

CLEEVE COMMON HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17



Conservation



A rare plant....

We were thrilled with the success of a seed relocation trial of red hemp-nettle when plants at the new site were found in flower. Red hemp-nettle is a Critically Endangered species, at real risk of extinction in the wild. Sadly, it has been lost from other places in the Cotswolds, which makes the population on Cleeve Common of the utmost importance.

A rare moth...

Expert lepidopterists carried out moth trapping on the Common with excellent results, including records of the lace border moth. This occurs in only two areas on the Cotswolds and, elsewhere in the UK, only in the south east and north Norfolk. *Photo: Dave Grundy*



And an even rarer moss...

The exceptionally rare moss that we have introduced to our mud-capped wall, *Ceratodon conicus*, has started fruiting. This is a major achievement, since by 2013 this moss was considered extinct in Britain. It is not known to be fruiting anywhere else in the UK. *Photo: Fred Rumsey*

Community engagement



Events programme

Welcome to Nicole Daw, who has joined us as Education & Access officer. She immediately got to work on successful Family Fun days in the summer holidays and a number of later events, most notably an Easter trail which attracted over 100 excited children (who were all rewarded with an Easter egg at the end).

Social media

We are now active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as our own website. This is where you can find the latest news, views and lovely pictures of Cleeve Common.

Volunteers

We're always grateful to our regular voluntary wardens who help us manage the Common on a daily basis, our conservation volunteers who carry out the annual plant and flower survey, and work parties from the Cotswold Wardens, Explorer Scouts and local businesses who have done sterling work on path repairs and scrub clearance.



Operations

Ranger service

Welcome also to Ken Leech, who now splits the week with our senior ranger David Stevenson to ensure full 7 day per week coverage. As well as all the day-to-day matters of managing livestock and helping visitors, the rangers have had a big push on gorse and scrub clearance this year.



Galloway cattle

Our herd is thriving, despite intermittent problems with TB, and now stands at 36 animals. Three were sold for beef during the year. 'The boys' did an excellent job of grazing the coarser grasses while in their winter paddocks, which is the cornerstone of our conservation management programme.

Visitors - and their dogs

More housing in the local area means ever more visitors to the Common and on peak days (especially in the winter) parking has become a problem. We've also seen a steep rise in the number of dogs and the associated fouling is the no.1 issue for complaints from other visitors. We have recently installed numerous dog waste sacks and ask all dog owners to pick up after their pets and deposit the waste in these bags or bins.



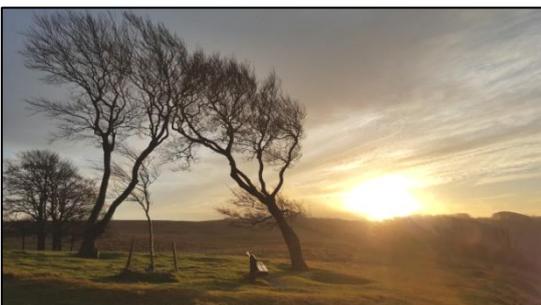
Funding

Our ten-year Higher Level Stewardship agreement has now come to an end. Natural England praised our efforts describing them as "an excellent demonstration of how agri-environment grants can be utilised to fund skilled and talented people to deliver huge improvements for the natural environment."

We were successful in applying for the successor scheme, Countryside Stewardship, but the level of funding is lower than in HLS. The uncertainty over post-Brexit funding poses a significant risk to our longer-term work.

A new name

And finally - we are changing our name to 'Cleeve Common Trust', to emphasize the charitable nature of our work for the benefit of the environment and the local population.



Cleeve Common Trust

Email: info@cleevecommon.org.uk
Web: www.cleevecommon.org.uk
Tel & text: 07471 68 78 77
Facebook: Cleeve Common
Twitter: @CleeveCommon
Post: Cleeve Common Trust, Parish Office
Church Road, Bishops Cleeve
CHELTENHAM, GL52 8LR

Registered charity no. 900131