

Cornwall Ancient Tree Forum Report: Oct 2014



Trelissick and Polgwynne

In May I accompanied Owen Johnson on a couple of site visits for TROBI. Came across this veteran Ginkgo which reminded me of the tree we saw at Maelslwch Castle at the Hay ATF field trip. This one has a suggested planting date of 1820 and a girth of 4.06m. Also discovered another surviving veteran elm in the nearby fields and recorded many more in both gardens near Falmouth.

Royal Cornwall Show

The yearly turn out of CATF volunteers was successful to staff the stand at the biggest County Show in June – sandwiched between the Royal Forestry Society and Woodland Trust. Distributed loads of leaflets, told of many new sites and swapped great stories with other landowners and professionals.



Lanhydrock Resilient Ancient Treescapes

A great Cornwall event held in June at the National Trusts Lanhydrock site, led by Jill Butler and David Alderman. It brought a number of organisations and landowners together to consider the special qualities of Fowey Area including the estates of Boconnoc, Restromel and Lanhydrock – a clear hot spot for ancient and veteran trees in the County as shown on the Ancient Tree Inventory. We hopefully developed enough interest to move towards a future initiative or project to manage this incredible landscape. Many more trees recorded on the ATI at this site.





Kilminorth Woods

August saw another volunteer training day in Kilminorth Woods near Looe. This was for a “friends” group who were keen to learn more about veteran trees, their value and management. Lots of great discoveries and hopefully a few more enthusiastic and informed volunteers.



Tregonnigie Woodland Falmouth

I’m in the Friends of Tregonnigie Woodland and put on a veteran tree recording day in September with the volunteers. It was well attended, great fun and a great learning day for everyone. Hopefully will inform a future management plan for which I have applied to the Forestry Commission for a Woodland Planning Grant.



Tamar Valley AONB HLF Project

Helping Hands for Heritage is the name of a HLF funded project to train volunteers to map and help manage the historic assets and landscape of the Valley. In September I delivered a training day for volunteers at Anthony House another great NT site keeping the AONB staff, NT education officer and the House owners the Carew-Poles, entertained along with volunteers in a day long workshop and field recording event. They loved the “How old is that Tree” quiz which gave us chance to discuss all sorts of aspects about the life of trees, form, location, climate etc. etc.

Media

Ancient tree series in the local paper came to an end in June after 6 articles and quite a good response from local people and covered a wide range of cultural landscape and ecological topics. Also an interview and facebook post on local radio attracted a bit of attention . Seen here with local reporter Donna Burrell next to the famous twisted Beech at Tehidy Park near Camborne.



Tim Kellett

Chairman

CATF