



National
Trust

Community newsletter
July – October 2022

Sherborne & Bibury

National Trust Images/ Hanne Siebers



Our changing planet

As I write this, I feel I am melting in the latest heatwave. It brings into focus the work we are doing to face into the climate emergency but also to prepare for changes that are already happening.

In practice that will mean more obvious measures such as planting trees for more shade as well as for carbon capture but also some of the less obvious, like fitting guttering with bigger capacity

to cope with heavier, more sudden, rainfalls.

My thanks to those already involved in the social history work, which started with a focus on the watermeadows.

There is still some following up to do from the first stage and then, in coming months Lauren will be looking for conversations about people who lived and worked at Sherborne, connected to the war memorials. She will be in

contact with the church and council first to agree the remit of that work. It's important to include the memories of Sherborne and its people well into the future.

Finally, do please get in touch if any of the volunteering opportunities mentioned here interest you. Have a wonderful summer.

**Jonny Loose, General
Manager – Cotswold
Countryside Portfolio**

New Project Manager joins the team

Andrew Danson



We're delighted to welcome new Project Manager, Andrew Danson to the Sherborne team.

Andrew, who is based at the estate office, joined the team at the end of May.

Andrew says, "I am incredibly excited to be given the opportunity to join the Sherborne team as we begin the process of delivering the Trust's strategic aims at the estate."

I grew up on a beef smallholding in North Wales and for the past 15 years, I've worked in the rail industry. I am now looking forward to putting my skills to good use over the coming months and years.

I have spent my first few months at the Trust getting to know people and exploring parts of the estate and village.

I will spend the summer being out and about as often as possible and hope to meet you all soon."

Open weekends at Lodge Park

National Trust Images/ Chris Lacey



We're over halfway through this year's open weekends at Lodge Park.

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who have been supporting us with the opening through their generous gift of time.

Whether it's guided tours of the grandstand, walks around the Bridgeman Landscape, supporting the conservation of the building or ground maintenance, it's all helped to ensure that everyone has had a very special visit.

If you're interested in volunteering and want to know more about the opportunities available at Lodge Park, please drop Claire an email – claire.forkes@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Clear up continues

Although the weather has been quite changeable, we've finally been able to get heavy machinery to the areas that are usually impassable, to remove the trees which fell during the winter storms.

Specialist contractors from

Adrian Hope Tree Services have been on-site dealing with some of the larger timber – you may have seen them tackling the black poplar by the weir and the Turkey Oak in Old Park.

Patrick Brown, Ranger

Getting to know the estate

Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

I've been here for 8 months now and I can honestly say I have so much still to learn.

I want to continue to make positive changes, including more active management of our veteran trees and woodlands, planting more trees, increasing volunteer opportunities, improving community engagement, expanding wildlife monitoring and improving more habitats.

Some of the planning can take time, but the Sherborne

ranger team has now grown to include myself, Patrick and now James, so we'll be able to deliver even more across the estate.

With a background in ecology and wildlife conservation, improving Sherborne for nature is a big priority for me.

Finding out what flora and fauna already exists is the first step as this will better inform future management.

This is a big piece of work in itself as we need to record across the seasons. However, 2023 is looking like a year to



National Trust/ Georgina Lindsay

focus on some exciting wildlife projects. Watch this space.

Water leak



Thames Water

There are water issues at Sherborne at the moment, which have been caused by a leak.

This is being fixed and attended to by Thames Water.

In the meantime, please be aware that your water pressure may be affected. Thank you for your patience and understanding while this is resolved.

Bridgeman landscape grant



National Trust Images/ Cara Laver

Earlier this year we received the wonderful news that our £200,000 funding bid to continue the restoration of the Charles Bridgeman landscape at Lodge Park was successful.

The bid was made in partnership with Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB)

and is supported by Historic England.

Over the next two years we will be planting thousands of trees and shrubs in woodland blocks and avenue trees to Bridgeman's original plan. We'll also be repairing 130 metres of park wall as part of the restoration.

Let Estate update



We wanted to share some of the great work the team have been doing recently, as well as news on some of the future work that is planned on the estate.

At Arlington Row in Bibury, the roofs of these Grade 1 listed homes have been very carefully repaired which was a huge piece of work to complete. This essential conservation work ensures that the tiles are secure, and the roofs remain watertight, preventing any damage to the interior of the properties.

At Sherborne, we have just completed the water supply to run just on the mains, rather than through the pump house. During a power cut, the generator in the pump house had to be manually switched on, which was not ideal if the power was lost at night or at weekends.

This meant that for tenants on the private water supply, they often lost their water supply during a power cut.

Now that the work is complete, tenants should have guaranteed water.

You may have seen Pat and Terry busy working in the village with their hired digger. They have been completing drainage works, as well as resurfacing front garden paths to make them more accessible and safer for tenants.

Meanwhile, we have been doing further investigation into how to solve damp issues in some properties.

Whilst a small amount of damp is to be expected in older properties with no damp proof course, there are things we can do to help those tenants affected by damp. Part of this

will include upgrading the guttering to a larger size so they can cope during heavy rain downpours. The guttering is currently in the yard ready to be fitted.

Thames Water will soon be relining the sewage system in the village, so you may see them doing work in the fields. This is great news as it will hopefully prevent any more sewage leaks.

We continue to work through all the repairs reported to us, as well as chasing contractors for ordered work. Sadly, issues with the supply chain for certain products has caused delays to some works, but we hope to get confirmed dates from contractors soon.

Emma Guthrie, Rural Surveyor

Reporting repairs

Reporting repairs couldn't be easier. Simply;

- Call 0345 646 1311
- Use the online portal, Fixflow
<https://nationaltrust.fixflo.com>

- Email tenantrepairs@nationaltrust.org.uk



Welcome James



National Trust/ James Bradford

Hello! I'm the new Ranger based at Sherborne, although I will also be lending a helping hand at Ebworth too.

After a two-week induction of seeing the places in the portfolio and meeting the team, I can safely say I'm incredibly excited to be working amongst such a varied and experienced group of professionals.

My background is not in the outdoor sector, having worked for the National Trust

in retail for several years, and then trying out the motorcycle industry.

However, having occasionally volunteered in ranger teams, I became passionate about conservation work and how we look after the places in our care. This was where my passion was, so I went back to college to train in countryside management.

I moved away from Sussex to become the Assistant Ranger at Charlecote Park in

Warwickshire. I was there for 18 months developing my skills and experience.

When this role came up, I knew it was the job for me – a team full of experience, and with a true focus on wildlife conservation.

I am excited to start my journey here. If you see me around, do please come and say hi.

James Bradford, Ranger

Old Park and Sherborne Brook

**Simon Nicholas, Countryside
Manager**

We finally saw contractor availability and weather align to allow work to take place in Old Park and along Sherborne Brook.

The breach in the bank of Sherborne Brook has been repaired. The contractors have done a great job and the reinstated bank is topped with pre-planted coir rolls from which plants will grow and root to further stabilise the bank.

The contractors also explored the spillway, but some further investigation work is required before this can be reinstated. It serves an essential service as an overflow, so we are keen to deliver this work.

We were also able to deal with the trees which came down in Old Park during several storms.

We've left large deadwood in place to continue our management of one of the most important habitats for biodiversity. Keeping deadwood as close as possible to its source helps with connectivity and viability of communities of scarce invertebrates.



National Trust/ Lisa Edinborough

Thanks to the understanding of our tenant farmers, you'll see a good amount of this habitat around the estate. If you want to find out more about the complex relationships between deadwood, fungi, soil and wildlife, do take a look at this great leaflet:

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1523/de-caying_wood_leaflet.pdf.

We were asked by the Sherborne Brook Support Group and the Parish Council for a couple of sections of the trunk which they plan to use in an interactive history project.

We're pleased to say that the last 180 years-or-so can be mapped but it will take a bigger tree to reach further back into the village's fascinating history. Although we're not hoping for any bigger trees to volunteer for history project duties!

Finally, we continue to attend Parish Council meetings and are enjoying a positive and productive working relationship.

At a recent meeting, we discussed the turbine house. I am pleased to report that we're currently looking into ways to fund work to prevent its further decline.

Walling works

Patrick Brown, Ranger

Together with the ANTS (Active National Trust Squad) and the Thursday Group volunteers, we have begun repairing a section of Eastington Wall, at the western tip of Lodge Park.

The stone this wall is built from seems particularly susceptible to frost damage, so it's continually in need of gapping up and repairing. Always plenty to do!

Some of the volunteers have lots of walling experience, whilst others are trying it for the first time.

It's great to see people enjoying the methodical flow of the work, like piecing together a 3D stone jigsaw.

I'm hoping to develop a skilled walling team to tackle repairs and fix collapses, freeing up our walling contractors to focus on the bigger, more complex jobs.



National Trust Images/ Jan Shaw

New discoveries

Earlier this year, a painting conservator surveyed the collection of mostly 17th century oil paintings at Lodge Park.

She used a powerful torch to highlight any deterioration as well as issues such as uneven and yellowed varnish and staining.

She made a few interesting discoveries, such as the extensive retouching to this painting of John Dutton. His hands have been repainted at a much later date and to a lower quality than the original.

Conservation work to the paintings will ensure they are able to be enjoyed by visitors for many years to come.



National Trust/ Claire Forkes

Wildlife sightings



Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

Over the last two months, the bird life around Sherborne has been a large focus for me and the wildlife monitoring volunteers. Breeding bird surveys have now finished for this year.

We have successfully mapped bird sightings across most footpaths and a good mix of habitats including Sherborne Brook, parkland, woodland, grassland and watermeadows.

It has been amazing to see the large variety of birds we have at Sherborne from more common species like tits, nuthatches, robins and blackbirds to rarities including spotted flycatchers and cuckoos.

I also enjoyed helping our local bird expert, Anna Field, to ring raptor chicks across the estate including kestrel, red kite and barn owl.

Ringling chicks allows them to be identified in the future and helps us to monitor numbers and conserve these species in the long term.

Sherborne has an impressive number of resident raptors that have successfully bred this year. Fledgling little and tawny owls have both been seen across the estate.

We even managed to rescue a tawny owl chick that was spotted on the road and reported to us by some walkers. The little bundle of feathers was safely placed in a tree away from the dangers of cars and dogs.

Another thing that I have been on the hunt for is orchids, and Sherborne has not disappointed. From common spotted in the woodlands, pyramidals in the grasslands and southern marsh along the river, the sheer number of orchids has been mind blowing!

My favourite was one found by a member of the community who kindly took me to see my first ever bee orchid. What an amazing flower so thank you for the local knowledge. If anyone else finds any other orchids, please do get in touch.

Butterfly surveys are currently being undertaken with some great sightings so far. If all goes to plan, bat and botany surveys will start this month too.

New monitoring app

National Trust/ Georgina Lindsay



Georgina Lindsay, Area Ranger

A big thank you to my team of wildlife monitoring volunteers for their hard work. We have managed to map and record over 1,700 bird sightings between us on the northern side of the A40 alone.

The team have been trialling a new app recording method that was specifically designed for Sherborne. There were some teething problems, but the results have been amazing.

A special thanks for everyone's patience and feedback while we dealt with the tech issues.

HART opportunities

National Trust Images/ Ross Hoddinott



We're looking into recruiting a team of Heritage and Archaeological Rangers (HART) for the portfolio.

With so much amazing history at Sherborne and across the wider portfolio, we're looking for volunteers to survey and monitor areas of historical significance.

If this is something of interest, look out for more information in the next newsletter or keep an eye out on our volunteering webpage this autumn.

If you'd like to receive these newsletters by email, please contact the Sherborne Park Estate office –
sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk

Key contacts

Eleanor Baxendale

Estate Manager

Eleanor.baxendale@nationaltrust.org.uk

Simon Nicholas

Countryside Manager

Simon.nicholas@nationaltrust.org.uk

Credits

Newsletter contributors

Jonny Loose

Simon Nicholas

Georgina Lindsay

Patrick Brown

Emma Guthrie

Claire Forkes