



*September*

We spent a few days out in the forest maintaining some of the mountain bike single track. These wear away after a while due to usage and the effects of rain water so we need to reapply the surfacing every so often. This involves using wheelbarrows to first lay down 'type 1' followed by granite. We then use a 'whacker plate' to flatten and compact the stone.

A short blog from me for September as I have been away on holiday, but there has still been plenty going on! This month I gave my first guided walk around the Pinetum. We are running a series of them over Autumn aimed at highlighting the best looking and best smelling trees. We also introduce visitors to some of our trees that have an interesting conservation story behind them. It is the first time we have done anything like this at Bedgebury, so we are hopeful that it will be a success. I really enjoyed leading the walk and I hope I get to do it again in the future.

In addition to revising and gearing up for my walk I started an RHS course in plant growth and propagation. This is a part time course that will cover some of the theory behind horticulture. The first week was really interesting; it filled in some of the gaps I had in my knowledge of plant classification.



*Phil using the whacker plate on the cycle trail*

Sunday volunteering has begun again and, with it, fire season. We have been tidying up and continuing the coppicing work we started last winter in Churchill's Wood.

