



## Suntrap Shared Stories

### Gary French

#### GTF Tree Care

I grew up in Walthamstow and went to Roger Ascham Primary School. At that time in the '70's it was a really violent and claustrophobic area to grow up in. I struggled at school with undiagnosed dyslexia and Asperger's.

I don't have that many great childhood memories but going to Suntrap always stuck in my mind. I loved being outside. I felt real freedom being out in the fresh air amongst trees and space. The gnarly old oak trees with their thick trunks are my favourite. Any tree a bit out of the ordinary with some character.

After school I fell into car mechanics and then accidentally garden maintenance. Eventually at 28 I trained to be a tree surgeon and moved out to the countryside. That taste of freedom at Suntrap had never left me and I wanted to capture it again.

My business has grown from strength to strength. I love my job - to be a tree surgeon you need 90% confidence, 9% fitness and 1% madness. Going to Suntrap as a kid showed me another way of life and I'm grateful for the chance it gave me.