

Ancient Tree Forum Cornwall Autumn 2016 Report



AGM and field meeting at Trelissick

This was held at National Trust's Trelissick House on 26th May. This was attended by 14 people. There were a few changes to representatives. Following the retirement of Colin Hawke as head forester with Cornwall Council, Alan Rowe will represent them as a new board member. Sue Scott will represent Cornwall Wildlife trust in place of Sue Hocking. Garin Linnington has come forward to represent the Forestry Commission in place of Richard Paton. We also welcomed Marion Bryant NE, Chris Bisson Eden and Samantha Barnes ex Tamar Valley AONB as co-opted members. Ben Norwood, ranger from NT's Ethy estate is now secretary of the Forum.

After the formalities the group enjoyed a very informative tour and discussion in the parkland led by head ranger Neil Stevenson. Neil is very forward thinking in his approach to good vet tree management in the parkland part of the estate – a real asset to NT with great experience and an ancient tree champion.



Thanks also to support from John Smith we now have a section in the ATF dropbox and our new email address

cornwall@ancienttreeforum.co.uk

Fowey Valley

CATF recorders [all now ATI verifiers] spent a further day recording in the Fowey Valley. This was a bit of a tree safari, by car and walking, to visit a number of sites where interesting trees had been spotted from a distance. We recorded quite a few in fields, from ancient hedgerows and a surprise discovery of a concentration of Lobaria lichen on a group of four vets between the A38 roadside and the Fowey River. Malcolm Allen from Woodland Trust and our board member is co-ordinating a long term project for this "hot spot" identified from the Ancient Tree Inventory.



National Trust Ranger Training



In May, Neil Stevenson, head ranger at Trelissick organised a training day for new rangers. Tim Kellett ran a session on Ancient trees alongside other leaders covering Bats, Birds, Invertebrates and other sessions on this informative day. Over 40 NT rangers attended.

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Tamar Valley AONB HLF project finishes

Since the last report we have undertaken a third volunteer training day for the Tamar Valley AONB at Port Eliot Estate and a final presentation of the project at the AONB annual forum in Calstock. Tim's presentation was out-staged by a cow giving birth in field behind the speakers stand – no one let on! We had a good take up for the following “tree talk and walk” recording a number of new vet trees in the area.



This was a Heritage Lottery Funded project called “Helping hands for heritage” and covered a wide range. Samantha Barnes and Lesley Strong from the project have now trained as ATI verifiers and a number of new volunteer recorders were enlisted. Sam produced a poster on the areas ancient and veteran trees.



Royal Cornwall Show

The Biggest Event of the year and a regular for the CATF. Three days, six volunteers and a host of new contacts and tree sites. This year

we have divided the trees among the board members to see if we can get around most of them.

Ancient Tree Inventory Verifiers at Eden Project and Tregrehan Garden



On 3rd September Tim ran a training session for new volunteer verifiers for the Ancient Tree Inventory. 13 new verifiers were trained on a thoroughly wet day but really enjoyed the event. We were hosted by the Eden project who provided the venue and Tom Hudson at the nearby Tregrehan Garden provided the venue for the field training. We are all looking forward to the release of a new ATI website in the new year.

What's in the pipeline...

The Hollies of the Helford Sue Scott and Ben Ellis

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

Arrallas Farm [Duchy of Cornwall] Tim Kellett and Geraint Richards - pre visit carried out - date TBC

Carmanartha Woods and Hernes Oak Tim Kellett – date TBC

Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees One-day course for the Countryside Managers Association 29th Sept Tim Kellett and Marion Bryant

Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees One-day course at the Eden project – date TBC – Julian Montague Tim Kellett and Marion Bryant
“**Treedom**” - Still a working title for the project being developed with Eden. This revolves around propagation of existing ancient trees, promotion and training.