



Malvern Hills Advent – Days 14 to 25!



Advent Day 14 - Angela passes her quad bike training

Grazing is an essential part of this landscape's management. Cattle and sheep can be found on the Hills and Commons eating young trees and scrub which helps to conserve the rare open grassland and heathland habitats that are recognised as being nationally important.

The animals are owned and cared for by local graziers and commoners. Angela (warden) has just finished her quad bike training and is now all set to assist the graziers when they might need it, for example to respond quickly to an incident where dogs have worried livestock.



Advent Day 15 - Beck updates visitor information at Black Hill car park

Did you know that the Malvern Hills and Commons receive more than 1 million visits per year?

Whether visitors are local or from further afield, it's important that we provide information including maps to help people plan their walk or ride and notices about land management or recent Trust news.

Following trustee elections in November and December, Beck (Community and Conservation Officer) has been updating noticeboards with polling notices election results.



Advent Day 16 - Sue checks jurisdiction maps

We were established by an Act of Parliament in 1884 and have a large number of historical and archival documents dating back to this time.

Many of these documents are still referred to in our day to day work and Sue (Secretary to the Board) has been looking at our jurisdiction maps dating back to the 1930's.



Advent Day 17 - Andy tackles invasive plants at Earnslaw

Non-native invasive species including Japanese Knotweed, Water Fern and Cherry Laurel pose a threat to our native wildlife.

Cherry laurel was introduced to Britain in 1886 and is a popular, evergreen, hedging plant in gardens. For this reason, it is most often found in woodlands on the lower slopes of the Hills where it has escaped from neighbouring gardens.

Andy (Conservation Officer) has been working to eradicate Cherry laurel from an area of Earnslaw where the plant has been smothering native woodland ground flora.

With more light reaching the woodland floor, flowers including bluebells and wood anemone will bloom once again.



Advent Day 18 - Katie carries out tree safety works.

We own and manage many trees alongside roads, near to properties and beside paths.

Ash trees in the Community Woodland, Townsend Way have been particularly susceptible to ash dieback disease and other tree species have been badly damaged by squirrels. Katie (Field Staff) has been felling affected trees along this popular route for safety.

The removal of these dangerous trees will also benefit the woodland as it creates space for healthy trees to grow into, increases the amount of light reaching the woodland floor and creates open areas perfect for butterflies.

Find out more about ash dieback disease and how you can support our efforts in tackling this disease

www.justgiving.com/campaign/MalvernHillsAshDieback



Advent Day 19 - Duncan leads a site visit as part of an interview process.

We have a staff team of 21 carrying out a range of work including practical land management, conservation, communications, administration and finance, and wardening. Our team is led by our CEO, Duncan.

The CEO has a key role in our charity, often being the conduit between the staff team and trustees. Duncan has recently guided interview candidates around site visits to give them a better understanding of the role of the Trust.



Advent Day 20 - Website training with Alison

Papers are provided for trustees ahead of meetings (see Advent Day 8!) and these are also made public on our website. Alison has recently joined our team as Secretary to the Board and has been learning how to upload meeting information to our website.

As well as information about our Board and Committee meetings, you can also find our latest news, Stockwatch, and more information about the work we do at www.malvern hills.org.uk



Advent Day 21 - Mike leads a volunteer task

Yesterday our volunteers headed to the Community Woodland, Townsend Way to carry out some woodland management. The volunteers, led by Mike (Warden), removed diseased ash trees, created open areas around a path junction to benefit butterflies, and cut back scrub to improve sightlines along the path.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time (both out on the Hills and Commons, and in the office) in 2023. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in 2024!



Advent Day 22 - Martin operates the chipper

When carrying out tree works either felling or reduction, we may need to dispose of the material that arises. On steep slopes (of which there are many!) and in hard to reach locations larger material may be carefully stacked as habitat piles and left to naturally rot down. Smaller branches can be chipped and Martin (Field Staff) has been using the chipper to dispose of cut branches on Malvern Common.

This winter you may see our Field Staff and Contractors undertaking tree works around the Hills and Commons for tree safety.



Advent Day 23 - Duncan clears vegetation from paths

The Hills and Commons are criss-crossed by a huge number of footpaths, bridleways and tracks which offer access to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Vegetation can sometimes creep onto the paths so Duncan (Field Staff) has been clearing overhanging vegetation to improve access.

We are expecting lots of people to be visiting this Hills and Commons this festive season so you can check out where to walk or cycle using our maps and guides from Visit The Malverns Tourist Information Centre

Have a great Malvern adventure with friends and family this **Christmas!**



Advent Day 24 - Staff meet partner organisations on the Hills

Much of the work we do is in partnership with other organisations and individuals. We work closely with those who have specialist knowledge and experience on particular topics.

Earlier this year Trust staff met with graziers, Public Rights of Way staff, Malvern Hills National Landscape and the Disabled Ramblers to discuss how access can be improved on the Hills and plan future projects.

Thank you to all our partners and supporters and we look forward to working together in 2024.



Merry Christmas
from everyone at MHT





Malvern Hills Trust

Advent Day 25 – Merry Christmas from MHT!

For this year's Christmas walk, we visited Ballards Land (see advent day 13) where our CEO Duncan Bridges planted a tree. Duncan will sadly be leaving us at the end of December and we'd like to thank him for all his hard work with the Trust and very best wishes for the future.

Merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to all that 2024 brings!

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