

THE LONDON TREE AND WOODLAND AWARDS 2018

CASE STUDY – TREES AND BUSINESS AWARD

WINNER – LONDON FIRE BRIGADE, BRAIDWOOD FOREST



The London Tree and Woodland Awards celebrate the work of individuals, communities and professionals to protect, improve and expand the capital's tree and woodland cover.

The Trees and Business Award is for a tree planting or management project with significant business involvement. The winner of the 2018 award, sponsored by Clear Channel, was the London Fire Brigade's Braidwood Forest project.

London Fire Brigade and Braidwood Forest:

In 2016, the London Fire Brigade joined with the Forestry Commission to create a new 'urban forest' to celebrate its 150th anniversary. The Brigade planted 150 trees on a former landfill site at Rainham, East London. The objective was to transform the site into a woodland that can accommodate many different species and further support the nearby nature reserve, enhancing local biodiversity.

The London Fire Brigade is committed to sustainable development and its corporate aims include delivering a more sustainable fire service, influencing sustainable development in London and increasing its involvement with the community.



The opening ceremony took place in August 2016 and the forest was named in memory of James Braidwood, the London Fire Brigade's first fire chief, who lost his life in the Tooley Street fire, 155 years ago.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Braidwood's great-great-great granddaughter, Diana Hamilton Jones, said: "James Braidwood is today very much an unsung hero, so to have this new forest named after him means that every visitor who comes to enjoy the peace and beauty of the area, will go away knowing who he was and how much he contributed to our society."

Activities:

The judges were looking for tangible evidence of the business commitment to tree planting or management, evidence of long term involvement, commitment and ambition and examples of innovation and good practice, which could be taken up by other businesses.

The London Fire Brigade's annual sustainability awards are held at Braidwood, celebrating the remarkable efforts of the green champions around the Brigade in raising environmental awareness and improving the environmental performance of their workplace. There is an ongoing and long lasting affiliation between the forest and the Brigade, which is committed to keeping the woodland health and open to the community.

As well as continuing to return to Ingrebourne Hill to help maintain the trees, in the autumn of 2017, the Brigade planted a new avenue of 'Flame' red oak trees along the main footpath. They have also placed interpretation material on site explaining how wood has played a key role in the Brigade's history.



Outcomes:

Watch Manager Simon Jakeman, London Fire Brigade's Green Champion Coordinator, said: "We have turned a former landfill site into an urban forest and it's wonderful to see this wasteland transformed into a green, tree-filled space."

He added: "Most people don't associate firefighters with green initiatives, so it's very rewarding to show that we are also doing our bit for the environment. Hopefully we can inspire others to do their bit too."



The project offers a great opportunity, not only for London Fire Brigade staff, but also community groups, as they can visit Braidwood Forest to enjoy nature, learn about biodiversity and the historical links between the London Fire Brigade and trees. It also supports the Forestry Commission's strategy of working with local community groups to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to locally deprived communities.

For more information on the London Fire Brigade and sustainability go to: www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/sustainability

2018 Award Ceremony:

The London Tree and Woodland Awards were presented at a ceremony hosted at City Hall on 10 July 2019 by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and Sir Harry Studholme, Chair of the Forestry Commission.



The photo shows (left to right) Sir Harry Studholme, Shirley Rodrigues, Martin Corke of Clear Channel, London Fire Brigade Watch Managers Steve Preston and Simon Jakeman. The award was sponsored by Clear Channel.



Further photos from the 2018 awards are available on the Forestry Commission [Flickr](#) page.

2018 Award Sponsors:

The awards were kindly sponsored by the following organisations:



Coombe Forestry



DERWENT LONDON



2018 London Tree & Woodland Awards



SUPPORTED BY MAYOR OF LONDON

For further information on the 2019 London Tree and Woodland Awards go to
www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-tree-and-woodland-awards #TreeOscars



2018 London Tree
& Woodland Awards



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON