

Weather

The snowy, icy start gave way to milder weather, but with periods of sharp frost returning later in the month

January	summary	2011
Temp °C	max / min	10.7 - 6
	average max / min	5.7 0.2
Wind mph	max average in day	10.7
Rain	dry days <1mm	13
	mm	max on one day 59
	mm	total for month 286
	inches	11.26

Activity

January 2011

Around the gardens and estate

- Snow clearing, de-icing and rhododendron cutting continued in the worst of the weather.
- Path and paving repairs have begun following frost-heave in many places. Weather conditions have hindered this work, making repeat repairs necessary in some cases.
- The **mossy banks** near the Painter's Glade have been brushed and tidied to best present them in the winter light. Early tidying of battered foliage has also been necessary to maintain the garden's appearance - usually left until spring.
- Preparatory work begun for estate store extra storage by digging out an area to relocate existing plant 'cold-frames' and release space for an extended potting shed/store. An agricultural kit-building firm has quoted for supply and install of the wooden building. A price is also being sought for a much smaller structure from a local joiner/builder.
- The redundant ticket hut has been removed from the car park to provide a new location for apple storage.
- Brambles - the flavour of the month - are being cleared from around Ruskin's pond to display to advantage the sheets of bluebells in Bank Ground Low Wood (southern garden wood). They are also being browsed in this area using Exmoor ponies in a **'pony potential'** vegetation-control experiment. Along the lake-shore edge, gorse and bramble are encroaching in to the hay-meadows. Areas are being cut and regenerated in rotation to provide winter browsing for sheep. An **Austrian scythe** (light, strong and versatile) is being tested for clearing these brambles.
- Continued **damage** by a small family of **roe deer** living within the garden deer fence have finally necessitated their culling before the woods begin to leaf again.
- A Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* 'Mt Luoji') was added to the dedicated birch collection in the Fern Garden.
- The main apple orchard pruning was started using a descending Moon phase to reduce risk of fungal infection in the pruning wounds.

Brantwood Soil Life Project

- **Practical work** – the biodynamic **'Three Kings'** preparation (gold, frankincense & myrrh) was pounded and potentised on New Year's Eve and applied on 6th January as an energetic boundary protectant and balancer to the land under biodynamic cultivation. A Goethean **(intuitive) Observation** was made using processes of investigation through experience. Intuitive perception and exact examination exercises, extended into imagination of a living process, (the life of a hay-meadow) can reveal to us the changing inner qualities of the subject under examination.

mossy banks



pony potential



Austrian scythe



roe-deer damage



Three Kings



intuitive Observation



