well as sharing anecdotes of being entertained by Oliver's lively manner and bright socks.

**Left:** Denis Vickers and Sheila Gahagan, Groton Wood, 24 April 2021. (A. Basman)

So far, we have been to Groton a total of three times, pooling our observations, photos and species lists and in the end were able to not only see a majority of what Oliver had noted, but even several extra items too. The crowning experience of our last visit was tracking down, after having nearly given up, the small patch of Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* in the centre of the wood that had been such a regular feature of Oliver's observations, as well as on a previous visit the unearthly pallid phenomenon of Violet Helleborine *Epipactis purpurata* that seemed like it might have come from the moon.

I feel enormously enriched, through Denis' and Oliver's expertise, by being able to recognise and understand more deeply what I had seen and returned to those Surrey woods with an enthusiasm to identify woodland plants there too — and was surprised and gratified to find that, just like the Epping woods near my current home, that they were rich in hornbeam too. Oliver's holistic approach to woodland habitats, integrating historical, economic, literary, and botanical resources into a rich mixture, is a huge inspiration to me and will be an enduring part of my life and experience.

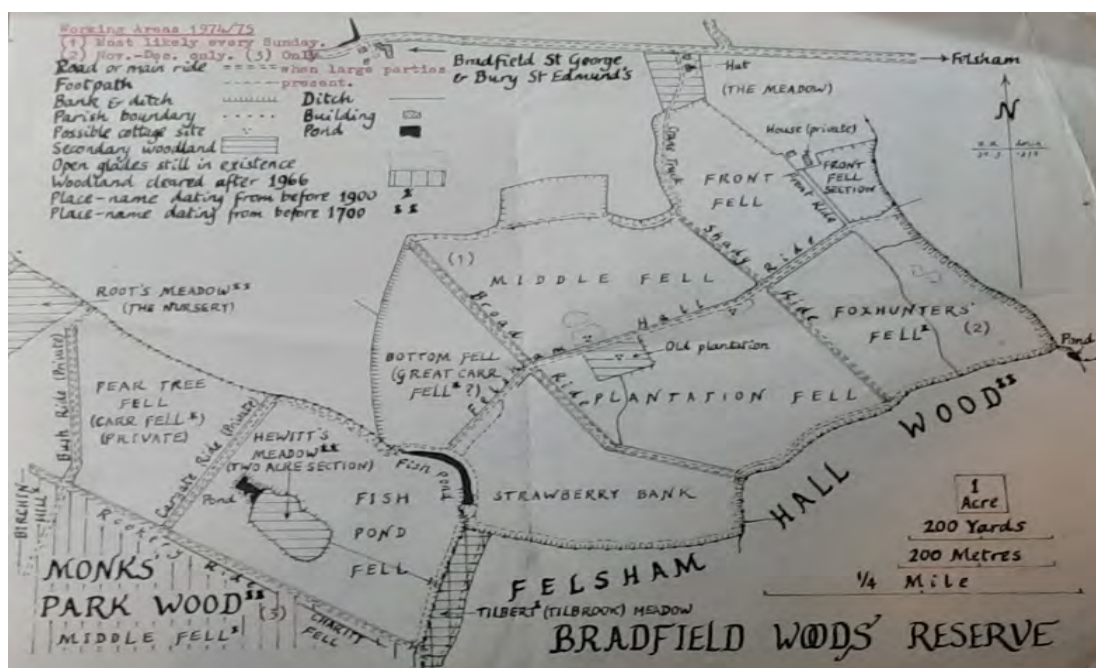


**Above:** Herb Paris in the patch recorded by Oliver Rackham, Groton Wood, 24 April 2021. **Right:** Violet Helleborine, Groton Wood, 24 April 2021. (D. Vickers)

## ANN AND JAMES HART, OLIVER RACKHAM AND THE BRADFIELD WOODS

by Ben Hart

Fans of Oliver Rackham will know that Bradfield Woods in West Suffolk were an enduring subject within his writings, due to the role he played as a young academic in saving them in 1969, and subsequent involvement with — as a member of the management committee and his ongoing research — throughout the rest of his life.



Bradfield Woods — 1974/5 (O. Rackham, annotated by A. Hart)

As previously related by Susan Ranson in #12 of this newsletter, [Bradfield Woods](#) (the name coined by Oliver) are two connected woodland areas — Felsham Hall Wood and Monks Park— that were originally part of the deer park of the Bury St. Edmunds Abbey. For those unaware of their significance, the woods are considered unique in that they have been under continuous traditional coppice management since 1252. This continuous management technique, and their heavy boulder clay soils led to an abundance of floral and fungal diversity — the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) [website mentions](#) “over 370 species of flowering plants and around 420 different fungi, making Bradfield Woods one of the richest woods in Britain and a National Nature Reserve.”

In 1966 the woods were under threat as a local farmer had bought 150 acres of Monks Wood and using governmental subsidies designed to encourage the grubbing up of woodland had started to bulldoze it to create productive arable land. Ann and James Hart (my grandparents) lived in a thatched cottage called Mudlen End on the edge of Felsham, within walking distance of the wood and were appalled to see the destruction of the woods they loved so much. Along with several local people and supporters (including the Ransons), they started a campaign which in 1968 managed to get a temporary tree preservation order (TPO) in place along the fringe of the wood, although the 150 acres was lost.

The following year, the owners of the woods went into liquidation and put the remaining 300 acres up for sale. Pressure was put on the council to remove the TPO by farmers and housing developers, and they responded by producing a scheme which would keep only a 100 ft preserved fringe around the edges of the existing 300 acres. The campaigners once again sprang into action — and managed to arrange a Public Local Inquiry, held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1969 – just over a month before the TPO was due to expire.

As described in a *Suffolk Wildlife* article ‘The Saving of Bradfield Woods’: ‘on the day before the public inquiry, a young academic named Oliver Rackham visited the woods with a local historian, David Dymond. The pair worked long into the night to create a detailed dossier of historical and ecological evidence, which was presented as



Coppiced wood at sunset, 2001. (A. Hart)

evidence to the planning inquiry'. By all accounts it was this evidence, as well as the clear passion of the people running the campaign that swayed the planning committee and saved the woods from its impending destruction.

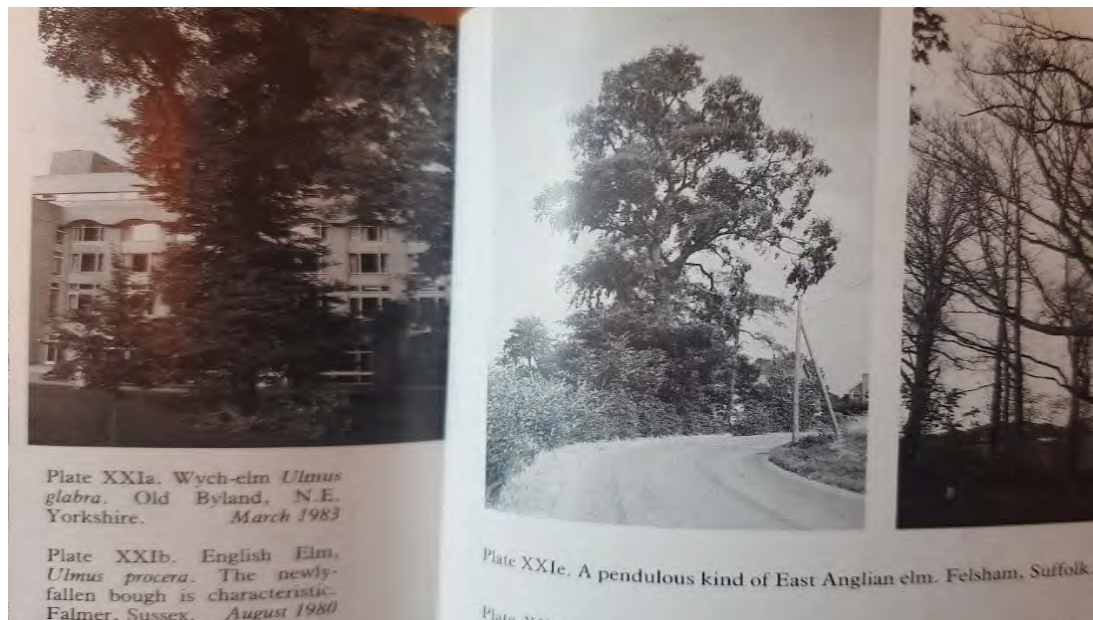
Following the public enquiry, the proprietor of a Midlands hardware company - the existing owners of the woods and its rake factory in nearby Little Whelnetham - visited Mudlen End. Finding my grandmother hanging up washing in the garden suggested to her the campaigners raise the money to buy the woodland outright. This began the assiduous task of letter-writing and fundraising, with my grandmother very much at the helm together with Nan Litchfield, until they raised the then considerable amount of £10,000 for the purchase. Eventually they gifted the woodlands to the Nature Conservancy Council — a remarkable feat truly, which Oliver called 'a turning-point in woodland conservation that would set an example throughout Britain and Ireland.'

And so began a lifelong friendship between Ann and James, who became the wood wardens, and Oliver. Along with Colin Ranson and others they created a management committee to oversee the workings and care of the wood, drawing up management plans always led by Oliver's deepening ecological knowledge, and with an unwavering commitment to maintaining the historical coppicing.

Growing up visiting my grandparents at Mudlen End, we spent many happy hours walking in the woods and hearing stories of how they had helped save them, and of Oliver. One that stuck with me was a time when Oliver was due to attend a remote field trip with some fellow academics, who happened to be all male of a certain generation. They had agreed to take it in turns to cook, and so Oliver asked my grandmother to teach him to cook a simple meal. She obliged, smiling at the way he insisted on precisely lining up each chopped vegetable piece on the board. On returning from the trip, Oliver confided that all the other academics had also asked their wife or a friend for the same favour — and had all been taught the same recipe. They had spent 7 days eating spaghetti bolognese every night!

Although I met him briefly only a few times, through my grandparents, Oliver had an important impact on my own life and career choices. I would regularly receive Oliver's books from them as birthday or Christmas presents. I believe that reading these, and my youth spent in Bradfield Woods, led me to undertake a BSc in Environmental Science at Sussex University in 2003. My first essay at university was an analysis of the mid-Holocene Elm decline in Britain. Via a request from my grandfather, Oliver kindly sent me a copy of an unpublished chapter on Elms from his latest book, which dealt with the matter. I promptly referenced it prodigiously and was pleased to receive a top mark. It was during the research for this essay that I discovered within Oliver's book *The History of the Countryside* a picture of an elm tree on the Sussex Falmer campus where I then lived, directly opposite a picture of an elm tree at the top of my grandparents' garden at Mudlen End (see picture below.) I took this as a nod from the universe that I had chosen the right course and university.

The last conversation I had with my grandfather James before he passed was about Oliver's latest book — a revised edition of *Ancient Woodlands* that Oliver had signed for me as a birthday present from them. Later that year at his funeral, Oliver spoke beautifully, encouraging us all to visit the woods afterwards to admire them — 'this is not the first time that I have brought gumboots to a funeral' — see Susan's article in #12 for the full quote.



Elm trees on Sussex Falmer campus, and at Mudlen End in Felsham in  
The History of the Countryside. (B. Hart)

Having learnt about climate change at university, I resolved to spend my career doing what I could to help mitigate its impacts. After leaving I spent 12 years in various startups focused on renewable energy, sustainability and helping large organisations understand and mitigate the impacts of their carbon footprint. In the depths of lockdown during 2020, I had an exciting opportunity to work with Jeremy Leggett — ex-Greenpeace Scientific Director and a key architect of the solar industry in the UK through his previous company Solarcentury. After selling the solar company, he was embarking on a new project (now called [Highlands Rewilding](#)) exploring the emerging concepts of Natural Capital. The hope was that new business models could be created, to funnel dramatically more private funding into nature restoration through Rewilding, a fast-emerging process-led nature restoration concept, pioneered in the UK by the likes of the [Knepp Estate](#) — already a beacon of hope in a challenged world.

Jeremy was also in discussions with Charlie Burrell, the founder of Knepp and others about creating a third, English-based rewilding company, to deliver nature restoration at scale using the Knepp model. Again, I was lucky enough to be asked to help here, and joined as one of the first two employees to set up what is now [Nattergal](#) (Danish for Nightingale.) Called “[a great leap forward in conservation thinking](#), and a vigorous new way to address the biodiversity crisis on land and in the sea,” Rewilding as a concept was developed from ideas initially put forward by among others — you guessed it — Oliver Rackham. Oliver’s work challenged the concept of an unbroken succession of plants to a closed canopy woodland, instead conjuring an image of ‘savanna-like-landscapes’ consisting of alternate woods and glades, kept open by guilds of grazing animals, in turn kept under control by predators such as wolves, bears and lynx. It has since been shown, at Knepp and other pioneering sites around the world, that this grazing-led, process driven approach creates a dynamic, messy mosaic of interspersed habitats constantly in flux. In turn, this allows plants and wildlife to thrive and creates the conditions for extremely high levels of biodiversity to return. It is likely that this is also the reason that Bradfield Woods is so exceptional — the regular disturbance of 770 years of coppicing playing the role of herds of grazers in a fully natural system.

It was on the initial 2022 visit to Nattergal's first project, [Boothby Wildland](#), that I met Jonathan Spencer MBE and his lovely wife Alison Field — both long time advisors to Knepp — who knew Oliver and introduced me to this newsletter and Jenny, who kindly asked me to write this article. Once again, a nod from the universe involving Oliver showed me I was in the right place.

My cousin Annie Sommazzi is another of Ann and James' eight grandchildren who is carrying the flag forward. Her many memories of Oliver include a family fungi foray, his joyful dancing at a wedding ceilidh and visiting him at Corpus Christi to discuss her research on ancient woodlands as part of her MA in Landscape History (completed in 2012 at UEA under Prof Tom Williamson).

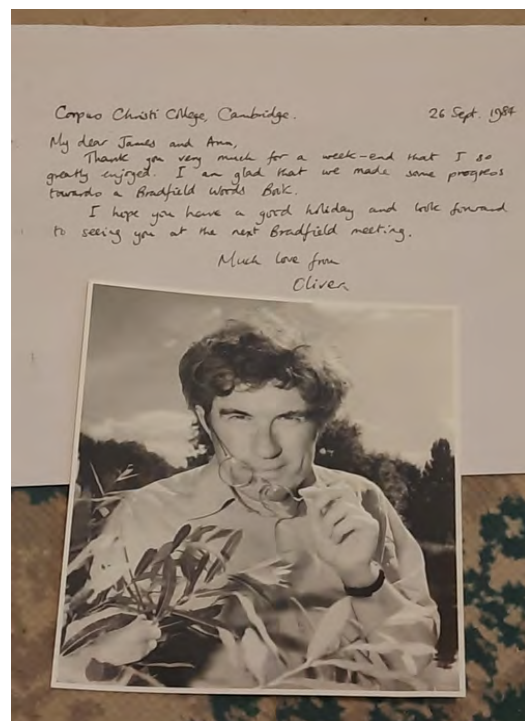
As a teenager Annie spent a summer in Bradfield Woods working alongside its warden Peter Fordham MBE, whilst at UEA she worked on mapping hidden earthworks in several ancient Norfolk woodlands and contributed this research to *Rethinking Ancient Woodland: The Archaeology and History of Woods in Norfolk* by Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson.

Annie is now the Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager across two district councils in Norfolk working to achieve net zero by 2030. She says the project that best captures the spirit of our grandparents and Oliver is the creation of the 57-hectare Broadland Country Park, just north of Oliver's beloved Norwich. The park includes areas of ancient woodland and trackway, fenland, heathland, grazing land, and fir plantation. Annie played a key role within Broadland Council in identifying the site and developing local partnerships to make it both a resource for people to enjoy but also where nature can thrive. Integrating these seemingly conflicting areas was a challenge also experienced at Bradfield Woods — as you'll see below.

Upon my grandmother Ann's passing in June 2022, I inherited a box of painstakingly recorded notes, clippings, photos, and management committee minutes that together chronical the campaign they waged to save the Bradfield Woods, the ensuing fundraise to purchase and then manage the wood, and eventual donation and handing over management reins to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT). Within the box is a copy of Oliver's 1998 invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive his OBE, which my grandmother was honoured to attend as one of Oliver's two guests (the other being Prof Max Walters of Cambridge Botanic Gardens.)

Oliver received the award from Prince Charles and my grandmother afterwards mentioned Oliver's slight chagrin when our future king admitted not having got round to reading Oliver's books yet — no doubt he has subsequently more than made up for that dereliction! There's

also a note from Oliver to my grandparents in 1984 thanking them for a lovely weekend, and excited that they made a start on a Bradfield Woods book, with accompanying chapter list. Sadly, this never made the light of day.



Note from Oliver Rackham, 1984, and photo for *The Telegraph*. (B. Hart)

The reason the Bradfield book was never written is also clear — they didn't want to draw more public attention and therefore visitors to the woods. Within the box there is a lot of correspondence regarding decisions made by the SWT over the following few decades that the original management committee felt were detrimental to the woods. This included the priority of woodland visitor access to the detriment of natural systems, and the development of new woodland management plans by remote committees “all the way on the other side of Ipswich,” which moved away from the original plans designed with Oliver's guidance. Included is fascinating correspondence in the 90s between Oliver and the SWT management challenging many of the decisions made. It should be noted however, that they all remained firm friends with Peter Fordham — who was the onsite Warden for 30 years and received an MBE in 2007 for his services to conservation. I believe the engagements with SWT management probably reflect the challenges, and lack of capacity within conservation during the 1990s and ever since, and the need to balance nature restoration with public awareness and support. There is a different book in here somewhere — which is something for another time.

Among other fascinating items is the correspondence between my grandmother and her local MP in 1995, lamenting the loss of hedges from the local farms, and imploring policies for their protection to be included within the new Environment Bill, something that actually happened. There's also a clipping from a Telegraph article featuring my grandmother — who with support from Oliver had identified one of Britain's oldest hedges in Felsham by counting 13 different species. (Hoopers Rule shows that the number of species in a hedge being correlated to its age I learnt as a young boy at the time.)



James Hart in Bradfield Woods, 2001. (A. Hart)

Returning to where it all began, with the saving of Bradfield Woods, the Suffolk Wildlife article above quotes Oliver as writing ‘decades after the Public Enquiry, describing Bradfield as something of a “cause célèbre.” The act that a few “ordinary” people had come together to stop the wholesale destruction of ancient woodland,



inspired others to fight for the landscapes near them. Furthermore, the result signalled a shift in public opinion, and eventually policy. While the days of slash and burn may not have been over, a watershed had certainly been reached.’ Speaking at James’ funeral, he would go on to say, ‘Times have changed; English Nature has a Register of Ancient Woodland; the woodland conservation movement now flourishes all over England and beyond; but let us not forget that it began at Mudlen End 35 years ago.’

Now 50 years later, we are still trying to save those landscapes, to find innovative new ways and models to breathe life into them again, to reverse the negative impacts of a changing climate and a half-century of ever-more industrialised farming practices — the ‘new locust years’ as recently paraphrased from Oliver [by Ian Rotherham](#) (see p. 5–6 above). In an ironic (but positive) closing of the loop, it is new farming funding streams developed to support more sustainable, regenerative practices, and therefore landscape scale recovery that form one possible new income stream for the Rewilding company that I work for. As we prove the business model, perhaps one day we or others can buy back the lost areas of Monks Wood — described by my grandmother as its most beautiful and mysterious parts with glades and primroses — and more besides, restoring this land to a new state of natural glory, reminiscent of its ancient woodland origins.

Sadly, less than a year after my grandmother passed, her cottage had to be sold. On the request of the family its name was changed beforehand, so Mudlen End is no more, and a chapter is closed. However, our memories of the place and what happened there remain. When I’m in need of some inspiration or some hope, I like to imagine my grandparents Ann and James sitting with Oliver, the Ransons, and others around that cottage fireplace long into the night; making plans and discussing the next steps in their campaign, that went on to inspire so many others. We were immensely privileged to have them as grandparents, mentors, and friends. I hope that I can make them proud through my work, doing as my grandmother scribbled in the margins of an SWT Bradfield Woods management plan in 1995 — ‘we did what needed to be done.’



Mudlen End in Felsham (now renamed Monks Park Cottage). (B. Hart, Sr.)

## OLIVER RACKHAM, JEREMY GRIMSDELL AND ME – STARTING WITH THE CAMBRIDGE BOTANY SCHOOL TRIP TO BAVARIA, JUNE 1961

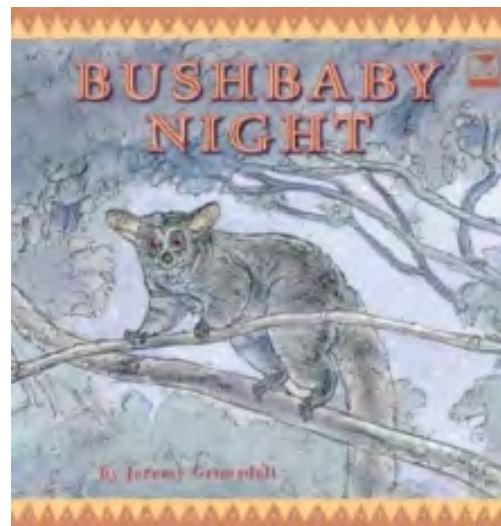
by John Gibbs

My first recollection of Oliver is from a Botanical trip to the Bavarian Alps led by Dr Max Walters. I was at the end of my first undergraduate year at Cambridge, he at the end of his third. Also in the group from my year was Jeremy Grimsdell, a talented cartoonist. He did drawings of most of the party rather in the style of Ronald Searle and the 'Molesworth' books (He subsequently allowed me to photocopy them using the very primitive techniques of the time). During the trip there was quite a lot of talk among the cognoscenti as to whether we would see *Pinus cembra*, a species sometimes encountered near the 'tree line'. Hence this picture of Oliver, just about to record his first sighting.



illustrated children's books on African animals to his name. One is called 'Bushbaby night'.

Jeremy went on to do Part 2 Zoology – I expect his drawings of dissections were superb. I have not had any contact with him for 60 years but have recently 'googled' him and discovered that he has quite a series of





Left is his drawing of me – I had attracted some amusement by having brought along a dressing gown!

I myself went on to do a Ph.D in tree pathology at the Botany School and so continued to encounter Oliver from time to time. However, it was when I was working on the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic for the Forestry Commission Research Division during the first half of the 1970s that we interacted quite frequently. I specially remember exploring Buff Wood with him at a time

when only the original less-damaging form of the pathogen (*Ophiostoma ulmi* as compared to *O. novo-ulmi*) was present there. I think that the last of these joint activities took place during the 1990s in Abbots Ripton, Huntingdonshire, a village characterised by the significant level of disease-resistance possessed by the local elm population.

I also helped to introduce Oliver to Dave Houston, a very perceptive ecologist/pathologist from the U.S. Forest Service, who subsequently played a significant role in introducing Oliver to the fascinating forest history of New England.

PS: Dave Houston, with whom I am still in contact, has added the following comment (April 2023). *When Oliver came to visit in New England, he was especially interested in seeing how our “saltbox” houses were constructed. So, I got him into the attics of some great 1700–1800 examples in Guildford, CT and Old Deerfield, MA. He wanted to compare these houses, constructed with long roof timbers, to those in England where the extended roofline was made with shorter timbers — as longer ones were not available. We got into some wonderful buildings that I would never have been able to see without Oliver’s desire to do so.*

## ‘WALKING WITH CONSTABLE’ AND THE RACKHAM NOTEBOOKS

by Genny Silvanus

The Oliver Rackham archive is continuing to be used by researchers. These have included participants in the innovative 'Walking with Constable' project (<https://walking-the-landscape.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>). This was a joint initiative between Cambridge Digital Humanities, the Fitzwilliam Museum and Cambridge Digital Library to take some of John Constable’s iconic (and some lesser known) paintings from the museum and setting them back into the landscape in which they were created; it involved various community groups.

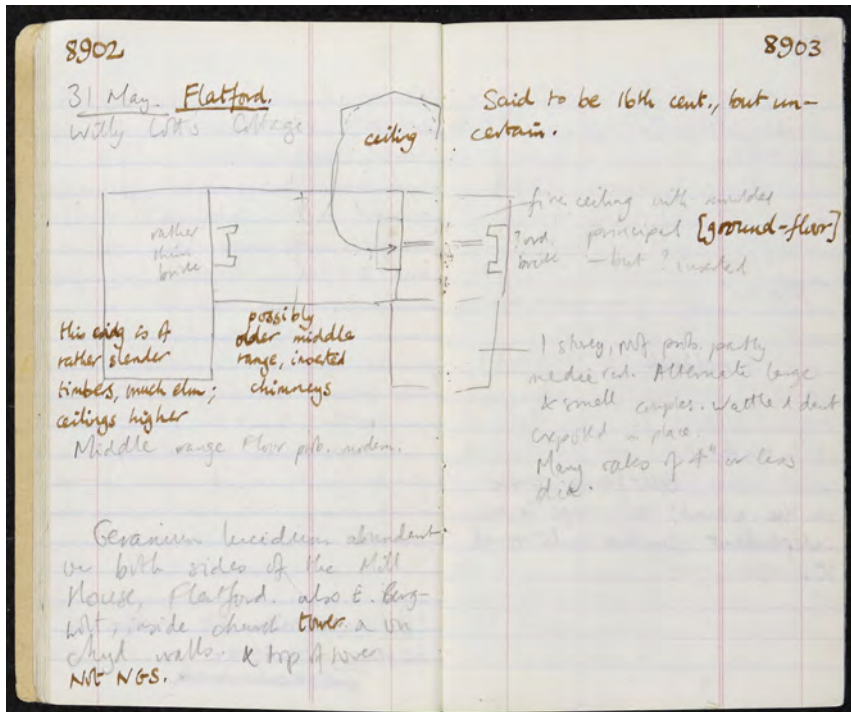
Mezzotints (prints) from the collections at the Fitzwilliam Museum were digitized and participants looked at these images on iPads at the relevant points during seven guided walks around Dedham Vale. As several of Oliver Rackham’s notebooks

were from woodlands in Flatford, Suffolk (most notably Notebook 244 from early summer 1978 (CCCC/14/6/1/2/1/244)), these helped the organisers to pinpoint the locations of the scenes, particularly as Constable painted trees that were actually there (rather than stylized trees where they looked appropriate). The notebooks also contributed to discussions surrounding nature, the landscape, and the sense of place in the areas walked in the landscape. See [walking-the-landscape/blog/rackham](http://walking-the-landscape/blog/rackham) and [walking-the-landscape/walks/Walk-H](http://walking-the-landscape/walks/Walk-H).

I attended a workshop in Cambridge in June where the walks and the process were discussed, and some of the original mezzotints were on display. Various stakeholders were invited to take part and we had some interesting conversations.



**Left:** Mill Stream by John Constable 1814/15, featuring Willy Lotts cottage near Flatford Mill. Image courtesy the Fitzwilliam Museum. **Right:** Participants comparing the 19<sup>th</sup> century Constable painting Mill Stream to what is there today. Photo courtesy the “Walking with Constable Project”.



**Left:** Oliver Rackham’s sketch plan of Willy Lotts Cottage and his notes on its construction. Rackham Red Notebook 244 May-July 1978. Image courtesy Corpus Christi College.

## IN MEMORIAM

In this issue we remember several of Oliver’s friends and colleagues: Ann Hart, who with her husband James, Oliver and a team of others saved Bradfield Woods from destruction; Professor Eleni Briassouli a close Greek colleague and collaborator on the “Save Cavo Sidero” initiative. I include again the remembrance of AT Grove, Oliver’s dear friend and colleague, and co-author of *The Nature of Mediterranean Europe: An Ecological History* (2001).

### REMEMBERING ANN HART (20 OCTOBER 1937 TO 3 JUNE 2022)

by Ben Hart



Ann Hart was an accomplished artist, teacher, and passionate protector of nature in her adopted county of Suffolk. Originating from Bristol and having spent her early years as an évacuée in the valleys of south Wales, she trained at the Bath Academy of Arts in Corsham and by the early 60’s was teaching art at Beyton Modern School in Suffolk, alongside her husband, the potter James Hart, and her young family.

Left: Ann Hart at Corsham

In the late 1960s, Ann and James, along with other local people and wider supporters started a campaign to stop their local woodlands (now called [Bradfield Woods](#)) from being grubbed up by a local farmer. They succeeded in obtaining a temporary tree preservation order (TPO), and then organised a planning inquiry, in which a young Oliver Rackham gave evidence that persuaded the planning committee the woods should be saved on historical and ecological grounds. Ann and James’ cottage near the woods called Mudlen End was the base of the campaign. Oliver would later write that it was the



‘birthplace of the woodland conservation movement’ as the saving of the Bradfield Woods went on to inspire people across the country to fight to save the woods that they loved, eventually

Left: ‘Felsham Footpaths’ by Ann Hart — Mudlen End Studio can be seen south of Bradfield Woods. (B. Hart)

leading to a change in policy that halted the rampant destruction of UK ancient woodlands.

Incidentally, Mudlen End Studios was also the base and name of the successful pottery studio run by James in the 80s and 90s — selling Suffolk cottages across the world, the story of which can be read on [this blog here](#), created by their son Ben Hart (my namesake.)

Following the initial campaign, through the 1970s and 1980s Ann was a warden of Bradfield Woods and key member of the management committee, along with her husband James and Oliver with whom they remained close friends. Together they successfully raised funds to purchase the woods, and then developed management plans to maintain its unique natural heritage, before handing over the management reins to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Even then Ann stayed involved — challenging decisions made by SWT management they felt were detrimental for the woods. Being an articulate and persistent woman, we can be sure SWT were well aware of her views!

Through the following decades, Ann supported Oliver’s work, and continued to fight for nature in her beloved Suffolk, writing regularly to her local MP in the 90s during the time of the Environment Bill to again challenge the destructive hedge removal occurring across the farms of her local parish. She is credited by Oliver in his seminal book *The History of the Countryside* as having the honour of discovering Britain’s oldest hedges and was recognised in a Sunday Telegraph article (below) — ‘Ann believes the hedge in Felsham is older than Westminster Abbey, and just as important.’



Article on Ann Hart in the Sunday Telegraph, 1995. (B. Hart)

Throughout her life Ann produced numerous drawings and paintings, with her favourite subject always being the close relationship between human endeavour and natural forms, no better illustrated than by the coppice stool, the pollarded trees and the traditionally managed hedgerow of her local fields and woodlands. Within the fells and on the grassy rides of Bradfield Woods she found her sanctuary and enduring inspiration, in all its glory across the seasons. She would regularly exhibit her art with the [Artworks collective](#) in East Anglia.

A lady of prodigious wit and fierce humour, as shown by her self-portrait below, she was a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend. Always ready to listen with a cup of tea and a cake, and always with a funny anecdote to lighten the mood.

Ever the fighter, Ann passed away after a long struggle in June 2022, in her beloved Mudlen End, surrounded by family and her paintings of the Bradfield Woods that she loved, and had played such an important part in saving all those years ago. She is missed by all who knew her.



Left: Bradfield Woods in the snow. Middle: Ann drawing in the woods. Right: Self Portrait

## REMEMBERING ELENI KAPETANAKI- BRIASSOULI

(8 OCTOBER 1953 TO 5 JANUARY 2023)

by Demetres Briassoulis and Jenny Moody



Charismatic and dynamic, Eleni Kapetanaki-Briassouli's contributions to Geography, especially the field of Urban and Regional Planning, are many. In 1993 she established the first Department of Geography at a Greek University and went on to champion sustainable development in Greece and around the world.

Thanasis Kitsos, current chair of the Geography Department that Eleni founded at the University of the Aegean in Mytilene (Lesbos), writes: ‘She left behind a huge and very important body of work. “I am a planner” she would often say, and indeed her research interests covered many topics, but always viewed from the perspective of design and political decision making: the

“commons”<sup>1</sup>, sustainable development, changes in land use (theory and models), desertification (the human dimensions), tourism and environment (analysis, design,

<sup>1</sup> Helen Briassoulis (2002). Sustainable tourism and the question of the commons, *Annals of Tourism Research* 29(4), 1065–1085;. Helen Briassoulis (2019). The Catharsis of the Commons. *International Journal of the Commons* 13(2) 1092–1111.

politics), analysis of politics and Assemblage theory.’ (*Rethymniotika Nea* 18-19 February 2023).

Like Oliver, she took her role as a citizen seriously because she loved her country and its landscapes. She frequently wrote to political figures and newspapers expressing her opinions on absurd government policies and unfettered development.

In the mid-2000s Eleni invited Oliver as keynote speaker to a conference in Panormia (Crete). At this conference, she raised the alarm that the Greek Ministry of Planning, Environment and Public Works had announced a ‘Tourism Plan for Greece that spells catastrophe for the environment, the economy, and the tourism industry of the country. They propose building upmarket tourism facilities all over Greece, including Natura 2000 sites (claiming that this will protect them!).’

The battle to save Cavo Sidero in East Crete from a massive development was a direct result of the policies that Eleni warned about. Cavo Sidero, a remote and arid peninsula, is a protected Natura 2000 site, one of the 231 world biodiversity hotspots in Greece, and boasts Minoan and Byzantine archaeological remains plus a relict Byzantine agricultural landscape, and yet it had been approved for the construction of a huge touristic resort with seven villages and three golf courses. In 2008, when Jenny Moody and Oliver Rackham posted an online petition in opposition to the development, Eleni jumped in with both feet with her support and network of contacts. She was fascinated by the online petition and its potential as a tool for social and political change and wrote in an article: ‘An informative piece of text and a brief video of the area were provided on the petition site. An international mobilization produced 10,780 signatures from circa 25 countries between April 2008 and November 2009. The signatories included more than 500 scientists (academics, practitioners, consultants) of which more than 400 provided comments in support of the petition. Environmental sciences, archaeology, history, and planning were notably represented...’.<sup>2</sup> The petition did make a difference in this battle, which was won.<sup>3</sup>

After this, Eleni, Oliver, and Jenny communicated regularly and met in Crete to discuss various research issues concerning natural resource preservation, tourism, landscape, the commons, spatial planning, biodiversity, and desertification.

Her passion for her work never dimmed. Even in retirement she was appointed chair of the National Committee on Desertification by the Ministry of Development and Food, was on the boards of several professional journals, and continued to publish. Her last article, on phronetic planning and assemblage thinking,<sup>4</sup> came out in 2022 and she was working on another, ‘Land Use Planning for Land Degradation Neutrality: Reflections and critical challenges’ when she unexpectedly died. She passed her enthusiasm on to her students and conscious citizens, who continue her causes.

In addition to her work, Eleni loved her family. She was born and raised in Rethymno (Crete). In 1975, Eleni married Demetres Briassoulis, now professor emeritus at the Agricultural University of Athens and scientific leader of research projects. They met when preparing for their national examinations to enter university in Athens and shared a harmonious life for 53 years based on their respect for the traditions of their land, love for the environment, actions for the commons, and complementary scientific interests. They have two children, Alexia and Paraskevi.

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<sup>2</sup> Helen Briassoulis (2010). Online Petitions: New Tools of Secondary Analysis?, *Qualitative Research* 10(6) 715–727.

<sup>3</sup> Efforts to build a smaller scale resort were later approved but the fight goes on.

<sup>4</sup> Helen Briassoulis (2022). The making of good public plans Phronesis, Phronetic Planning Research and Assemblage Thinking, *Planning Theory* 22(1) 1–27.



## REMEMBERING A.T. ‘DICK’ GROVE AND HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH OLIVER RACKHAM (4 APRIL 1924 TO 9 JULY 2023)

by Jenny Moody

A.T. ‘Dick’ Grove, physical geographer and climatologist, was a remarkable man and beloved mentor. A geographer’s geographer at Downing College Cambridge for over 70 years, he was at the time of his death, aged 99, the longest-standing Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, having been elected in 1947.

An exceptional scientist, his research on long-term environmental change — first in Africa (1948–1988), then in the Mediterranean (1988–2016) — fundamentally shaped our understanding of past climate change.

Bill Adams (Emeritus Fellow at Downing and one of Dick’s former students) says: ‘An acute and wry observer of landscapes and people, he had a profound influence on science and on those he worked with and taught.’

Although Dick and Oliver had heard of each other, both being Cambridge men of distinction, it was not until 1988 that these two formidable explorers began a collaboration that developed into a deep friendship that enriched the last 30 years of both their lives.

Dick and Oliver’s initial collaboration was on the EEC-funded project “Desertification in the Aegean Islands” that Dick co-directed with N.S. Margaris. But in the 1990s, they broadened their scope and explored the far-flung corners of the Mediterranean, from the Algarve in southern Portugal to the west coast of Turkey. This culminated in their ground-breaking book *The Nature of Mediterranean Europe: An Ecological History* (2001), which brought together Oliver’s classical training and ecological history skills and Dick’s climatological interests.

Dick’s first wife Jean Clark was a renowned Cambridge glaciologist, and they had six children. Jean died in 2001. In 2009, Dick married Ann Round, and Oliver was thrilled to be the best man at their wedding!

Intrepid explorers to the end, in celebration of Dick’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dick, Oliver, Ann and several friends visited the remote, rocky island of Anaphi in the Cyclades in May 2014. Discovering, among other things, deposits of volcanic ash from the Pleistocene eruption of Santorini.



Left: Dick Grove and Oliver Rackham setting out for Anaphi. May 2014. (J. Moody)

(Also see [theguardian/dick-grove-obituary](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/10/dick-grove-obituary) and <https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/people/grove/>)

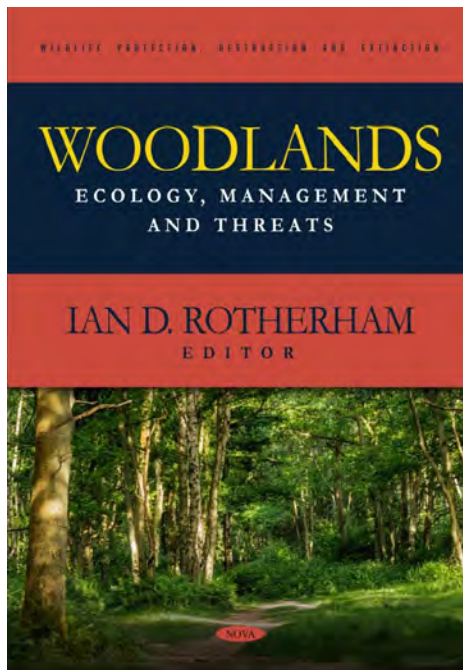
## PAST EVENTS

**November 1, 2023** — Opening of the permanent Oliver Rackham display in the Cruk Barn at the Green Wood Centre, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire.

## BOOKS

### NEW

*Woodlands. Ecology, Management and Threats.* 2024, edited by Ian D. Rotherham. Nova Science Publishers, Hauppauge, NY.



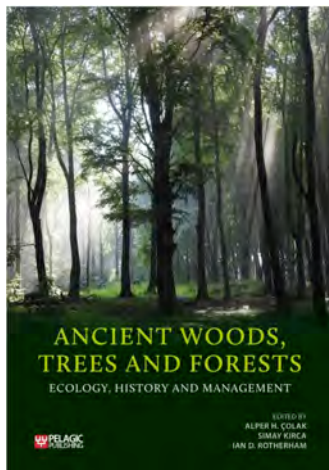
This book, which will be launched at the ‘Trouble in the Woods’ seminar (*see* pp. 5–6) brings together key authors and researchers to address issues around the understanding of treescapes, woodlands, and forests, and both recognition and protection. Authors include Tom Williamson, Della Hooke, Alper H. Çolak, Keith Alexander, Ted Green, and others.

Critical issues are raised in terms of the lack of guidance on matters such as irreplaceable woodland heritage and associated biodiversity. The identification and ageing of hitherto unrecognized ancient trees are discussed in detail.

[novapublishers woodlands-ecology-management-and-threats/](https://novapublishers.com/woodlands-ecology-management-and-threats/)

### 2023

*Ancient Woods, Trees and Forests: Ecology, History and Management.* 2023, edited by Alper H. Çolak, Simay Kirca and Ian D. Rotherham. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.



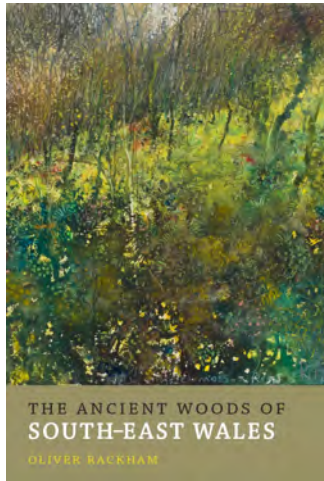
The book is largely a reprinting of *Ancient woodlands and trees: A guide for landscape planners and forest managers* published in 2018, which has been difficult to find.

Fresh perspectives from across Europe are put forward on cultural heritage, the archaeology of trees, landscape history, forest rights, tree management, saproxylic insects, the importance of dead wood, practical conservation and monitoring, biodiversity, wood, etc. The book is dedicated to Oliver and includes a chapter by him, ‘The Archaeology of Trees, Woodland, and Wood-Pasture’.

The book is available here: [pelagicpublishing ancient-woods-trees-and-forests](https://pelagicpublishing.com/ancient-woods-trees-and-forests)

## 2022

***The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales.*** 2022, by Oliver Rackham, edited by Paula Keen with contributions from David Morfitt, George Peterken, and Simon Leatherdale. Little Toller Books, Beaminster, Dorset. [The Ancient Woods of South-east Wales.](#)

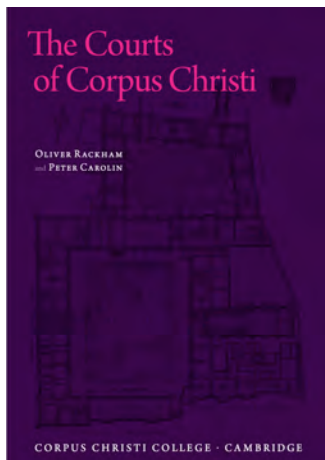


Oliver's work on *The Ancient Woods of South-East Wales* began in the 1980s and continued up to 2013, by which time he had visited 70+ woods between the Wye Valley and the Neath Valley, from the Vale of Glamorgan to the Black Mountains. He revisited many of them, continuing to take extensive fieldnotes and drawing on many historic records.

Cover painting 'Welsh hazel moss' (© Kurt Jackson)

## 2020

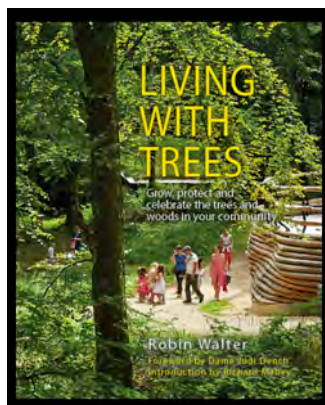
***The Courts of Corpus Christi.*** 2020, by Oliver Rackham and Peter Carolin. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.



At the Commemorative Symposium for Oliver Rackham hosted by Corpus Christi College in August 2016, Peter Carolin presented Oliver's work on the Old Court enhanced with his own insights and coloured drawings — a presentation that led to the publication of this booklet. The booklet includes an edited version of Oliver's original 'The making of the Old Court' (*Letters of the Corpus Association* 1987 and 1988) and two articles by Peter Carolin: one on the New Court and another on discoveries made during the remodeling of the Old House Kitchen.

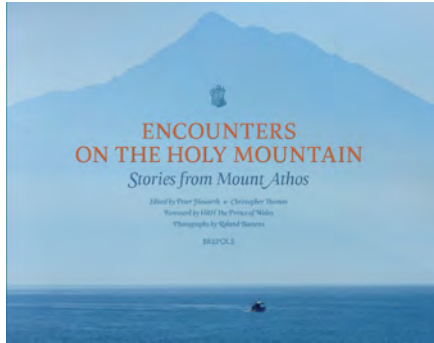
The booklet can be downloaded for free at: [The Courts of Corpus Christi.](#)

***Living with Trees.*** 2020, by Robin Walters.



The book includes a foreword by Dame Judi Dench and an introduction by Richard Mabey; it is published by Little Toller. Drawing on the many ways that people around the UK are redefining their relationship with trees and woods in the twenty-first century — in healthcare, education, ecology, art, architecture, agroforestry, conservation — this book demonstrates how caring for trees and woods enhances local biodiversity, community cohesion and well-being.

Oliver is mentioned several times in the text, which includes two of his photographs. [Living-with-Trees.](#)

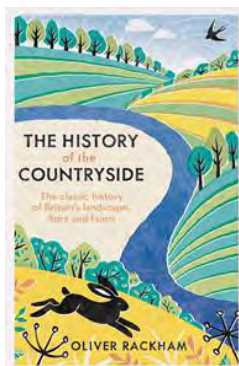
***Encounters on the Holy Mountain: Stories from Mount Athos.*** 2020, edited by P.

Howorth and C. Thomas.

This beautifully produced volume, with over 50 contributions, is described as "an affectionate testament to Mount Athos, the Holy Mountain, after 30 years of activity by the Friends of Mount Athos". It includes Oliver's article 'Our Lady's Garden: The Historical Ecology of the Holy Mountain', first published in 2004 in the *Annual Report of the Friends of Mount Athos*. [Encounters on the Holy Mountain](#).

***Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape.*** 2020 reprint, by Oliver Rackham.

Long accepted as the best work on the subject, Oliver Rackham's book, originally published in 1976, is both a comprehensive history of Britain's woodland and a field-work guide that presents trees individually and as part of the landscape. From prehistoric times, through the Roman period and into the Middle Ages, Oliver Rackham describes the changing character, role and history of trees and woodland. He concludes this definitive study with a section on the conservation and future of Britain's trees, woodlands, and hedgerows. [Trees & Woodland 2020](#) ISBN: 9781474614047 (pb) 9781474614054 (e-book)

***The History of the Countryside.*** 2020 reprint, by Oliver Rackham.

From its earliest origins to the present day, this award-winning, beautifully written book, originally published in 1986, describes the endlessly changing character of Britain's countryside. Exploring the natural and man-made features of the land — fields, highways, hedgerows, fens, marshes, rivers, heaths, coasts, woods, and wood pastures — Rackham shows conclusively and unforgettably how they have developed over the centuries. In doing so, he covers a wealth of related subjects to provide a fascinating account of the sometimes subtle and sometimes radical ways in which people, fauna, flora, climate, soils, and other physical conditions have played their part in the shaping of the

countryside. [History of the Countryside 2020](#) ISBN: 9781474614023 (pb) 9781474614030 (e-book)

**2019**

***The Ancient Woods of the Helford River.*** 2019, by Oliver Rackham; edited by David Morfitt with contributions from Paula Keen and Simon Leatherdale, and a foreword by George Peterken. Little Toller Books, Beaminster, Dorset. [Woods-of-the-Helford-River](#).

The Helford River, Cornwall, is one of the very few places in England where ancient woodland meets the sea. It also has a

Cover painting 'Oak and Hazel, Helford' (© Kurt Jackson)

curious industrial and cultural history. Describing the geology, history, and flora of twenty-five individual woods, the book explains how these special places have survived the centuries and what the future may hold for them. With this posthumous publication, we explore one of Oliver Rackham's favourite places to carry out fieldwork in the British Isles and celebrate his life and work.

***Cambridgeshire's mosses & liverworts - a dynamic flora.*** 2019, by Christopher D. Preston & Mark O. Hill. 2019. Pisces Publications, Newbury, Berkshire. This book includes much information on the bryophyte flora of the ancient woods of Cambridgeshire, including changes since 1950, something that Oliver would have found of much interest. In fact, in his later years, Oliver maintained a strong interest in the bryophytes of Hayley Wood, an aspect of his work that is highlighted here, including scans of his notebooks showing his bryophyte notes. [Cambridgeshires-Mosses-and-Liverworts.](#)

## 2018

***Ancient woodlands and trees: A guide for landscape planners and forest managers.*** 2018, edited by Alper Çolak, Simay Kirca & Ian Rotherham IUFRO World Series Volume 37. Vienna. The book is dedicated to Oliver and includes a chapter by him, 'The Archaeology of Trees, Woodland, and Wood-Pasture'. This book can be downloaded for free at: [Ancient-Woodlands-and-Trees-a-guide-for-landscape-planners-and-forest-managers.](#)

## 2017

***Island Landscapes. An expression of European Culture.*** 2017, edited by Gloria Pungetti. Routledge, Abingdon and New York. This book is dedicated to Oliver and includes three chapters by him: 'Island landscape history: The Isles of Scilly, UK', 'Saaremaa: tackling landscape history in Estonia', and 'Landscape history of Cyprus: a preliminary report'. [Island-Landscapes-an-Expression-of-European-Culture.](#)

***Yorkshire Woodlands.*** 2017, edited by Margaret Atherden & Veronica Wallace. ISBN:978-1-906604-62-2.

This is the proceedings of the PLACE conference held in Ilkley (North Yorkshire) April 2016 in Oliver's memory. It includes an obituary of Oliver and feature articles by Melvyn Jones 'Walls, woodbanks and worked trees', Tim Laurie 'Relict limewoods of the NE Pennine fringe', Tom Lord 'Wood pasture in Upper Ribblesdale', John Weir 'Forests for the future', and John Grimshaw 'The Yorkshire Arboretum'. There is also an account of a walk in Middleton Woods, Ilkley.

The publication costs £5.00 + £2.00 P & P (UK only). Copies are available from the editor. Please write to the following address: Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX.

## 2016

***Atlas of the Predaceous Water Beetles (Hydradephaga) of Britain and Ireland.*** 2016, edited by Garth Foster, David T Bilton & Brian Nelson, Field Studies Council. This book was co-dedicated to Oliver. It reads: 'This book is dedicated to Professors Albert Pissart (1930–2014), the geomorphologist who revealed the origin of "Pingo

Fens", and Oliver Rackham (1939–2015), who understood historical landscape'. [Atlas-of-the-Predaceous-Water-Beetles-of-Britain-and-Ireland](#).

***A Tale of Trees: the battle to save Britain's ancient woodland.*** 2016, by Derek Niemann. Short Books, Oxford. This book highlights Oliver's and George Peterken's roles in the salvation of Britain's ancient woodlands. [Tale-of-Trees-Britains-Ancient-Woodland](#).

***Arboreal: A Collection of New Woodland Writing.*** 2016, edited by Adrian Cooper, Little Toller Books, Toller Fratrum, Dorset. This collection was inspired by and dedicated to Oliver. It consists of "new writing from woodlands across the British Isles. In memory of the great historical ecologist, Oliver Rackham, the book gathers a variety of voices – novelists, teachers, ecologists, poets, artists, architects, and foresters – to explore why woods still matter and mean so much". With artworks by James Ravilious, David Nash, Andy Goldsworthy, Ellie Davies, etc. [Arboreal](#).

***Oliver Rackham (1939–2015) in Nature in Cambridgeshire. Special Issue.*** August 2016. *Nature in Cambridgeshire* collected in a single volume all of Oliver's writings published in the journal: the first in 1966, a report of the Hayley Wood Managing Committee, and the last in 2012, a book review of *Ancient Trees in the Landscape: Norfolk's arboreal heritage*. In between are two obituaries (Oliver's and David Coombe's) and eight articles on woods. If you are interested in buying a copy, please contact Mark Hill by post at: Nature in Cambridgeshire, c/o Mark Hill, 11 Chaucer Road, Cambridge, CB2 7EB.

***Biocultural Diversity in Europe.*** 2016, edited by Mauro Agnoletti & F. Emanuelli. Springer Verlag. The book is dedicated to Oliver. It is a selection of papers presented at a meeting held in the context of the Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity (JP-BiCuD). [Biocultural-Diversity-in-Europe](#).

## 2015

***Biografia di un paesaggio rurale: Storia, geografia e archeologia ambientale per la riqualificazione di Case Lovara (promontorio del Mesco – La Spezia).*** 2015, edited by Nicola Gabellieri & Valentina Pescini. Oltre Edizione, Sestri Levante. This book is dedicated to Oliver. It is a collaboration with the Laboratorio di Archeologia e Storia Ambientale (LASA), con il Seminario Permanente di Storia Locale (Università degli Studi di Genova) and presents the detailed study of a historic landscape in Case Lovara. In addition to the editors, contributors include Oliver's great friend Diego Moreno, along with Roberta Cevasco, Massimo Quaini, Carlo Montanari, Alessandro Panetta, and Mariangela Guido.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Biografia-paesaggio-rurale-archeologia-riqualificazione-ebook/dp/B015QPEWHU>.

***Special Issue: Landscape and Biocultural Diversity. Biodiversity and Conservation 24(13).*** 2015, edited by Mauro Agnoletti & Ian Rotherham. This special issue of the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation* was dedicated to Oliver Rackham.  
<https://link.springer.com/journal/10531/24/13/page/1>.

***Human Development in Sacred Landscapes: Between Ritual Tradition, Creativity and Emotionality.*** 2015, edited by Lutz Käppel & Vasiliki Pothou. Göttingen. This book is dedicated to Oliver. It is the proceedings from the conference *Human Development in Sacred Landscapes* held in Delphi Greece in May 2011 and includes an article by Oliver, 'Greek Landscapes: Profane and Sacred'. [Human-Development-in-Sacred-Landscapes.](#)

***Europe's Changing Woods and Forests.*** 2015, edited by Charles Watkins & Keith Kirby. The book is dedicated to Oliver. It is a follow-up to the proceedings from a conference held in 1996 that marked the 20th anniversary of the original publication of Oliver's *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape* in 1976. [Europes-Changing-Woods-and-Forests.](#)