



ANCIENT TREE FORUM CORNWALL

AGM and visit to Ethy Park

**Tim Kellett
28th Nov.
2014**



The AGM of the CATF was held in the Ship Inn at Lerryn.

This was attended by most of the board members and some additional forum members who were interested in helping with activities. Some interesting topics were discussed such as the Resilient Ancient Treescapes - a potential long term Woodland Trust initiative to improve the management of the special Veteran and Ancient tree hot spot in Fowey Valley. We discussed the potential for joint recording events with Cornwall Botanical Group, Devon Ancient Tree Forum, the National Trust at their Ethy and Trelissick sites and the potential for more verifier and recorder training for the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory. We noted other tree recording initiatives underway in the Tamar Valley AONB and the Kilminorth Woods. The national ATF have been undertaking a lot of training and campaigning initiatives which will be disseminated over the next year including some "Vet Tree" training videos. The new ATF logo has been produced with variations for regional groups—a new one has been set up for Scotland. We also welcomed 4 new co-opted board members. Minutes will be circulated and anyone else who would like to offer help to organise activities for the forum please get in touch.

After the meeting we crossed the stepping stones on the River Lerryn and walked up to Ethy Park guided by the National Trust's Ben Norwood



Ethy House is a privately owned C18 listed building. The parkland and woodland is owned and managed by the National Trust. There is a higher area of designed parkland closer to the house, which has seen some replanting of trees on locations where they have disappeared but evidenced by historic maps and reinstatement of Cornish hedges. This is separated by a ha-ha from lower wood pasture. The management practice has changed in recent years with a policy to retain deadwood on the site for its incredible biodiversity value. We saw lots of invertebrate evidence, lichens and many fungi species in these trees many of which are already recorded on the Ancient Tree Inventory. There will be future opportunities for more recording on this site if you are interested.



No one thought the deadwood spoiled the visual interest of the parkland in any way and in fact it added much to its character. The park retained many superb examples of parkland trees such and this beautifully shaped Lucombe Oak.





Above left: you can see the dense conifer plantings on a lot of the wooded slopes. On the right is an area that has been cleared to restore the original wood pasture.

Below right: You can recognise the wide spreading forms of the older oaks on the riverside path.



Left: A parkland veteran sweet chestnut.

Below : A lichen survey has identified many rare species in the woodland near the creek but an abundance on new holly growth is threatening to shade out the lichens. Holly management and haloing has begun in this special area.

Below right: NT 's Ben Norwood and Colin Hawke at the entrance to the estates creekside walk.

