

Arboricultural Association

Ireland Branch

Chairman: Charles McCorkell **Secretary:** Michael J Yallop **Treasurer:** Anne Merkle
Subcommittee: Felim Sheridan, Joe McConville, Roy Goodwin, Cormac Downey, Ian Alcock, Rob Gibbs

2024 AGM & walk and talk event at Maynooth College.

Dear Committee Member,

I would like to extend my gratitude for attending our recent AGM at St Patricks Pontifical College Maynooth. We had a fine day for the tour of the campus with our host, Stephen Seaman of the Grounds Maintenance Department. We had a good attendance for an event on a weekend and hopefully our next AGM will attract more members.

Please find attached, a copy of the minutes from this AGM for your consideration, an agenda from the day, some photos of the event ,the election of Officers proposed and seconded, the Chair Secretary and Treasurers reports.

Trusting that this is in order,

Is mise le Meas,



Ireland Branch Secretary.

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AGM 2025.

2024 -2025 Annual General Meeting of the Arboricultural Association Ireland Branch at St
Patricks Pontifical University, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

Chairperson presiding: Mr Charles McCorkell MICfor.

1. Chairpersons welcome.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes and matters arising from last AGM.
 - a. Questions and matters submitted to the committee.
4. Committee reports.
 - a. Chairmans report.
 - b. Secretaries report.
 - c. Treasurer reports and Branch Finances.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Date for the next proposed meetings.
7. Any other business.
8. Chairmans close of the meeting.

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Photos from the Walk and Talk event at St Patricks College Maynooth.




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Election of Officers to serve the year 2025.

Arboricultural Association Ireland Branch Election of Committee January 2025



Interim Chairperson: C. McCorkell

1. Chairperson
 The outgoing Chairperson is Charles McCorkell.
 Nominations for Chairperson.
 Proposer: Anne Merkle
 Seconder: Mark Johnson
 Any other nominations for Chairperson?
 I deem Charles McCorkell to be elected Chairperson

2. Secretary
 The outgoing Secretary is Michael Yallop.
 Nominations for Secretary.
 Proposer: Dorothy Huxley
 Seconder: Mark Johnson
 Any other nominations for Secretary?
 I deem Michael Yallop to be elected Secretary

3. Treasurer
 The outgoing Treasurer Anne Merkle.
 Nominations for Treasurer.
 Proposer: Brian McKeown
 Seconder: Mark Johnson
 Any other nominations for Treasurer?
 I deem Anne Merkle to be elected Treasurer

4. General Committee Members (7)
 The outgoing General Committee members are:

- Felim Sheridan.
- Roy Goodwin.
- Joe McConville.
- Cormac Downey.
- Rob Gibbs.
- Ian Alcock
- Ken Ryan.

Proposer: Anne Merkle
 Seconder: Earna

1) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

2) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

3) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

4) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

5) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

6) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

7) Nominations for General Committee member
 Proposer: _____
 Seconder: _____
 I deem _____ elected to the committee.

Signed: M. Yallop
 Date: 18/01/25

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2024 AGM Minutes.

Apologies.

John Morgan, Ken Ryan, Roy Goodwin, Rob Gibbs, Joe McConville, Ian Alcock, Zack Meehan.

Chairmans welcome.

CMcC opened the meeting and thanked all those for attending both the walk and talk event and staying on for the AGM. CMcC noted that the AGM was to be run in 2024 but with the October event and trying to run the AGM in person, it was difficult to fit it in so although its being run in 2025, it is for the year 2024. CMcC thanked MY for organising the walk and talk and the refreshments. He thanked Stephen Seaman for his time in talking us around the campus.

Minutes and matters arising from the last AGM .

CMcC asked for a proposer and a seconder for the minutes from the last AGM.

Proposer: Cormac Downey.

Secunder. Felim Sheridan

Questions and matters submitted to the committee in the past year.

CMcC said that there were no questions or matters submitted but that if anyone wished to submit anything today, we can discuss that in AOB.

Chairmans report.

See appendix 1 for full report.

Secretary's report

See appendix 2 for full report.

CMcC asked if there were any questions. FS asked about cpd certs for events ran by the Irish Branch in 2024 and that he hadn't received them. CMcC said that he should have received the cabling one but the pest and disease cert hasn't gone out as of yet. MY said that the certs for the Wednesday Webinars sometimes goes to the email junk folder. He said that free webinars were a great way to pick up CPD and there was good information in them.

Treasures report.

AM gave a report on the Association Finances. She noted that banking issues had been sorted in relation to access and bank transfers. See appendix 3 for full report.

EG asked if the Irish Branch gets any membership fees. CMcC confirmed that the branch gets no membership fees and that the only incomings is via events ran. In the past there was some book sales. CMcC asked if there were any other questions in relation to the finances.

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Election of officers.

CMcC said that there were no nominations and that the current committee was happy to stand again.

Role.	Chairman.	Secretary.	Treasurer.	
Nominations: Elected:	C McCorkell, NOM C McCorkell.	M Yallop. NOM M Yallop.	A Merkle. NOM A Merkle.	_____
Role	Additional Committee Members.			
Nominations: Elected:	F Sheridan. NOM F Sheridan.	R Goodwin. NOM R Goodwin.	J McConville. NOM J McConville.	K Ryan. NOM K Ryan
Nominations: Elected:	C Downey. NOM C Downey.	R Gibbs. NOM R Gibbs.	I Alcock. NOM I Alcock.	_____

CMcC said that Eileen Woodbyrne was stepping down from the committee after all her years of hard work. She had done so much for the organisation during her time on the committee and she would be badly missed from the committee.

EG asked what the process was to join the committee. CMcC said that anyone wishing to be considered for a position on the committee should forward on an email, detailing the position they wish to be considered for, their credentials and a short detail about themselves and send that to irishbranch@trees.org.uk and they would be put forward at the next AGM.

Date of the next AGM.

CMcC said that the next AGM will be on Saturday 6th of December at a venue to be confirmed but the event structure will be similar with a free event and a possible walk and talk event.

AOB

MJ noted that he has published his new autobiography of his over 50 years in the tree business. He said that there is a free eBook available on his website. He said that DH had done a very good review of the book and he had donated copies to the Arboricultural Association, the National Botanic Gardens and the Arborist Apprenticeship scheme, UCD, Queens university Belfast and Ulster University. He said that he is selling them at cost price and he said it is his thank you to the tree industry. His website is www.MarkJohnstontree.com. CMcC thanked MJ and congratulated him on the book. DH said that it was a fantastic book and well worth a read. DH said that MJ's other book, such as the Tree Experts was also a brilliant book.

MJ asked about the apprenticeship course validation. BMK said that the course has been validated to go for another 5 years. He also noted that they are running knowledge transfer courses and he would be happy to share the events with the Irish Branch. MY noted that the facebook page had been passed back to the

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control of the branch in recent times and it was his hope that it could be used to promote events along with LinkedIn. EG asked if we had an idea of what the current membership breakdown was and between different grades. EG asked if it was broken down into students professional or technician. MY said that the majority of grades currently fall between technician and below. There are 6 contractor members and 5 corporate members. MY said that the majority of people were aiming for the technician grade as it provides a wide range of benefits at a cost-effective price. He said that membership fluctuates, and it is moderated by HQ and we have to apply to HQ for the current list of members. EG said that he was enquiring in relation to what the target area for members was. MY said that as a branch, when we attend an event, we cant sign members up without them going online.

EG asked what is the point of the Irish branch then. CMcC said that the point of the branch was to organise and run events and make people aware of the Association.

RM said that he would like to see the branch taking more responsibility for enforcing the standards. CMcC said there maybe merit in taking to some Local Authorities in relation to standards and hiring contractors to carryout a high standard of work. RM said that the approved contractor scheme is very important to get up and running across Ireland. MJ said it would be great to see Local Authorities across Ireland getting tree officers. CMcC said he hoped the European Arboricultural Council AGM and City of Trees would be a great way to promote it country wide.

CMcC said that it had been brought to the attention of HQ to help promote the need for tree officers. MJ said that linking in with Local Authorities and other groups like the Tree Council would be of huge help.

DH said that it needs to come through Director of Services, County Councillors in the council chambers who vote on finance and county development plans to feature these issues. CD said there needs to be a key link between tree officers and a tree policy implemented together. MY said that as Doherty had noted, its very directed by what happens with the Elected members. EGR said that bringing in documents like Biodiversity Policies and making note of Trees and Tree Officers within the plans, can help to push the issues and get them implemented. MJ said that the idea of these Miyawaki forests are not a big seller and they are not what they are made out to be and may not live up to the claims which is made about them. CMcC noted that he had seen it in a planning policy and MJ said that there are many very unrealistic claims about it.

CMcC asked if there was any other business any no responses were put forward.

Close of Meeting.

CMcC closed the meeting.,

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Attendees Present.

- Dr Mark Johnston MBE. (MJ)
- Barry McKenna. (BMK)
- Jeremy Ryan. (JR)
- Robert Meehan. (RM)
- Eileen Woodbyrne. (EW)
- Michael Yallop. (MY)
- Charles McCorkell. (CMcC)
- Felim Sheridan. (FS)
- Cormac Downey. (CD)
- Dorethy Hayden. (DH)
- Eanna Gallagher. (EGR)
- Patrick Rielly. (PR)
- Scot Rielly. (SR)
- Manus Alexander. (MA)
- Peter Kiernan.(PK)
- Stephen Seaman. (SS)
- Eoin Glavey (EG)
- Anne Merkle (AM)

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Chairperson Report.

Opening comments

Firstly, I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work over the course of the year. Giving up their free time to help organise events and attending shows.

Events Held 2024

- Workshop on Cabling and Bracing Systems According to the European Arboricultural Standard
 - 9 August 2024 at Oldbridge House
 - Jaroslav Kolarik and Martin Kott
 - Attended by 21 delegates
- How to recognize and manage upcoming tree diseases in arboricultural working field.
 - Massaria, Ash dieback, Sooty bark disease, Oak Processionary Moth.
 - 18 October 2024 in Ashtown Visitor Centre
 - Jan Willem de Groot and Henry Kuppen
 - Attended by 50 delegates

Shows Attended 2023:

- Michael Yallop attended the GLAS 2024 Show (Garden Landscape Amenity Sports Turf) at the National Basketball Arena, Dublin on behalf of the association.

ARB Magazine Articles 2024:

- We provided articles in the Spring & Winter Magazines.
- Spring Articles – related to CAVAT event and the AGM
- Winter Article – A Competitor's View piece on the Climbing Competition 2023; the Bracing Working; attendance at GLAS.

EAC (European Arboricultural Council)

- On behalf of the Irish branch I attended the AGM in Zadar in July 2024.
Malthouse, Stonehouse GL10 3DL, United Kingdom
www.trees.org.uk

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- Looking to developing a New Certificate dedicated for Tree Managers. Currently have the ETT (European Tree Technician) and ETW (European Tree Worker), this will be a ETM (European Tree Manager). Specifically aimed at people in Tree Officer Roles at local level. We have completed a Survey Form on this subject to help the EAC gather information about tree managers in Ireland.
 - 3 New European Arboricultural Standards in Draft – These include:
 - Tree Value Calculation – Economic and Ecological Value of Trees
 - Tree Assessment Standards
 - Protection of Tree During Development Activities. (out for Comment)
 - Conference on the New European Arboricultural Standards in Prague February 13-14. This is a free event.
 - Bring the total number of Standards to 6.
 - The aim is to updated these standards year by year. The Tree Pruning Standards have commenced and comments from members are welcomed.
 - 2025 AGM will be held in Bonn, Germany from 3 to 6 July.
 - First day will be an open conference that anyone can attend
 - Second day will be closed part for the AGM
 - Third day is generally a walk around the city
 - At the last AGM I put Ireland forward to host an upcoming AGM for the EAC in Dublin.
 - Likely to be in year 2027.
 - This will bring the European City of Trees award to Ireland
 - Recognition of managing tree in urban areas.
 - It can help to promote urban forestry at a local and possibly national level if we can get enough cities to participate.

Year Ahead 2025

- Committee will sit in the first weekend of February to discuss events and shows for the coming year.
- We will explore options to possibly host a national one-day conference or 2 events as the previous year.
- Attend at least one show.

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- We would like to provide articles in every quarter for the ARB magazine of our Branch Members. Open to members to write pieces. If they have ideas, please put them forward to the committee.

Dates for the Diary in 2025

1. European Arboricultural Standards on February 13-14 in Prague.
2. Arb Show 2025 is on the 16-17 May in Westonbirt
3. Irish Climbing Competition is on 20-22 June at Avondale House
4. EAC AGM is on 3-6 July in Bonn, Germany.
5. AA Conference 2025 15-17 September In Warwick University

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Secretary's report.

Thanks to all who have come along today to the AGM. It has been over a year now since I was first elected to the committee and it has been a privilege to serve the members.

Starting off with our current membership, we have 92 members ranging from student to fellow. In 2024 we gained 8 new members. Its great to see new people joining up and hopefully we will be able to increase that number for 2025.

We have 6 contractor and corporate members. 5 approved arb contractors. We would like to see an increase in members in the south applying for the approved contractor status in 2025.

2024 has allowed me to get a handle I could say on where the association in Ireland currently is and where improvements can be made and where we have been very successful.

We ran 2 very successful events this year and took part in others. Starting out with the climbing competition event. I just want to say well done to all those who took part in the event, to the winners and those who organized it. Its a really important event and they put huge work into making it happen.

I attended the Glas trade show. I hadn't been at it in many years and it was great way to meet people. I got a lot of information, questions and publication for the Irish branch on the day. Many people were unaware of the Association in Ireland as oppose to the UK.

We had our bracing event, at Oldbridge estate. What a great day that was. The weather was fantastic and we had a great turn out. It was great to have the lads over and I will be going over to them, next month. Creating connections and networking abroad is what its all about that I can help promote and get information for our members.

Our final event was the pest and disease seminar. We again had a great turn out, we were based in the phoenix park and again, a very informative and detailed day. We are grateful to all our presenters this year who travelled over to us and fitted us into their schedule.

That brings us around to our AGM. I want to firstly thank my good friend Stephen for hosting us today. His work here is a testament to him and I hope we can come back if he will have us for another event.

Finally, the committee, a good working committee is hard found and I have to say we have a group here dedicated to the association and creating an honest and open organization with events to suit the members. I just want to thank them for all their hard work over the year, head office has a full-time staff but ours is a fully voluntary organization and we fit the organization and meetings into our schedule. I want to pass an extended thanks to Eileen Woodbyrne. Eileen has been a pillar to the Association but also to Horticulture and Arboriculture education in Ireland. She has helped, thought and encouraged numerous students over the years and she will be greatly missed from the committee but not from the events which I'm sure she will still come along too.

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I will be standing again for election if you will have me for another year. Thanks to all the members for your support over the year and thanks again for coming today.



Michael Yallop
Ireland Branch Secretary.

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Finances.

Arboricultural Association Irish Branch: 2024 Accounts Summary	
BANK	
Opening Balance 01/01/24	€ 17,447.06
Income	
Income from Cabling Event Aug 24	€ 3,187.00
Income form Autumn Event 24	€ 6,750.00
Total Income	€ 9,937.00
Payments	
Bank Fees	€ 68.90
Outstanding Cost of Autumn Seminar 23	€ 3,817.59
Tree Council Membership	€ 125.00
Cost of Cabling Event Aug 24	€ 3,396.89
Cost of Autumn Event 24	€ 3,900.70
Purchase of event tent	€ 608.99
Total Payments	€ 11,918.07
Closing balance 31/12/24	€ 15,465.99
CASH	
Opening Balance 01/01/24	€ 350.79
Income	
Total Income	-
Payments	
Expenses (Speaker Dinner/Drinks)	€ 140.00
Total Payments	€ 140.00
Closing balance 31/12/24	€ 210.79
Total Funds Available 31/12/24	€ 15,676.78