

Ancient Tree Forum Cornwall Spring 2017 Report



Field trip to Arrallas Farm Summercourt



Ben Norwood the CATF secretary reports "After recording a great veteran oak in a wood pasture we made our way to an old trackway. Hollowed out ash, oaks, field maples and sycamores lined both sides of the track. Years of erosion had left exposed amazing root structures, which added to the gravity defying appearance of the former pollards and maiden trees. We then came across the most amazing ash tree situated in the middle of the field. The, as yet, unnamed tree initially looked like three separate stools, but, when we looked closely we realised they were all connected and one tree" Thanks to the Duchy of Cornwall who gave permission to access these on their tenanted dairy and cattle farms in a tranquil and unnoticed part of the county.



The Hollies of the Helford

Sue Scott and Ben Ellis ran a field trip in the South Helford area. Ben said We had a real adventure on our quest to record the trees at Frenchman's Creek. "The Holly trees are situated on the fringe of the creek and encircle a spring. It was too wet to make any records the first day so we returned the following day, which was much fairer enabling us to take in their full beauty. I found some Oyster mushrooms too! I then ventured over to admire the Manaccan Church Fig."



Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees course

A successful one day course was put on by Tim Kellett and Marion Bryant for the Countryside Managers Association in September last year. 19 delegates attended most of whom were National Trust rangers. The venue was at NT Saltram House in Devon where there were some impressive ancient and veterans.



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Fowey Valley – Creating a resilient treescape

The Woodland trust is running a workshop on the Resilient Ancient Landscapes Fowey Valley project. Date 20th March East Taphouse Community Hall This is the opening of the project bringing together organisations land owners and tree recorders. It is led by WT's Malcolm Allen and project managed by Colin Hawke ex head of Forestry at Cornwall Council and now a freelance consultant email : forestree@btinternet.com please contact Colin if you wish to attend. CATF tree recording is still very active in the area.

The White House St Austell

Another field trip was Held at the White House now Cornwall Hotel and Spa estate south of the Tregrehan estate at St Austell.

We began the exploration in search of a big oak recorded in a 1950's newspaper but unfortunately it has disappeared although it's possible a large upturned stump could be the last surviving part. Along with a few new recruits we discovered a great veteran oak, hollies and beeches. All dwarfed now by some very large coast redwoods in the grounds of the house.



What's in the pipeline...

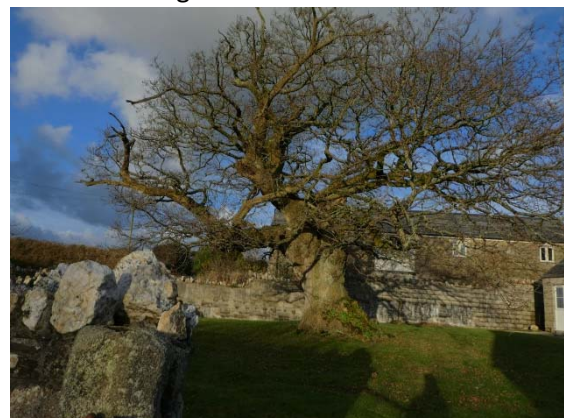
The Hollies of Ethy [FC and NT] Ben Norwood date TBC

Carmanartha Woods and Hernes Oak Tim Kellett – date TBC

“Mighty Oaks” – This is the new title for the potential joint project with Eden. Opportunities for funding through the HLF are being explored and avenues for ATF involvement in the project. Eden is also working with Cornwall College Rosewarne to start a M. Res student on micro propagation using woody material. Rosewarne is still experimenting with some material from the Pontfadog Oak but so far has been unsuccessful in getting it to root.

Tree recording

Dozens more great trees have been recorded or photographed over the last six months such as this oak pollard called the Knighton Oak in a farm garden.



Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees One-day course for Glendale Services arb staff to be put on by Tim Kellett and Julian Montague in March.

Royal Cornwall Show

8th 9th 10th June this year.

“Tree safari” car enabled small group exploration of the by-ways around Trebartha TBA this summer

Killerton House Devon

TBA in May by Devon ATF but Cornwall members will be invited

Tim Kellett Chair CATF

cornwall@ancienttreeforum.co.uk