

FRIENDS OF NEWTON ARBORETUM

Newsletter No. 6: Jan 2017



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INTRODUCTION

Here is our sixth Newsletter, to keep Friends up to date with progress and pass on news and information about future activities. If you have comments on interesting things you have seen in the Arboretum or have views or ideas on how we should develop the Arboretum, please contact Roger Wilkins or any other member of the Committee.

As we have said before, volunteers who would be prepared to help with working parties or maintenance are always welcome, and should contact David Vallance. If anyone is able to join the Warden Rota (which involves making an inspection walk around the Arboretum a couple of times during a nominated week on about three weeks during the year), then please contact Roger Wilkins.

The next AGM will be on Wednesday 17 May. See below for details.

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Andrew Gee (851164)
Vice Chairman: Geoff Jackson (851551)
Secretary: Roger Wilkins (851337)
Treasurer: Peter Watts (851369)
Head Warden: David Vallance (851266)
Committee: Vaughan Gallavan (851589); Brenda Lewsey Cocks (851300); Ron Nethercott (851372); Courtney Ware (851741), Richard Whalley (851251); Adam Reeves (851150, representing Parish Council); John Quicke (851627, Owner)

We welcome Courtney Ware and Adam Reeves as new Committee Members and thank Kate Anstey who had been the previous representative of the Parish Council on the Committee.

REPORT ON 2016

This has again been a busy and successful year for the Arboretum, which has really developed since it was opened to the public five years ago. It is visited and appreciated by many people from the village and the surrounding area. When I made quick visits to the Arboretum 2 or 3 years ago, I would be surprised to see any other visitors, but now I quite expect to see one or two people (and at least one dog!). Apart from the noise of traffic from the A377, the Arboretum remains a quiet and restful place.



The number of Friends has increased to 80 and your support is really important. We now have our eyes on reaching 100, whilst we only reached 50 two years ago! This year, for the first time, we had a visit for Friends away from the Arboretum and on 27 April had a delightful tour of Sherwood. Many thanks to John and Gina Quicke for having us and to

Vaughan Gallavan for conducting us round the garden and providing insight to the many fine specimen plants. We plan to have an away visit in the Spring, this time to the University gardens in Exeter.



Visit to Sherwood Garden with an attentive group listening to Vaughan's explanation, but then an off camera distraction!

A highlight of the year was the tours and AGM on 18 May with over 50 people participating and 7 new Friends being signed on. The tours were led by Helen Kearney, looking at medicinal and herbal plants, and by Marion Kneebone, who highlighted the trees that she and her Devon Gardens Trust team had assessed and included in their Register of Significant Trees. Many thanks to Helen and Marion for their expert leadership.

A display put on at the Revels in early July attracted a lot of attention and was also shown, together with Margaret Ware's photo-albums, at a well supported coffee morning on October that raised just over £200 to help the Arboretum.

Daffodils with fox!



New planting in the Arboretum has continued. Geoff Jackson describes later the fernery that he is establishing. The bulbs planted in 2015 gave rather disappointing results, with very few Fritillarias showing up. The crocuses planted near the notice board, in contrast, made a fine display. We have planted more crocuses this Autumn to extend this area. The case for further bulb planting will be re-considered after the 2017 season.

We want to increase the colour and interest in the Arboretum in mid and late summer. A selection of hydrangeas was planted just inside the gateway this Autumn together with a young Chilean Lantern Tree (*Crinodendron hookerianum*). We plan next year to plant a number of buddleias and azaleas in the area from which Leylandia trees were felled some three years ago.

Considerable time has been spent by the Committee preparing a bid for support from the 'Bags of Help' scheme run by Tesco. This is a competition for environmentally-oriented projects and is funded by proceeds from the sale of polythene bags to customers. Short-listed projects are voted on by users of Tesco stores in the area, with the winner receiving £5,000. Our bid is to widen the use and appreciation of the Arboretum by providing an all-weather route suitable for wheelchairs and by developing an Information Trail customized for child visitors. If successful, we would add some of our own funds to this project. We may, a little later, be asking you to cast your votes (for us) in Tesco!

The developments that we have made this year have only been possible, because of the tremendous efforts of our volunteers and the financial contribution made by Friends and through fundraising, with two thirds of our income this year coming from Friends' subscriptions.

THE FERNERY

A new venture in 2016 was the planting of the Fernery. This is a passion of Geoff Jackson's because he has such a shaded garden he can grow little else! A suitable site was selected and a variegated selection of twenty plus ferns was planted, imported



from a fern nursery near Cork in Southern Ireland. Ferns take a time to establish themselves and much watering was required in the early stages. Visitors have been concerned in that many of the ferns appear to have died. This is not the case, some of our ferns are deciduous like many trees and will reappear in the Spring again. Because the area does look so bare in Winter, a further 16 evergreen ferns have recently arrived from the Irish nursery and will be planted when they have gained a little stature. This means that we shall have good cover throughout the year in the future.

AGM 2017

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 18 May. We will follow the successful pattern of previous years with a visit to the Arboretum followed by a meeting in the Parish Hall. For the Arboretum visit, you will be able to choose one of two alternative tours.

One tour will be led by Frances Watkins and will focus on 'Lower Plants' looking at mosses, lichens and liverworts. This will be a repeat of a very successful tour at the 2015 AGM and will enable those who went on the alternative tour that year to go with Frances this time. The second tour will look at recent plantings in the Arboretum, including the Fernery, hydrangeas and new trees. It will also look at the recovery of some of our specimen trees from actions taken over the last years to reduce shading.

We will assemble in the Parish Hall Car Park by 6.30 pm. Afterwards there will be tea, cake and biscuits in the Hall and then the more formal meeting, to include election of the Committee as well as a review of progress and a discussion of future plans. We would welcome one or two new members on to our Committee. If you are interested, please contact Roger, who can provide more details.



Stewartia monodelpha showing effects of shading. The shading has now been reduced and there is some recovery

WELCOME DAY

An issue that has been a regular item on our Committee Meetings has been dog fouling. We much appreciate the consideration of the vast majority of our visitors with dogs. They take the mess home or to a council-maintained dog bin, but if this is not possible, there is the dog bin that we have installed near the Arboretum gate. We much appreciate the work of Ron Nethercott who maintains and empties this bin. BUT some dog fouling still occurs. This reduces the pleasure for our visitors, is very unpleasant

for our volunteer workers and gives risks to health.

We have decided to have a 'Welcome Day', provisionally fixed for Sat 18 March. Throughout that day one or two of our Friends will be at the gate and will talk to all visitors about the Arboretum and particularly problems and appropriate actions with dogs, including issuing a leaflet outlining health issues. This will also give an opportunity to promote the Friends. **If you could spend an hour or so joining the rota to receive visitors on that day, please contact Roger Wilkins.**

OTHER FUTURE EVENTS

There are a number of other events coming up to provide interest and, in some cases, funds for the Arboretum. We do hope you will be able to support these events.

Mon 27 Feb Bingo for Arboretum funds, with 'eyes down' at 7.45 pm. The more folks that attend, the more money for the Arboretum! There will be a raffle for which we provide prizes. If you have a potential prize to spare, please let Roger Wilkins or any other member of the Committee have it before the day.

Sun 12 Mar Car Boot Sale at Matford We have to provide 6 people to look after this event - but we are guaranteed at least £250. There is an early start, but it's quite good fun. If you are able to help, please contact David Vallance on 851266.

April University visit We are fixing a tour of the University grounds and gardens. We will contact all Friends when the date and details are finalized.

Sat 24 June MidSummer Fest Make this a must in your diary. In conjunction with Church and the Parish Hall, we will be having our second Fest, following the very successful event in 2015 with some entertainment and a picnic in, hopefully, glorious weather.

Sun 3 Sept Car Boot Sale at Matford A second opportunity to have an early rise. We were not allocated a slot in 2016, but surprised to have two this year, this will give a total of at least £500 for our funds (see 12 Mar).

Sat 7 Oct Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions make a very important contribution to our funds and the help that we have from Friends is crucial for the well being and development of the Arboretum. Our financial year starts on 1 Jan, so subscriptions (£10 annually) are now due. Most of our Friends pay by standing order - so thanks very much for your new subscription! For those paying by cash or cheque (payable to Friends of Newton Arboretum), please could

you let Peter Watts (1 Godolphin Close, Newton St Cyres, Exeter EX5 5BZ) have your subscription. Please let Peter know if you would like a Standing Order form. They are also at the back of the Arboretum Leaflet available from dispensers in the Hall Car Park and just in the Arboretum. Remember that Friends still have a couple of perks - bamboo canes (we'll be doing a new harvest soon) and wood from the Arboretum. Please contact David Vallance if you are wishing to take wood.



This is a freeze image from a video taken by Peter Watts on 1 Dec. at 04.15 am. Using a Swann infrared motion sensitive camera that records on to a memory stick. The camera was sited by Ron Nethcott near the Sid Tarry Memorial Seat in the path just below the badger sett.

THANKS

The Committee thank all the Friends for their support during the year. Thanks go to the Volunteer Wardens and to those who have helped with working parties. We thank David Vallance for overseeing on the ground, and Courtney and Margaret Ware and Ron Nethcott for their excellent work and many hours that they have spent in the Arboretum. During this winter Will Furniss has been helping in the Arboretum as a contribution to his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thanks to Will. Vaughan Gallavan is again thanked for his work and the crucial expertise that he provides on our trees and Peter Watts for looking after our finances so well. Roger Wilkins has continued to co-ordinate the project and the work has been steered by our Chairman, Andrew Gee. Photographs were provided by Roy Beckett, Geoff Jackson, Peter Watts and Richard Whalley.

Finally, many thanks to John Quicke for all his support and allowing access to this fine Arboretum.

Enjoy the Arboretum!

Some fine autumn colours were on show this year captured by Roy Beckett and Geoff Jackson

