

Wild Cornwall

Cornwall
Wildlife Trust



ISSUE 137 WINTER 2018

30,000 miles of hedges

Why we have mapped them all

Damage and disturbance

What you can do to help wildlife

The Your Shore umbrella

The rise of local Marine Groups

Including
pull-out
Diary of
Events

welcome



Carolyn Cadman

I used to think I had a good understanding of wildlife but every day is definitely a school day here at Cornwall Wildlife Trust - there is so much to learn!

Who knew that Cornish hedges are 30,000 miles long, full of life and so different to the hedgerows that line fields and lanes across the rest of the country? If like me, you are lacking of a few hedge facts, then head to page 4 for everything you need to know.

In this issue we are also helping you to be a Wildlife Hero, providing you with the information you need to report wildlife disturbance or damage to the organisations who are responsible for protecting wildlife. Reporting wildlife damage on land and at sea is really important in ensuring that perpetrators are held to account by the authorities and organisations who need to know.

As the leaves fall from the trees and the nights draw in, the talk in my household has already taken on a distinctly festive theme. However, there's no nostalgia here, the priority for my two boys is to complete the first of many drafts of their 'Christmas list'. Luckily, there's a great selection of ethically sourced gift ideas available from our online shop (see page 17) - and every item purchased is of benefit to local wildlife. This year, I will be buying gift membership for Cornwall Wildlife Trust for everyone - it's my first year here! And arranging the traditional family walk on one of our beautiful reserves. This is what gives me a warm glow and what I will be adding to their Christmas lists.

Enjoy the magazine!

Carolyn Cadman,
Chief Executive, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

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ella.clark@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
and Rowena Millar:
rowena.millar@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Events for the diary should be sent on the latest template, available from the Trust offices at Allet, to Mark Dungey:
mark.dungey@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

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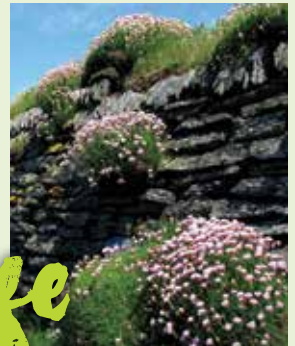
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Natural World

UK news from The Wildlife Trusts

Give someone a *wild* present this Christmas!

Christmas Gift Membership lasts the whole year, and they will receive...

Three issues of our Trust magazine, *Wild Cornwall*, which is full of feature articles, wildlife and conservation news plus a handy pull-out diary of events, as well as our Nature Reserves guide.



Family Membership is the perfect family present – they can discover Cornwall's wild places and wildlife together.

Our Family Members receive...

A **Wildlife Watch pack** full of stickers, posters and fun activities, plus **three issues of Wildlife Watch magazine**.



Join online at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or call (01872) 273939

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is a registered charity formed in 1962 by a group of volunteers who were passionate about Cornwall's natural environment and wanted to safeguard it for future generations.

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DAVE THOMAS



SUE EARNSHAW



DAVE THOMAS

What's 30,000 miles long, full of life and found in Cornwall?



Laura Guy-Wilkinson

After 20 months of work by 20 volunteers and two staff, 2018 saw the completion of the first countywide mapping of Cornwall's rural hedges, writes Laura Guy-Wilkinson, Data Officer

at the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS).

Advanced satellite imagery was used to identify features across the Cornish landscape, which showed an estimated 30,000 miles of hedges.

The hedge maps created by ERCCIS will provide a wealth of information for research, conservation and the sustainable management of wildlife and habitats. It will give conservationists an understanding about how different species use hedges and interact with the wider landscape. We can investigate how interconnected these areas are in the hope that future management plans will help protect isolated populations. The map therefore will be of great value to landowners, researchers and professionals.

The nature of the Cornish hedge

Cornish hedges vary around the county depending upon climate, available materials and local farming practices. They extend from the granite boulder walls of West Penwith, to the dry stone, lichen-covered walls of Bodmin Moor, all the way to the green lanes of southern Cornwall, where laid and coppiced hazel hedges buzz with insects and birdsong.

The construction of a Cornish hedge is still regarded as a hugely valuable skill today. Wide at the base, often with a verge or a ditch, and narrow at the top and always with local materials, the Cornish hedge generally has a compacted soil middle with either a stone or turf face. The grassy top supports a shrubby hedgerow and often trees including oak, ash, sycamore or elm.

The classic English Hedgerow is protected under UK law not only as a habitat, but also for its function as a wildlife corridor. However, Cornish hedges do not fall under this legislation, which means they are at risk from destruction

and development. This would be a huge loss to Cornwall where traditional hedge-laying is deemed a very valuable and irreplaceable skill.

The wildlife value of the Cornish hedge

Cornish hedges connect otherwise isolated species and link a network of habitats, allowing wildlife to move freely between them. With ancient woodland habitats in decline, hedges provide sanctuary and act as wildlife corridors to areas of woodland that were once interlinked.

Cornish hedges are also a hugely valuable habitat in their own right, and the richness of their biodiversity is obvious to see. Each taxon group is represented in abundance. We often focus on mammals such as hedgehogs, dormice and foxes, but to really understand the hedge's incredible variety you have to look to the more unsung heroes of the natural world.

Insects such as beetles, bees and butterflies are pollinators and pest controllers in their own right; but these little insects also provide food for the rest of the ecosystem. Reptiles such as the slow-worm and common lizard use the stone-faced earth banks as a sun trap and refuge, while the damp, leaf-filled cool ditches at the base of the hedge are perfect for common toads. Lichens such as the marvellous string of sausages hang from tree branches, while hedge sides often become a blaze of colours in April to June; like a vertical wildflower meadow.

In the spring, hedges are full of the sound of birdsong, and they also provide birds with food throughout the year, such as insects to fatten up their offspring and berries to keep them fed throughout the winter. Just as importantly, hedges provide a place of refuge from predators in the dense undergrowth for birds, and also small mammals, insects and their larvae.

This map will help towards ongoing work, research and partnership to ensure hedges are appreciated and conserved for generations to come.

Understanding the extent of the hedge network in Cornwall is vital to ensure the protection and sustainable management of our hedges for years to come. For more information or to request access to the **ERCCIS Hedges Information**, please contact wis@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk (01872) 302250.

Conservation catch-up

Nowedhyans gwithans



Cheryl Marriott
Head of Conservation

Cheryl Marriott reports on the Trust's latest conservation news.

Penwith landscape projects up and running

There has been a flurry of activity since we heard last year that the Penwith Landscape Partnership programme had been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding. The Partnership has recruited a team, based in an office in St Just, which has begun work on a wide array of projects which will run over the next five years under the programme First and Last – Our Living Working Landscape. The projects include archaeology and ancient sites, countryside access, redundant farm buildings, landscape assessment, Cornish hedging, farming and wildlife. Brief summaries can be found on the website www.penwithlandscape.com



PENWITH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

ABOVE: The team in Penwith, all set to deliver First and last – Our Living Working Landscape **BELOW:** A volunteer taster day in Penwith



PENWITH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

It's all about the soil

Cornwall Catchment Partnership, hosted by the Trust, is developing a Soils Framework for Cornwall. At present, no single organisation has an overview of soils in Cornwall, despite our soil being a threatened, finite resource. It is currently difficult to know what collective effort is being made to protect and enhance soils and whether we are focusing our efforts effectively. The framework will set out the actions we can all take, from individuals to large businesses, to protect and enhance this essential resource.

TEVI – growing business and the environment

Tevi (the Cornish word for growth) is the new name for the Environmental Growth for Business project, led by the University of Exeter. The Trust is a delivery partner on the project and we will be working with businesses over the next three years to see where they can improve their environmental performance. If you have links to any small or medium-sized business, from a campsite to a manufacturing company, that you think could benefit from receiving free advice from the project team, please get in touch with **Catherine Pinney** at catherine.pinney@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Cornwall Good Seafood Guide has first out-of-county member

News about Cornwall's sustainable seafood is travelling. Hook restaurant at The Fish Hotel, on the Farncombe Estate in the Cotswolds, recently signed up to support the scheme and will put two or more items from the recommended list on its menu. This is the first out-of-county member of the scheme. We are grateful to Flying Fish, a Cornish fish distributor and existing member of the scheme, for helping to bring the Fish Hotel on board.



We live in a spectacular location. Gulls soar over towering cliffs. Seals bask on sun-drenched beaches. Blackbirds nest in hawthorn hedges. We drive down sun-dappled lanes (when it's not raining!).

But maintaining Cornwall's natural environment and wildlife habitats calls for constant vigilance – and occasional action.

It calls for heroes. People who, instead of complaining to friends or feeling unsure what to do, can now do something positive to put a stop to careless or criminal activity.

It calls for every one of us to pause when we see our wildlife or landscape under threat... and then turn an impotent frown into an actual phone call, or a senseless expletive into an urgent email.

We know it's not something you'd normally do but if you don't do something, who will?

We aren't suggesting you confront anyone or risk your personal safety. What we do ask is that you take positive action by reporting what you've seen to the appropriate body (as you'll see in the next two pages, there's no shortage of bodies ready to act – all they need are the facts to alert them).

So the next time you see someone fly-tipping into a field, tormenting wildlife or ripping out a wild hedge, make a call – and make a difference.

We can be heroes... just for one day.



SUE SAYER

ADRIAN LANGDON

Be a *wildlife* hero



**make a call –
and make a
difference**



If you see wildlife disturbance or damage

On land

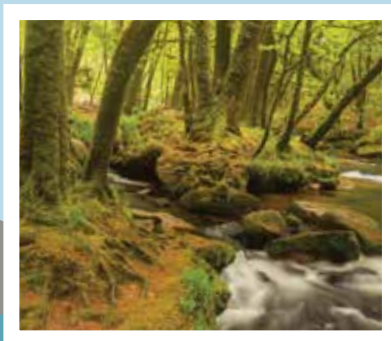
Freshwater pollution

A river or stream is running brown with soil, is discoloured in some other way, is foamy, contains sanitary products, smells of sewage or contains dead fish/fish gasping for air.

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, call the Environment Agency:
0800 80 70 60.

Waste water issue: you can also contact South West Water southwestwater.co.uk/water-advice-and-services/waste-water-services/report-a-suspected-pollution or call **0344 346 2020.**



Habitat change and damage

Removal of Cornish hedges (not garden/ornamental) over 20 metres long, or less than 20m but joined to other wild hedges at each end.

Site clearance/building work/major engineering work without planning permission

Trimming, cutting or felling trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order or within a Conservation Area

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, check for planning permission at:

planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications
or **0300 1234 151.**

Report to Cornwall Council planning enforcement:

cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/enforcement/report-a-breach-of-planning-control
or **0300 1234 151.**



Waste

Illegal dumping of large amounts of waste (lorryloads)

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, report anonymously to Crimestoppers:

0800 555 111

or online

crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information



Fly-tipping or unusual amounts of litter on the streets

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, report to Cornwall Council:

cornwall.gov.uk/flytipping
or **0300 1234 141.**

If we take action:

- 1** Perpetrators will know that they are being watched and will begin to change their behaviour.
- 2** Statutory organisations will record the number of reports, use the statistics to make a case for additional resourcing and highlight the issues to politicians and decision-makers.
- 3** Cornwall Wildlife Trust will be able to focus its energies on enhancing and increasing wildlife habitats throughout Cornwall.

At sea

Harrassment and disturbance

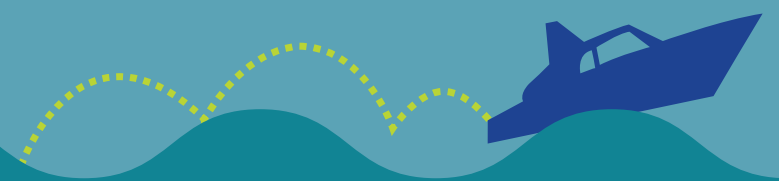
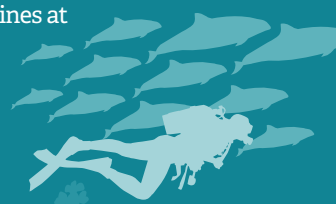
See the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Guidelines at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/living-seas/cornwall-marine-and-coastal-code

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, if wildlife or habitats are being disturbed, call Cornwall Wildlife Trust's 24-hour strandings hotline:

0345 201 2626

Serious harassment: report to the Police: see Wildlife crime opposite.



you can become a *wildlife* hero

Tree damage

A felling licence is required to fell trees in certain situations in the wider countryside.

Exceptions include:

gardens, churchyards or open spaces where the public have a legal right of access for recreation

trees with a diameter less than the width of a baked bean can (8cm) at a height of 1.3 metres on the main stem up to 5 cubic metres of timber (around 5 metric tonnes) may be felled per calendar quarter.

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, you can find out more here

forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6dfkw6

To check if a site is covered by a felling licence or to report alleged illegal felling: **0300 067 4960** or southwest.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Tree felling, hedge trimming and scrub clearance **when birds are nesting** is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, call the non-emergency number **101**; you can ask to speak to a Wildlife Liaison Officer, or email

WildlifeCrime@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



Wildlife crime

Several species have legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), notably; all species of bats, dormice, all species of reptiles, nesting birds and badgers. Poisoning of birds of prey is also illegal.

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, if you witness a suspected wildlife crime in action, call the Police on **999** immediately. Supply photos/videos if possible.



Non-immediate incidents: call the non-emergency number **101**; you can ask to speak to a Wildlife Liaison Officer or email WildlifeCrime@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



Live-stranded marine animals

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, for whales, dolphins and seals call the British Divers Marine Life Rescue's 24-hour hotline:

01825 765 546

or see

www.bdmlr.org.uk/index.php



Live birds/other marine life in need of rescue and treatment

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, call the RSPCA's 24-hour hotline:

0300 123 4999



Dead-stranded marine animals

what to do:

Be a wildlife hero, for all dead marine animals, including birds, please call Cornwall Wildlife Trusts' 24-hour Marine Strandings Network hotline:

0345 201 2626





On the campaign trail Towards a wilder Cornwall

In late September my youngest son and I, along with other staff and families from Cornwall Wildlife Trust, headed to London's Hyde Park with 10,000 others, to take part in Chris Packham's 'People's Walk for Wildlife'.

It rained. It rained a lot. But we kept walking and waving our St Piran flag because we know that, just like the rest of the UK, the last 50 years have seen a decimation of Cornwall's wildlife species down by 56%. We walked all the way to Downing Street, where Chris Packham handed over 'A People's Manifesto for Wildlife'.



The manifesto is aimed at reversing decades of declining wildlife figures and species in the UK and starts with a roll-call of extinct or declining animals, insects and plants. It is well worth a read – packed with 200 ideas for action which range from helping garden hedgehogs and adopting urban trees to more ambitious and provocative challenges for government.

Like me, you may not totally agree with all of the ideas in the manifesto, but there is much in it that would help to reverse the decline of wildlife. And this is something that we at Cornwall Wildlife Trust want too. We want to see, hear and feel the recovery of nature, on land, at sea, in the air, starting now, supported by local communities and businesses across Cornwall.

Chris Packham said: "This is a people's manifesto – it's not devised by the government, and we don't have to wait for them to do something. We can do it ourselves.

"I want this manifesto to be a first draft to ignite public interest, so that people feel empowered to stand up and say 'I've got ideas as well, and they work'. We know how to solve the problems, we just need to make it happen. If this manifesto can be a catalyst, I'd be delighted."

The manifesto comes at a time when key legislation and government policies are being developed which will impact on the future prospects for Cornwall's environment and wildlife and all the communities, businesses and other interests that depend on them. There is an Agriculture Bill, the possibility of a Fisheries Bill and an Environment Bill will also be launched later in 2018.

The Bills are being described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get the right legislation to drive forward the recovery of nature on land and at sea, and we are working hard locally and with other Wildlife Trusts across the country to influence those policies to ensure they reverse the decline of nature.

And you can help us! As Chris Packham said, "Our wildlife needs us – and it needs you more than ever",



so keep an eye on our website and social media posts where, over the next few months, we'll be asking you to get involved to show your support for wildlife and ensure that politicians in London feel the public pressure to reverse the decline in wildlife.

Carolyn Cadman, Chief Executive

You can read more blogs from Carolyn and others on our website.

The People's Manifesto for Wildlife is on Chris's website www.chrispackham.co.uk

how to campaign with us

Join the campaign on social media:

-  @CwallWildlife
-  Cornwall Wildlife Trust
-  On the Campaign Trail

Head to the campaigns page on our website: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign

Sign up to our eNewsletter on our website: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk for updates on campaigns and how to take action



Imagine leaving a gift that could truly last for generations

McClure Solicitors, are offering a year-round, free Will-writing service with advice about how to leave a gift to nature through **Cornwall Wildlife Trust**, if you wish. Once you have made arrangements for family and friends, a gift to Cornwall Wildlife Trust will help keep our precious wildlife and wild places safe for generations to enjoy.

“ I am so pleased to be able to leave a donation in my Will – I feel reassured that my love for wildlife will make a difference for years to come ”

Claire, Truro

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McClure Solicitors are supporters of Cornwall Wildlife Trust, and helping business work for wildlife in Cornwall.



Nature reserves news

Nowodhow an gwithvaow natur

Years of wet and windy summers contribute to declines in insects like butterflies, with knock-on effects on their predators. In contrast to recent years, this summer was a blinder, and observations by reserves staff suggest that our wildlife, particularly butterflies, flourished throughout our Nature Reserves. Our Reserves Managers, Penhale Dunes Ranger Jon Cripps and East Cornwall Reserves Officer Natalie Mitchell report.

Butterflies and choughs on Penhale Dunes ¹



JOHN CRIPPS

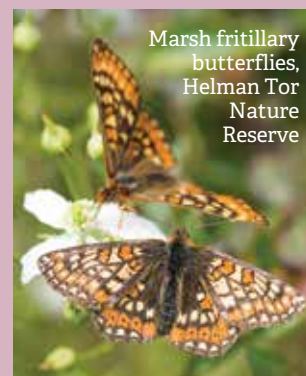
The long, hot summer days on Penhale Dunes created fantastic conditions for butterflies, perfect for several training days run by Cornwall Butterfly Conservation (CBC). The first session looked at the grizzled skipper – Penhale Dunes is the only place in Cornwall where it can be seen. The group found grizzled

skippers in several locations, meaning that there are likely to be multiple colonies in the dunes. Careful management of scrub will give the colonies a chance to flourish. At the other end of the spectrum are silver-studded blue butterflies. In a single day, Steve from CBC and I were able to count over 4,500 silver-studded blues in the dunes!

It was also a successful year for choughs in this area of the north coast. The resident pair produced four young, all of which fledged and can regularly be seen roaming the coast. We had the pleasure of seeing five fly past in the middle of Newquay! This is a great reflection on the Trust's habitat management in the area, grazing providing short turf and dung where choughs find insects and other invertebrates to forage. RSPB volunteers put in a great deal of time monitoring the choughs, so please send them your sightings at cornishchoughs@rspb.org.uk

Insects flourish in sunny but lush mid-Cornwall ²

Breney Common (part of Helman Tor Nature Reserve) recorded the highest number of marsh fritillaries so far this century, with 88 butterflies counted on a fixed survey route. We hope that such a long spell of fine weather, coinciding with good numbers of emerging butterflies following changes to the grazing management, will have helped this fickle species lay eggs over a wide area. Dragonflies and damselflies also had a good year, particularly at Breney Common, where they have responded well to our pond management regime.



Marsh fritillary butterflies, Helman Tor Nature Reserve

BEN WATKINS

Meanwhile, during the drought period when many fields turned brown, most of our sites in mid-Cornwall remained green and lush, benefiting from unaltered drainage and deep-rooted plants. This brought to mind the traditional use of the 'rough ground' in years past, as summer pasture – reliable, drought proof grazing whilst the hay meadows were allowed to grow for winter fodder.

Many hands make light work ³

In July, the East Cornwall Reserves Team and their weekly North Cornwall Volunteers joined forces for the first time with the Wild Allet volunteer group. Our destination was a south-facing hay meadow at Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve in Saltash, south-east Cornwall, where we put to use a tool that is currently experiencing something of a resurgence: the humble scythe. Although the hay meadows at Churchtown Farm are mostly cut and baled using tractor-mounted machinery, entry to this particular field is via a narrow track which makes tractor access difficult.

Scything is a sociable task, the tools are lightweight and straightforward to use, and with enough people they can have a real impact.



Volunteers and Reserves staff scything at Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve

PETER KENT

Cutting the meadow prevents the sward from becoming rank and dominated by coarse grass tussocks. Removal of the cut hay is key to the process as it helps to reduce soil fertility, improving growing conditions for wildflowers and increasing diversity. Our thanks go to the volunteers for their scything expertise and enthusiasm.



Seán O'Hea



Nick Marriott



Peter Kent



Natalie Mitchell



Jon Cripps



Bringing the school syllabus to life ⁴

This summer, pupils of Delaware Primary Academy, near Gunnislake in south-east Cornwall, had an exciting outing to Sylvia's Meadow, their local Cornwall Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. Children from years 3 and 4 became nature detectives and spent the afternoon exploring pollination, a subject they had been learning about in class. A 'nectar relay' and 'honey bee dance' went down well and during a quick bug hunt, many of the pupils found insects they had never seen before.

Sylvia's Meadow is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and in early summer it's a great place to see several species of orchid, including southern marsh (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) and lesser butterfly (*Platanthera bifolia*). It is an important example of unimproved neutral grassland, a rare find in Cornwall. Its preservation from the plough is thanks in part to its use as a military camp during World War II. Access to the meadow (no dogs) is via the Tamar Valley Donkey Park during opening hours.



A marbled white butterfly pollinating wildflowers at Sylvia's Meadow

NATALIE MITCHELL

Windmill Farm Nature Reserve gets a new visitor ⁵

One site in particular that has been fizzing with dragonflies and damselflies is Windmill Farm in West Cornwall, where deep ponds, shallow scrapes, grazed pools, non-grazed pools, streams, ditches, spring seepages, wheel ruts and reed beds mean the site can cater for a wide variety of species. The 19 previously recorded species were joined by one more this summer in the form of the southern migrant hawkler (*Aeshna affinis*).

After a single confirmed UK record of the southern migrant hawkler during the twentieth century, four individuals were observed in southern England during 2006. During 2010 many individuals were then seen in south Essex and north Kent, and it's been spreading ever since.

A tip for rare dragonfly enthusiasts: Windmill Farm's Plantlife pond in June is a hotspot for another migrant from southern Europe: the red-veined darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*).

DOUGY WRIGHT



Windmill Farm's new visitor, the southern migrant hawkler



Known as the Plantlife pond, this is a hot spot for the red-veined darter dragonfly

BEN WATKINS

Specialist Groups

Most people have a special interest, and Cornwall is a haven for diverse specialist groups that care about certain aspects of the natural world. Our wildlife and wild places benefit greatly from the enthusiasm of people just like you and me who start out by being a bit interested, and then, while making new friends and new discoveries, might even find themselves turning into experts.

On 1st February 2014, a dark seal with a triangular scar and a white septum (the cartilage between his nostrils) was named 'Septimus White' by Rob Wells, who was featured in 'A day in the life of a volunteer' in our spring 2018 issue. The rest is history.



Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust (CSGRT)



When Septimus was first photographed on 30th January 2014 by Danny Cooper, we had no idea where events would lead.

433 days later, Rob Wells found Septimus dead in St Austell Bay. At 2.4m, Septimus was the third longest dead seal recorded in Cornwall. Unusually, he did not wash out with the tide.

Two years later, Septimus's bones were cleaned and taken to London to meet Derek Frampton, a professional 'skeleton articulator' recommended by the Natural History Museum's Richard Sabin. Derek discovered that Septimus had suffered a number of serious injuries and infections, including a bullet wound to a rib and a final deadly blow to his head. Not forgetting his traumatic death, the skilfully reconstructed skeleton looks magnificent.

Now Septimus will outlive us all, as a celebrity seal and a multidisciplinary resource. After a private showing at County Hall, Septimus's first public showing – as the centrepiece of CSGRT's full Seal Squad Explorer Programme (SSXP) Roadshow – was at the University of Exeter's annual Marine Ecology and Conservation Network Conference.

You will need to meet Septimus to learn more of his past and his ultimate survival in skeleton form, despite everything we and nature have thrown at him.

Sue Sayer, Volunteer, www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk



Wildlife thrives in places of peace and serenity, as long as they are managed with sensitivity. When funds are short, the answer lies with local people, whether they are churchgoers or not.



Cornwall's Living Churchyards

The photo shows a wonderful display of columbine at St Ann's Church, Hessenford, in south-east Cornwall. The site is home to two species of very rare bee; *Andrena bucephala*, a mining bee, and *Nomada hirtipes*, a solitary bee, both identified in November 2009.

There are several new projects starting this year in South Petherwin, Launcells, Braddock, Warleggan, Landrake, Perranzabuloe and St Day. I am finding that quite often, it is down to the non-churchgoing members of the public, who become concerned and alarmed at the lack of a caring management style, or the lack of any management at all, in some of our Closed Status churchyards.

Wholesale clearance cutting before seed has set, and the resultant heavy cover of cut material, enriches soils and smothers our dwindling natural flora. Closed status churchyards are maintained by Council contractors who are already pushed by pressure of work, from roadsides to recreation grounds. Even our poor clergy have several churches to look after nowadays, and often the Church family themselves have lost empathy with their surroundings.

Fortunately, some wonderful people are determined to do something about this, so we must help all we can.

Robert Moor, Volunteer



Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*), St Ann's Church, Hessenford.

ROBERT MOOR

If you wish you were a better photographer, what better way to learn than joining in with the Photo Group?



Photographic Group

Looking back to the long hot summer of 2018 we had some great field trips.

For the first time, as a group, we paid a visit to the Trust's nature reserve at Penlee Battery on Rame Head. It isn't an easy place for most of us to get to, but it is a wonderful location for its views and butterflies. We went in July when there were plenty of marbled white butterflies and six-spot burnet moths.

Photography tips for beginners

It is difficult to fill the frame with subjects which are active and wary, but a good photo is often found by making a composition of the subject and another element such as the flower or grass on which it is resting. Generally we try to isolate the subject from the background. This is done by positioning the camera so that the subject has a clear background. You can also choose a relatively wide aperture to reduce the depth-of-field but must be careful to keep the important bits of the subject sharp.

This photo, taken by Karin Saunders at Penlee Battery, demonstrates the use of composition to create an appealing image.

David Chapman,
Volunteer



John Macadam presents a beginner's guide to geology and the Geoconservation Group.

Cornwall Geoconservation Group



Rocks? What have they to do with wildlife?
How about soils? Well, yes, plants grow in soil...
Where do soils come from? Rocks!



The Nationally Scarce spring sandwort (*Minuartia verna*) is found on alkaline rocks and can tolerate heavy metal contamination. In Cornwall it is restricted to the serpentine on the Lizard

© R ALLEN

OK, that's all a little bit simplistic, but right from its start in 1962 Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been concerned with the whole of nature, the living and the non-living parts, and the connections between the two. Rocks are the source of Cornwall's soils, with a bit of help from worms, fungi, etc, and Cornwall's varied rocks – its geology – give us our variety of landscapes, from the high granite moors to lower ground usually on slate. Nature-lovers know about the special plants on the Lizard, on the serpentine, and in the Culm grasslands and on the coastal sand dunes.

Geologists were members of the Trust from the early days but the Cornwall Geoconservation Group only got started in 1991. Since then the group has been designating special sites as County Geology Sites, with similar criteria to County Wildlife Sites, and the Trust also has two geological reserves. More on all these topics in future issues of *Wild Cornwall* but in the meantime you can find out more by going to www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/geology. And why not look at our Facebook page (search for 'Cornwall Geoconservation Group') where you will find events, and pictures of stunning geology.

John Macadam, Volunteer

Cornwall's bats need you!

Cornwall Bat Group

Incredibly, the 17 breeding bat species found in the UK make up a quarter of all our resident mammal species. And in Cornwall, we are very fortunate to have as many as 13 different species of bats.

Every year about 200 grounded (injured and/or exhausted) bats all around the county are cared for by many dedicated volunteer bat carers. None more so than Chris and Sue Harlow who, for over ten years, have been nursing countless bat pups that sadly get separated from their mothers due to the weather or predators. These babies require feeding every three hours. Whilst they are busy with this for most of June to August, Chris and Sue

also have to pick up new poorly individuals each day and dedicate time to raising awareness about these fascinating animals.

More people are desperately needed to help make the coming seasons less challenging. Could you be a 'bat carer', 'advanced bat carer' or an 'ambulance driver'? If you would like to help in this precious work, please contact chrisharlowtms@yahoo.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to the team.

Marion Beaulieu, Cornwall
Bat Group Volunteer



Underweight brown long-eared bat in care

MARION BEAULIEU

thank you



Embrace your wild side; get out and get fundraising



Isabella Hawkes

Putting on a fundraising event is a great way to socialise with friends, family,

colleagues or classmates while helping to raise awareness of the beautiful wildlife around you, says the Trust's new Community Fundraising Officer Isabella Hawkes.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust relies upon the charitable donations of its supporters to fund its work, in our nature reserves and throughout the wider landscape, coastline and coastal seas of Cornwall. We have created a new fundraising pack, as we want you to enjoy yourself whilst supporting your local wildlife.

The brand new pack contains all the tools and inspiration you will need to begin your fundraising journey.

For example, you can embrace your wild side and explore the South West Coast Path on a sponsored walk, although you needn't necessarily walk 300 miles over 200 days like science communicator Sophie Pavel (below). Or why not organise the biggest hide-and-seek game of your life? Whatever you choose to do, we can't wait to hear how your fun helps us.

Sophie told us, "Last year I decided to do something a bit different, and hike the 300-mile coastline of gorgeous Cornwall by myself. Using just my iPhone, I made a short video each day for the full 22 days of the walk, about the wildlife I encountered on my adventure, and posted highlights on social media. It raised funds for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and helped launch my career as a wildlife naturalist and communicator."



At the age of 11, Eva has taken to the streets of Falmouth with her violin to raise awareness about the saddening decline of dormice in the UK. Eva said,



Eva with her violin

"Because I love animals and I know that dormice have been classed as 'vulnerable to extinction' and have declined by about a third since the year 2000, which is appalling, I went out busking to help them. So far I have raised £69.81 busking for dormice and I will continue to raise more."

The Rotary Club of St Agnes and St Piran has held several fundraising events including the ILOW festival in Mount Hawke, a Cornish Night and a Bollywood Night in St Agnes and finally the President's Dinner. Club President Dr Brian Guttridge said, "One of the most important challenges for us all is to protect our wildlife, when so much is under pressure from human damage to the environment."

JACK JOHNS

Email
isabella.hawkes@
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
for your
fundraising pack
and call her on
(01872) 302284
if you have any ideas

help
You're helping to protect Cornwall's wildlife and wild places!

Thank you!

Thank you for choosing to support Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall's leading local wildlife charity. Despite being surrounded by a diversity of wildlife and wild places, our stunning habitats need and prevent this but it's fundraisers like that make our work possible.

...cluded in this pack is everything you should need to get your fundraising event on the go! Just from advice to personal stories, and email contact about how your donations are put to good use, we want to make organising your fundraising event as easy as possible.

Whether you're hiking the South West Coast Path, or taking a dip in the sea with friends, we can't wait to see how you have chosen to fundraise.

“Last year I decided to do something a bit different – and hike Cornwall by myself to raise money for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and spread the love of the incredible wildlife and landscapes that we are so lucky to have on our doorstep. Using just my iPhone, I made a little video each day for 22 days all about the wildlife I encountered on my adventure. I can't think of a time in our environment and what better way to demonstrate your passion for our wild spaces to everyone than fundraising for Cornwall Wildlife Trust!”
Wildlife Presenter – Sophie Powell

start
Loads of wild ideas.
One important purpose

Where your fundraising goes...
£10
one minute standing for a volunteer. Gloves, bags, tapes and disinfectant.

“On the last week of term, we did a Fundraising week to save the dolphins that were getting stranded. Our target was £25 and amazingly we raised £20.88!”
Charlotte Gray

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!



how to use the pack...

This pack includes:

- Step by Step Guide
- Event Ideas
- Inspirational Stories
- Health & Safety
- Sponsor Form
- Paving In Slip
- Freepost - Poster
- Collection Box

Whatever you do however much money you raise, your support is greatly appreciated and will make huge difference to Cornwall's wildlife and wild places.

Please let us know what you are planning and we can help you to publicise it.

Go online
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/fundraise
Contact the fundraising team:
(01872) 279399
Email us at: fundraising@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tips Jump in... it's easier than you think

1 Who, What, Where, Weather!
Think about who to invite, do you want to take part or sponsor you? What event do you want to do? Use our tips page for ideas. Where is your event going to take place? What will the weather be like? If your event is outdoors make sure you have yourself ready for all eventualities!
Just pick a date well in advance so you can let everyone know about it! (Think weather, location, resources)

2 Invite!
Promote your event! Make invites, and set up a page online as just giving to suit. Make sure everyone knows what you're doing and how they can join in to support you! Tell the media and us (fundraising@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

3 Prepare...
Whether you're training for your event, or making decisions - make sure you have everything you need for the big day! (Make the most of this day! Stay as environmentally friendly as possible, plastic bags, balloons, and glitter harm wildlife and as much fun without them!)

4 Enjoy!
It's important that you enjoy your day. It is fundraising after all! Take lots of pictures to record your event. These will be great to send to the press to let them know how well you have done!
Don't forget to tell us how your day went, and share where you're doing on social media. You can find us here:
@CornwallWildlife
@CornwallWildlife
@CornwallWildlife

5 Donate
You will find sponsored events, a Paving in slip and freepost envelope in your fundraising pack or feel free to donate online through our Just Giving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/cornwallwildlifetrust>

and finally... have fun and go wild!

Where your fundraising goes...
£35
have a new dormouse, bower, creating shelter for this tiny species

“Getting out to clean our local beach was a great way to raise money and work together as a community. We realised we could clean up our town and help the environment at the same time, and it was very rewarding to see how many people joined in! Now we make sure things like this happen more often, and are very grateful to Cornwall Wildlife Trust for all their support.”
Group Fundraiser



Winter fundraising ideas

During the festive time of giving, we can rustle up the perfect ingredients for fundraising with family, friends or colleagues to support your local wildlife. Here are a few ideas, but the possibilities are endless:



Wear your worst Christmas jumper

Gingerbread house competition

'Find Santa' sweepstake

Pin the nose on Ruldoph

Crafty Christmas fair

A Christmas quiz



Christmas shopping for wildlife

Remember Cornwall Wildlife Trust's online shop when you are looking for Christmas present ideas.

Visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop



donate

You can donate whilst you shop for Christmas presents. One click saves wildlife:

- Amazon Smile (donate while shopping on Amazon)
- Easyfundraising www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cornwallwildlifetrust
- Give as you live, www.giveasyoulive.com



Your Local Groups

Agas Bagas Leel



As our Local Groups of volunteers look back over the summer, you'll see that they have had some rewarding wildlife watching trips over the summer. See pages 20 and 21 to find out how Marine Groups like the Looe MCG are now caring for shores all around Cornwall.

Camel Group

As the summer continued with very little rain, many species seemed to fare very well whilst others suffered. It was a good vole year in the fields and meadows, which benefited birds of prey, with barn owls doing especially well in the Camel area.

One young owlet decided to take a leap of faith out of its nest box well before it could fly and spent the day sitting in the middle of a farm lane before being returned to its box in the evening by trained volunteers.

Kestrels have also done well, with reports of new broods around the patch. One bird was photographed by Adrian Langdon with a bank vole in its talons but sadly also line attached to it, possibly fishing line or some kind of braided cotton.

Another animal that has had a good breeding year in our patch has been the fox, with reports of cubs in several areas and views of them tossing voles in the air in play ... a classic sign of a well-fed brood.



ADRIAN LANGDON

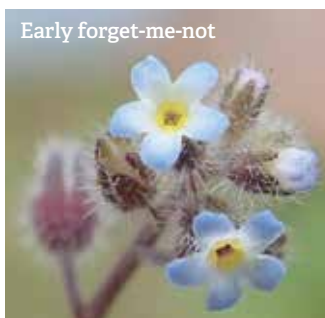
The Group committee continue to monitor local planning issues and have recently been buoyed by the failure at appeal of an application to build nine houses on a woodland site in Wadebridge. Many trees were cut down on the site, which had been designated a 'green buffer zone and corridor' just days before a planning application was submitted.

We surveyed the site for trees, flora and fauna, finding it a regular feeding area for bats, badgers and birds and worked closely with the neighbouring residents, who fought a fantastic campaign. Sometimes it is heartening to think someone may actually have read our report or listened to our views!

Camel Group committee

Launceston Area Parish Wildlife Group (LAPWG)

Since the spring, the Launceston Area Parish Wildlife Group (LAPWG) has been busy with walks, moth trapping, bat surveys, small mammals, plants and butterflies. At the end of May our group enjoyed some sensational wildflowers and stunning views during our late spring walk around Pentire Head and we were successful in our search for plants of the early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*), a challenge set by expert botanical surveyor Ian Bernallick.



Early forget-me-not

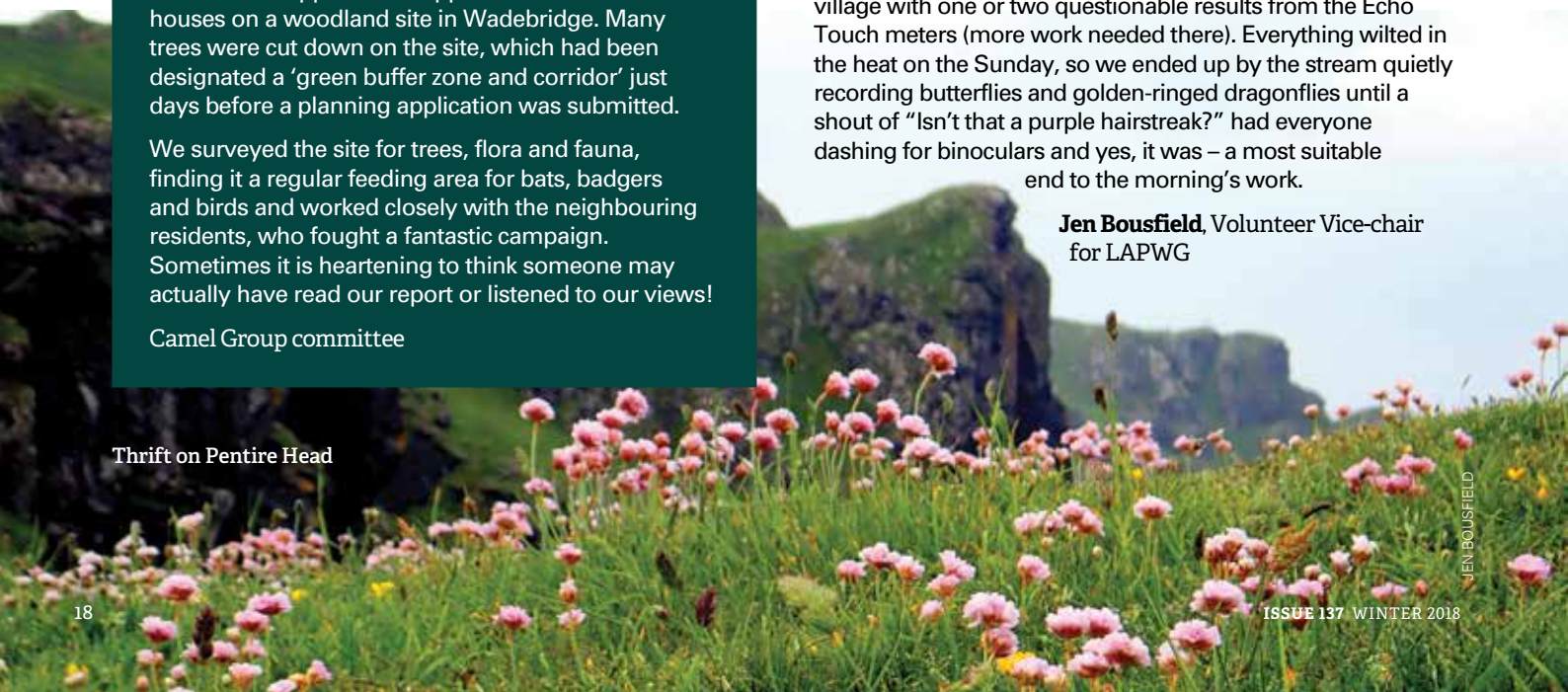
JEN BOUSFIELD

In June we joined forces with the Botanical Group on a survey around Treburley, then found ourselves in field full of marbled whites and other butterflies (clouded yellows had been there recently). Later on, as we toiled up a footpath through a rather boring field of ryegrass, we came across a splendid patch of arable weeds including *Misopates orontium* or weasel's-snout, which was quite a special find.

We returned to the Lockett mining area in July to continue with our surveys, begun last year. Over 900 moths were identified from 105 species; an assortment of bat detectors followed volunteer and bat expert Tony Atkinson around the village with one or two questionable results from the Echo Touch meters (more work needed there). Everything wilted in the heat on the Sunday, so we ended up by the stream quietly recording butterflies and golden-ringed dragonflies until a shout of "Isn't that a purple hairstreak?" had everyone dashing for binoculars and yes, it was – a most suitable end to the morning's work.

Jen Bousfield, Volunteer Vice-chair for LAPWG

Thrift on Pentire Head



JEN BOUSFIELD



Beaver watchers



Common pipistrelle

Friends of Kilminorth Woods

Early July provided two memorable evening events, the first a trip to see the beavers introduced at Woodland Valley Farm near Ladock in 2017. We were escorted by landowner Chris Jones and the Trust's Cheryl Marriott. Cheryl had brought 'Trevor' the stuffed beaver in the boot of her car, and most of us privately suspected that this was the only beaver we were likely to see. After all, there were nearly 20 of us, and the light was fading. How wrong we were! There followed a magical two hours tiptoeing around the ponds, with multiple sightings of two adult beavers and their two kits (born a few weeks previously). At one point a kit climbed on to the bank about ten feet away from me and sat nonchalantly nibbling some twigs. A memory to treasure.

Three days later it was our annual moth night in Kilminorth Woods. This year, thanks to Tony James and colleagues, we had three moth traps strung out along the path inside the woodland entrance. The warm weather was promising. There was one moth that we were especially hoping might appear, the scarce merveille du jour, a rare Red Data Book species recorded here previously, but as yet never seen by any of our members. Its name is misleading; it is indeed scarce, but it does not fly by day. It has been found in only a few locations in south-west England in ancient oakwoods. By midnight a remarkable 87 species had been recorded, but no scarce merveille du jour. A few minutes later a single newly emerged specimen finally appeared. By then only three of our members were left. Sadly, I was not one of them!

Derek Spooner, Volunteer

Bude Group

July saw the first event of the summer with a group of 14 meeting at Stowe Barton, courtesy of the National Trust (NT) for an informative bat talk and walk. Sarah Stevens (NT and Cornwall Bat Group member) gave a knowledgeable and entertaining talk on bats around the world and the UK in particular. She covered their breeding, feeding and echo location abilities along with species size and weight using a 20p piece and some children's confectionery to illustrate her points.

Equipped with bat detectors, the group then walked to Coombe Mill (a favourite roost for bats) to observe and record the emerging bats. Pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelles and lesser horseshoes were recorded, and possible greater horseshoe, Daubenton's or Natterer's recordings are being assessed by experts.

Our second event was Heritage Day showcasing societies in the Bude area. The committee manned several tables with leaflets, photos, both static and computer-driven, illustrating the local programme of events and items of interest that the Trust is involved in. Special emphasis this year was on the Beaver Project near Truro and we were lucky to have a fine stuffed beaver specimen on loan from head office along with promotional material which raised some real interest. To maintain the beaver theme we had a 'name the beaver' competition with a prize of a toy beaver. Some of our table space was allocated to the newly formed Bude Marine Group who work to extend the knowledge of marine life in the area.

Our last event for the summer will be a group visit to Ladock to see the beavers originally released in 2017 into a five-acre fenced area along a stretch of water at Woodland Valley Farm. There has been a lot of interest in the event as shown by the number of requests to attend, so we are hoping for a successful evening with some sightings of the beavers.

Ursula Edwards, Volunteer

Looe Marine Conservation Group

The Looe Marine Conservation Group (MCG) has recently been awarded £500 from the Your Shore Beach Rangers Community Pot to run a volunteering award in conjunction with the University of Plymouth. The award, designed to help undergraduate marine biologists gain skills in public engagement, will run from September 2018 through September 2019 and see two students joining the group.

Many outreach skills are not taught on higher education courses and have to be sought elsewhere, but students don't need to fly to exotic countries

to gain this experience. In Looe, the students will learn to run different activities such as rockpool rambles and beach cleans and will receive training in a variety of areas such as event management and rocky shore ecology. Having two students join our group to help run events is likely to have the added benefit of encouraging more young people in the Looe area to get involved.

The £500 grant will go towards expenses such as the students' travel costs, event posters and training guides. This is our first year running

the award, so we're expecting a bit of a learning curve. We then hope to continue working with the university to include students in the future.

Ameila Bridges, Volunteer Chair of Looe MCG and award organiser



Protecting coastal wildlife under the Your Shore umbrella



Natalie Gibb

The Your Shore logo is more than just a nice design. It encapsulates how our network of Marine Conservation Groups works together, writes Community Engagement Officer Nat Gibb. The bell of the

jellyfish is an umbrella and local marine groups, as dots on the tentacles beneath, come together to form the shape of Cornwall, a perfect symbol for the coastal protection group.

The Your Shore network has been gaining rapid momentum over recent years. It is now made up of 15 marine conservation groups run entirely by volunteers, coming together to protect the places they love and providing a voice for local wildlife.

Ocean guardians for the future

Two and a half years ago, our Your Shore Beach Rangers project received five years of funding from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Our Bright Future' project. This has given us the opportunity, in collaboration with Cornwall College, to support existing volunteer groups and set up new ones in Falmouth, Mounts Bay, St Austell, Bude and St Ives. An important goal of the project is to empower and inspire young people, and we have done this through the development of the Beach

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

American philosopher William James (1842–1910).

Rangers Academy, which delivers accredited training with the marine environment as the underlying theme.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the project has been involving young people, who are typically harder to reach; we've found that the best way of doing this is to get them out of the classroom and onto the beach. There they can develop their communication skills, self-awareness and confidence through our interactive beach games and workshops. And best of all, we get young people into the sea. We love it when a young person builds up their self-esteem in the water, going from a nervous 'toe dunker' to a very excited person who's just seen a spider crab for the first time!

So far, over 500 young people have taken part in our training sessions and 1,040 secondary school pupils from 16 Cornish

schools have been involved in the Beach Rangers mini programme. With two and a half more years of funding still to go, we look forward with excitement to helping our community of engaged and skilled young people in Cornwall to grow, as they become effective wildlife volunteers and the happy and confident employers and employees of the future.

Cornwall's Marine Conservation Community

The local Marine Conservation Groups in Cornwall are diverse, but they are all united by a common goal: to look after their own special area of sea and shore. The Three Bays Wildlife Group have been documenting otters on the streams adjoining Portmellon beach. The Falmouth Marine Conservation Group run many exciting events such as snorkelling and night-time rockpooling, and the Polzeath Marine Conservation Group were responsible for the first ever beachside ReFILL station in Cornwall, reducing plastic bottle usage by providing free drinking water. You can find out more at www.beachrangers.com/community/your-shore-network

Volunteers from marine groups all across Cornwall share ideas and resources, run collaborative events and projects and ultimately come together as a strong combined voice for our living seas. This joined-up approach has resulted in a number of conservation wins across the years, such as:

- campaigning to ban polyisobutylene (PIB) discharge following a tragic pollution event for seabirds in 2013
- responding to and influencing the Marine Conservation Zone consultation process
- recording data which can be used in other marine designations and necessary fishing bylaws
- the creation of the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition, which is becoming an ever-stronger and increasingly respected voice in lobbying on many issues ranging from balloon releases to the losses of plastic biomedica used in wastewater treatment.

Getting together

Every year we have the chance to celebrate the work of the network at the annual Your Shore conference. This year was our biggest yet, with over 150 volunteers and beach rangers coming together. Reflections at the 2018 conference showed us that in 2017, the Your Shore network worked with an amazing 50,377 people at 807 marine events across the county. The network continues to grow by word of mouth across thousands of people, with the numbers showing that Cornwall is leading the way. And there's an opportunity for everyone to be involved.

Visit www.beachrangers.com to find your nearest local marine conservation group, to discover more about the **Your Shore Beach Rangers Academy** and to see what public marine-themed events are being held in your area.

PHOTOS: 1. Seagrass snorkel with Ocean High and the Mounts Bay Marine Group. 2. Sunset snorkel, Millook, Bude. 3. Radical rockpool, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. 4. Your Shore volunteers on a conservation cruise with the Hardiesse sail training ship. 5. Your Shore conference 2018. 6. Honeycomb worm walk with the YSBR team, Crooklets Beach, Bude.



1 @LAWRENCE SMITH
2 NAT GIBB



3 JENNY SANDIFORD

Growth spurt

Cornwall's Your Shore network was originally made up of five volunteer groups based around each of our Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas, and has been developed by Cornwall Wildlife Trust with the help of Heritage Lottery funding.



4 NAT GIBB



find your local Marine Conservation Group



©VINNY STELZER



6

a day in the life...

Wildlife Wednesdays



Stephanie Boon (known as Stephe) has been a Wild Allet Volunteer for over a year. The group takes part in a range of conservation tasks at Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet, and beyond.

Wednesdays. A little over a year ago they were just your average middle-of-the-week days, nothing to write home about. But that soon changed when I started volunteering with the Wild Allet team at Cornwall Wildlife Trust's headquarters near Truro.

When I first turned up it didn't look like I imagined a nature reserve to be; not wild, more an overgrown garden with conifer trees, a neglected veg patch and a couple of man-made ponds. I soon learnt that it used to be a garden nursery and the team of volunteers I'd joined were helping to encourage deciduous woodland, planted with native trees. A meadow was being nurtured and the ponds eradicated of the rampantly invasive New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*).

I was excited to get stuck in to help this site in transition – and was immediately handed a scythe! Learning to use hand tools means we keep old skills alive. These are much friendlier to wildlife, and importantly, it means we get to talk to each other as we work.

We're a close-knit group with a thread of stalwarts who turn up in all weathers, and we have our characters too. I'm known as the volunteer with a penchant for dead things (hence the gift of a dead pipistrelle, now safe in my freezer). And skulls. My excitement was palpable when Miguel (who's off to uni to study Marine Biology this autumn)

pulled a deer's skull out from the undergrowth near the Trust headquarters building. I'm an artist and studying dead animals and bones is a significant way for me to understand the world around me: it's absolutely fascinating to see what goes on under the skin, or the incredible texture of a bat's wing. I'm also the class clown. "Help clean out the pond you say? Why don't I just slide in and provide Dave with a photo opportunity instead?"

I've learnt so much at Cornwall Wildlife Trust that feeds into my walking as well (I'm a qualified walking leader) – from other volunteers, from Dave (David May, Practical Projects coordinator) and from the many reserve managers we get to meet, because although we're based at Allet, we regularly go to other reserves to lend a hand. We've been as far afield as Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve near Saltash to cut a hay meadow (see page 12) and as close to home as Chyverton Nature Reserve just down the road, to control growth of willow scrub. We've been ragwort pulling on Helman Tor, wildflower sowing at The Eden Project (did you see those flowers this summer? That was us!) and Penhale Sands in between. But home is Allet, where I chase butterflies with Kiki and learn the call of chiffchaffs from Sue and it's the place I hope to see wildlife thrive, because of the things we do.

"Wildlife Wednesday – absolutely the best day of the week!"

Stephie

Stephie uses her artistic skills in a blog where she uses paints, oils and charcoals to recreate her wildlife explorations, creating an illustrated guide to Cornish walks. You can follow Stephe's blog at tenmilehike.com

Stephie the 'class clown' becoming fully immersed in her volunteering role

STEPHANIE BOON



Stephie's drawing of a deer skull found at Allet.



Stephie helping renovate the woodland at Five Acres Nature Reserve, Allet

STEPHANIE BOON

DAVID MAY



There are many factors that draw our students to conservation: it could be a life-changing or memorable nature experience that changes their career plans. It could be to undertake scientific research in their chosen field that confirms their career direction. It could be to meet someone who inspires them to study further. This page will now tell their stories, written by the very people who experienced them and gives us a glimpse of the seed that started a career in wildlife.

Jason Birt, Programme Manager for FdSc Wildlife Education and MediaCentre for Zoology, Cornwall College Newquay



Kayleigh Hunt

Something to crow about: There's life in the churchyard!



North Hill churchyard before and after a Council cut. Removing all flowering plants and long grass has a direct impact on wildlife.

I have loved birds ever since I can remember. When I was little, walking round my Grandad's aviaries was time well spent. I have noticed that churchyards can often be the only remaining green area within fragmented landscapes and have an important role in conserving natural habitats. Birds are excellent environmental indicators and the range of bird species within a churchyard not only reveals information about the avian community but other communities as well. For example, where there are insectivores, it's likely the invertebrate community is thriving.

Data collection in North Cornwall

As part of my BSc Applied Zoology degree I decided to research how the habitat composition of churchyards in North Cornwall is affecting bird communities and what management implications this may have.

My data collection involved two visits a day for two days to each of ten chosen churchyards. One visit at 5am (thanks to the spring/summer weather of 2018, the spectacular sunrises were worth the early starts) and one at 7pm. Six points were established throughout each churchyard and the maximum number of individuals of each bird species seen at any one time was recorded. As well as this, various habitat variables were recorded, including tree cover and grassland structure.

Results revealed that the most influential habitat variable on bird diversity is grassland structure. The management of grassland varied greatly between the

ten churchyards and management level could be divided into three categories. Overly managed (mown), well managed (overgrown and mown areas) and unmanaged (overgrown). The three 'well managed' churchyards had the highest levels of bird diversity. At one site, between two visits, the overgrown grass was decimated. Wildflowers destroyed. Any invertebrate life inhabiting the area lost. Very tellingly, just 15 bird species were observed following the cut, compared to 26 and 23 before.

Joined-up thinking for a 'Living Churchyard'

During this project I met with volunteer Robert Moor, coordinator of Cornwall's Living Churchyards Project. One of the project's main objectives is to diversify the grassland structure of churchyards to increase the range of wildflowers and invertebrates. Upon this discovery, I realised how important the findings from my project could be; that the science behind it could support the efforts of Robert Moor and local groups trying to help the fauna and flora in their churchyard. My passion for the subject has led to a group in North Cornwall – The South Petherwin Cake and Rakers – approaching me to join their committee to transform their churchyard into a 'Living Churchyard'. This opportunity enables me, along with other members of a small community, to take a proactive approach, which along with my research, I hope can make a real difference in the future.

Kayleigh Hunt, BSc student in Applied Zoology

All articles on 'Student Voice for wildlife' are the views of the authors, and can be read in full at the Cornwall College Newquay website - www.cornwall.ac.uk/cwt

Nature notices

2019 Wild Cornwall calendar

There's still time to buy next year's Wild Cornwall calendar, which features incredible shots of iconic species in the Cornish countryside and coastal waters, from kingfishers to bottlenose dolphins. See the back page – and remember to treat yourself, friends and family to a copy.



A treat for dragonfly lovers

Paul Hopkins, author of *The DVD Guide to the Dragonflies of the UK and Ireland*, presents 'European Odonata: My Dragonfly Journey' on Friday 15th March in Chacewater Village Hall. His talk, for the Restormel Group, will be illustrated with high quality video footage of the species he encountered. See the diary for full details.



Theft of pebbles from Crackington Haven

Pebble stealing is a serious issue at Crackington, north of Boscastle. People regularly remove car bootloads of the very pretty pebbles. Signage is targeting these people, rather than children picking up the odd pebble in their bucket.

Please spread the word that it is an offence, under Section 18 of the Coastal Protection Act, to remove material from a beach without a licence. For more on damage and disturbance, see pages 7 to 9.

If you want more information, contact **Sue Hocking** at the **Cornwall Geoconservation Group** – sue.hocking@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Calendar photo competition

Please send us your images of Cornish wildlife, Trust nature reserves and wild places. The best will be featured in our 2020 Wild Cornwall calendar.

Send photos to: WildCornwallCalendar@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

For terms, conditions and prize details, see our website and social media.

This stunning kingfisher is by Trust member **Martin Yelland**.



Race for Wildlife

Put your running to the test with the Mounts Bay Harriers' Race for Wildlife. Taking place on Sunday 2nd December, the 7.5-mile run crosses countryside north of Penzance with breathtaking views of Mounts Bay and St Michael's Mount. The route takes you off the beaten track and across fields, moors and along roads, giving you a real experience of the Cornish wildlife and wild places around us.

For more information, visit mountsbayharriers.co.uk



pull-out Diary of events

Dydhlyver hwarvosow



**December 2018
to April 2019**

DECEMBER Mis Kevardhu

- Sunday 2 *disabled access for spectators only*
- Race for Wildlife**
Penzance, 8.30am to 12.00 noon
Meet at Porthcurno Building, Penwith College, St Claire Street TR8 2SA (SX246537).
This stunning 7.5 mile multi-terrain race through west Penwith to raise money for the Trust is a great pre-Christmas challenge. Part of Cornish Multi Terrain Race Series. £15 affiliated, £17 non-affiliated. Organised by Mounts Bay Harriers. For more info see www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/raceforwildlife
- Monday 3
- Christmas Ocean Quiz**
Penzance, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Meet at Admiral Benbow, 46 Chapel Street TR18 4AF
Join us for a sea-inspired Christmas pub quiz. Organised by Mount's Bay Marine Group & Your Shore Beach Rangers. To book, contact jacqui.keenan@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
- Tuesday 4
- Christmas Ocean Quiz**
Bude, 6.30pm to 9.00pm
Meet at Rosie's Kitchen, Crooklets EX23 8NE
Join us for a sea-inspired pub quiz. organised by Bude Marine Group & Your Shore Beach Rangers. To book, contact jacqui.keenan@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

- Wednesday 5
- CSGRT Meeting**
Redruth, 7.30pm to 10.00pm
Meet at the Inn for All Seasons (SW701434).
Updates & seal highlights. Food can be ordered from 6.30pm. Contact: Sue Sayer sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk
- Saturday 8
- Twilight Walk**
Saltash, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Meet at Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve, Wearde Road entrance PL12 4AS (SX421582).
A walk round the reserve to find out what's about at dusk. Hot drinks & mince pies afterwards. Bring torches. Free for members of the Friends, £2 non-members. Organised by FoCFCNR. Contact: Mary Langworth (01752) 843852.
- Saturday 8
- Seaweed Press and Forage**
Falmouth, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Meet at Castle Beach TR11 4NZ
Learn about the beautiful seaweeds found in Falmouth Bay & how to preserve them. Organised by Falmouth MCG & Your Shore Beach Rangers. Contact: info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

- Saturday 8
- Festive Fun with a Campfire**
Falmouth, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch & Generation Wild for festive fun & games and a small campfire. Leaders: Chloe & Generation Wild. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
- Saturday 8
- Natural Christmas Crafts**
Newquay, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Short walk on the beach to collect materials (wrap up warm) and then back to a cosy room to make festive creations. Leader: Sammy Brisdon. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
- Monday 10
- Seasonal Wildlife Quiz**
Bude, 7.30pm
Meet at Stratton Primary School, New Road, Stratton, Bude, EX23 9AP.
A fun & friendly wildlife quiz with seasonal refreshments. Make up a team of 6 or come alone and we will organise the teams. All welcome. £3. Contact: Chair CWT Bude Group (01288) 352726; cwtbude@yahoo.co.uk

EVERYONE is welcome to attend ALL events except where specified (eg unsuitable for young children). Events are free unless specified, but donations are appreciated. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear to all outdoor events. If bad weather is forecast, call event organisers to check that activities are still running.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS:
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all events, and must remain that person's responsibility at all times. Sorry, no dogs at Cornwall Wildlife Trust Wildlife Watch events.
Further details of events and activities are available on our website: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on
Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ Tel. (01872) 273939

Key to symbols:

- CWT Wildlife Watch event for accompanied children
- Full or partial disabled access
- Sponsored by South West Water

Abbreviations:

- CSGRT Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust
- CWT Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- ERCIS Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- FoCFCNR Friends of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve
- MCG Marine Conservation Group
- NT National Trust

DECEMBER Mis Kevardhu

Saturday 15

Rubbish Monsters

Padstow, 11.00am to 1.00pm. **Booking is essential**

Join Beach Guardian's cofounders to explore plastic pollution and what you can do creatively with rubbish. Create a rubbish art monster to take home. Leaders: Rob & Emily Stevenson. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 16

Photography

Holywell Bay, 11.00am to 5.00pm

Meet at NT car park, TR8 5PF. (SW767586).

We will photograph seashore, strandline, landscapes & sunset. 15-minute walk from car park over grassland & beach to reach shore. Public toilets by car park. Bring camera, tripod, macro, telephoto & wide angle lenses, food, drink, wellies. Suggested donation to CWT: £2. Organised by Photographic Group. Contact/leaders: Karin Saunders 07790 613786 & Becky Curtis 07746 083422; kar1n@madasafish.com or curtis_becky@hotmail.com

Sunday 16

Sequest Public Seawatch

St Ives, 11.00am to 1.00pm

National Coastwatch Institute TR26 1NT.

Look out for dolphins, whales, seals & more! Contact: sequest@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

JANUARY Mis Genver

Wednesday 2

CSGRT Meeting

See Wednesday 5 December for details.

Saturday 12

Rosenannon Scrub Challenge

10.30am to 3.30pm. **Booking is essential**

Meet at Rosenannon Village, St Wenn parish, by phone box, PL30 5PJ (SW956661).

Rosenannon Bog is a hidden wildlife gem under threat from scrub encroachment. Bonfire & jacket potatoes. No experience necessary. Bring wellies, lunch, leather gloves if you have them. Tools provided. Organised by CWT Nature Reserves. Contact: Seán O'Hea 07971 542185; sean.ohea@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 12

Feed the Birds

Torpoint, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Make treats to take home for birds this winter. All equipment & materials provided, generously funded by Counsellors Gary Davis & John Crago. Leader: Natalie Mitchell. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 14

Photographic Group Meeting

Nr Truro, 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Meet at CWT HQ, Five Acres, Allet TR4 9DJ.

Members' evening. Suggested donation £2. Contact: Adrian Langdon (01208) 813440 or 07702 527603; adrian@adrianlangdon.com

JANUARY Mis Genver

Saturday 19

The Plight of the Bumblebee

Gweek, 7.30pm

Meet at Gweek Village Hall, TR12 6UG.

Prof Juliet Osborne & Dr Pete Kennedy have been studying bumblebees, honeybees and other pollinators for over 20 years. Their talk will focus on what can be done to safeguard populations in Cornwall. U18s & HMCG members free. Others, £4 for others. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Saturday 19

Homes for Bugs

Illogan, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Booking is essential

We love bugs. Learn about bugs in your garden & make your own bug house to take home. Generously funded by David Ekinsmyth. Leader: Emma Oliver. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 20

Winter Strandline Arts and Crafts

Mullion, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers in collaboration with Polurrian Hotel, Friends of Polurrian Beach & Beach Guardian for a fun winter tideline ramble followed by marine-themed arts & crafts back in the warmth of the hotel. Leader: Rob Stevenson. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 20

Wild Cornwall Film Screening

Truro, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Plaza Cinema, Truro TR1 2PN.

This inspiring and award-winning film by Ian McCarthy follows the turning year in Cornwall and wildlife living on the edge, where land, sea & sky meet. £8. Watch trailer & book at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/WildCornwallFilm

Monday 21

Around the Bottom of the World

Bude, 7.30pm

Meet at Stratton Primary School, New Road, Stratton EX23 9AP.

Superb wildlife photos & amusing narrative charting this globetrotting couple's cruise from Chile & Argentina, round Cape Horn to the Falkland Islands. £3 to include tea/coffee. Speakers: Colin & Patricia Humphrey. Organised by CWT Bude Group. Contact: Chair CWT Bude Group (01288) 352726 or cwtbude@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 26

The Big Garden Bird Watch

Truro, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch survey and learn about birds. Leader: Ruth Corbett. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 27

Wild Winter Cooking

Wadebridge, 10.30am to 2.30pm

Booking is essential

Cook hearty, warming food on an open fire out in the woods with Wildlife Watch & Miss Elvy's Curious School of the Wild. Explore & play in the woods too. Leader: Nik Elvy. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

FEBRUARY Mis Hwevrer

Wednesday 2

CSGRT Meeting

Redruth, 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Meet at the Inn for All Seasons (SW701434).

Updates & seal highlights. Food can be ordered from 6.30pm. Contact: Sue Sayer sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk

Thursday 7

Winter Bird Workshop

Helston, 10.00am to 4.30pm

Booking is essential

One of a series of ERCCIS biological recording workshops to develop ID skills. An excellent introduction to watching key bird species of woodland, wetland & open water. Bring wellies, binoculars, notepad, pen, camera. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government. Contact us re disabled access. Leaders: Martin Rule, Laura Fox (01872) 302246; laura.fox@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 9

Brilliant Botany

Falmouth, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Generation Wild to learn about spring flowers and enjoy the ancient craft of hapa zome (leaf & flower bashing!). Leaders: Chloe & Generation Wild. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

You can submit events to be included on our website 'What's On' listing and *Wild Cornwall* magazine's diary by contacting Mark Dungey. Groups affiliated to Cornwall Wildlife Trust will be given priority when space is short.

Please email Mark Dungey for an event form: mark.dungey@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Deadline for *Wild Cornwall* issue 138, Spring 2019: **Friday 4 January 2019.**

Wild Cornwall 138 will be published on **Monday 8 April 2019.**

FEBRUARY Mis Hwevrer

Sunday 10

Photography

Porthcurno, 12.30pm to 6.30pm (sunset at 5.30pm)

Meet at Porthcurno car park, TR19 6JX. From Penzance take A30 to Land's End, follow signs for Porthcurno (SW387226).

We will photograph seashore, strandline, landscapes & sunset. Beach accessed via steep steps. Toilets in car park (coin-operated). Bring camera, tripod, macro, wide angle, telephoto lenses, food, drink. Donation to CWT; £2 suggested.

Organised by Photo Group. Leaders/contacts: Karin Saunders 07790 613786 & Becky Curtis 07746 083422; curtis_becky@hotmail.com or kar1n@madasafish.com

Sunday 10

Winter Forest School Fun

Nr Bodmin, 10.00 to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Badger Forest School www.badgerforestschoool.co.uk for campfire & den-building fun. Leader: Ysella Wood. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 11

Photographic Group Meeting

Nr Truro, 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Meet at CWT HQ, Five Acres, Allet TR4 9DJ.

Members' evening. Suggested donation £2. Contact: Adrian Langdon (01208) 813440 or 07702 527603; adrian@adrianlangdon.com

Thursday 14

Love Your Beach

Activities at various locations around Cornwall. For more info, contact: your local Marine Group (find them on the map at <https://beachrangers.com/community/your-shore-network/>) or jacqui.keenan@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 16

A Seal's Tale

Newquay, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Booking is essential

Learn all about our awesome local seals in a fantastic venue with Chris & Annabelle Lowe from Newquay Sea Safaris & Fishing. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 17

Woodland Wander and Leaf Art

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Woodland wander to explore winter wildlife, and then create clay leaf art to take home. Don't forget to wrap up warm! Generously funded by Cllr Philip Desmond. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 17

Breney Common Reserve Work Party

Nr Luxulyan, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Meet at Gunwen Chapel, Lowertown village PL30 5DU (SX053613).

Please come and help with shrub & vegetation clearance. In wet areas. Bring protective clothes, gloves, cutting tools, picnic & friends. Cancelled if weather is wet. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Contact: Dave Thomas (01726) 861093; davecarp86@hotmail.com

Monday 18

Secret World of the Undergrowth

Bude, 7.30pm

Meet at Stratton Primary School, New Road, Stratton EX23 9AP.

Award-winning artist, photographer & ecologist John Walters talking on the identification & diversity of beetles, butterflies, moths, flies & spiders in the undergrowth around us. £3 to include tea/coffee. Organised by CWT Bude Group. Contact: Chair CWT Bude Group (01288) 352726; cwtbude@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 19

Build a Bird Box

Devoran, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Booking is essential

Make homes for our local birds to nest in. Wood & tools provided. Organised in partnership with Restronguet Creek Society. Generously funded by Cllr Martyn Alvey. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 20

Den Building and Campfire

St Just, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Learn how to shelter from the cold – build a den and help light a fire. Fun & games with The Treebies School of Nature & Wildlife Watch volunteers. Generously funded by Cllr Sue James. Leader: Lisa Guy. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 22

Winter Waders

Hayle, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Enjoy a bird watching wander. Explore different habitats & identify species as you go with our bird enthusiast Daniel Eva. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 23

Bird Ringing

Truro, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers & expert Mark Grantham for bird ringing in the woodland and then natural arts & crafts. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

MARCH Mis Meurth

Saturday 2

Home for Bugs

Penryn, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Build a great little home for bugs using wood, hammers & drill. Generously funded by Cllr Jayne Kirkham. Supported by local Community Chest Fund. Leader: Emma Oliver. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 2

Your Shore conference

9.00am to 5.00pm

Venue tbc. Contact: jacqui.keenan@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 6

CSGRT Meeting

Redruth, 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Meet at the Inn for All Seasons (SW701434).

Updates & seal highlights. Food can be ordered from 6.30pm. Contact: Sue Sayer sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk

Saturday 9

Reserve Clean

Saltash, 1.00 to 3.00pm

Meet at Wearde Road entrance PL12 4AS (SX423583).

Help give the reserve a good clean up. Refreshments afterwards. Bring old gloves. Leader: Jackie Austin. Organised by Friends of Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve. Contact: Mary (01752) 843852.

Saturday 9

Signs of Spring

Falmouth, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Generation Wild to explore the signs of this season – and plant some veggies too. Leaders: Chloe & Generation Wild. Contact: (01872) 273939; wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 10

Breney Common Reserve Work Party

Nr Luxulyan, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Meet at Gunwen Chapel, Lowertown village PL30 5DU (SX053613).

Please come and help with shrub & vegetation clearance. In wet areas. Bring protective clothes, gloves, cutting tools, picnic & friends. Cancelled if weather is wet. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Contact: Dave Thomas (01726) 861093; davecarp86@hotmail.com

Sunday 10

Spring in Your Step

Saltash, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Enjoy a wander around a wonderful reserve, with meadows, wetland, rocky shore & mudflats, looking for signs of spring. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

MARCH Mis Meurth

Monday 11

Photographic Group Meeting

Nr Truro, 7.30pm to 10.00pm
Meet at CWT HQ, Five Acres, Allet TR4 9DJ.
Members' evening. Suggested donation £2.
Contact: Adrian Langdon (01208) 813440 or 07702 527603; adrian@adrianlangdon.com

Tuesday 12

Wildlife Photography

Camborne, 10.00am to 3.00pm
Meet at Tehidy Country Park, South Drive car park TR14 OTS (SW651433).
We will photograph birds, fungi & squirrels around the main lake. Please check the trip is still on if bad weather forecast. Bring tripod. £2 donation. Leader: David Chapman. Organised by Photo Group. Contact: (01736) 850287.

Friday 15

European Odonata: My Dragonfly Journey

Nr Truro 7.30pm. Meet at Chacewater Village Hall, Chacewater TR4 8PZ.
A talk by Paul Hopkins, author of the DVD Guide to the Dragonflies of the UK and Ireland. Paul has travelled throughout Europe in search of dragonflies. High quality video footage of the target species from each country visited. Paul's 3-DVD set will be on sale for £20; contribution to the British Dragonfly Society for each copy sold. Entry £3. Organiser: Paul Hopkins, CWT Restormel Group. Contact: (01726) 861093; davecarp86@hotmail.com

Saturday 16

Mud Monsters 2

Bude, 2.30 to 4.30pm
Booking is essential
Enjoy mud & bugs in collaboration with Bude-based Happy Acorns – Outdoor Learning – don't forget to wear wellies. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 18

AGM + the Diversity of the Impossible

Bude, 7.30pm
Meet at Stratton Primary School, New Road, Stratton EX23 9AP.
The talk by Alison Woods & Carole Fellows looks at hidden organisms that live in crevices and out of sight on the rocky shores of Bude & surrounds. Macro photography will bring this small world alive to the audience. £3 to include tea/coffee. Organised by CWT Bude Group. Contact: Chair CWT Bude Group (01288) 352726; cwtbude@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 23

Gardening Club

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Perennial Harvest for a spring gardening session. Inside or out, whatever the weather. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 24

Pond Dipping

Nr Bodmin, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking is essential
Join our Wildlife Watch spring pond dip to see what lives in this watery world. Leader: Ruth Corbett. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 30

Plastic Pollution

Padstow, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking is essential
With a growing awareness of the impact of plastic on our environment join co-founders of Beach Guardian Rob & Emily Stevenson to find out more. Maybe get creative too. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

APRIL Mis Ebryl

Tuesday 2

Looe Island Guided Walk

2.00pm to 6.00pm. **Booking is essential**
Boat ride to the island where you'll join the warden for an escorted walk. During the 3-hour visit we'll help you spot the Island's wildlife & learn about the Trust's work and the challenges of island life. After the walk there's the option of a slide show in Jetty Cottage. Cost £25 Leader: Jon Ross. Booking is online only: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Wednesday 3

CSGRT Meeting

Redruth, 7.30pm to 10.00pm
Meet at the Inn for All Seasons (SW701434).
See Wednesday 5 December for further details.

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7

Cornwall Garden Society Show

Nr Wadebridge, 10.00 to 4.00pm
Meet at Royal Cornwall Showground.
Wildlife Watch will have a spring-themed wildlife activity table with lots for you to do & learn. Entry fees apply. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. No booking required. Contact: Cornwall Garden Society <http://cornwallgardensociety.org.uk/spring-flower-show>

Sunday 7

Spring in the Rockpools

Fowey, 1.00pm to 2.30pm. **Booking is essential**
Enjoy a wonderful rockpooling experience at a sheltered beach with our expert. See what has survived the winter and learn how they did it. Bring wellies & bucket. No nets please. Leader: Heather Buttivant. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 8

Photographic Group Meeting

Nr Truro, 7.30pm to 10.00pm
Meet at CWT HQ, Five Acres, Allet TR4 9DJ.
Members' evening. Suggested donation £2. Contact: Adrian Langdon (01208) 813440 or 07702 527603; adrian@adrianlangdon.com

APRIL Mis Ebryl

Saturday 13

Gardening Club

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers and Perennial Harvest for another springtime gardening session. Inside or out depending on the weather. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 14

Spring Forest School Fun

Nr Bodmin, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Badger Forest School www.badgerforestschool.co.uk for a spring forest school experience: campfire, den building & exploring all the way. Leader: Ysella Wood. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 14

Open Garden – Coldrenick House

Menheniot, Liskeard, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet at garden, PL14 3RQ (SX246537).
Lawns, beds & shrubs with ornamental trees. Magnolias, camellias & bamboos. Beautiful bluebell woodland is great to walk around. £5. Organised by CWT. Contact: info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 17

Looe Island Guided Walk

2.00pm to 6.00pm. **Booking is essential**
See Tuesday 2 April for further details.

Wednesday 24

Nature Treasure Hunt

St Just, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Enjoy a wonderful spring nature treasure hunt in a coppice wood & wetland with the Treebies School of Nature & Wildlife Watch. Don't forget your wellies. Generously funded by Cllr Sue James. Leader: Lisa Guy. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 27

Bee Amazing

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Learn all about the amazing life of bees this spring with Daena Rose from Wildwood Eco Garden. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 28

Open garden – Pedn Billy

Helford Passage, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet at garden, TR11 5LF.
This stunning, unique garden boasts wildflower areas, specimen trees & terraced borders. It is ablaze with azaleas, magnolias rhododendrons, camellias & flowering bulbs. Half the 12 acres is ancient woodland with paths that wind down to Port Navas & Helford River to its own private beach. £5. Organised by CWT. Contact: info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Find your inner *wild* child



Joanna Arvor

Sometimes it's good to go wild. Our Family Events and Volunteer Coordinator Joanna Arvor

reveals that going wild can create precious family time in our busy lives.

There's a reason why we call our Wildlife Watch events 'family events'. Child-led sessions, like the Wildlife Watch Badger Forest School event near Bodmin that I attended in the summer, are fantastic fun for children but also help to build relationships with their accompanying adults. Den building, fire lighting and butterfly spotting light up each child's imagination, and they have a similar effect on the adults too, whether they are mums, dads, grandparents, carers or older siblings.

It's been found that getting out into the wild, be it a stroll on a beach or a woodland wander, is not just good for individual mental health, but works wonders to strengthen family bonds too. Life is so busy and dominated by screen time that it is easy for us as adults to feel we don't have the space for individual time with our children. Our two-hour Wildlife Watch sessions can really help with this and with 80 events a year to choose from, all over Cornwall, there will certainly be one that fits the bill for you and your family.

Family time outdoors can help relieve stress, build self esteem, encourage a healthy lifestyle and nurture positive behaviours and respect for each other and the environment. Above all, though, it helps to create fantastic memories for years to come and sparks interest for future family activities – perhaps our gardening club with Tamasin at Perennial Harvest has meant you have started to grow veg at home, too? Or our rockpool rambles with Heather Buttivant have sparked an interest in more beach adventures?

Nik Elvy from Miss Elvy's Curious School of the Wild is soon to run sessions for us too. She says, "The children that work with us carry their enthusiasm home with them and actively encourage their families to get more involved in activities and days out that they may not have planned before. Just one enthusiastic and curious wild child can make a whole family even more wild – we see it happen all the time. In fact, I think I would go as far as saying that one wild and curious child can even impact a neighbourhood or a school."

I'm so proud that our Wildlife Watch sessions can help children and their families in so many ways. To get involved as a family member, do get in touch via Membership on **(01872) 273939** or contact Jo at **wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk** – wild times are waiting for all the family to enjoy.

Joanna Arvor,
Family Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Wildlife Watch

*"They caught all the wild children,
And put them in zoos,
They made them do sums
and wear sensible shoes.
They put them to bed
At the wrong time of day,
And made them sit still
when they wanted to play.
They scrubbed them with soap
and they made them eat peas.
They made them behave and
say pardon and please.
They took all their wisdom
and wildness away.
That's why there are none
in the forests today."*

Jeanne Willis,
from her book *Wild Child*



SEAN GEE



ROB STEVENSON

An in-depth study by Exeter University about the effect of wildlife can be found on our website: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover-learn/naturematters

Can you name
our new

wild beer?

Brewed in partnership with **St Austell Brewery**

As well as naming the beer,
the winner will receive:

- **The chance to select fine Cornish ingredients for the recipe**
- **An invitation to a private brewing event to brew the batch**
- **A case of our specially-brewed wild beer**

Deadline **Friday 1st March 2019**

Please send your ideas to:
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildbeercomp

Sales of the
wild beer include
a donation
to Cornwall
Wildlife Trust



Proud to support
**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**

Competition rules: The name must represent Cornwall's nature.
One entry per person. Entrant must be over 18 years old.



The gift that keeps on giving



Serena Pettigrew-Jolly

In this issue we celebrate the fantastic support we receive from iconic Cornish beer producer and one of the

county's largest employers, St Austell Brewery, writes Serena Pettigrew-Jolly, our Business Support Manager.

You may not think that a quick cup of coffee or leisurely meal out at a local pub could mean a boost for wildlife and wild places, but thanks to St Austell Brewery, those enjoying a tasty treat have been benefiting Cornwall's beautiful natural environment at the same time.

Whether tourists or local residents, everyone can give back to nature through visitor gifting schemes, one of which has seen 5p from every hot drink sold at a selection of St Austell Brewery pubs donated to Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

Charitable and External Relationships Director Piers Thompson comments,

"Since the earliest days of the Brewery, we have always looked to give back to local people and local communities, whether through our Charitable Trust or through sponsorship of good causes. The wonderful wildlife that surrounds us plays a major part in what makes Cornwall such an amazing place to live and work, so we are delighted to have been able to play our own small part in supporting Cornwall Wildlife Trust, which works so hard to protect and preserve the natural habitats of the county for future generations to enjoy."

We are delighted to be working with longstanding supporter St Austell Brewery. Donations from the visitor gifting schemes run by their popular pubs not only help to protect wildlife and wild places in Cornwall, but their customers can also feel assured that they are making a difference to our beautiful county.

Since 2010 St Austell Brewery has donated nearly £15,000, which has been derived from nearly 300,000 cups of tea, coffee or hot chocolate sold!

To celebrate this very generous support, Chris Knight, Curator and PR Manager for St Austell Brewery, was presented with a special wildlife art gift at our recent Wild Business event.



The Brewery has also pledged to involve more pubs with visit or gifting initiatives to further support the Trust's vital conservation work. www.staustellbrewery.co.uk



There are **four pubs** currently running these initiatives, plus their popular Visitor Centre:

- 1 The Lifeboat Inn
St Ives
- 2 The Old Custom House
Padstow
- 3 The Port William Inn
Tintagel
- 4 The Rashleigh Arms
Charlestown
- 5 St Austell Brewery
Visitor Centre
St Austell



To discover more about how your business can work for wildlife, please visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/business or contact Serena Pettigrew-Jolly, Business Support Manager, on (01872) 302264 or serena.pettigrewjolly@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Proud to support
**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



Beaver kits born in Cornwall



Tom Shelley

During the summer we were thrilled to discover that Cornwall's beaver pair have produced young (kits).

Since their release in summer 2017, our male and female beaver have been busy settling into a 5-acre enclosure on Woodland Valley Farm, Ladock, home of the Cornwall Beaver Project and Trust Wildlife Partner.

Mystery of the second beaver lodge

We witnessed the beavers' lodge being built on the main pond island a year ago. After a few months we noticed that another, smaller, lodge had been built on the pond's bank. This had us confused until we realised this was the male beaver building a temporary bachelor pad, ready to move out of the main lodge while the female was nursing.

First glimpses of the kits

Eurasian beavers (*Castor fiber*) have a gestation period of around 105 days – just over three months. They usually breed around January and the kits stay in the lodge for up to a month. So we were hoping to see beaver kits any time from April onwards, but they made us wait until early June.

Chris Jones alerted the team after a lucky glimpse during an evening patrol of the enclosure. Chris saw the female beaver feeding on the bank and she had very pronounced teats, a tell-tale sign that she had given birth. A few nights later he had a glimpse of a small beaver on the island.

Seeing the look of amazement on someone's face at seeing their first beaver dam or even a beaver kit right here in Cornwall is just brilliant! And now people have the chance to see beaver kits for the first time in 400 years – that really is a first for Cornwall and hopefully a glimmer of hope for the UK as a whole.

Tom Shelley, Conservation Manager

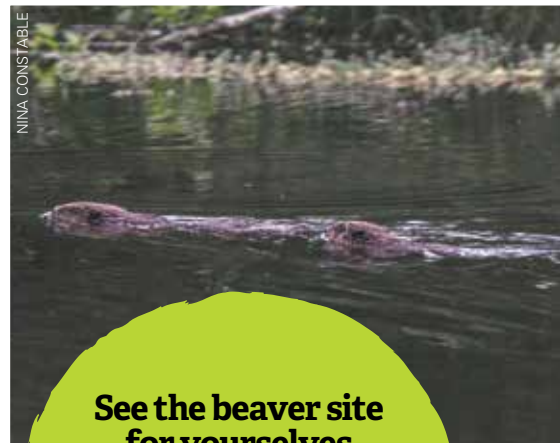
BELOW: The team invited film-maker Nina Constable over and she captured some great sequences of two kits around the lodge entrance, bobbing in the water next to the female. The footage was aired during the last episode of BBC Springwatch 2018 – the beavers had perfect timing!



DAVID PARKYN



NINA CONSTABLE



NINA CONSTABLE

See the beaver site for yourselves

The team are running walks each spring, summer and early autumn.

Book your place at cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop.

did you know?

A nickname for a beaver kit is 'cork' as it bobs up and down in the water like a bottle cork due to its light and buoyant fluffy fur coat

ABOVE: Since these initial glimpses, we have had many great encounters with the beaver family. The kits now regularly swim alone across the main pond to feed in bankside vegetation. People on our public visits have seen them suckling and being groomed by their mother.

DAVID PARKYN

A tribute to Vic Simpson

(18th February 1941 to 31st July 2018)

Cornwall lost an extraordinary man this summer – around 300 people attended his funeral in Truro. Vic was a distinguished veterinary pathologist who, after some six years in Africa, settled in Cornwall in the mid-1970s. He worked at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency at Polwhele until he ‘retired’ in 2001 and set up Britain’s first Wildlife Veterinary Investigation Centre (Wildlife VIC) in Chacewater.

Vic loved a good corpse and he had a string of corpse carriers to bring them to his lab – the ‘body line’ he preferred to call it. I was delighted to join these wonderful people when I started at Cornwall Wildlife Trust in 1998, as a fledging Otters and Rivers Project Officer. Vic’s pioneering work on otters included over 700 otter post mortems, more than any other individual.

Vic’s strandings investigations identified dolphins and porpoises drowning in fishing nets and mass seal deaths due to infections. First discoveries included parasites in pine martens and red squirrels, heartworm in stoats, and bacteria in bats. He also carried out ground-breaking research on birds, including swan deaths in the 1970s resulting in the ban on lead in anglers’ fishing weights and garden bird disease associated with summer feeding at bird tables.



Vic receiving a dead otter in his natural habitat, the laboratory.

KATE HILLS

“Always generous with his time and expertise, Vic was a great man who will be sadly missed for his personality, enthusiasm and remarkable knowledge.”

Mark Nicholson, Chair of Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Vic’s legacy lives on – in the vets he’s trained around the world, the research that carries on and through ‘Simpson Junior’, the stuffed otter used by the Mammal Group and Trust for many events. His work has been recognised by many awards. His last was in 2017: the ‘Special Award’ from the International Otter Survival Fund, at which he said: “The successes we have enjoyed were only possible due to others’ commitment.”

Kate Hills, Cornwall Mammal Group

New Cornwall Nature Reserve fund

This September we launched our Cornwall Nature Reserves Fund. This is in response to an alarming trend as local wildlife continues to diminish at a worrying rate. Our nature reserves are now more important than ever.

Every year it costs **£720,248** to keep our nature reserves wild.

We’re doing all we can to protect this county’s rich and varied landscapes. Will you help us secure the future of your local nature reserves?

Whatever you can afford to give, you will be helping Cornwall’s wildlife to thrive, such as the vulnerable silver-studded blue butterfly, our iconic Cornish chough, and the barbastelle bat, which is one of the rarest mammals with very few breeding sites and identified as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species.

For more information, or to donate, please visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturereservesfund or please call **01872 273939**



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Where to see owls

Ten great places for these mysterious birds, p14



“We love volunteering!”

Seven people explain the attraction

The great otter comeback

From almost extinct to widespread in 40 years

Wildlife-friendly farms

Do they really exist? Of course they do

22,000 support call to protect our sea life

Huge response to six-week public consultation on designating more Marine Conservation Zones

Thank you. In the six weeks leading up to July 20th, 22,000 of you signed up to our Wave of Support campaign, urging Environment Secretary Michael Gove to designate 41 new Marine Conservation Zones in the seas around England. This is the latest triumph in a decades-long battle to secure better protection for the wildlife in our seas.

Until recently, we had no way of protecting nationally important marine sites in England and Wales, and only 0.001% of our seabed was protected. So we campaigned for the Marine and Coastal Access Act, which passed in 2009 and

paved the way for more protected sites in English seas. After two public consultations and campaigns by The Wildlife Trusts, Government has designated 50 new Zones in English waters. This is a great start, but we need a network of protected areas covering every kind of habitat and threatened

“ We hope to hear the consultation outcome in early 2019 ”



How to draw a shark in the sand. Doing the entire UK is a bit harder

species. This latest consultation could take us one step closer to a complete network. The Government has up to a year to decide which of

The 47-year fight for marine protection

1971



Lundy, off Devon, becomes Britain's first Marine Protected Area

1990

Skomer in Wales is designated a Marine Nature Reserve



1995



Northern Ireland's Strangford Lough is designated a Marine Nature Reserve

2002

The Wildlife Trusts begin campaigning for a Marine Act



2009



Marine and Coastal Access Act passed in England. Scotland follows in 2010.

2013

First 27 English Marine Conservation Zones designated. Northern Ireland Marine Act passed.



To raise awareness of the need for more MCZs, we drew the UK and its marine life on Filey Beach, North Yorkshire

the 41 proposed Marine Conservation Zones they will formally designate. We hope to hear the outcome in early 2019.

Designating a Zone is just the beginning. We need to make sure these sites are managed well. This means restricting damaging activities, such as scallop dredging and bottom trawling, which threaten the wildlife that the site is designated to protect.

Restrictions are already in place for some of the first sites to be designated, such as The Manacles on the southern coast of Cornwall. With enough sites designated and proper management, our seas can thrive again.

2014

Scottish Government designates 30 Marine Protected Areas (plus one more in 2017).

2016

23 more English Zones designated. Four more in Northern Ireland.



2018



Consultation on third tranche of English Marine Conservation Zones.

“

Latest UK-wide news and issues: wildlifetrusts.org/news

Next job: an Environment Act



You are part of a powerful grassroots movement for wildlife – one that has been central to securing strong laws for wildlife on land and sea since the 1940s. Most recently your support for the latest list of potential Marine Conservation Zones sent a strong message to Government. Thank you.

But just as we make some progress at sea – and all is not won there either – so we must mobilise again for the wildlife that lives with us on the land.

Out-dated road building proposals scrapped in the 1980s are back on the table – an M4 extension across the Gwent Levels, a bypass across iconic water meadows near Arundel and an “expressway” to dissect and destroy tracts of the Upper Ray valley between Oxford and Cambridge. And all this at a time of great uncertainty about farming and fisheries as we leave the EU.

Facing these new challenges we must be strong, united and determined. We need everyone we can muster to make their dedication to wildlife visible and their voices heard. We need to challenge destructive road proposals and secure an Environment Act that puts nature into recovery. The Westminster Government is committed to an Environment Act of some kind, but it will be down to us to make sure this is truly ambitious, hard-hitting and cross-government.

Take whatever action you can – make that hole in your fence for hedgehogs, keep your garden unpaved, stop buying peat – and share your actions to encourage others to act too.

Also, please think about who your elected politicians are and let them know that you want laws which set targets for nature’s recovery, maps to identify where habitats must be protected and improved, and strong enforcement.

Join our campaign for a Wilder British Isles!

Stephanie Hilborne

Stephanie Hilborne OBE

Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts
@stepphilborne

The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Rd, Newark, Notts NG24 1WT

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Charity No: 207238

Cover: Short-eared Owl at Worlaby Carrs, Lincs by Danny Green

A golf course here?

Scottish Government considers development threat to pristine Sutherland dune system

Sand dunes are home to rare species that live nowhere else, but they're also one of the fastest-disappearing habitats in the world. Despite this, an internationally important Scottish dune system is threatened by a plan to turn it into a golf course.

The dunes, at Coul Links in East Sutherland, are a complete undisturbed system with a mosaic of habitats that support otter, osprey, curlew and cuckoo.

The development was approved by local councillors but is now in the hands of Ministers who say the case is of 'national importance'.

Jonny Hughes, Chief Executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust said: "This is one of the most important planning decisions in recent years.

It's only right that it is considered by the Scottish Government. We urge Ministers to maintain their protection of fragile, internationally rare habitats."

Coul Links is special
Find out more about this exceptional wilderness at wtru.st/coul-links



The site includes extensive wetlands where ospreys are a top predator



The dune system at Coul Links is part of a SSSI and SPA. These designations should protect it

CRAIG ALLARDYCE

Norfolk reconnects people and commons



Coming for a walk? Roydon Common, a Norfolk Wildlife Trust nature reserve

RICHARD OSBOURNE



A pine marten is a rare sighting in England

Pine martens back in Derbyshire?

Pine martens are cat-sized relatives of the otter and weasel, found in woodlands where they live in tree holes and old nests.

They were once common across the UK, but woodland clearance, the fur industry and persecution by gamekeepers has driven them close to extinction in England. Now this

rare mammal is only recorded in a few English counties. Derbyshire was not one of them, until wildlife photographer Andy Parkinson noticed a dead male on a road between Belper and Ripley.

This is the first confirmed presence of the species in Derbyshire in 16 years.

Huge land donation for Cumbria

Cumbria Wildlife Trust has been gifted a new nature reserve, ensuring protection for the many species that call the site home, including adders, spotted flycatchers and yellowhammers. At 105 hectares, Lowick Common is the largest land donation in the Trust's history.

It comes from Yvonne Miller, who bought it with her husband Jim in 1990: "It is a great joy to the family that we can hand Lowick Common over to the Trust so that future generations are able to enjoy it."



ANDREW WALTER

Lowick Common: a ready-made reserve

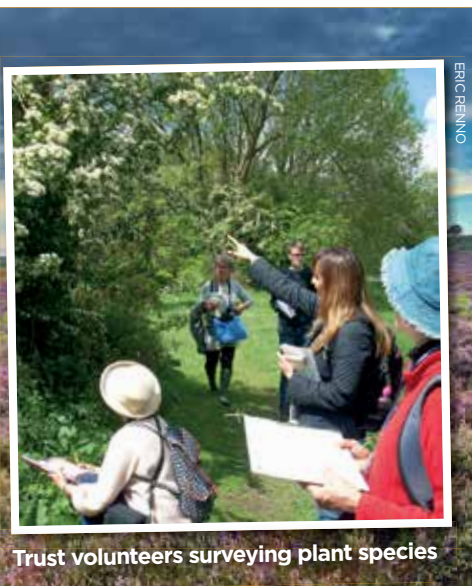


Five barn owl chicks in one brood is a record for Northern Ireland

Record brood of barn owls

Barn owls are one of Northern Ireland's most endangered birds, with only around 50 breeding pairs in the country. Intensification of agriculture, use of rodenticides and an increase in major roads are all likely to have driven the population decline, but Ulster Wildlife are

working to reverse their fortunes by advising landowners on how best to help barn owls. This summer, the tiny population was boosted by the discovery of five chicks in a single nest – the largest brood of barn owls ever recorded in Northern Ireland.



ERIC RHENNO

Trust volunteers surveying plant species

Around 3% of England is common land, where landowners have traditionally granted the public rights such as walking or grazing livestock. These places are often full of wildlife, with many designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has begun a two-year project to reconnect people with these ancient places, celebrating

“It could lead to the creation of new commons in Norfolk”

the wildlife and heritage of the county's 300 commons. The Trust will help communities trying to protect commons, enlist volunteers to collect wildlife records and run events involving schools, artists and museums. There will also be help for people researching their history.

This could lead to the creation of new commons in Norfolk, perhaps as community orchards or coppice woodlands, allowing residents to have a real stake in the land. It would also provide new places to walk and enjoy wildlife.

The project, jointly run with Norfolk County Council and the University of East Anglia, is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Essex & Suffolk Water Branch Out fund.

Ever thought of volunteering?

45,000 people volunteer for The Wildlife Trusts. Here, seven of them explain why they do it. Could you join them?

Volunteers are the heart of the Wildlife Trusts. We were founded by volunteers, we're governed by volunteers and, without the dedication of the thousands who give us their time and talents each year, we would not be able to look after so many wild places.

From serving cakes to laying hedges, there's a world of possibilities as a Wildlife Trust volunteer. We spoke to seven (well, six and one family) from around the UK, to find out what they had to say about their experiences.

SIMON GREENER



"I now know that being out in nature makes me feel better"

Steven Morris, Northumberland

Steven volunteers for Northumberland Wildlife Trust as a wildlife photographer. He didn't have an easy childhood. He was bullied, had a difficult father, and struggled with school. To avoid going home in the evenings, he went for walks in nature instead. When he got his first camera at the age of eleven, he fell in love with photography. He has kept

these two passions alive ever since.

Steven explains that, as an adult, he has suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and depression, which has left him hospitalised. He has struggled to work full-time and battled with loneliness. Volunteering with the

Trust has given his life purpose, he says.

"Before, I'd have days where life felt empty. I'd panic about what I was going to do; now, after being out in nature with my camera, I feel more positive, confident, peaceful and relaxed."

Now Steven is setting up a photography group. "A lot of over-

Steven's love of nature and photography has helped him battle depression



40s are lonely and isolated. In the group I can share my passion and knowledge and inspire other people.”

“Getting out of bed can be so difficult, but I have done a lot of things in my life despite my mental health problems. I have had things confirmed to me since volunteering – I now know that being out in nature makes me feel better.”

Nathan Legall, London

Having grown up near Walthamstow Wetlands, Nathan joined London Wildlife Trust on an internship. He learned habitat management, and how to lead other volunteers. “It was a springboard into conservation. It improved my communication skills. For the first time, I was excited to go to work.”

Nathan's family has a history of volunteering. “But there's a cultural barrier; people from ethnic backgrounds think, ‘It's not for me’. There are socio-economic reasons too. London Wildlife Trust helps break down those barriers.”

Nathan is now employed by the Trust, and will soon move to Somerset Wildlife Trust, as their Wetland Ecologist.

“For the first time, I was excited to go to work”



Nathan loved exploring local wild places as a child. Volunteering turned his interest into a career

PENNY DIXIE

Megan Humphreys, Yorkshire

Megan volunteers with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as part of the *Tomorrow's Natural Leaders* programme.

"We did scrub clearance, river management, working with volunteer and education groups. Then we did a self-led project. I did one on mental health, working with the NHS and our local college."

Megan has learned how to work with people from different backgrounds and improved her communication skills. She's made new friends, and hopes to pursue a career in nature conservation and mental health.

"I did scrub clearance, and a project on mental health"

TOM HODKIN

Megan at Potteric Carr nature reserve near Doncaster



Crishni uses her NHS experience to help her local Trust

Crishni Waring, Warwickshire

Crishni was raised in Sri Lanka, surrounded by nature, and her family were enthusiastic about wildlife conservation.

In 2014, she signed up as a trustee with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. "I couldn't imagine volunteering in other ways, but I could make a real contribution with business experience, and talking about the health and wellbeing benefits of nature."

Crishni has been Chair of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for two years now. She is also Chair of an NHS Trust.

OFFSHOOT'S PHOTOGRAPHY



Bronwen has just won the Wales Council for Voluntary Action's 'Green Volunteer of the Year'.

Bronwen Jenkins, Radnorshire

81-year-old Bronwen has been volunteering for nearly 30 years with Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

She's cut down bracken, built stone walls, laid hedges, led walks, been a trustee and put on exhibitions of embroidery at the Gilfach nature reserve.

"I'm still reasonably fit so hope to go as long as I can," she says. "You

can see at the end of the day the results of what you've done. And doing it as long as I've been, I can see long term results."

Bronwen also enjoys the social side. "It's good to get out with people who have other interests. I've made lots of friends. My favourite thing is working together and getting results."

Katrina, Alan, Amelia & Ethan Bradbury, Norfolk

Katrina, husband Alan and Amelia and Ethan have volunteered at Cley Marshes nature reserve for a year. They wanted to find a way of giving back as a family.

"We go out on the reserve and we identify and count species, then radio back what we see, so the public know what's out and

where. We started off with just birds but expanded from there. Ethan likes insects and lizards and arachnids, so he takes photos of those little things. We also help with events. The kids are engaging other children so it's not intimidating for them; they all have fun by learning together."

The Bradburys at Cley Marshes - a splendid place for a sunny day



Jackie Walker, Durham

35-year-old Jackie has volunteered for Durham Wildlife Trust for nine years now. She had found it hard to find work, so decided to try volunteering instead. It gives her a sense of purpose and is sociable too; her cerebral palsy doesn't stop her keeping the Trust going.

"I do typing, form writing, dealing with enquiries and communications. It has helped me feel motivated. My favourite part of volunteering is seeing people. I've made friends."



Jackie has helped keep Durham Wildlife Trust running for nine years

Get involved!

Volunteering with your Wildlife Trust isn't just good for wildlife - it's good for you, too.

A University of Essex study with The Wildlife Trusts found that after just six weeks, 95% of volunteers who started with low mental health improved dramatically. Those starting with an average-to-high wellbeing felt better too.

Volunteering is a chance to connect with other people and learn new skills. It helps you stay active, immerse yourself in nature and take notice of natural changes. We build our volunteering programmes around these principles.

And of course, you're helping the wildlife you love.

■ Find out more on wildlifetrusts.org/volunteer

The great otter comeback

Forty years ago, pollution and habitat destruction had almost wiped out otters in England. But times change

Last August, an otter was found dead in Sussex. It might sound like a tragedy, but in many ways it is a cause for celebration. Otters had made a miraculous comeback across many areas of the UK, but in the South East the population was recovering more slowly: this was evidence indicating that otters are present, even if in small numbers.



Miriam Darlington is the author of *Otter Country* (2012) and *Owl Sense*.

across the UK. If they do, it will be in part due to efforts by The Wildlife Trusts, the Environment Agency, Water companies and many others to clean up our rivers.”

There is more to celebrate than the simple presence of otters, however. With the benefit of science we now understand the complex relationship between predators and their ecosystems. In Yellowstone, USA, reintroduced wolves have improved biodiversity.

“We have waited a long time for otters to return,” says Fran Southgate from Sussex Wildlife Trust. “We have lost vast areas of natural wetland, and few of our rivers and wetlands can be seen as natural or healthy. Otters are only just beginning to re-colonise the South East. It is fantastic to think that within the next 10-20 years, they may regain their previous population levels

Off the west coast of the US, a recovering population of sea otters have helped restore kelp beds – a crucial habitat and absorber of CO₂ – by feeding on the sea urchins that were wiping the kelp out.

So if a predator is under threat, there is a serious issue to address. The otter in Britain is a prime example, where it plays an important role in the ecosystems of our rivers.

From the Industrial Revolution, the otter began to suffer a decline from persecution, pollution and damage to its habitat. Following the Second World War, its situation worsened due to the proliferation of agricultural poisons and the most misguided period of land management in history, when rivers were straightened and cleared of bank-



Otters are happy in the sea too. Look for them on quiet Scottish beaches

“We need farming and industrial policies that help us keep our otters”

Utterly at home in the water, an otter polishes off an eel for Laurie Campbell's camera



How to spot an otter

Get up early

- 1 Dawn and dusk are the best times. It is also when much other wildlife is most active. Their behaviour may give away an otter's presence

LAURIE CAMPBELL

side vegetation. Once widespread, the otter began to vanish. By the 1970s, it was facing extinction.

The recovery that followed is remarkable, but new threats are replacing old ones. Pollutants such as fire-retardant chemicals used in clothing, carpets and household furnishings can leach into rivers. These chemicals have been found to impair reproduction and immune functions in seals, and concentrations have been found in the livers of otters.



Observe other animals

2 Otters are formidable predators. A flock of ducks suddenly swimming rapidly one way, glancing over their shoulders, could be a sign of an otter nearby.

Look for other clues

3 A tell-tale trail of bubbles might mean the otter has seen you first! Belly-slide marks into water, paw prints on mud, and poo (spraints) are all promising signs.

Get lucky

4 Otters are now on every river catchment in the UK. They have even been seen in the heart of some of our biggest cities, so you never know...

The Wildlife Trusts are part of Blueprint for Water, a coalition of charities working with Government to restore the UK's rivers, lakes and waterways to meet the European Water Framework Directive's deadlines.

As we leave the EU, it's critical that we retain strong regulations about what goes into our rivers. That includes farming and industrial policies that help us keep our otters, and continue their amazing comeback.

What a recovery

The 1977-79 map shows recorded signs of otters from the first *Otter Survey of England*. The later one gathers together 1995-2016 presence data. It is taken from *The Mammal Society's A Review of the Population and Conservation Status of British Mammals: Technical Summary*.

1977-79



1995-2016



“My dad ploughed up hedges; I planted them.”

What does it take to be a wildlife-friendly farmer? Simon Barnes finds out from Guy Tucker

We forget about the passion for land. We are, more than ever, city people these days. We talk about real estate, and think that land is something to do with money, and that the land becomes better – ie more valuable – as soon as you’ve got planning permission to build on it. We’ve forgotten that land is life.

Human life, yes, and many other kinds of life as well. And that can stir the most profound feelings in the human soul, not for what kind of income the land will generate, but

“You have to work four or five years ahead”

what kind of life can spring from it. A gardener knows something of this; a farmer knows a great deal more.

I was walking with Guy Tucker, around his farm in Hertfordshire, and it was clear from the first step that he is a man of passions. Farming is a

business, sure, but offer Guy a non-farming business with twice as much money and half as much work, he’d turn you down flat.

His family have been farming the same land for three generations. It was a beltingly hot day, and we took a cut through woodland past the places where Guy played as a boy. From the shade we looked out at tall hedges, wide field margins, areas planted for pollen and nectar, wild bird cover.

We have grown accustomed to the notion that farming and wildlife

Jordans supplier Guy Tucker manages more than ten per cent of his farm for wildlife

MATTHEW ROBERTS



Simon Barnes is a sports and wildlife journalist, and author of *How to be a Bad Birdwatcher*



Guy is passionate about combining farming and wildlife



Properly maintained hedges shelter birds and mammals



Wide field margins feature nectar and pollen bearing plants



And there's still plenty of crops for a sustainable business

conservation are incompatible. Farmers have been seen as the enemy of wildlife – and if there is some truth in that, it's a view that's a generation out of date here.

"My father was one of the worst," Guy remembered. "And his neighbour was just the same. But that's changing. My father ploughed up hedges; I've planted them."

Guy runs one of 40 farms that supply Jordans with the oats they make their products from. A partnership between Jordans and The Wildlife Trusts (see panel below) requires the farmer to manage at least ten per cent of farmland for wildlife. Woodland doesn't count. Guy is well over that ten per cent.

The total for all Jordans farms is more than 4,000 hectares managed

for wildlife: buzzing with bees, flashing with butterflies, jumping with mammals and singing with birds. The scheme is important for what it does; and also because it shows what can be done.

Guy was drawn into this creative way of managing land by changes in farming. Mixed farms – combining arable and livestock – became unprofitable and the Tucker family were forced to sell their cattle. Guy felt he was ready, as one of the next generation, to take on new challenges, and make them work financially.

And that is always the greatest challenge in

farming. "You need a solid base to your business to be able to do this," he said. "You have to work constantly four or five years ahead."

We passed a handsome badger sett in the wood. From the harsh blue sky a buzzard yowled suddenly. Guy's farm has the biggest population of linnets and bramblings in the county.

And why not? It's all the same thing: managing land so that it supports more life. In the UK, 70 percent of all land is farmed: it's thrilling that an increasing amount of the life supported by farms is wild, and vital that it continues.



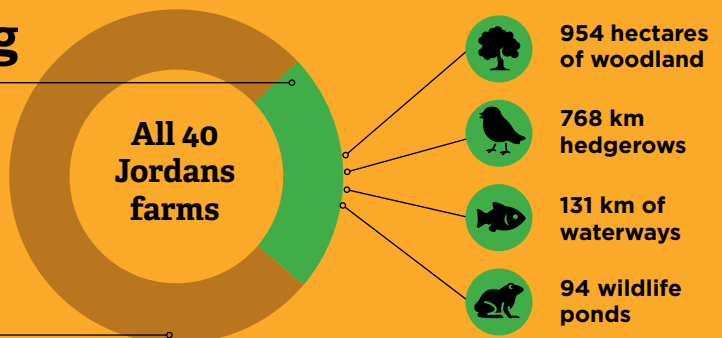
Look for our logo on packets of Jordans cereal

Here's what we're achieving

The Jordans Farm Partnership with The Wildlife Trusts assigns an advisor to each farm from the local Wildlife Trust. Using their expertise on the local area, the advisors develop a bespoke farm plan, focussing on key species and habitats relevant to the farm's local landscape.

Total area of habitat
4,580
hectares

Total area of farmed land
15,500
hectares



Top places to see owls

Everyone loves owls – beautiful to behold, silent in flight and quite unlike any other birds. And winter is a great time to see them



ANDY ROUSE

Brave the cold this winter and you'll have the chance to see some of our strangest and most impressive birds.

While tawny and long-eared owls are most active at night, our other owls are often seen hunting in the day, especially around dusk and dawn. Little owls watch for prey from old trees, barn owls like rough grassland and short-eared owls winter on saltmarshes and flood meadows.

For the best chance, head out on a still, dry day, in the last few hours before dusk.

1 Cors Goch **North Wales Wildlife Trust**

Extensive wetlands, heath and grassland make Cors Goch one of North Wales Wildlife Trust's best sites for seeing barn owls. Look for them emerging to hunt as dusk falls.

Where is it? Anglesey LL78 8JZ
Map reference: SH 504 816

2 Falls of Clyde **Scottish Wildlife Trust**

The woodland surrounding these spectacular waterfalls is home to tawny owls, famous for their distinctive calls. As the light fades,

listen out for a haunting "hooouh" echoing through the trees.

Where is it? New Lanark ML11 9DB
Map reference: NS 881 423

3 Eycott Hill **Cumbria Wildlife Trust**

Watch for the silent shape of a wintering short-eared owl as you admire the views from this peaceful upland nature reserve.

Where is it? Near Berrier, CA11 0XD
Map reference: NY 394 301

4 Woodside Farm **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**

Share your experiences

Tweet us your best owl photos from your day out @wildlifetrusts #LoveWildlife



It's hard to imagine a more perfect stealth flier than a barn owl

What's out there

Tawny owl



A nocturnal owl of parks and woodland, famous for its haunting call.

Long-eared owl

Smaller than a tawny, with orange eyes, and large 'ear' tufts to aid camouflage.



Short-eared owl



Often seen hunting by day, they have pale feathers and piercing yellow eyes.

Barn owl

The familiar owl of farmlands, with dark eyes in a heart-shaped face.



Little owl



Tiny but with a ferocious stare, they sometimes chase prey on foot.

MARGARET HOLLAND

TERRY WHITTAKER/2020VISION

JON HAWKINS

DAVID CHAPMAN

ANDY ROUSE

7 Rye Harbour nature reserve Sussex Wildlife Trust

A mosaic of coastal habitats, Rye Harbour hosts all five regularly occurring UK species. Long-eared only appear occasionally, but short-eared, barn, little and tawny owls are all commonly seen or heard.

Where is it? Winchelsea TN31 7TX
Map reference: TQ 942 189

8 Farlington Marshes Hampshire & Isle of Wight WT

In winter, short-eared owls are easily spotted hunting above the open fields of Farlington Marshes, adding to the spectacle of the thousands of wintering wildfowl.

Where is it? Solent Way PO6 1UN
Map reference: SU 685 045

9 Folly Farm Avon Wildlife Trust

As night falls in the woodland surrounding Folly Farm, listen out for the calls of tawny owls. Don't forget to watch for the local badgers too. There is an extensive sett visible from the path.

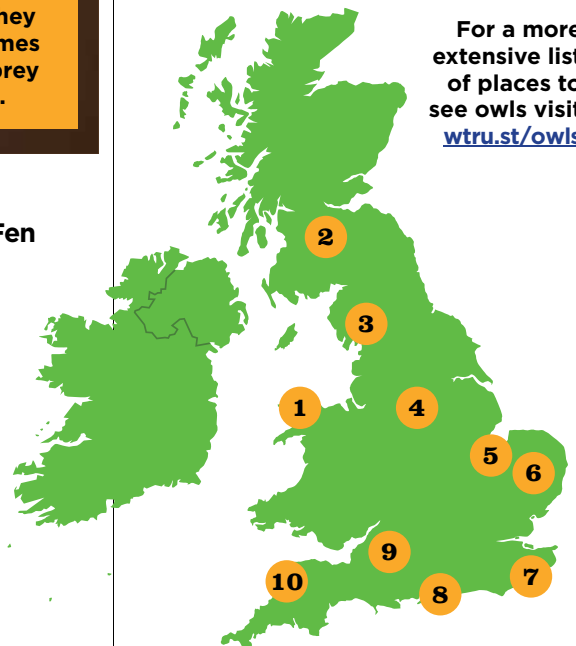
Where is it? Stowey BS39 4DW
Map reference: ST 607 603

10 Hawkes Wood Cornwall Wildlife Trust

A delightful oak woodland with tawny owls. Check tree cavities and branches near the trunk; you might spot one roosting during the day.

Where is it? Just south of Treneague, Bodmin
Map reference: SW 986 710

For a more extensive list of places to see owls visit wtru.st/owls



This former colliery is teeming with bird life, including plenty of birds of prey. Little owls, barn owls and both long and short-eared owls have all been spotted in winter.

Where is it? Shipley DE75 7JL
Map reference: SK 449 439

5 Willow Tree Fen Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

This fenland reserve includes large areas of rough grassland, providing the perfect hunting grounds for barn owls.

Where is it? Spalding PE11 3JH
Map reference: TF 181 213

6 Redgrave and Lopham Fen Suffolk Wildlife Trust

A winter evening's stroll around this impressive and varied wetland (which is partly maintained by Konik ponies) could reveal the ghostly shape of a hunting barn owl, though it's easy to be distracted by the thousands of starlings flocking together in amazing murmurations.

Where is it? South Lopham, IP22 2HX
Map reference: TM 052 802



Your Wild Life. Your Wildlife Trusts.



Wildlife Trusts around the UK are making amazing things happen on land and at sea, for wildlife and for people. We couldn't do it without the support of our members. Here's what we achieved with your help in the past year...

our impact

We care for

102,000

hectares of land including



2,300

nature reserves



There are more Wildlife Trust nature reserves than there are UK branches of *McDonald's* and *Burger King* restaurants combined!

We are supported by

c.850,000

members & over

35,000

volunteers

Thank You!

250,000

people took part in 30 Days Wild

Millions 

of visits are made to our nature reserves every year, and we have

121

visitor and education centres



We advise more than


4,000

landowners across the UK who manage

145,000

hectares of land for wildlife 

22,000

people responded to our call for more protected areas at sea 

Over

450,000

people enjoyed our walks, talks and events

& we run

191 Wildlife Watch groups

which inspire **9,500** children



happy christmas



A huge thank you for supporting us,
from everyone here at Cornwall Wildlife Trust

You still have time to order some of these stunning
wildlife Christmas cards from our online shop,
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop.

You can also ring **Carolyn O'Hagan** on **01872 302233**.

*Your help is protecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places –
thank you so much!*





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and we hope this calendar inspires you to share our appreciation of Cornwall's precious wild places and the incredible wildlife that finds a home here.

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