



# PROJECT NEWSLETTER

February 2020

## Project Updates

### Abundance

We are in low activity season for Abundance, but preparing for the new season. We are reviewing the risk assessments and risk managements we have in place. If there's anything you think could be improved or that you've found particularly reassuring about being involved, please let us know. We are also on the look-out for more storage space during peak picking season and just after (September-November). If you have a clean, cool, shady place we could use and don't mind the aroma of freshly picked fruit before it gets distributed or juiced, please get in contact with Linda [membership@malverncommunityforest.org.uk](mailto:membership@malverncommunityforest.org.uk).

### Cuillin's Wood

The Halloween session suffered from rain just before it was due to start and a lack of signage, and no-one came. This has led to a period of reflection on how we can widen the appeal of being in this wonderful space. Any ideas, please let us know.

### Malvern Link Station

We have installed the rainwater diverter, 400 litre water-butt and tap in Aspen Court and there's been no shortage of rainwater to collect. We are in the process of connecting a secondary water tank to store water for the pond.

The platform-side trench for planting a fruiting-hedge has been completed and another started. We have had delays in getting soil from the cemetery, and may now have to buy some in. We are still waiting for rubble/debris to be cleared rather than left on-site, as WMT require. It is hoped they will be clearing the growth on top of the lime-stone wall above the platform-side will be cut before that the breeding season starts. We are still trying to get the go-ahead for installing information boards.

We have kept going with low-level maintenance. It seems the public prefer this to 'looking neglected'. This is where the information boards will help. That said, growth has pretty much continued over the winter, with the increased rainfall and warm temperatures.

### Prospect Community Woodland

Our current licence expired in December, and a new one with minor modifications agreed with the Prospect Medical Centre. They have sent it to their bank for sign off, and aren't anticipating any difficulty.



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We now manage the site as a nature reserve and a green space, rather than a park-like space, and we hope planting further trees here might attract new interest from the community. Vandalism at the site needs to be tackled head on and Ken hopes to involve the local community through working with local councillors.

The glade will get an annual cutting down of all growth, clearing potentially hazardous objects, and leaving wild plants to then grow. Paths will continue to be managed throughout the year.

## **Townsend Community Woodland**

The works on the path through the wood and the bridge over the stream at the southern end of the wood have been suspended over the very wet autumn and winter. The path is under water and deeply rutted mud. An attempt was made to install the bridge, but it sank into the banks. Public access will be probably not be re-established before early summer. It is possible to get into the woodland paths off the main ride, if you know where they are. We are carrying on monitoring the wood, but not doing anything involving people unfamiliar with the wood.

## **Development Updates**

### **Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy**

We have places on both the MHDC and MTC Environment Panels. The MHDC Panel met in September and is reconvening next month. The MTC Environment Panel meets regularly and is highly active in developing both policies and actions.

### **Madresfield Estate**

With much regret, Ken and Dave decided that the coppicing and particularly extracting the cut wood in Bank Wood were beyond our current capabilities, both in equipment and labour. Although late in the season, we are hoping to do some hedge-laying in March.

### **A new Project - TreeAction**

The TreeAction project was set up by the Trustee so that we can respond more readily to events relevant to our aims, such as the current heightened public interest in tree planting, and the trees being felled on the Qinetiq site development. As well as being important activities in themselves, we hope it will attract people with similar interests to join us

The challenges in planting trees are of finding spare land and of sourcing the trees. Various opportunities need further explanation, and one potentially large scheme



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has fallen through. We had been considering setting up a database of sites until it seemed the Town Council and Malvern Hills Trust were going to work on together on such a project. Now that has appeared to be dropped, we will pick it up again.

We could support anything from single tree planting upwards, though small copses with supportive community groups would be a priority, as would native hedge planting. Establishing a nursery is a priority. We will buy in seedlings and saplings this year and then begin to build our own stocks ready for planting out next year.

We have managed to get some of the felled trees on the Qinetiq site set aside for community use. They are substantial willow trees, whose timber is not considered to be of great quality, except for its resilience to being struck (hence historic use in the bottom of wooden carts and for cricket bats). Ideas anyone? We are thinking outdoor furniture/playground stuff, although it is not very durable.

Contact Ken ([chair@malverncommunityforest.org.uk](mailto:chair@malverncommunityforest.org.uk)) or Dave ([vicechair@malverncommunityforest.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@malverncommunityforest.org.uk)) if you want to get involved in TreeAction or have an action idea.