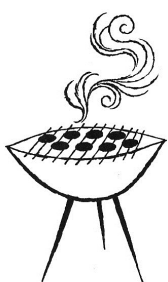


### Summer event - Save The Date

You told us that this year instead of the summer BBQ you'd like a day out either at a National Trust property, with a guided tour, or non-National Trust place with a ranger tour included.



**NEWARK PARK**  
**Wednesday 28 August from 4pm-8pm**

- 4.30pm - walking tour of the estate
- 6pm - BBQ

(more details to follow)



### Sharing Ideas Session

Our first 'Sharing Ideas' session took place at Ebworth on 12th February this year. Volunteers Sheila, John, Gill, Caroline, Hege, Mandy and Gareth representing Woodchester Park, Ebworth and May Hill. Lisa facilitated and Max, Laura and Emma were all there to answer questions and join the discussion. The group looked at three areas: Communication, Voice and Leadership. Here are some of the outcomes:

#### Communication

The group felt that volunteers would benefit from better communication from the Trust, by keeping them in the loop in doing so volunteers would be able to communicate back in a far more proactive way.

The following points were raised and it was suggested should be implemented where possible:

- Link to the Portfolio's Business Plan in the Newsletter
- Inductions to be held once a year with the content put together by the volunteers
- Improve and update the inductions in line with changes within the Trust
- To communicate what's going on through an Area monthly update (site specific)
- To create a 'feedback database' from information gathered
- Opportunities to join other 'Hit' teams
- Volunteers would prefer email updates rather than relying on the newsletter to update them on issues and changes
- access to a spreadsheet where they would be able to log any issues

#### Having a voice

- Access to a spreadsheet where any issues could be logged, a method of reporting problems
- Having a volunteer skills database

#### Sense of involvement

Volunteers pointed out that the Newsletter was not always being read. If the Trust are looking for a response from the volunteers it shouldn't be put in the newsletter. They would prefer important issues that need addressing or action they should receive an email.

Volunteers suggested that they would like to receive emails similar to staff emails regarding topics that are current in the news. This is also mainly due to the fact that they want to ensure they say the correct thing to visitors or those they have the correct facts across the board. For example, facts regarding media statements to be translated to them.

This was a great first session and we are working on responses and to see where improvements can be made, suggestions put into practice.

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#### **The next 'Sharing Ideas' session will be in September**

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, it'll be great to hear from you. You can drop a note to [caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk) stating which day(s) of the week would suit you best. We'll do our best to arrange the session when most can attend.

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## Looking after what we've got - Calving 2019



The first task to prepare for calving is to get all the pregnant cows near to Ebworth, so we can keep a close eye on them. The Belties are generally very capable of calving on their own, but it is still important to be prepared in case a helping hand is needed. The first group to come back were the heifers, as they were due at the end of March. The term 'heifer' means that the animal has not yet had a calf, so we try to calve them at the beginning in case of any issues. It was a slow start, but eventually baby Belties started to appear, skipping around the paddock and keeping their mothers busy. Unfortunately, our last heifer to calve had a very difficult calving and sadly died due to complications. We were, however, able to save the calf (who Matt's girls called Leo) and after a few days made the decision to sell him to a conservation grazing herd in the Brecon Beacons. This was due to the fact he was on his own at Ebworth and would have been separated from the herd until weaning, 8 months later. It is very important for cattle to be part of a group, as they are social animals.

The farmer from Brecon had a few calves of a similar age who Leo could be reared with and would have a much better quality of life.

The rest of the cows were brought back to Ebworth and calved well, with no problems. We now have 18 healthy cows with calves. After a week or so, when the calves are strong enough to be moved, we take them to a farm near Crickley Hill – well away from footpaths so the cows and calves can have some peace and quiet away from people and dogs. The cattle will stay on this site until the autumn, when they will be moved to various SSSI's (including Crickley Hill, Rough Bank and Kilkenny) for specialist winter grazing.

**Kate Jones, Livestock Ranger**





## Growing support - Easter at Woodchester Park



Easter now seems a distant memory for some, but for me it is still fresh in my mind with lots of people buzzing around Woodchester Park enjoying the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt.

Woodchester Park, in its fifth year, was one of the many NT properties across the country to take part in the Cadbury's Easter Egg Hunt in 2019. Once again Cadbury donated the chocolate for free (worth a total £1.5 million to the NT), with Woodchester having a total of 1,200 chocolate eggs to give away from Good Friday through to Easter Monday.

With the weather set fair we were prepared for a busy weekend with the overflow car park in place and many volunteers to help visitors.

The success of the event wouldn't have been possible without the help of the whole team and the offsite engagement team along with many volunteers. So thank you for all your hard work, to all the volunteers who came along to help: whether by car parking, selling the Easter trails, giving out the chocolate, and to the Offsite Engagement team all contributed towards a brilliant day out for our visitors, many of whom were visiting for the first time. The weather was glorious weather too. It really is appreciated and you can be proud to have delivered another successful event.



### The overall figures;

Friday – 437 trails sold = £1,042

Saturday - 233 trails sold = £510

Sunday – 237 trails sold - £556

Monday – 144 trails sold = £348

**Total - 1,051 trails sold = £ 2,456**

- the funds raised will go towards the second part of the play trail project which is starting at Woodchester this year, and continuing in 2020.



Max Dancer, Area Ranger

## Offsite Engagement Team

We are lucky in Gloucestershire to have an Offsite Engagement Team. Our current team of two are Susan Anderton and Alex Hegenbarth. They travel out into the region six days per week throughout the year, promoting the conservation work of the Trust. Their branded van, beautifully decorated with images from around the portfolio opens out to become an information point. They carry a wide variety of literature and leaflets, offering information about our properties and landscapes both across the region and nationwide and also offer information about volunteering opportunities. The team also sell National Trust memberships and have a target this year to bring £45,000 of business into the Trust.



They visit sites such as Haresfield Beacon and Woodchester Park but also attend country fairs and markets. Most membership sales occur at large scale events like the Royal International Air Tattoo and South Gloucester Show, where they might use a branded gazebo or a ready-made stall rather than the van.

They are ambassadors for the Trust and often the first point of contact for people who don't know anything about the Trust.

The brilliant part of the offsite engagement role is the opportunity it offers to meet so many different people and no day is ever the same – not least because of the weather, as they are out there come rain or shine. So if you see them out and about please do go and say hello.

## News ... from the Cheltenham & Gloucestershire NT Centre

### Summer Greetings from the Cheltenham & Gloucestershire NT Centre

Bill Cronin arranged for a small party to visit Ebworth on June 26th. They were welcomed by Matt Stanway, the Lead Ranger for the area.

Richard Evans, Area Ranger, outlined the Stroud Landscape Project 'Making Space for Nature'. Then

Kate Jones, Livestock Ranger, gave a detailed report about her role managing their Cotswold Grazing Herd throughout the year.

Laura Lawrance-Owen, Area Ranger, presented an illustrated talk about the history and planned improvements to the extensive Ebworth estate. She made special reference to the important role of the AONB Cotswold Wardens and the ANTS.

In the afternoon the group walked some of the Ebworth estate. Matt and Laura were appreciative of the funds the Cheltenham & Gloucestershire NT Centre provided to help with the restoration of a gate for the existing historic piers to the original carriage drive entrance.

The Cheltenham & Gloucestershire Centre has also offered funding for the restoration of gate piers elsewhere on the same entrance drive. The group saw both proposals on the walk and agreed they were very worthwhile projects.

All in the group agreed it was an interesting and thought-provoking day.

**Julph Miers**

## Housekeeping

### **Personal details on MyVolunteering**

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

Could we ask you to ensure your personal information, and emergency contacts etc. are up to date.

### **Recording volunteer hours and expenses on MyVolunteering**

A reminder to make sure you record your 2019/20 volunteering hours and expenses. Doing so makes the process of preparing and distributing the volunteer cards much smoother as all Caroline has to do is run a report then get writing the cards!

It is a requirement for all charities that involve volunteers to report this information so hours are therefore included in the Trust's annual report

If you'd like any help with MyVolunteering please don't hesitate to contact Caroline via email:  
[caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:caroline.allanson@nationaltrust.org.uk)

She can offer help and is also happy also enter hours and expenses on your behalf.

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if you haven't received a MyVolunteering registration email please let Caroline know and she will arrange for one to be sent.  
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