



## Tortworth Restoration Project – End of year Report 2017



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## **Tortworth Restoration Project**

### **End of Year Report**

**January 2017 – December 2017**

Thank you once more for our grant that covered our volunteering at the Tortworth Forest Centre in 2017. We have achieved a great deal.

Our volunteering achieves two main aims: getting the arboretum at Tortworth back into active management, and making a difference to the lives of the people who attend. In the past we have reported on the management aspects of the project but this time we would like to focus on the difference we are making to people.

Attached are four stories from four very different people who volunteer with us. They are written as they were spoken to me at our last volunteer day this month.

Paul is a volunteer with mental health challenges and a great deal of volunteer experience for other organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers. He enjoys volunteering with us as he can see the changes that occur in the woodland over time, whereas TCV often move from one project to another. Paul has written an extensive drainage plan for us to eventually try and restore the damaged drains in the woodland. At the moment he is struggling with housing and so not attending our weekly management days, but he hopes to return; the monthly Sundays keep him from feeling too isolated. He values being able to share his knowledge and is one of our volunteer team leaders.

Matt is a young man studying his A levels who initially attended to fulfil a requirement of his Duke of Edinburgh, but he continues to volunteer with us and is gaining in confidence with each passing month.

Tom is looking at a career change and has decided to look at Horticulture as something that would feel more rewarding than procurement, so he is trying out a few volunteering opportunities to gain experience. He remembers the arboretum when it was managed and hopes that it can be restored for other young people to enjoy as he did.

Mike has been attending on and off for over 2 years and was referred to us from the Sustain programme in Bristol that matches people in recovery with volunteering opportunities that are safe and supportive. He attended on his birthday and appreciated being away from his usual social setting with readily available alcohol, choosing instead to spend the day working in nature and finding that it tires him out enough to sleep properly. He speaks about the volunteering being a kick start when he feels isolated.

## FINANCE REPORT

We not yet finished the year and have one more volunteer day to run but the report so far is as follows:

Donation from Nineveh Charitable Trust: £4,491.00

Total donations received for project: £7,534.97

Total expenditure so far: £7,218.26

Staffing costs: £4,460

Materials purchased: £131.59

Food and Drink: £285.42

Tools: £176.49

PPE: £175.42

Staff training: £24

Accountant: £780

Meetings: £15.75

Travel: £805

Printing: £13.70

Stationary: £30.89

Insurance: £320

Misc: £3.40