

Cornwall Ancient Tree Forum Report: October 2015.



Sorry not to report personally at the board but I am going on the ATF training course at Rydal the week before and can't afford two trips to Cumbria. CATF is still active but I have not been able to organise as many field trips this year due to work and personal commitments. However I have now gone freelance and will hopefully will have some more time and some opportunities to take on some paid work on ancient trees. We have added about 150 tree to the ATI, continuing to support the Woodland Trust. The CATF last board meeting was held in November 2014. We now have 236 names on the CATF mailing list which is continuously updated and still growing!



Tregonnigie Woodland

Here are the Friends of Tregonnigie Woodland in Falmouth just finished haloing our ancient hedgerow Ash. They are all very proud of the tree - one of several veterans on old hedgerows in this relatively new woodland. We are now waiting for the contract for our Woodland Planning Grant application [under the new Countryside Stewardship Woodland Capital Grants Scheme].

Trelissick Estate

On a cold February day we took a group to record trees at Trelissick Estate - a National Trust site between Falmouth and Truro. This was hosted by Neil Stevenson the Head Ranger. While some trees had already been recorded on the main publicly accessible parkland, this time we visited the estate farms and a new area of the park just opened to the public. Neil is deeply committed to good



veteran tree management and has transformed the practices at the estate since he started work there. We have recorded more than 30 trees on the estate and surrounding farms. Our favourite was this hollowing Ash shown here with Neil... but what a shame this great



Oak collapsed last year but it will still be the focus for much wildlife and visitor attention for many years to come. Neil also showed us some other woodland skills he is encouraging on the estate such as coracle boat building, pollarding revival and bodging.



At the same time Cornwall ATF got a great article in the Cornwall Today magazine following an interview with Neil Stevenson and myself.

Tamar Valley AONB HLF Project

In February I delivered a second volunteer training day for the Tamar Valley AONB, funded by the HLF under the TVAONB's 'Helping Hands for Heritage' project. This involved an indoor workshop and an afternoon field trip at the NT's Cothele Estate.



Royal Cornwall Show 2015

Great turn out again at the biggest country show in the county regularly attracting over 100,000 visitors over three days in June. We collected quite a few leads to possible trees but no invites to big estates this time - quite a job to follow them up. We had 6 volunteers to staff the stand and gave out quite a few ATF leaflets.



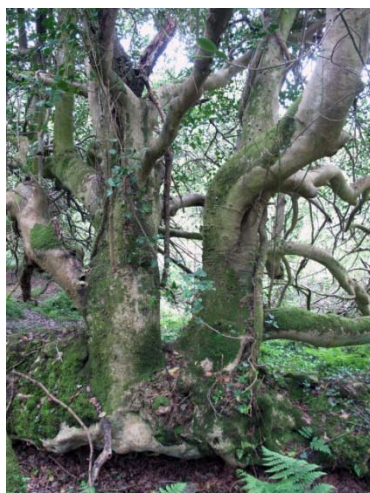
David Millarch and the Eden Project

In March I was invited to the Eden Project by Gus Grand to meet with Tim Smit and David Millarch – the founder of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive in the U.S. This visit stimulated a huge amount of PR internationally about his ancient tree propagation and re-forestation campaign and the potential for partnering Eden in a UK based project. He brought 100 plantings from the famous 'Fieldbrook stump' [*Sequoia sempervirens*] for planting around the Eden project in Cornwall. You can read in my committee report how the Eden Project has been enthused to work with the ATF and WT on a UK ancient tree programme involving propagation and education. In the picture David and Tim are standing under a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* in the "Lost Gardens of Heligan" - Tim's first project in Cornwall.

Tim Kellett

Chair

CATF



Recent discoveries - the huge twin stemmed Holly near Eden and the 'Hanging Tree' near Heligan

