

TIM UP THE LOMBARDY POPLAR WHICH NEEDED REDUCING BY 50% TO TAKE THE WEIGHT OUT OF THE TOP DUE TO LEANING INTO A NEARBY TREE.



TIM, LEFT, AND SAM, WITH SOME OF THE MATERIAL THAT THEY WILL BE PUTTING THROUGH THE ST6.



TIM USING SPEEDLINING METHOD TO SEND THE REMOVED BRANCHES DOWN TO THE GROUND WELL AWAY FROM THE TREE. THIS AVOIDS DAMAGE TO THE TREE ITSELF AND THE SHRUBS ON THE GROUND BELOW.



THE ST6 MAKES SHORT WORK OF THE TIMBER REMOVED FROM THE LOMBARDY POPLAR, THE WIDE OPENING ALLOWS THE TIMBER TO GO THROUGH QUICKLY AND CLEANLY COMPLETE WITH BRANCHES.

A T Technical Tree Specialists

Tim Worship, owner and founder of **A T Technical Tree Specialists**, has been a tree surgeon for twenty-one years. Over that time he has expanded to be able to deliver a range of specialist services to his customers. This commitment to continual diversification has greatly contributed to his company's success. Working in both the domestic and commercial sectors, **A T Technical Tree Services** undertakes all aspects of tree surgery work, mobile sawmilling, stump grinding, chipping, firewood supplies and small-scale forestry contracting.

TREE SURGERY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TIM'S CORE BUSINESS BUT, THROUGH GROWING THEIR SKILL BASE AND ENSURING THEY HAVE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT TO WORK EFFICIENTLY, Tim has ensured A T Technical Tree Services can deliver the complete package. Operating out of Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, the company carries out work throughout the Midlands.

I met with Tim out on site, where he and his groundsman Sam were working on a Lombardy poplar approximately 100ft high. The owner, who was keen not to lose the tree, was concerned about its safety, as it had a very definite lean towards the large conifer in front of it. Although there appeared to have been no movement at the base, in order to give her peace of mind Tim decided to pollard the tree, reducing it by half. To keep the removed timber clear and avoid snagging or damage in the lower part of the tree, Tim and Sam were speedlining the timber down out of the tree. This method allowed them to bring the timber down under control, exactly where they wanted it, without damaging lower branches and protecting the shrubs and smaller trees on the ground underneath. This method of lowering the removed branches also avoids shock loading the tree. With a tree of this size the resulting branches were almost mini trees in their own right.

The owner's garden was very well maintained and on a fairly steep slope, as was the driveway. Tim had positioned his Land Rover and his latest acquisition – a Forst ST6 6" chipper – at the top of the drive, at the entrance to the property. Tim told me, "One of the main advantages of the ST6 over my old chipper is that whole branches will go through as they are; there is nothing that we have taken off this tree that won't go through, as it is. With my old chipper we would have had to reduce the branches down considerably to be able to put them through. As well as being time consuming, this created so much more sawdust and mess on the customer's property. With this particular job it would have resulted in more trips through the garden and up the drive making even more mess. The machine takes no prisoners and is so much quicker, we put everything through, and it just devours timber. My old chipper was a 6" but the difference is that the ST6 will do 6" all day long without missing a beat. The old machine would do it at a push with maximum amounts of my stress involved." Itching to show me what the machine can do, Tim switches on. I have to say it certainly made short work of everything that was put into it, and at a speed that was more than impressive. The ST6 has a bigger opening, so you can actually put in 6" logs, but 6" logs with all the side branches on. Tim told me, "We have tried really hard to block it. We have put everything through (nothing bigger than you're supposed to

though), including some big wet conifers and soft clippings but haven't been successful yet, the no-stress device just kicks in."

The no-stress device is managed by a highly intelligent electrical system, called Autointelligence, which also informs the user of service times as well as alerting to potential problems picked up by the sensors. Nothing is hardwired on the ST6, so if one part develops a fault it is simply a matter of unscrewing it and replacing it. All parts are available for off-the-shelf, next-day delivery from Redwood Global. Powered by a 35hp Kubota engine, the build quality is solid, with every fold of the metal strengthened with a weld and the complete unit powder coated to give a tough finish. The control buttons are conveniently located on either side of the hopper and illuminated by touchpad buttons. It has a spare wheel, road-legal lighting and clips for instantly swapping number plates to match the towing vehicle. Maintenance is quick and easy with everything readily accessible. Two bolts allow the discharge chute to be lowered, giving access to the chipping chamber. The twin hydraulic horizontal feed rollers, with independent motors and a dial-in speed setting to control chip size, also have exceptional grip.

I asked Tim how he had made the decision to buy the ST6. He had received a call from Redwood, but at the time he told them, no, he couldn't afford it and already had a chipper with no plans to change it. They offered him a demonstration and he thought, 'Why not, I have nothing to lose'. Tim told me, "We were working on a big Silver birch at the time and they came out and did a demo with the machine. It was just, wow! Compared to the ten minutes it would have taken me before, it did a much bigger pile of much bigger timber in just a minute and a half. I was so impressed that I did the deal there and then. I thought this is just what we need in order to do those bigger jobs."

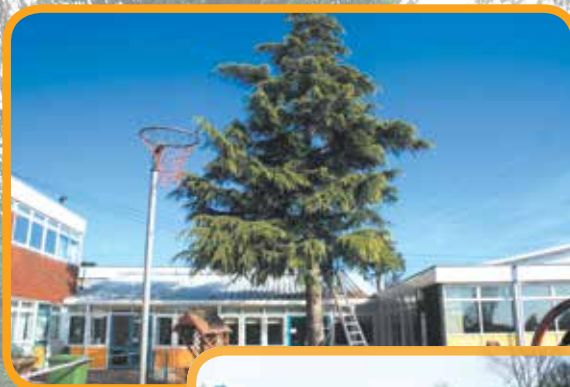
Basically, buying the machine has enabled Tim to do big jobs like he was doing today so much quicker. Previously he would have needed to do a lot more snedding to reduce the timber. Having the ST6 has made a huge difference to the time it takes to complete a job. He estimates that he can now do an extra three plus jobs a week. Tim, who had had the chipper for eight weeks when I met him, never thought he would hear himself say it but, "Chipping has become an enjoyable job. Before, it used to be that I had to go chip and I wouldn't be happy. Now I look forward to it. Because it does the job so much quicker, we save money on diesel and time running around on the ground. The chip produced is used for mulch, or sold to stables or allotments."

I was interested to hear from Tim about the other services he offers. Like many tree surgeons he sells





TIM'S ISEKI TRACTOR IN THE WOODS WITH TIMBER TRAILER.



CEDAR FELLED IN SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, MILLED AND USED FOR RETAINING BORDER WHERE TREE ONCE STOOD.

firewood, but has found that more customers are installing wood-burning stoves, so are choosing to keep any timber that comes from a job. Not one to miss an opportunity, Tim became a supplier of Yeoman & Stovax Stoves.

Tim has expanded into low-impact forestry work using his Iseki compact tractor and trailer to extract timber. The Iseki tractor, weighing just 500kg, has a forestry roll cage, 8,000lb electric winch, front end loader bucket and a serious amount of attachments for the back end. The trailer has been fitted with a timber crane. His mobile sawmilling goes hand in hand with this as he is able to take his tractor and 1030 Lucas Mill, with 10-inch cut and powered by a 30hp motor, into the wood, enabling him to get maximum value out of the timber with minimum damage to the area. When working on estates, the timber is usually not for resale but for projects on the estate such as fencing. He has many examples of this. He recently completed a job in Hertfordshire where the tree felled was used to make a two-sided bench with a table in the middle for the owner. Tim cuts to order and always asks the customer for a cutting list, enabling him to know exactly what they want from their wood. The value of the wood produced by milling is very dependent on timber species and the cutting list. On a 125-acre woodland on an estate in Northampton he spent 3 days milling 6-metre long 12" x 8" beams which their carpenter used to construct an oak frame building. Tim works on a day rate for milling. As an average he could process between £5,500–£6,000 of timber, with a volume of 5,000 board feet a day depending on how much timber he has and what size cuts are required. Tim recently cut a huge amount of timber in Northampton, a small amount of 12"x 8" and some 19"x 3" at 5.9 metres in spalted beech for a huge table for the estate's new gun room.

Milling and working with the timber is something Tim has a passion for and often completes his own projects, such as bunk beds for his log cabin made from a tree that was felled only a week before – search YouTube for sawmilling 'Lucas Mill Tim Worship'.

Tim also has a bit of a passion regarding his Land Rovers. The one he has with him today is a 110 tipper. He told me it was due for some serious modifications. "To get the ideal tree surgery vehicle I will extend the bed and turn it into a 6-wheeler with a bigger chip capacity. This will also make it more stable. I will also make it higher so that it can carry the sawmill in the back as well as towing the trailer." Other refurbishments include refitting the roof rack, space for spare wheels, a new winch and maybe ladders on the side and a new tool box. Tim's other Land Rover is a TD5 – his pride and joy.

He told me, "It has the nicest set of alloys you have ever seen, full external roll cage, and a custom-built roof rack; it looks an absolute beast. I love it."

The previous evening Tim, who processes firewood using a Japa 305 road-towable firewood processor supplied by Fuelwood in Warwickshire, and a Woodline 10-ton wood splitter, had been out with the TD5 and trailer delivering firewood. A couple were walking past and he heard the lady make comments on the Land Rover and trailer. He said, "You like it then?" The man replied, "Yes, it's everything a bloke could ever want. The missus was saying she liked the Land Rover, but I was admiring your trailer, and saying how amazing is that." I am sure when he has completed the modifications to his 110 it will be just as impressive.

At the moment Tim is very busy on the tree surgery side of his business. For the future he hopes that he can continue to build the small-scale forestry contracting element which can often incorporate the milling of timber. He would also like to get into more work with organisations such as the National Trust. I am sure that he will continue to diversify into any areas that will enhance the services his company offers. As I take my leave Tim is still putting large branches through the ST6, with a smile on his face.

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