



National
Trust

Cotswolds Volunteer Newsletter

March 2018



Please do contact Caroline with your ideas and contributions for future editions, by email: caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk or phone 01452 810057.

Hello..... from the Cheltenham and Gloucestershire NT Centre

You may wonder who we are, and what we do, compared to you busy people who volunteer in various sites and properties.

Committee members of our Centre count as volunteers, too, but our ordinary members make up a 'Supporter Group', and we have about 400 members. From October to March we arrange fortnightly talks, trying to find as many NT themes as we can. If any of you clever volunteers have a 'Specialist Subject' (as they say on Mastermind) and would like to give us a talk on it, we'd love to hear from you!

We go on coach and car outings, and have a holiday in May, choosing an area new to our members. We have an active walking group.

We charge a fee for all our activities and once a year our Finance Committee allocates the surplus from these events to various projects in the local properties: this usually totals about £4,000.

You've heard from the ANTS in a previous newsletter, but we are full of admiration of their hard work, and Gill Lewis comes to our talks to sell her beautiful cards to raise funds for the Galloway herd.

If you would like to join us (or tell your friends and visitors about us) you can find out more on our website <http://www.cheltglosntc.org.uk/>

Alternatively, if you don't live in our part of Gloucestershire you may like to consider another supporters' group, details of which can be found on the National Trust's website under supporter groups.

Best wishes, Julph Miers, Vice Chairman



Bench overlooking Rodborough Common: refurbishment paid for by the walking group

Photo credit: Bill Cronin

Message from Hilary McGrady new Director-General

As some of you will know, I've worked for the Trust for almost 13 years, first as a Regional Director and most recently as Chief Operating Officer. I have always believed in the power of culture, heritage and the environment to inspire people and bring them together, and in the Trust I found an organisation that does exactly that. Leading the Trust is an extraordinary privilege and I can't wait to get started.

I'm very proud of what we have achieved over the last 120 years and I am especially grateful to my predecessors, staff and volunteers for handing on an organisation in great shape.

2017 was another year of record visitor numbers and members and our strategy, *Playing our part*, sets out a really clear roadmap for change in how we deliver world-class conservation, restore and manage the natural environment and tell the stories of our places.

We've made good progress but I think we can be more ambitious about scale and pace of delivery. We have started some great work on cities and diversity but both feel like we are on the edge of something that could be truly transformative for us. So there is much to be done and I am looking forward to working with you to build on our success, inspiring more people to engage with and want to care for the places that matter to them.

Despite knowing the Trust well, I plan on spending a lot of time in my first few months listening, learning and getting to know you all better. It's important to me that I know what's on your mind and I hope I'll hear from and meet many of you soon. For now, thank you for everything that you do as part of the National Trust team. Together we are making a real difference, not just for our supporters but for the nation.

The Crown—filming at Woodchester Park

The Crown took the world by storm in 2016, winning numerous awards. Woodchester Park was chosen as a location in the second series being used as part of Prince Charles's school, Gordonstoun.

In October 2016 a 120-strong crew descended on Woodchester Park. They spend four weeks setting up and about 10 days filming scenes there. The production made use of the boathouse as a location for the school changing room. The lake and the old stables area feature as the location of a PE lesson with a giant obstacle course which included a rope climb. They also built a floating platform in the lake which formed part of the



obstacle course.

It was certainly a busy period but the income received from filming goes straight back into our conservation and visitor

improvement works. Already we have been able to improve our visitor car park, with all of our car park spaces now on hard ground. It will also help us to restore grasslands to increase feeding ground for the Greater and Lesser Horseshoe bats that roost in the valley.

The episode can be seen on Netflix Series 2, episode 9

Max Dancer

Snow damage

Winter snow fall has created a lot of work for the ranger team. We experienced what seems to be our largest amount of fallen trees and branches that had to be dealt with after two heavy snow episodes. Each of us has remarked on how vast the damage was compared to extreme wind events we've had in recent years.

In the right place this creates a great new habitat for wildlife and we can leave them where they fall. However in the wrong place this disrupts access for us and our visitors. All our sites were affected and it was a scramble for us to get out there with all the kit, sharing vehicles and volunteers to clear tracks.

Chain-sawing is not a one person job. As well as health and safety it can be hard work clearing material from large trees and branches that have fallen. Thankfully we have a team of volunteers who provide a much appreciated extra pair of hands, eyes and ears when carrying out this work.

Many of our sites are now clear. So far at Ebworth we must have checked and cleared 8 miles of the forestry tracks. There are still some routes in need of checking!

Laura Riley

Exciting time for conservation on the Stroud Commons

Our Land, Outdoors and Nature (LON) work on the Common will contribute directly to two key areas of our new strategy: Restoring a healthier, more beautiful natural environment, and Looking after what we have got. It means measurably improving our land on the Commons by 2025, and working beyond our boundaries to provide a wider connectivity of richer habitats within the Stroud valley eco systems.

One of the most important ways forward in supporting the LON strategy on the Common over the next ten years is the Countryside Stewardship. Supporting the grazing community's new application to The Countryside Stewardship will help feed directly into these aspirations and will therefore ensure continuity in conserving and restoring wildlife habitats, reducing flood risk and soil erosion, prevent loss of threatened species and preserve features important to the history of the rural landscape.

What will this look like on the ground over the coming year?

Vegetation management and habitat restoration through machine and hand work through staff, volunteers and contractors, drawn on scientific studies. More conservation grazing paddocks. A model of collaborative working with the Commoners, supporting the National Trust's strategic objectives for land, outdoors and nature; and finally driving forward successful measured outcomes creating a more joined up, bigger, healthier Common.

What has already happened?

Successful completion of the most important conservation feasibility studies undertaken on the Commons for several years. The ecological requirements of threatened species such as the Duke of Burgundy, have been studied in detail providing sound ecological evidence and management guidelines over the next ten years. Habitat management work has already begun on key sites such as Nailsworth Common where the main body of work continues to be supported by volunteers.

Richard Evans

BBC Naturewatch

BBC Winterwatch

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came and braved the rain to help us during the filming week of Winterwatch. We are waiting for the BBC to confirm whether they will be back for Springwatch 2018, but it is looking increasingly likely. If so we shall have 3 weeks of programming to offer our visitors, and so keep an eye out on MyVolunteering!

Clare Frater, Project Manager, Sherborne Park

Breaking news...

At the recent Playing my Part Awards ceremony the winner of the Love Places Category was Sherborne Park's Springwatch Project—many congratulations and huge thanks to all the volunteers. The video of the event is on Acorn or follow this link:

https://nationaltrustonline.sharepoint.com/sites/acorn_r_southwest/Pages/SW-Playing-my-part-awards.aspx

Housekeeping

Personal details on MyVolunteering

<https://myvolunteering.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Could we ask you all to ensure your personal information, contact details, date of birth, emergency contacts etc) is up to date.

How... you can update your profile in *myvolunteering* or you can add/ amend information for them via the personal information tab in *yourvolunteering*.

Why... we need to make sure the information we hold about people is accurate. It will also help us to contact people when we need to.

Recording volunteer hours on MyVolunteering

Why... So many reasons! Firstly it's a way of recognising your contribution and linking this to volunteer cards. It is also requirement for all charities that involve volunteers to report this information so hours are therefore included in the Trust's annual report alongside volunteer numbers and notional value. Accurate hours help us to plan locally.

If accessing MyVolunteering is proving a problem please don't hesitate to contact Caroline via email caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk. She can offer help and can also enter hours and expenses on your behalf.

What's on

Woodchester Park

- Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt. Become a nature detective to follow bunny's clues and finish your adventure with a delicious, chocolatey treat—Friday 30 March to Monday 2 April, 11am - 2pm, £3

Newark Park

- Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt. Join the hunt at Newark Park this Easter! Follow our fun Easter trail and earn yourself a tasty reward—Friday 30 March to Monday 2 April, 11am - 4.30pm, £2.50
- Wild about wild garlic. See and smell wild garlic everywhere in the gardens, then pick some to take home and use in your cooking—1 April to 31 May, 11am-5pm
- Edwardian weekend. Bringing Newark's Edwardian past to life—9 June & 10 June, 11am-5pm

Sherborne Estate & Lodge Park

- Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt. A trail through the Grandstand and woodland walk to find clues and claim your—Friday 30 March to Monday 2 April, 11am - 4pm, £2
- Join the rangers for a walk off the beaten track to visit some of the sites featured on BBC Springwatch and Autumnwatch—20 April & 18 May, 10am-12pm, booking essential