

ANTS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2017



Summary of Past Work Parties

On a damp and cold day mid-November the ANTS could be found at Ebworth continuing the clearance of the site beside the ha-ha and having a large fire.

Much better weather was experienced on Crickley Hill in December where the on-going task of clearing the ramparts was undertaken.

In early January we were at Sherborne working beside Sherborne Brook. We cleared scrub, small trees along the old fence line and branches overhanging the brook. The weather was cool with light rain.

Late January on May Hill was very murky and damp. Here we cleared the sides of one of the many rides in the woodland at the back of the hill. The real bonus was having two fires, although by the end of the visit we could not see between them due to the fog coming down.

The work parties in February & March saw us back at Horton Court to continue the tidying up of the gardens.

The morning task at Woodchester Park at the beginning of April was one we had not done before. Wild flower seeds had been collected from the meadow by the NT car park in the previous Autumn and our job was to spread the seed on grassland pasture beyond the boat house. We finished this by lunchtime and then went up to the beech plantation beside the car park entrance to clear scrub between the saplings.

It was a dry and sunny day in late April as another fire was lit at Ebworth to dispose of the cleared scrub and trees beside the ha-ha. A lone ANT (Gill) cleared weeds from around saplings in the four new tree plantations in the park while another two ANTS helped Matt sort out loose Cotswold stone from beside the re-built dry store wall along the driveway.

Our latest work party was again at Horton Court in mid-May. More maintenance work in the garden was carried out in bright and sunny spring weather.

Tim

WORK PARTIES

Please bring enough food and drink for the day, together with suitable clothing and footwear. Tools will be available, supplied by the Rangers, and we can provide protective gloves if required.

Due to parking problems we will no longer meet in the centre of Cheltenham so please let either Tim or Russ/Sally know if you are coming so that we can arrange enough transport and in case there is a last minute change of venue. We aim to arrive at the worksites between 09:30 & 10:00.

Tim – 01242 522435 Russ/Sally – 01242 243714 or email: ants.cheltnv@btinternet.com

WORK PARTY DATES FOR REMAINDER OF 2017

4 th June	Ebworth	17 th September	Ebworth
25 th June	Horton Court	8 th October	Haresfield
16 th July	Westbury Court Gardens	29 th October	May Hill
6 th August	Sherborne	19 th November	Sherborne
20 th August	Horton Court	17 th December	Crickley Hill

Following the recent demise of “Antoinette”, we have been raising money to sponsor another Belted Galloway heifer. In conversation with Matt, who looks after the herd, the stock registration letter for this year is “K” and at our group meeting recently the names “Keltie” and “Kantie” were put forward. When we are scheduled to be at Ebworth in September, it is hoped we can hand over our sponsorship monies and be introduced to our latest group members!

ANTS SOCIAL SCENE

Fish & Chip Suppers at “Popeyes” Queens Road, Cheltenham (near Railway Station) –The next outings will be **Saturdays, 24th June & 4th November**. The evenings start at 7:00 p.m. and you can either meet earlier at Tim’s abode (19 Libertus Court, Cheltenham) or at the restaurant.

ANTS Weekend - The venue for the long weekend break from 12th–15th October will be in Harrogate. Research is underway for hotels which are available at a reasonable price and further details will be given to those who have expressed an interest.

The next **ANTS Meeting** will be after the Fish & Chip supper (and clouds of smoke!) on Saturday, **4th November**.

ANTS Christmas Lunch –Sunday **10th December** has been pencilled in and I would hope to have details on the venue & times by end of October, together with booking forms.

PS – if anyone has suggestions for any further outings, meals etc would they please let me know. **As it will be our 40th Anniversary in February 2018, I am hoping suggestions to mark this auspicious occasion will come flooding in!!!**

Angie