

NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Issue No. 4

IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

A 200 year old juniper tree next to the site of the tree nursery

COVID-19 has caused difficulties for the Trust, as you would expect.

Several plans remain unfulfilled. We were to have had a reception at the Ethiopian Embassy hosted by the Ambassador. Our income has shrunk somewhat as donors focus more on helping alleviate the effects of the virus. The tree planting operation in Addis Ababa this summer had to be scaled back. Dr. Negusse Tewoldemedhin, a Board Member, was to have gone to Addis Ababa for 3 months to work with the Trust as a volunteer; this has had to be rescheduled.

And the planned Tour of Ethiopia has been postponed to 2021.

But not everything has been negative! Please read on.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please note that our contact details have changed and are:

Email: info@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org
Phone: 0300 365 1417

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

TREE NURSERY

Work on establishing the Trust's own tree nursery is under way.

The site, which is in the Park itself, has been cleared and levelled by bulldozer.

Fencing is being erected and a stone work shed being constructed. The nursery will provide tree seedlings for the Park, and also for sale.

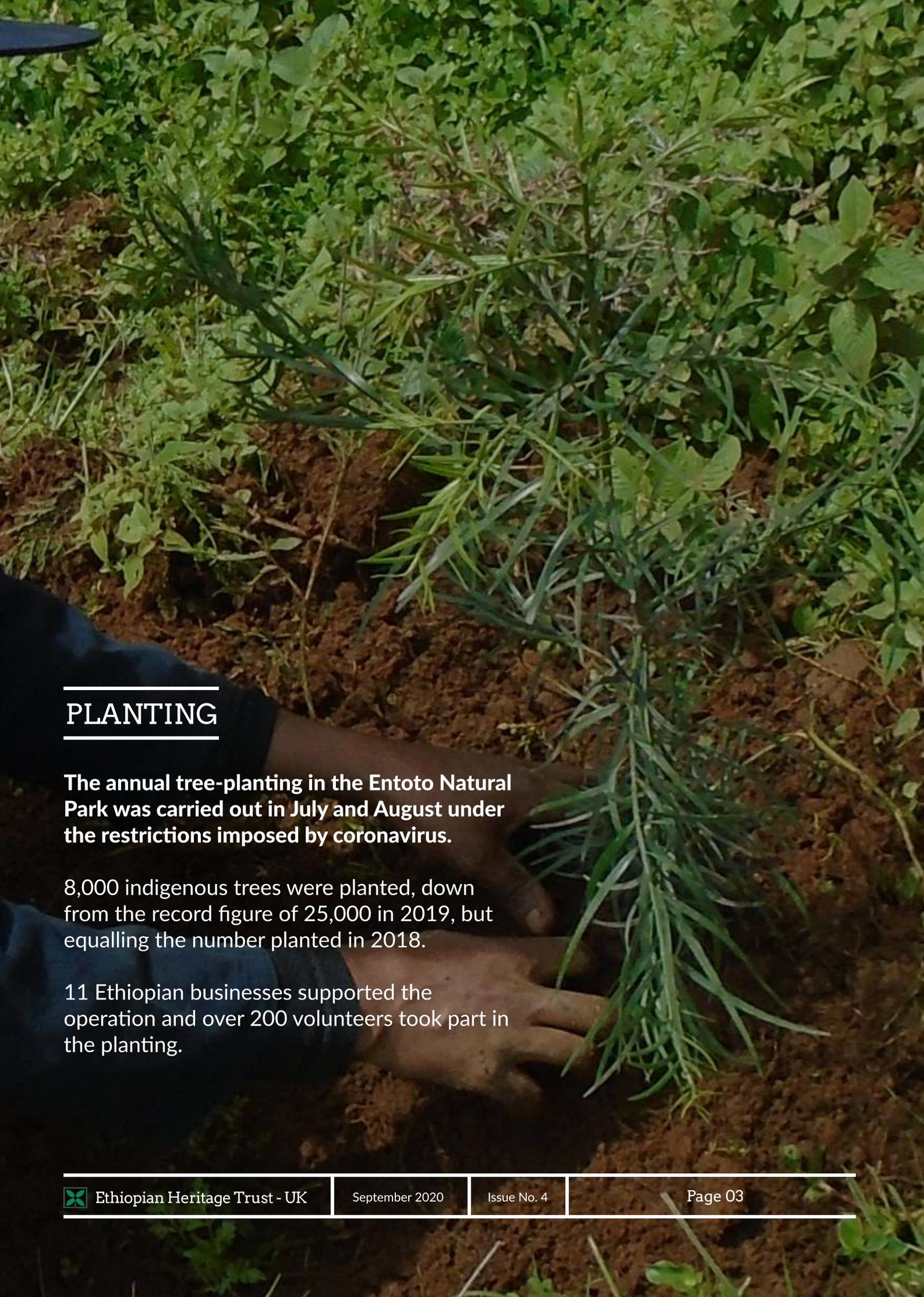


Bulldozer in action at Entoto Natural Park



The target is to produce 30,000 tree seedlings annually, as well as shrubs and flowers.

The UK Trust has given £4,000 in support of this project.



PLANTING

The annual tree-planting in the Entoto Natural Park was carried out in July and August under the restrictions imposed by coronavirus.

8,000 indigenous trees were planted, down from the record figure of 25,000 in 2019, but equalling the number planted in 2018.

11 Ethiopian businesses supported the operation and over 200 volunteers took part in the planting.

FELLING OF EUCALIPTUS TREES

It is really good news that for the first time for some years the Trust has been allowed to cut down more eucalyptus trees in the Park. This is essential to allow space for the planting of indigenous trees. Equally important, it brings much needed revenue to the Trust as the timber will be sold. The operation will take some months to complete.



NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Trust's General Manager, Mesobework Ketawe, who had steered the Trust for the last 4 years, recently resigned. We wish her well. The selection process to find her successor is almost complete.

TOUR OF ETHIOPIA

This Tour, which had to be cancelled for this September, has been rearranged for the autumn of 2021.



For details please see the last page.

NEWS FROM UK

CHARITY COMMISSION AND TRADE MARK

Our registration with the Charity Commission has been finalised. **Our number is 1188689.**

The Trust's logo is now officially registered as a Trade Mark.

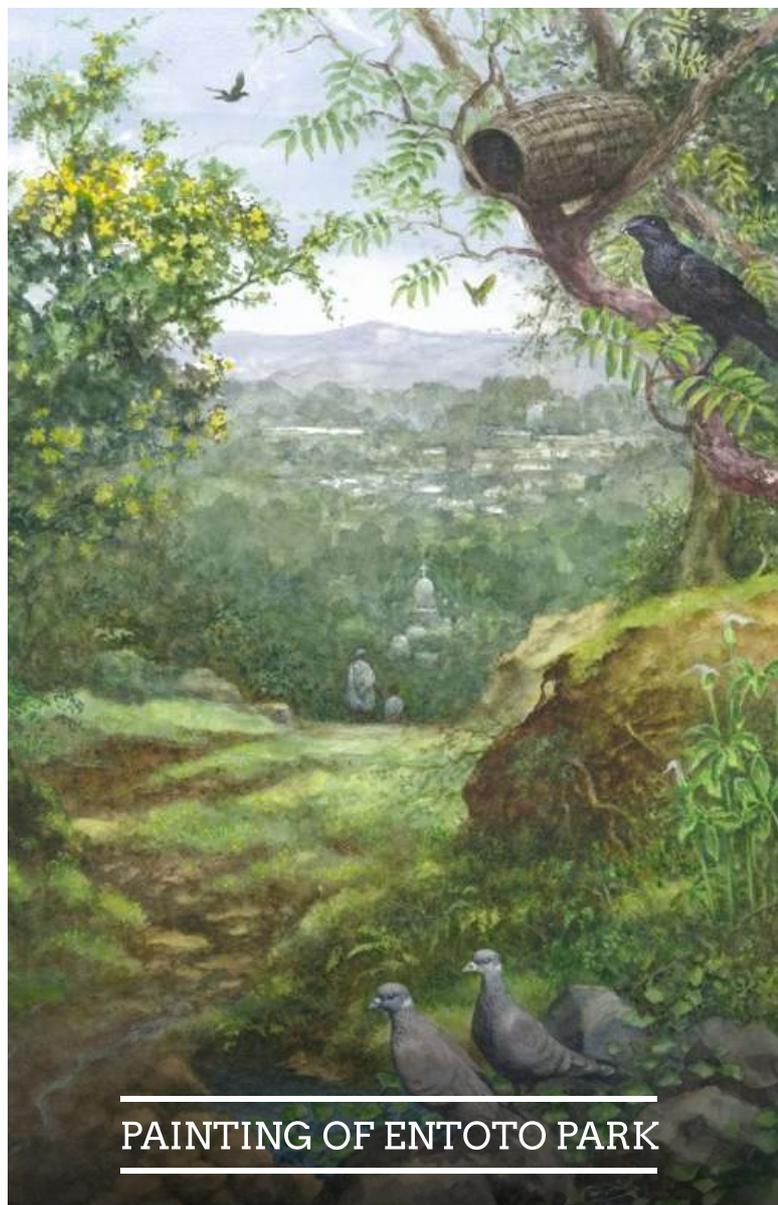
IRANIAN FRIENDS OF ETHIOPIA

We are very fortunate to have dedicated members of the Trust from Iran. Between them they have designed our leaflet and our poster, taken responsibility for data protection issues, maintained our previous website, and designed and set up our new website. Quite apart from generous giving and recruiting of new members. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

WEBSITE

Our new website was launched in April www.ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org

We hope that you will agree it is a great improvement. Any feedback will be most welcome.



The artist Eric Robson, who lived for many years in Ethiopia, has been a supporter of the Park since 1993. He recently painted the above watercolour picture of the Park, which he has most kindly donated to the Trust. The price is £180; the whole sum, thanks to Eric's generosity, will go to the Trust. If you are interested in buying it please get in touch with us at info@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org

BIRDS

Entoto Natural Park is home to 115 different bird species, and is recognized by Bird Life International as one of the Important Bird Areas of Ethiopia.

Five bird species found only in Ethiopia can be seen in the Park:

- Abyssinian Catbird
- Yellow-fronted Parrot
- Ethiopian Siskin
- Abyssinian Longclaw
- Abyssinian Woodpecker

A further 10 birds endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea can also be seen in the Park:

- Blue-winged Goose
- Banded Barbet
- White-collared Pigeon
- Thick-billed Raven
- Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher
- Ethiopian Oriole
- White-backed Black Tit
- Red-headed Lovebird
- Wattled Ibis
- White-winged Cliff Chat



Abyssinian Catbird (Credit: Thomas Varto Nielsen)



White-winged Cliff-Chat (Credit: Thomas Varto Nielsen)



Yellow-fronted Parrot (Credit: Stefan Behrens)



Ethiopian Siskin (Credit: Jacques Erard)

THE MAGIC AND MYSTERIES OF ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian Quadrants, who have been organising tours of Ethiopia for over 25 years, is offering a tour of Ethiopia to Trust members, relatives, friends and others interested in touring this unique country.

Dates: 14 – 27 September 2021.

Itinerary: includes Addis Ababa, Axum, Yeha, Lalibela, Gondar, Simien National Park and Bahir Dar. There is also an **optional extension** to 30 September to visit the Bishangari Eco-Lodge and Lake Langano in the Rift Valley.

Price: US\$ 4,485 (c £3,410 at current exchange rates). But please note that with the uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 prices may rise by up to 5%. The price includes international and domestic flights.

The specialist guide will be **Dr. Jacke Phillips**, who regularly lectures on such tours. She is a Trustee of the Ethiopian Heritage Trust (UK) and has waived her fee for this tour. The Tour will, of course, include a visit to the Entoto Natural Park.

For each participant Ethiopian Quadrants will make a donation of £150 to the Heritage Trust in Addis Ababa. Please bring the Tour to the attention of any friends you think might be interested. A brochure about the tour accompanies this newsletter.



Day 1 - Depart London Heathrow in the evening on Ethiopian Airlines.

Day 2 - Arrive Addis Ababa city about 0700, transfer to your hotels, afternoon city tour, Mount Entoto.

Day 3 - Morning visit to the Ethiopian Heritage Trust Office and Ethnographic Museum. Afternoon National Museum. Evening talk, details TBA

Day 4 - Fly to Axum. Tour the sites in town

Day 5 - Excursion to 800 BC temple at Yeha.

Day 6 - Fly to Lalibela. Tour the rock hewn churches in town.

Day 7 - Excursions to outlying churches.

Day 8 - Fly to Gondar, from the airport leave for Simien Mountains National Park.

Day 9 - Full day in the Simien Mountains National Park.

Day 10 - Drive to Gondar. Tour the castles and churches.

Day 11 - Visit Debre Berhan Selassie church then drive to Bahir Dar, visiting the Blue Nile Falls en route.

Day 12 - Morning boat trip on Lake Tana to mediaeval churches, picnic lunch on boat. Early evening flight back to Addis Ababa.

Day 13 - Eve of Ethiopian Meskel [Finding of the True Cross] Celebration. Personal time and, in the afternoon and early evening, experience Meskel.

Day 14 - Breakfast, then drive to airport for morning departure on Ethiopian Airlines. Arrive in London Heathrow late afternoon.

For any queries please contact Jacke Phillips jacke@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org or Michael Sargent michael@ethiopianheritagetrustuk.org or direct to Tony Hickey at ethiopianquadrants@gmail.com