

Cornwall
Wildlife Trust



Wild Cornwall

ISSUE 138 SPRING 2019

Including
pull-out
Diary of
Events

Rewilding in Cornwall

More than wildcats
and wolves?

Eco-diving in Cornwall

The future of
tourism?

A wilder Cornwall

Our vision for
the future

welcome



Carolyn Cadman

Hurray! Spring is here – my favourite time of year. The days are getting longer and there's more time to explore the wild places of Cornwall with my family or – if I'm after a bit of a recharge – a walk on my own with nature for company.

Last summer I spent time thinking about the best way to describe and communicate what Cornwall Wildlife Trust is working towards with our partners, what we want and what we do. You can read more about how we are working towards a 'Wilder Cornwall' on page 9 and sign up to our online newsletter to find out how you can be involved – from small daily actions to larger organised campaigns.

We have such an important opportunity with the pending changes to our laws that will change our lives, our wildlife and the lives of future generations. Now is the time to be part of it.

However, there is much to celebrate here, with Cornwall leading the way in badger vaccination, a magical seahorse showing that sustainable fisheries are working, and the possibilities that rewilding can offer Cornwall's wider habitat.

So to celebrate our wildlife successes and opportunities, a special date for the diary is our new wild day out – 'Wilder Festival' – on Sunday 26th May at Mount Pleasant Eco Park: a mini-festival of forage and feasting, nature trails, forest schools and wildlife workshops. We will also be running a wildlife-inspired art exhibition and a children's fancy dress parade. Get in touch if you'd like to be involved, or just bring the family and friends and enjoy a nature-filled day outdoors.

See you there!

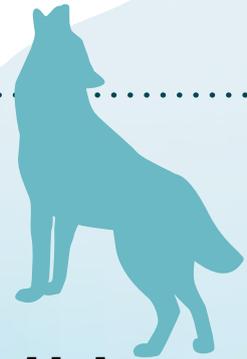
Carolyn Cadman,
Chief Executive, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

in this issue

FEATURES

04 **Rewilding – it's not all about wildcats and wolves**

12 **Cornwall as a world-class eco-dive destination**



Contacts:

General and volunteer enquiries: info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
Membership info: members@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk (01872) 273939
Wildlife Information Service: (01872) 302250
Business Support: (01872) 302264

Cornwall Wildlife Trust Local & Specialist Groups:
localgroups@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

We have links with many Local Groups you can get involved with – they are all listed on our website:
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups

Marine Strandings Network Hotline: 0345 2012626

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ.
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Any material intended for publication should be sent to Ella Clark:
ella.clark@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

Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd. Trading as Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Registered charity number 214929. A company limited by guarantee and registered in England.

Registration number 732511.

Registered office:
Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DJ.

VAT registration number 213 2687 26.

Wild Cornwall and its envelope use paper from responsible sources.

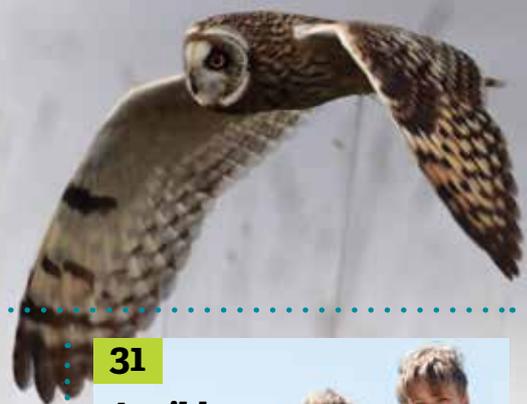


Cover photo: Female spiny seahorse, Alexander Mustard / 2020VISION

[/CornwallWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/CornwallWildlife) [@CwallWildlife](https://twitter.com/CwallWildlife) [@cornwallwildlifetrust](https://www.instagram.com/cornwallwildlifetrust) [CornwallWildlifeTrust](https://www.youtube.com/CornwallWildlifeTrust)

We hope you like your membership magazine, but if you'd prefer not to receive this, please just contact Membership and let them know. Our privacy policy is on our website at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-tc





Wild Cornwall NEWS & UPDATES

08 Conservation catch-up

09 *Wilder*
CORNWALL

10 Nature reserves news


14 
Hands off our craws

15 Could beef be wilder?

16 Photographic Group

18 Your Local Groups

19 Building with nature

20 Student voice for wildlife

21 
Badger Vaccination Appeal

22 Open Gardens 2019

23 Nature notices

24 Diary of events


31

A wilder way to do business


32

Be a wildlife superhero

33

A day in the life



35

Natural World

UK news from The Wildlife Trusts

52

Wilder Festival

Know anyone who wants to go wild?

Gift Membership lasts a 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 not only three *Wild Cornwall* magazines a year, but also 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.

Trustee Officers are:

Dr Nick Tregenza – President

Mark Nicholson – Vice President

Daniel Eva – Hon Secretary, Chair of Staff Welfare and Reward Package Advisory Committee

Paul Coyne – Hon Treasurer, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Stephen Warman – Chair of Council

Ian Pye – Vice-Chair of Council

Steve Crummay – Chair of ERCCIS Advisory Board

Fred Currie – Chair of Nature Reserves Committee

Frank Howie – Chair of Conservation Strategy Committee

Dee Reeves – Chair of Marketing and Fundraising Committee and Interim Chair Five Acres/Two Burrows Working Group

Rewilding

It's not all about wildcats and wolves



Cheryl Marriott
Head of Conservation

The concept of rewilding has grabbed traditional nature conservation thinking by the shoulders and given it a much-needed shake. But does the term make you anxious or excited? Rewilding means very different things to different people.

The idea seems to originate from the US, where conservation projects were developed in the 1990s covering vast tracts of land. These initiatives often involved the reintroduction of large predators that had previously been lost. To some, rewilding must include top predator reintroductions to qualify. This is a big reason for nervousness surrounding rewilding, with people concerned about the safety of domestic pets and livestock. But as Rewilding Britain (a new charity formed after the publication of George Monbiot's book, *Feral*) rightly point out, rewilding is not all about wolves and lynx. The trick is to take the principles of the pioneering projects and translate them to suit other places, including areas that are significantly smaller and more heavily populated.

CASE STUDY

Carrifran Wildwood

There is a growing list of projects across the UK that have been inspired by the rewilding idea. Carrifran in Dumfries and Galloway used to be a barren Scottish glen. Heavy grazing by sheep and goats meant the vegetation was sparse and species-poor, supporting very few types of birds and mammals. Between 2000 and 2004 the grazing animals were removed and, with some human help in the form of tree planting, nature began to recover. Montane scrub, heath and bog are regaining their former status while notable plants, birds, insects and small mammals multiply in their new-found haven. The landscape impact is dramatic; the dull and denuded vegetation has been replaced by thousands of oak, ash, alder, hazel, birch, holly, hawthorn, juniper, bird cherry and willow saplings. It is still early days in the life of a wildwood. In future, decisions will need to be made about allowing large herbivores in to create the disturbance and variety in habitats needed to support maximum biodiversity. Carrifran is a great demonstration of how positive and dramatic landscape-scale change can be, and how quickly wildlife responds.

Find out more at:
<https://bordersforesttrust.org>

before

CASE STUDY

Knepp Wildland Project

The Knepp Castle Estate used to be 3,500 acres of intensive dairy and arable farmland situated on heavy weald clay in West Sussex. The farm rarely made a profit and in 2001 the entire farming system was changed; internal fences were removed and free-roaming grazing animals – longhorn cattle, Exmoor ponies, Tamworth pigs and two species of deer were introduced, acting as proxies for herbivores that would have grazed the land thousands of years ago. The ethos is for humans to take a step back and let natural processes – in this case large herbivore grazing – take control. The different grazing preferences help create a mosaic of habitats, from grassland and scrub to open-grown trees and wood pasture. The increase in biodiversity has been astonishing. In just over a decade Knepp is now a breeding hotspot for purple emperor butterflies, turtle doves and nightingales.

Find out more at <https://knepp.co.uk/home> or by reading *Wilding* by Isabella Tree.



The Knepp wilding project in Sussex has demonstrated how quickly wildlife can recover when humans take a step back and let nature and natural processes take over, like in this mosaic of scrub and flower-rich grassland.

CHERYL MARRIOTT

after



Could some Trust nature reserves like Windmill Farm be managed differently in future, following rewilding principles?

NICK MARRIOTT

Rewilding – it's not all about wildcats and wolves

The essence of rewilding is the reinstatement or 'upgrading' of natural processes. These might be rivers allowed to move freely in a floodplain, streams newly dammed by beavers, or grazing animals given the freedom to roam larger areas and behave more naturally than in conventional farming. Ultimately, the aim is to move towards a point where nature can look after itself, without the need for humans to garden it with chainsaws, brushcutters, mowers and flails. You can think of rewilding as a spectrum of natural process function, from low on the left to high on the right. Low would be conventional intensive farmland and high would be an area where wildlife looks after itself. If natural processes can be upgraded at least in part and you move from left to right you are going in the right direction, even if full-on rewilding isn't possible.

“ We're seeing a surge of interest in rewilding, from all corners of the country. So many people want to see nature not just clinging on, but thriving again, and us with it. That's as much about our oceans as our land. Cornwall has a huge part to play. ”

Alistair Driver, Specialist Advisor for Rewilding Britain

A nerve-racking difference between rewilding and human-led nature conservation management is that there is no defined end point. Traditional nature conservation in the UK is rooted in protecting areas of wildlife habitat that survived as land use around them changed. It was the best we had, but was already highly modified by humans over the centuries. We have come to think of these modified habitats as something we should protect exactly as they are now, rather than how we could make them even better. Another issue is that we are often restricted in the way we manage land, including nature reserves, due to financial necessity. Land management has to follow set rules in order to qualify for agricultural subsidy payments. This does little to reinstate natural processes on nature reserves because the subsidy scheme is designed for land with food production as its primary purpose, not wildlife enhancement. An ecological case of round peg, square hole.

Without a cultural memory of natural ecosystem function in the UK, it's no wonder that we are nervous about the landscape change that results from rewilding. But with 56% of UK species in decline despite our best efforts (a trend mirrored in Cornwall), surely a big shake-up is called for? Perhaps it's time to leave our ecological comfort zone.



This valley in Bavaria has been recolonised by beavers and other wildlife is now thriving as a result

We are unlikely to see wildcats or wolves returning to Cornwall in our lifetimes, but beaver reintroductions could transform the countryside.



Wolf

DAMIAN WATERS / DRUMIMAGES.CO.UK



Wildcat

ELLIOT SMITH



A beaver dam-building

DAVID PARKYN



The topography of this farmland in Cornwall is similar. Imagine if beavers were given the space to create incredible wetland habitats here

Factfile



rewildingbritain.org.uk

Feral
by George Monbiot



Wilding
by Isabella Tree

Conservation catch-up

Nowedhyans gwithans



Cheryl Marriott
Head of Conservation

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

Badger vaccination in Cornwall

Over 50% of Cornwall is currently within a badger cull zone, with further expansion possible this year. This is a desperately sad situation but there is some room for optimism:

- The Government's Godfray review of bovine TB Policy recognised the potential of badger vaccination. We are now waiting to see what the Government's response to the review is and what policy change will result.
- The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is re-starting its vaccination trial in West Cornwall, led by Professor Rosie Woodroffe.
- We are working with ZSL to vaccinate badgers on our nature reserves. There is currently no government financial support to do this but we feel this is the right thing to do (please see page 21 for information on our Badger Vaccination Appeal).
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust, with ZSL, is working with a proactive group of farmers in mid-Cornwall to vaccinate badgers on the land they farm this summer.



Watch this space and our social media channels for updates.



Hedgehog monitoring to start

With help from Cornwall Mammal Group, the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) and the University of Exeter, we will be starting hedgehog monitoring this spring using hedgehog tunnels. The plastic tunnels contain ink pads that the hedgehogs walk over to reach bait, leaving footprints on the tracking paper. We will repeat this annually on selected Trust nature reserves and other sites to find out what is happening to the hedgehog population in Cornwall.



CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST

Cornwall Good Seafood Guide spreads its influence

Our Marine Awareness Officer Matt Slater gave a presentation to top chefs at the Plenary Meeting of the Royal Society of Culinary Arts in London recently. The event was attended by 60 of the country's most influential chefs. www.cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk



MATT SLATER

Dive surveys find rare goby and blenny

Seasearch divers have been busy surveying below the waves at some of Cornwall's marine wildlife hotspots. They carried out surveys in St Austell Bay, the Padstow Bay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation, the Manacles MCZ and the Runnelstone MCZ. A rare red goby was recorded off Porthcurno and a rare variable blenny was recorded on the wreck of the Mohegan on the Manacles.

Beaver film and walks

In the autumn we launched Living with Beavers, a short film about how communities in Bavaria, Germany, have re-learned to live alongside a large beaver population. You can view the film online via You Tube; just search for 'Living with Beavers'. If you haven't yet visited the Cornwall Beaver Project site you can book on one of the evening walks through our website cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop



A beaver walk at the site near Ladock

CHERYL MARRIOTT



Carolyn Cadman

Where did all the wild things go? Cornwall's nature is being lost little by little – our bees dying, our patches of ancient woodland getting smaller, our hedgehogs unable to find food, mates and homes to live. Nature needs to recover. And we need to act now.

New laws are imminent, with a promising sea-change in how we treat and respect nature. Now is the time to change this and we all need to be part of it. Cornwall

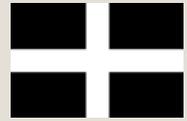
Wildlife Trust has scientists, environmentalists, members, partners and volunteers who can work together for nature's recovery. It is possible, as we have a plan. We have taken a

look at what Cornwall's wildlife needs, and what we must focus on for the next few years. We will put wildlife at the heart of Cornwall to create wilder places, wilder people and a wilder future.

We are involved in many ways to make Cornwall's environmental growth strategy work on the ground – so we will have a buzzing countryside, wilder towns, thriving dolphin pods in our waters, restored heathland and farmland with fertile soils and healthy wildlife. Our vision is underpinned by our most valuable and wildest source of inspiration, expertise and energy – our people.



Cornwall



Wilder CORNWALL

wilder places
wilder people
wilder future

Wildlife and wild places across Cornwall are in decline.

Action is needed now.

We work with one and all to create a wilder Cornwall with people close to nature, land and seas rich in wildlife



“ Every space in Britain must be used to help wildlife. ”

Sir David Attenborough.

Wilder Places

more land, rivers and seas managed well for wildlife

We will:

- grow our suite of **nature reserves** and manage them to be the best sites for wildlife
- **run wildlife projects** on land and in rivers and seas
- **support and advise people** who own and manage land and whose activities impact on our seas and rivers



Wilder People

more people taking action and connecting with nature

We will:

- **raise awareness** and inspire people to take action for wildlife
- **speak out** on behalf of our members and campaign to help Cornwall's wildlife
- work with communities to **record and understand** the state of Cornwall's wildlife and wild places



Wilder Future

more decisions that secure the recovery and growth of wildlife

We will:

- use our knowledge and experience to **influence** the plans and decisions of others
- play our part in fulfilling Cornwall's commitment to **environmental growth**
- engage and inspire the **next generation** of decision makers



Our Values:

- We put **wildlife and wild places first**
- We are **passionate** about what we do
- We are **accountable, open** and we act with **integrity**
- We work as **one team**
- We **value diversity** and respect the views of others

Our People:

- Our **staff, trustees, volunteers and members** are our biggest asset
- We support our people, communities and our partners to be **confident with the skills** to deliver a wilder Cornwall

Our Resources:

- We will spend our **time** and our **money** wisely
- We will raise **funds and generate income** to fund our work
- We will consider the **environmental impacts** of how we work

Get involved:

Visit: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-cornwall

Sign up to our **online newsletter** to get ideas about helping nature in your daily life

Speak to your **MP** – advice about how to make an appointment: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/SpeakToYourMP

Nature reserves news

Nowodhow an gwithvaow natur

Heifer hide-and-seek ^①

"Working with livestock is one of the most satisfying elements of my job" says Jon Cripps, Penhale Dunes Ranger. Twenty-two cattle grazed the headland at Penhale, near Newquay, over the winter. They visit the site every year from the Trust's West Muchlarnick Farm and do an excellent job trimming vegetation. As winter beds in, they get in amongst the scrub, helping slow its spread. The calves are fond of ivy and push in under the thickest blackthorn, so if you see someone on their hands and knees shouting into the bushes, it's probably just Jon trying to count the cattle. We hope to expand cattle grazing across the dunes in the coming years with the help of a new Countryside Stewardship agreement.

Cattle at Penhale

JON CRIPPS

Waste to Woodfuel

We have recently been fortunate to secure a European LEADER grant to buy a brand new tractor and forestry trailer. This is for the Trust's new Waste to Woodfuel project, meaning waste wood produced during habitat management work can be moved off site to sell to firewood businesses, raising a moderate but valuable income. The equipment can also be hired out in other woodlands managed for wildlife and used for a range of jobs across our nature reserves. With its front loader, it will be a huge help to our busy Nature Reserves team. Thanks to LEADER for this funding, along with the Tanner Trust and a supporter's legacy which matched the LEADER funding.



Seán O'Hea with the new tractor and trailer.

CHRIS BETTY



Callum Deveney



Seán O' Hea



Nick Marriott



Peter Kent



Tamar Estuary bird hide upgrade ²

The Tamar Estuary Nature Reserve bird hide overlooks saltmarsh and intertidal mud flats. The hide is within the Tamar-Tavy Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest and Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's a great spot, especially in winter, when you can see flocks of winter waders including avocet, curlew, and greenshank.

This well-used hide slowly became less weatherproof, so volunteers helped completely replace and re-felt the roof, repair the floor and reinforce the external walls. Clearance work around the hide has improved visibility across the estuary, and overhanging branches which contributed to the dilapidation of the previous roof were removed.

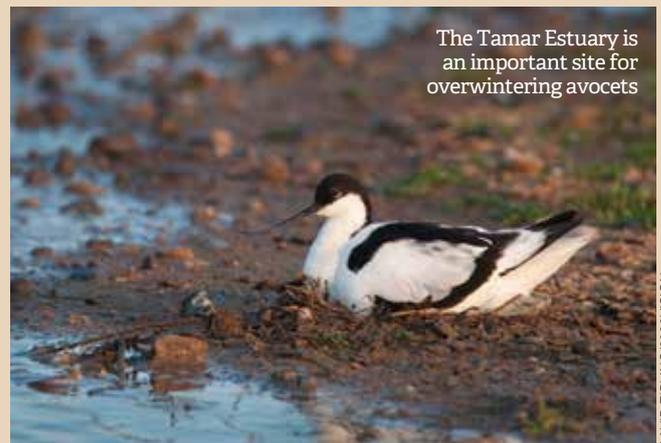
This work was made possible by kind donations from Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society (CBWPS) and Devon Birds. Thanks also go to the China Fleet Golf Course team who helped us get materials and tools across the course, making our task a lot easier. To get to the hide, park at China Fleet Country Club and ask reception for directions to the China Fleet Wilderness Trail and the padlock access code. The hide is at the end of the trail – about a 10–15-minute walk. We hope you enjoy your birdwatching in a bit more comfort!

The hide was originally built with the help of Royal Marines in 1994 and first repaired with support from the Tamar Valley AONB in 2005.



The Tamar Estuary bird hide undergoing repairs.

PETER KENT



The Tamar Estuary is an important site for overwintering avocets

DAVID TIPLING/2020VISION

Cornwall as a world-class eco-dive destination



Ruth Williams

The seas around Cornwall are full of wonderful wildlife, beautiful underwater seascapes and fascinating wrecks – a diver’s paradise. Keeping Cornwall’s marine treasures hidden under the waves will not ensure their protection, so Cornwall is part of a new European project to make sure we are firmly on the international map as an eco-dive destination. Marine Conservation Manager Ruth Williams tells us more.

The world's largest numbers of dive tourists live in Europe, but most of them travel to tropical waters for their dive holidays, unaware of the natural assets around our Atlantic shores. The Wildsea Atlantic Ocean Heritage Route ('WAOH! Route') is the first sustainable diving route connecting world-class diving sites from the southern Atlantic coasts of Portugal and Spain to the colder waters of the north, encompassing Ireland and Cornwall.

The WAOH! Project aims for environmental stewardship to be a top reason to visit Atlantic dive destinations, supporting unique ecotourism experiences and holiday packages closer to home.

A spectacular array of colourful species cover sheer-sided rocks at Woodford Wall, The Manacles

Visit Cornwall, a partner in this exciting project, invited me to attend the first workshop in Porto, Portugal, last November, along with other representatives from the coasts of Cornwall, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. The delegates, from government, businesses and NGOs along the WAOH! Route, found that they had much in common: the unique maritime heritage and traditions of the Atlantic coast, its rich geological and ecological diversity, and the hospitality of each of our coastal communities. Crucially, there was recognition that marine tourism and activity providers must work together to ensure they protect the most vital asset that their businesses rely on – the marine environment and the wildlife it supports.



SIMON BURTT

Photographing the delicate pink sea fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)

ANITA SHERWOOD



Action along the WAOH! Route

After identifying the needs of – and challenges facing – marine-based operators such as diving centres, sea kayaking and wildlife watching businesses, everyone committed to move towards responsible marine ecotourism, with a signed 'Pledge to Sustainability' to inspire and provide guidance in each area.

- **Develop guidelines to ensure safe and responsible interactions between humans and marine wildlife and share best practice**
- **Develop joint action plans to minimise threats to the coastal environment and its wildlife**
- **Encourage wider sustainability initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, plastic and water pollution**
- **Provide information to visitors and engage with local communities to encourage marine conservation locally.**

I came away enthused that Cornwall would be part of such a forward-thinking and dynamic project. I was also very proud that Cornwall is already leading the way in developing marine ecotourism.



Action in Cornwall



The Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group is a partnership, coordinated by Cornwall Wildlife Trust, with the aim of encouraging responsible wildlife watching. Its purpose is to make marine encounters good for wildlife as well as for people and businesses. To see the group's range of resources, visit the brand new website www.cornwallmarinelifecode.org.uk

Advice on good practice

- **Keep your distance; never follow, chase, touch or feed wildlife**
- **On the water, keep your craft movements steady, constant and predictable**
- **Keep away from groups of animals, hauled out seals, and sensitive breeding sites**
- **Call our hotline to report incidences of animals being disturbed, on 0345 2012626**
- **Aim to leave all marine wildlife as you found it.**

There is still much work to do to encourage everyone to become true eco-operators, but I am hopeful that dive businesses and other water activity providers in Cornwall are beginning to recognise that we must all work together. Cornwall's rich and wonderful marine wildlife is the jewel in our Neptune's crown, but much of it is under threat or in decline. We need to protect it for its own sake, for the sake of the Cornish tourism economy, and for future generations to continue to enjoy.

www.wildsea.eu/uk/cornwall www.wildsea.eu/waoh-route

Underwater wonders in Cornish seas

Multi-coloured 'gardens' of daisy-like jewel anemones (*Corynactis viridis*) clinging to rock faces.

Each 'flower' is a predatory animal that catches small shrimps and fish using up to 100 knobbed tentacles. The jewel anemone reproduces by splitting in two, which is why they look like spectacular bedding plants. Jewel anemones can be found from the lower shore down to depths of around 80 metres! Jewel anemones are actually more closely related to corals than anemones.



Spiny or long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)

JULIE HATCHER

Seahorses – short-snouted (*Hippocampus hippocampus*) and spiny or long-snouted (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)

Seahorses are elusive masters of disguise, easy to miss amongst seaweeds and seagrass meadows.

Seahorse eyes can move independently of each other, like chameleon eyes, and the prehensile tail seems to seek out anchorages independently while the animal swims around, foraging on tiny animals like mysid shrimp.

Seahorses pair up for a whole season. Unusually, the male seahorse carries the eggs in a brood pouch and gives birth to tiny live young.

These delicate animals are very vulnerable to pollution, trawling and loss of seagrass beds.

JOHN YARROW

Hands off our craws

Cornwall Wildlife Trust are launching a new campaign with local dive clubs and dive businesses to help reduce our impacts on marine life, in particular the charismatic crawfish.



Matt Slater

As we celebrated in our spring 2018 edition of *Wild Cornwall*, crawfish (spiny lobsters) have made a spectacular return to Cornish waters. These incredible crustaceans all but disappeared here following heavy overfishing by scuba divers and gill netters in the late 60s and early 70s. For nearly 40 years they were extremely rare, only occasionally seen and rarely caught.

Now they have made an amazing comeback and can be seen on many popular dive sites around Cornwall. Last summer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust Seasearch volunteers documented 18 crawfish on one wreck within Falmouth Bay, and crawfish were found on dozens of other dive sites this year. The resurgence is most likely due to the successful survival of a large number of planktonic juveniles which have drifted north from Brittany or possibly the Bay of Biscay. Most of the crawfish seen by divers in 2018 were small, well below minimum landing size of 110mm carapace (upper shell) length. However, by this coming summer many will have become large enough to legally catch. We at Cornwall Wildlife Trust do not want to see history repeating itself and have launched this campaign to help protect these vulnerable crustaceans.

Through our Seasearch citizen science project we have developed great links with the local diving community. The majority of recreational divers appreciate all the marine creatures they encounter, large and small, and very few collect marine life to eat, preferring to enjoy peaceful encounters and underwater photography. However, if just a small number of divers start collecting crawfish again, it would not take long for these slow-growing animals to disappear once again, especially from our popular dive sites.

We have a unique opportunity now to ensure that this charismatic creature is able to successfully recolonise our seas. No divers or fishermen can claim to have been making a living off this species for many decades, so asking people to show restraint in collection should be possible and could make a real difference. We hope to see improved management through fisheries regulation to ensure a sustainable fishery for the spiny lobster. In the meantime, we are calling on divers and dive boat operators to pledge not to collect crawfish in our new campaign called **#HandsOffOurCrawfish!**

We hope to educate and engage local and visiting divers to support this campaign and protect our local stocks. Dive schools, dive boats and dive clubs will be provided with stickers saying 'No crawfish on this boat', to explain their 'look but don't take' philosophy.

Matt Slater, Marine Awareness Officer



You can get your **#HandsOffOurCrawfish** stickers and add your name to the campaign here:

www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/crawfishproject

Look out for **#HandsOffOurCrawfish** on social media, as we hope divers will share their photos and crawfish news and help us spread the word about the project.



Crawfish or spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)

These ancient crustaceans of exposed, rocky shorelines are heavily armoured, with sharp spines for defence.

Instead of massive lobster claws, crawfish have quite slim front legs and spectacular antennae.

Crawfish grow slowly, up to 60cm from front to back, and are slow to breed, reproducing at three years old and beyond.

Crawfish have superpowers: they are able to smell predators such as octopuses amongst other species and females can create a creaking noise from the base of their antennae to attract males.



Could beef be wilder?



Seán O' Hea

Our food and where it comes from is the subject of increasing discussion and debate. As a Wildlife Trust, we have been taking a keen interest in how food can be produced to make a healthier, wildlife friendlier future for us all.

With the Agriculture and Environment Bills of 2018, important policies for wildlife have been up for scrutiny. Also, consumers are increasingly questioning

how our food has been produced, and veganism is becoming popular. For those who eat meat, some choices are better than others, and nowhere is this more evident than in the beef and dairy industries.

It all depends what cattle are fed

Beef and dairy cattle can be divided into animals which have been fed entirely on grass (including silage and hay), and those which have been fed wholly or partly on grain. Grain typically means concentrated cereals, along with products from crops such as soya and palm oil, in the form of 'nuts' – compressed, processed feeds, which make cattle grow faster and produce more milk. Grain production requires a large area of land, sometimes in far-flung countries where it results in clearance of precious native habitats such as rainforests.

The case for grass

Farmers rearing livestock on 100% grass often take a longer term, more sustainable approach to grassland management, incorporating a wider range of plants into the mix, including deeper rooting, drought-resistant grasses and flowering plants such as legumes which release nutrients: more flowers, more nectar, more wildlife.

Cornwall has plenty of grass, with a long growing season in our mild climate. Livestock efficiently convert grass into protein which humans can eat, and we need the livestock to maintain our grasslands for a wide range of wildlife.

Arable (crop) farming, like cattle farming, can be an intensive, industrialised business, requiring high inputs of artificial fertilisers and pesticides, leaving soils exposed to

erosion and degradation. Using arable land to grow crops to feed cattle, when they could be fed grass, seems inefficient when that valuable land could be used to grow food for direct human consumption. If we reduce the amount of meat we eat but choose to buy meat or dairy products reared entirely on grass, this is surely better for humans, farm animals and wildlife.

Beef cattle have long provided an essential service in maintaining our nature reserves for our cherished wildlife. Generally, the cattle eat nothing but grass and herbs while they are on the reserves, resulting in healthier cattle, and healthier, tastier meat for people, too.

Numerous beef farmers and some dairy farmers in Cornwall produce a 100% grass-fed product, but you need to know your producer – through farmers' markets, direct via farm shops or food boxes, or through a local butcher. Ask if the product is 100% grass fed as, legally, beef can be labelled as grass fed if this only means 51% grass!

Pasture for Life

The best way of ensuring that your meat and dairy is 100% grass fed is to look for the Pasture for Life (PFL) certification mark, guaranteeing that the animals have been fed grass for the whole of their lives.

Wilder Beef in Cornwall

We are considering how we can work with our graziers to try and ensure that they receive a good, fair price for beef reared on our nature reserves, to encourage a 100% pasture-fed approach and ultimately to benefit more wildlife.

Let us know if you're a farmer following the grass-fed approach in Cornwall by contacting Sean.Ohea@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk – we'd love to hear from you.



Cornwall Wildlife Trust Photographic Group

Annual Photo Competition winners

Our annual photo competition held in November 2018 was another great success, ably judged by dragonfly expert Steve Jones, a great wildlife photographer in his own right. Our thanks also go to Nigel Carter, who took over the role of organising the entries for the competition this year. It's great to see that some of these images were taken on our field trips, though clearly not the baobab tree! Thank you to everyone – the choice was overwhelming, but with some clear winners in the four categories.

David Chapman, Volunteer

Join us at our events (see centre pages) or find our contact details at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups

(right) Marbled White by Karin Saunders: Rather than choosing to capture the familiar, boldly chequered black and white of this butterfly's outstretched wings, Karin uses a lower camera position and clever use of lighting to create a softer, browner, subtly tonal view of the underwings. With the butterfly in such sharp focus, every scale is visible when enlarged, down to poncho-like fringes around the wing edges.

(below) Sparrowhawk by Bill Hall: This compellingly beautiful image captures the essence of sparrowhawk. The bright, sharp eye of this efficient hunter contrasts with the soft tones of its plumage, which in turn stand out against the chaotically feathery moss that blends so beautifully with the background, focusing attention on the hawk at its moment of triumph. For a stunning portrait of an active bird in a rare moment of stillness, simplicity is key, combined with an eye for symmetry and perfect focus.



Winners

Fauna

- 1st** Marbled White by Karin Saunders
- 2nd** Willow Emerald by Nigel Carter
- 3rd** Fox and Wood Pigeon by Adrian Langdon
- HC** Silver Studded Blue by Karin Saunders
- HC** Hornet leaving the Nest by Adrian Davey
- HC** Small Elephant Hawkmoth by Becky Curtis

Birds

- 1st** Sparrowhawk Male by Bill Hall
- 2nd** Raven in the Rain by Chris Robins
- 3rd** Fulmar by Margaret Hocking
- HC** Disgruntled Pigeon by Roger Fleet
- HC** Great Egret by Margaret Hocking
- HC** Hoopoes at Nest by Adrian Langdon

Flora

- 1st** Baobab Tree by Bill Hall
- 2nd** Oak Bolete by Dave Thomas
- 3rd** Young Bluebell by Malcolm Bishop

Composition & Form

- 1st** Sunlit Kelp Fronds by Joanna Clegg
- 2nd** Frozen Pattern by Joanna Clegg
- 3rd** Porcelain Fungus by Karin Saunders
- HC** Single Tree by Tony Hogg
- HC** Barnacles and Lice on a Grey Whale by Nigel Carter





(above) Baobab Tree by Bill Hall: The use of monochrome directs our attention to both the structure of the baobab and the setting in which we find this scarred monolith. This species can survive for two thousand years in its native arid lands, while the surrounding scrub and animal life comes and goes. The passing clouds in the sky suggest this transience as the tree stands stock still, weathered but resilient. Age gives character, and the photographer demonstrates mastery in capturing both scale and context. The tree's relationship to its surroundings tells us so much more about it than a close-up image could do.

(right) Sunlit Kelp Fronds by Joanna Clegg: Light is the photographer's closest friend and the word 'photography', from the Greek, means 'writing with light'. Joanna has done just that, making a piece of kelp – giant algal seaweed with strap-like fronds found lying dark and limp on our beaches – into a piece of translucent art resembling coloured glass.



Your Local Groups

Agas Bagas Leel



You can find out about your local wildlife groups at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups and the coastal groups in the Your Shore network at beachrangers.com/community/your-shore-network

Bude

The first speaker of our dynamic autumn programme was Jane Anderson of the Cornwall Geoconservation Group. Jane, a geologist for 35 years, described the coastline from Wanson Mouth to Sandymouth and explained how, over a period of 320 million years, the folds, faults and sedimentary structures of the Carboniferous Bude Formation came to evolve.



Leaping dolphin off Mousehole

RUPERT KIRKWOOD

The ever-charismatic Rupert Kirkwood, aka The Lone Kayaker, gave a talk on his travels around the coastline of southern England. Short videos interspersed with still shots gave a real sense of what it is like to be in open water, face to face with magnificent wildlife. Beautiful photos and humorous anecdotes were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Alan Rowland led a birdwatching trip at the Camel Estuary at the beginning of November, to see which winter migrants and other species could be spotted. Eighteen species were identified, including a little egret, greenshanks and redshanks, willow and long-tailed tits, with the most exciting being seven little grebes spotted at Dennis Cove.

Our final winter speaker was Teagen Hill of the Bude Water Vole Reintroduction Project. Water voles have been extinct in Cornwall for over 20 years, largely due to North American mink predation. She gave a fascinating talk about the project to safely release these chunky 'Ratties' back into the Bude catchment, and the ongoing monitoring and surveying the project requires.

Ursula Edwards, Volunteer

Friends of Kilminorth Woods

Friends of Kilminorth Woods walks often include observation of the ancient heronry in Trenant Woods (owned by the Woodland Trust) across the West Looe river. Grey herons nest early, often sitting on their nests by February, and are relatively easy to observe. We know from the great Cornish naturalist, Jonathan Couch of Polperro, that there was a heronry in Trenant Woods in the mid-nineteenth century, though its precise location has varied over the years.

The heronry on the Looe river is quite small, with no more than a dozen nests each year, and now also contains little egrets, which began nesting there in the noughties. Nationally, grey herons are doing well according to the BTO's annual heronry census: numbers have more than doubled since the 1920s.

Heronry have few natural predators, but an incident in 2018 indicated that they are not immune from other hazards. A walker reported a dead adult heron on the West Looe riverbank with a small dead chick alongside it. One of our members retrieved the corpses, and with the aid of Sue Sayer of the Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust, a post-mortem by vet James Barnett was arranged. The adult had died from a dislocated neck and had ingested a fishing hook and line, which had become entangled with the chick. It was a stark reminder of the vulnerability of wild creatures to lost or discarded fishing gear.

Derek Spooner, Volunteer



The dead herons

HELEN SMALL

Restormel

Owl and ibis delight

After many years of bird watching at our Tregonetha Downs Nature Reserve, this winter I saw neither short-eared owls nor hen harriers hunting over the heathland there. However, following news of a short-eared owl around Newquay Headland – one of my walking areas – I was very pleased to see not one, but two of them, flying low over Pentire Head looking for mice and voles. A friend saw one pounce and take a rat, which it swallowed whole. After several visits it became apparent that the local kestrels were not pleased with the owls taking their food. They would chase them and once, one flew to the ground to try to take the owl's catch.

As if it wasn't enough for rare owls to appear on my doorstep, a glossy ibis turned up at Newquay boating lake. It arrived regularly at around 5pm and left the next morning around 8am, giving hundreds of people great views of this very rare bird.

Dave Thomas, Volunteer



A short-eared owl hunts at Newquay

DAVE THOMAS

Be a **wildlife hero**

If you find dead marine/coastal wildlife, call the Marine Strandings Network on **0345 201 2626**.

For injured birds, call the RSPCA on **0300 123 4999**.

A greener way of building



Birgit Hontzsch

Pioneering a new benchmark in Cornwall that recognises good green infrastructure, the Trust is working together with its environmental consultancy, CEC, to encourage developers to follow 'Building with Nature'.

Building with Nature is a new benchmark for the design and maintenance of green infrastructure in both housing and commercial development. We spoke to Birgit Hontzsch, Principal Landscape Architect at CEC.



Firstly, why should developers be interested in this new green benchmark?

The new Building with Nature (BwN) accreditation is an affordable way to make sure development is more sustainable by focusing on the three key elements of water management, wildlife and well-being.

Following Building with Nature principles has several potential benefits, not least reducing the risk to the planning process for new development by helping to ensure that a quality scheme is put forward. This can save a lot of time and money if a scheme is accepted first time rather than rejected. It also helps developers to meet policy requirements and has the potential to reduce objections from members of the public. Building with Nature for the first time sets out clear guidance for developers to realise the potential of green infrastructure, and a roadmap for architects and planning consultants to follow.

How do I get greener building advice?

CEC is able to offer a consultancy service through its team of ecologists and landscape architects that makes recommendations and creates designs for good green infrastructure. It can also help clients meet the necessary Building with Nature standards.

How does the accreditation scheme work?

Cornwall Wildlife Trust will be providing assessment of the plans, against a set of core standards, as well as three key themes: water, wildlife and wellbeing, to enable Building with Nature to provide accreditation.

There are two levels of accreditation. Good for high quality green infrastructure, delivering benefits within the boundary of the scheme; and excellent for exemplary quality green infrastructure, delivering benefits within and beyond the boundary of the scheme.

Could this benchmark just be used as quick fix?

One of the big strengths of this new green building benchmark is that it includes requirements for monitoring that projects have been completed as per the plans submitted, and it is re-assessed every five years. If the developer wants to keep the accreditation after five years, the landscape needs to be maintained to include sustainable features and managed appropriately.

Why is a Building with Nature benchmark needed now?

Demand for new housing is at an all-time high, with plans for 47,000 new homes to be built in Cornwall over the coming years. Together with the creation of new retail and science parks, pressure is being placed on our green spaces. Building with Nature understands these stresses but works with nature rather than against it.

What would a Building with Nature landscaped site look like?

You would straightaway notice more trees, open spaces, Cornish hedges and green roofs. There might be water features, such as streams or ponds making great homes for wildlife, which can also act as sustainable drainage systems reducing flood risk. Well-being is also a key part of any scheme; this means providing people with space to breathe, areas to enjoy greenery and maybe access to allotments to grow produce.

It is well known that access to green and blue spaces reduces people's everyday stresses and make them happier and healthier. This is why Cornwall Wildlife Trust and CEC are so excited to be working together to help developers make room for wildlife, and create better spaces for everyone.



For more information:

Cornwall Environmental Consultants:
birgit.hontzsch@cecenvironment.co.uk | 01872 302317

Cornwall Wildlife Trust
jenny.stuart@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk | 01872 302314

cecenvironment.co.uk/landscape-services/building-with-nature



In this edition we are focusing on students' introduction to nature – what influenced or changed their view of wildlife, and consequently changed their direction of study or career intention. I hope you enjoy their stories and are, yourself, inspired to encounter nature and change your career direction!

Jason Birt, Programme Manager, FdSc Wildlife Education and Media, Cornwall College Newquay

A chance hedgehog encounter



About 18 months ago, I lost one of my domestic animals and was very upset. On that day, for the first time, I saw a hedgehog come into my garden. It was out in the daytime, which I knew was not a good thing, so I contacted Prickles and Paws (a hedgehog rescue charity based in Cornwall) and they said that this behaviour was not right and told me to bring it in. I spent a good couple of hours with them and they went over the animal and discovered it had a really bad mite infestation. From there I ended up volunteering with them. The result of this is a massive passion for hedgehogs, which has spun off into other natural species.



A chance encounter with a young hedgehog changed Deborah's life

DAVE THOMAS

When I first started my degree, I was all about dogs and other domesticated species, but now getting to work with other wildlife has made me very much more aware of an area I didn't know I had a passion for. From that I have discovered marine conservation as well, including helping with BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue) and working with seals. I hate the idea of not being involved with that. I now intend to carry on with a third year of study. Originally it was to be regarding dog behaviour but now I want to go in the direction of marine conservation or hedgehogs.

Deborah Smith-Hackett, FdSc Animal Behaviour and Psychology, Cornwall College Newquay

How I became an advocate for insects



Ever since I was very young, my mother was fantastic at cultivating my interest in nature. She would buy me books and take me out to places, answering questions as I started to learn. Nature was everything and everywhere. Obviously without it, we wouldn't even be. I think the natural world is an incredible thing, incredibly diverse, and you can be interested in any taxonomic group. There is still so much to learn; diversity is displayed everywhere in this country. We are really lucky to have what we have here. My interest has now switched towards insects and taking higher magnification imagery and videos of insects (take a look at my website – www.kirkmasonphotography.com) and I want to move into interpreting what I find and what I learn to the general public in the hope of changing public opinion about insects. A lot of the media that we have is about 'weaponising' them: "they sting this much" and "they attack this and they do that". But not enough emphasis is on different types of insects and how we rely upon them for food, decomposition, pollination and pest control. A lot of people have become interested in my images and they display that interest via my Facebook page through the comments that they leave.

Kirk Mason, FdSc Wildlife Education and Media, Cornwall College Newquay



Arthropod encounter: a common green grasshopper's (*Omocestus viridulus*) fatal tangle with a European garden spider (*Araneus diadematus*), sometimes known as the garden cross spider

KIRK MASON

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

**URGENT
APPEAL**

Cornwall Wildlife Trust Badger Vaccination Appeal

Cornwall Wildlife Trust have received overwhelming support for our Badger Vaccination Appeal since its launch in January, including many letters written to us, showing how powerfully this appeal has captured the hearts of people in Cornwall and the rest of the country.

The Appeal target was met in just a few weeks. Your support has helped to buy equipment and help cover the costs of this work and we have now started to vaccinate badgers on our nature reserves in order to reduce the prevalence of bovine TB in badgers on our land.

We want to keep this momentum going, particularly the surge of interest from farmers, which has led them to team up with us in mid-Cornwall. We now want to raise additional money to expand the vaccination programme to include several 1,000 acres of farmland in Cornwall.



“ Badger vaccination is a promising way to control TB. It is good to see Cornwall Wildlife Trust showing leadership by vaccinating badgers on its reserves, protecting wildlife while also acting as a good neighbour to nearby farmers. ”

Prof Rosie Woodroffe,
Zoological Society of London

The Godfray Review, published last November, supported the Trust's views on badger vaccination. It won't fix the problem of cattle bTB on its own, but it could take badgers out of the equation.

We are concerned that accurate information about the potential of badger vaccination isn't reaching farmers. We suggest that anyone interested has a look at the badger vaccination factsheet on the Government's TB Hub website for reliable information:
www.tbhub.co.uk

Badgers deserve a place in our countryside. Please help us to act now to protect them.

Your donation, no matter what size, will help us to protect badgers.

how to donate:

Securely online at
[cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/
badgervaccinationappeal](http://cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/badgervaccinationappeal)

Call us on **(01872) 273939**
(credit card donations only)

Text **BADG19 £3, £5 or £10**
to **70070** to donate now

“ We were so pleased to be approached by a group of farmers in mid-Cornwall who were interested in finding an alternative to badger culling. They realise the potential of vaccination and want to start this spring, so we are doing everything we can to support them. Each farmer will pay towards the vaccine and running costs, but we need to raise funds to buy extra cage-traps and other expenses so that we can vaccinate across this whole area. ”

Cheryl Marriott, Head of
Conservation, Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Please help us to achieve this. The future of Cornwall's badger population is far from clear. It is estimated that the badger cull is happening now across more than 54% of Cornwall.

This work will bring us closer to a cull-free future. Without your support we simply cannot do it.

Researchers from the Zoological Society London based in Cornwall are already involved in a research trial on badger vaccination in the far west of Cornwall. The same researchers have agreed to blood-test badgers in the mid-Cornwall vaccination area so that they can track the reduction of TB in the badgers over the four-year programme to add to our understanding and give farmers confidence in the technique.

Read about Cornwall's trail-blazing farmers
on our website: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/news



**We've
raised
£21,000
so far!**

Please keep donating so we can expand vaccination across Cornwall instead of culling

ANDY YOUNG

TOM MARSHALL

Open Gardens

2019



Isabella
Hawkes

2018 was an outstanding year for our Open Gardens scheme, breaking yet another record and raising an incredible £21,000 for Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Our volunteer-led team are back in 2019 to open 12 stunning gardens across Cornwall.

Sit yourself down in a sun-dappled garden and treat yourself to a cream tea, generously provided by Rodda's, Cornish Coffee and Berryman's. For 12 Sundays through April to September, our incredible volunteer team offers you wildlife havens to explore. From semi-formal gardens to woodland, wildflower meadows to natural ponds, these gardens welcome an abundance of wildlife in a wealth of ways. We can't wait for you to visit.

The funds raised from these gardens allow the Trust to continue to protect Cornwall's wildlife and wild places, and we couldn't be more grateful.

APRIL

Bluebell month is the perfect time to visit Coldrenick near Liskeard (14th), steeped in history and full of native and exotic plants. Pedn Billy, Falmouth (28th), welcomes the public to explore its ancient woodland, floral walkways and private beach.

MAY

Azaleas and camellias brighten the gardens at 2 Trenance Cottages (12th) and Burncoose (19th). Explore the grounds in all their glory.

JUNE

Wade through wildflower meadows, explore woodland and find wildlife galore at Little Park Farm, Truro (2nd), Boswiddle, Ladock (9th) and Lethytep, Lanreath (23rd). You'll be spoilt for choice.

JULY

Visit the Cornish Cutting Garden, Vellansun (7th), for an organic approach to cut flowers, Arundell, Crantock (14th) for Victorian gardens and sea views, and Millpool Grange, Cardinham (28th) for woodland and water features.

AUGUST

Brimming with wildlife and home to a roost of lesser horseshoe bats, Trenarth (4th) is a brilliant garden for the whole family.

SEPTEMBER

A perfect time to visit South Bosent (1st). Constantly adapting to encourage wildlife, this garden encompasses meadow, woodland, stream and ponds, fruit trees, wildflowers and several plant collections.



KINDLY
SUPPORTED BY:



BERRYMAN'S
TRADITIONAL BAKERY

CORNISH
COFFEE

Take a piece of your garden experience with you this year, as we introduce plant sales to all our gardens. Spend your Sunday afternoon at our Open Gardens – at only £5 entry, it's too good to miss. With more than favourable weather last year, we're hoping for a long, hot summer full of cream teas and gorgeous gardens.

Please check our events diary for information about each garden.

Nature notices



Wild Cornwall Calendar 2020 is out!

Our Photographic Group and talented winners of our photography competition have sent in their photographs to create a seasonal reflection of wildlife in Cornwall. Get yours now... cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop or call (01872) 273939



Wilder Festival Sunday 26th May – a wildlife celebration

Join us for a wildlife mini-festival at Mount Pleasant Eco Park this year – free entry to all. A day outdoors with wildlife workshops, nature experiences, forage and feasting, craft stalls, live music, an eco-market and a nature art exhibition. Bring the family, the dog and friends, and spend a day in the stunning north Cornwall countryside.



Wild camping available.

Dogs on leads welcome. 12 noon till 8pm, with a Children's Parade at 3pm.

ella.clark@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Free entry.

Race for Wildlife success

Despite miserable weather, December's Race for Wildlife was a huge success, raising an impressive £300 from Mounts Bay Harriers through entry fees and £252 from a delicious bake sale. A big thank you to Dan Knighton, whose sponsorship raised a amazing £354.

Dan said, "After reading that a part of my entry fee for the Race for Wildlife would be going to Cornwall Wildlife Trust, I decided to do something more for the Trust. The sponsorship I then received for the VERY wet, windy and muddy race went far above and beyond what I could've hoped for, and I was so thrilled when I crossed the finish line in my target time!"

A huge thank you to everyone involved in Race for Wildlife 2018.

Contact

Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk for a fundraising pack with sponsorship forms, posters and ideas for your next sponsored race, swim, SUP, walk.....

wildlife watch

Seahorse found in Fal oyster fishery

Seahorses (front cover & page 13) are elusive and only rarely recorded in Cornish waters. Our Marine Officer Matt Slater's find of a female short-snouted seahorse during an annual survey of the Fal oyster beds adds to evidence that the Fal estuary, with its sustainable fishery, is still healthy.



MATT SLATER

See www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/news and for fisheries information, www.cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk

The creative writing talents of **Rowena** are moving to work with our Local Groups. Many thanks for Rowena's watchful eye over *Wild Cornwall* magazine for 50 issues over the last 16 years, and her encyclopedic knowledge of Cornwall's natural heritage and wildlife. If you have ideas for stories or social media posts - please contact her at rowena@naturalword.co.uk.

ID and recording skills workshops

The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS), which is based at Cornwall Wildlife Trust, is offering a fresh series of workshops this year. See the diary of events on the centre pages for workshops on seed and leaf beetles, freshwater fish, bumblebees, botany for beginners, dune flora, dune invertebrates and mosses and liverworts. www.erccis.org.uk/events

Ken Isham obituary

Sad news: Ken Isham passed away on 7th October 2018, aged 97. Ken was a key member of the Restormel Local Group committee together with his late wife Brenda, both organising and attending St Austell area events and helping with magazine distribution and fundraising. Ken's local knowledge and humour will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family.

Dave Thomas, Volunteer



April 2019 to August 2019

APRIL

Monday 8

Easter Rockpool Ramble

West Looe, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Meet below Coastguard Station, Hannafore, Marine Drive PL13 2DL (SX255523). Look out for our sail flags.

Wonderful creatures & beautiful seaweeds. All equipment provided. Under 16s accompanied. Toilets, refreshment kiosk. Organised by Looe MCG, www.looemarineconservation.org. Contact: 07539 530020 or looemca@gmail.com

Monday 8

Photo Group Meeting

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

Wednesday 10

Heron Count and Breakfast

Calamansack, 6.30am to 9.00am. Booking is essential. Meet at Calamansack, between Port Navas & Constantine (SW746281).

Join BTO surveyor Martin Rule in the annual heronry survey on the Helford + dawn chorus & breakfast at Trengilly Inn. Under-18s & HMCG members free. Others £4. £10 for full English breakfast. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Saturday 13

Gardening Club

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch & Perennial Harvest for a springtime gardening session. 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 & Badger Forest School for campfire, den building & exploring. Leader: Ysella Wood. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 14

Easter Beach Clean

Seaton, 11.00am to 1.00pm. Meet at Seaton Beach Café PL11 3JN (SX303544).

Kit provided. Under 18s accompanied. Leader: John Meakin. Organised by Looe MCG. Contact: 07880 746379; looemca@gmail.com.

Monday 15

Seed & Leaf Beetles Workshop

Penryn Campus. 10.00am to 4:00pm. Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop to develop ID skills. Chrysomelidae ecology, life cycles & survey methods. Bring notepad, pen, camera, hand lens. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government. EcoSoc members get a discount by booking via FXU. Leader: Dr Keith Alexander. Organised by ERCCIS & EcoSoc.

Contact us re disabled access. Contact: Laura Fox (01872) 302246; laura.fox@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 14

Open Garden - Coldrenick House

Menheniot, Liskeard, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Meet at PL14 3RQ (SX246537).

Historic Coldrenick is now an organic dairy farm & wildlife garden: lawns, beds, shrubs, magnolias, camellias, bluebell wood. Dogs on lead. Disabled access around entire garden. Refreshments. £5. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

EVERYONE is welcome to attend ALL events except where specified (eg as 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 weather-dependent 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.

When booking Wildlife Watch events online, please include name of event, date, your mobile contact no. and the names & ages of children attending. 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:

- WW 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
ERCCIS Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
FoCFCNR Friends of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve
MCG Marine Conservation Group
MCS Marine Conservation Society
NT National Trust
YSBR Your Shore Beach Rangers

APRIL

Tuesday 16

Talk: 'The Great Eggcase Hunt'

East Looe, 6.00pm to 8.30pm
Meet at Crew Room, Looe Lifeboat Station, West End, East Looe PL13 1AT (SX255531).

Citizen science project to search for the eggcases of sharks & skates, to help build the Shark Trust's national database. Organised by Looe MCG. Leader/contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

Wednesday 17

The Great Egg-Case Hunt

Falmouth, 11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking is not essential. *Meet on Swanpool beach, Falmouth MCG tent.*

To support the Shark Trust we will collect as many mermaids' purses as possible and identify which species they belong to for the national database. Sandy beach with café & toilets. Organised by Falmouth MCG. Contact: info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

Wednesday 17

Looe Island Guided Walk

Looe, 2.00pm to 6.00pm
Online booking is essential

Boat ride to the island to join the warden for an escorted walk. Spot wildlife & learn about the Trust's work & island life. Optional slide show in Jetty Cottage. £25. Leader: Jon Ross. Organised by CWT. Booking: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Thursday 18

Shoresearch Survey

Porthmear nr Porthcothan, Newquay, 9.30am to 1.00pm. **Booking is essential**

Join volunteers from Shoresearch Cornwall & marine officers in a citizen science project to document the diverse marine life at a special location. Bring wellies or wetsuit boots. Organised by Shoresearch Cornwall. Leader/contact: Matt Slater (01872) 302251; shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 20

Easter Rockpool Ramble 2

West Looe, 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Meet below the coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive, West Looe, PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

Learn about starfish, crabs, fish, anemones & lots more. No flip-flops, no nets, please. Under 18s accompanied. Organised by Looe MCG. Leader: Izzy Hann. Contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345 or looevmca@gmail.com.

Wednesday 24

Nature Treasure Hunt

St Just, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Hunt in a wonderful coppice wood & wetland with the Treebies School of Nature & Wildlife Watch. Funded by Local Community Chest. Leader: Lisa Guy. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 27

Bee Amazing

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Learn about the amazing life of bees with our beekeeper. Leader: Daena Rose, Wildwood Eco Gardens. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 27

Wild Flower Walk

Tremayne Woods, The Lizard, 10.30am to 1.00pm. **Booking is essential**
Meet at Gear Farm, St. Martin, TR12 6DE.

Spring flower walk through Tremayne Woods to the Helford with NT lead ranger Justin Whitehouse. Order a pasty for lunch by the water. Under-18s & HMCG members free. £4 for others. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Sunday 28

Open Garden – Pedn Billy

Helford Passage, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet at garden, TR11 5LF (SX246537).

Wildflower areas, specimen trees & terraced borders 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 garden's own private beach. Some main paths accessible by wheelchairs & buggies. Dogs on leads. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

MAY

Wednesday 1

(& every first Wednesday of the month)

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 2

Freshwater Fish Workshop

Launceston, 10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. Practical session includes observation of harmless electric fishing for ID use. Bring notepad, pen, camera. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government, £25 for EcoSoc members. Leader: Brecht Morris, Environment Agency. Contact: see 15th April.

Thursday 2

Looe Island Guided Walk

2.00pm to 6.00pm
 See Wednesday 17th April for details.

Saturday 4

Extreme Beach Clean

West Looe, 9.30am to 12.30pm
Booking is essential
Meet below coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

We need fit, active people to walk with us from Hannafore to Portnadler at low tide, scrambling over rocks & carrying what we find to Portnadler. We would like kayaks or SUPs to paddle with us to Portnadler & round to the headland, exploring tiny coves inaccessible except by water. Must be confident on water & carry correct safety gear. Under 18s accompanied. Leader: Ellie Jackson. Organised by Looe MCG. Contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

MAY

Saturday 4

Dawn Chorus

Saltash, 5.00am to 7.30am
Booking is essential. *Meet at Cecil Arms by St Stephen's Church PL12 4AR (SX418583).*

Listen to the dawn chorus & discover the wide variety of birds on Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve. Bring cameras, binoculars. Free for members, £2 non-members. Leader: Paul Mallett. Organised by FoFCNR. Contact: Mary (01752) 843852.

Sunday 5

Bug Hotels

Bude, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

We'll create spring homes for garden bugs with Happy Acorns – Outdoor Learning. wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 11

Red Moor Spring Walk

South of Bodmin, 9.30am to 12.00 noon
Meet at the grass triangle, Tredinnick Pits, Bodmin PL30 5AP (SX076622).

Morning walk around the northern end of Red Moor, looking for resident & returning migrant birds & other wildlife. Mostly level, usually wet underfoot. Bring binoculars & wellies. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Leader/contact: Phil McVey (01208) 873300; littleboslymon@aol.com

Saturday 11

Rockpool Ramble

Falmouth, 10.00am to 12 noon
Booking is essential

Explore this watery world. No nets, please. Leaders: Chloe & Generation Wild. Contact: (01872) 273939; wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 12

Open Garden – 2 Trenance Cottages

St Newlyn East, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet at 2 Trenance Cottages, St Newlyn East TR8 5HU (SW844569).

Landscaped garden of lawns & shrubberies, 8 acres of paddock & woodland. Extensive fruit & veg area, orchard of Cornish apple varieties & Kea plum trees. Level access on grass paths. Dogs on leads. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273 939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 13

Photo Group Meeting

See Monday 8th April for details.

Please email Mark Dungey for an event form and submit details of your event, both for our website 'What's On' listing and for *Wild Cornwall* magazine, to mark.dungey@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Deadline for *Wild Cornwall* issue 139, summer 2019: **Thursday 24th May 2019.** *Wild Cornwall* 139 will be published on **Monday 29th July.**

Thursday 16

Newquay Evening Boat Trip

Newquay, 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Booking is essential. Meet at Newquay Harbour car park. TR7 1HT (SW808614). Look for Chris's boat Atlantic Diver.

Slow ride around Newquay headlands and out to sea to look for marine wildlife. Bring warm waterproof clothing, binoculars. £20 / adult; £15 / child up to 12 yrs. Leaders: Skipper Chris Lowe & wildlife expert Dave Thomas. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Contact: Chris Lowe, Mobile: 07860 927833; atlanticdiving@gmail.com

Friday 17

Looe Island Guided Walk

See Wednesday 17th April for details.

Friday 17

Looe Island Bird Walk

Looe, 2.30pm to 6.00pm
Online booking is essential

Join local birder Derek Spooner for a boat ride to & escorted walk around the island. During the 3-hour walk (& possible slide show) you'll encounter a range of birds and learn how they are monitored. £25. Leader: Jon Ross. Organised by CWT. Booking: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Friday 17

Looe Island History Walk

Looe, 3.00pm to 6.30pm
Online booking is essential

Join local historian, Mark Camp for a boat ride to & escorted walk around Looe Island Nature Reserve. During the 3-hour walk (& possible slide show) you'll learn of the island's intriguing history. £25. Leader: Jon Ross. Organised by CWT. Booking: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Saturday 18

(Almost) Half Term Rockpool Ramble

West Looe, 11.30am to 1.30pm
 Meet below coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

Join local experts & discover starfish, crabs, fish, anemones & lots more. No nets, please. Under 18s accompanied. Leader: Izzy Hann. Organised by Looe MCG. Contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

Saturday 18

Rockpooling

Porth Mear Beach, 10.00am to 1.00pm
 Meet at Pentire Farm car park (SW853707).

Identify cup corals, sea slugs & starfish. Very slippery rocks. Bring waterproof shoes, bucket or shallow tub & lunch with warm drink. Leader: Heather Buttivant. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Contact: (01503) 264569; h.buttivant@gmail.com

Saturday 18

Bee Friendly

Padstow, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking is essential

Join Beach Guardian's co-founders and their sister organisation Bee Guardian, www.facebook.com/BeeGuardian. Beach clean then potting up seedlings & planting sunflower seeds in recycled beach plastic bottles. Make a bee & bug hotel too. Leaders: Rob & Emily Stevenson. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 18

Snake Patrol

Nr Penhale, 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers & Jon Cripps, CWT Reserve Ranger, for a walk in search of reptiles. Bring sturdy walking shoes, long trousers & long sleeve tops. wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 19

Springtime Nature Walk

South of Bodmin, 10.00am to 1.00pm
 Meet at Gunwen Chapel car park, Lowertown village PL30 5DU (SX246537).

Walk around Breney Common Nature Reserve with local expert to look for wildflowers, birds & insects. Bring binoculars, stout walking shoes. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Leader/contact: Dave Thomas 07989 032149; davecarp86@hotmail.com

Sunday 19

Open Gardens – Burncoose

On A393 between Lanner & Ponsanooth, 11.00am to 4.00pm
 Meet at Burncoose House, Gwennap, Redruth, TR16 6BJ.

Magnificent woodland garden, behind Burncoose Nursery. CWT visitors will have special access to the whole 30 acres, including the grand Burncoose House & garden. Good access with rough surfaced paths. Dogs on leads. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 19

Rockpool Expedition

Nr Porthcothan, 11.30am to 1.30pm
Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch & Heather Buttivant for an expedition to a secluded rockpool. No toilet facilities; ½ mile walk through valley to beach – hills & rocks to cross. Over 6s only. Bring picnic, water, sturdy beach shoes, bucket. No nets, please. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 21

Talk: 'Why do marine animals leave the sea – and how do they do it?'

East Looe, 6.00pm to 8.30pm
 Meet at the Crew Room, Looe Lifeboat Station, West End PL13 1AT (SX255531).

We'll answer questions about lobsters in Louisiana, 25,000 shrimps per m² living in woodland in the southwest, climate change, marine pollution & evolutionary history. How? You'll have to come to find out. Leader: Izzy Hann. Organised by Looe MCG. Contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

Saturday 25

Wildlife Gardening Club – Salad Sensation

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers & Perennial Harvest sowing salad leaves. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 26

Wilder Festival 2019

Porthtowan, nr St Agnes
 12.00 noon to 8.00pm
 Mount Pleasant Eco Park, TR4 8HL

Join us for a naturally wild day out with wildlife workshops, forage & feasts, music, wildlife art and much more. Free entry. Dogs on leads welcome. Kindly supported by South West Water.

**Childrens' Parade**

(Parade at 3pm)

Show your love for wildlife and join us for a wildlife parade at our Wilder Festival 2019. Get creative and dress up as any British animal or plant and join in the fun of the parade around the park and then enjoy all that we have to offer. Some outfits available! To find out more and to book a place email wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 26

Sky Eyes

Bodmin, 10.30am to 1.30pm
Booking is essential

Find your Sky Eyes. You will use art & sketch books to explore & identify clouds and become a skyscape artist. £1.50 for sketch book. Leader: Nik Elvy, Miss Elvy's Curious School of the Wild. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 28

Weaving Willow

Nr Saltash, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential

Learn about wildlife on a saltmarsh farm & weave willow as decorations for your garden. Leaders: Steph & Olivia. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 28

Seashore Forage & Feast

Nr Polzeath, 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Booking is essential

Foraging walk along the coast. Help prepare lunch cooked over an open fire on the beach. Sponsored by John Bray Cornish Holidays with thanks. Leader: Stuart Woodman, www.woodmanswildale.co.uk. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 28

Bumblebees Workshop

Newquay, 10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. A presentation plus bumblebee survey & monitoring in the field. Bring notepad, pen, camera, hand lens. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government, £25 for EcoSoc members. Leader: Patrick Saunders, County Recorder for Bumblebees. Contact us re disabled access. Contact: see 15th April.

MAY

Wednesday 29

Night Time Rockpool

Falmouth, 8.30pm to 10.30pm

Booking is essential

Meet at Gyllngvase beach by the FMC flag.

Rockpooling is even better under the night sky using UV torches. All equipment provided but do bring own torches/ UV lights.

Organised by Falmouth MCG. Contact: info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

Wednesday 29

Rockpool Ramble

Nr Penzance, 9.30am to 11.30am

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers, CWT YSBR & Mounts Bay Marine Group to explore rockpools. No nets, please. Leader: Jacqui Keenan. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 30

Polzeath Marine Discovery Day

Polzeath, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Meet at Polzeath Marine Centre, Dunders Hill PL27 6TA.

Wildlife Watch & YSBR are joining Polzeath MCG, NT & others for fun at the beach. Leader: Polzeath MCG. Details: polzeathmarineconservation.com. Contact: 0777 9896650; polzeathmc@gmail.com

Thursday 30

Beaver Watch

Nr Truro, 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Booking is essential

Join our Conservation Manager to see the amazing work of two beavers & their kits. We can't guarantee a sighting but you may be lucky. Strictly 6+. Leader: Tom Shelley. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 31

Rockpool Ramble

Bude, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers, CWT YSBR & Bude Marine Group to explore rockpools. No nets, please. Leader: Jacqui Keenan. Kindly supported by South West Water. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

JUNE

Saturday 1

Looe Island Guided Walk

See Wednesday 17th April for details.

Saturday 1

Build a Bug House

Falmouth, 11.30am to 1.30pm

Booking is essential

Build a bug house & learn about summer bugs in your garden. Funded by Community Chest fund & Cllr Jayne Kirkham with thanks. Leader: Emma Oliver. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

JUNE

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2

Beginners' Botany Weekend

Five Acres, Truro, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. A weekend learning about Cornwall's wildflowers. Free, courtesy of the Alexandra Recorders Fund. Not open to commercial/government organisations. Bring notepad, pen, camera. Leader: Derek Green. Contact: see 15th April.

Sunday 2

Willow Bird Homes

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

We'll create willow bird houses to take home with Daena, Wildwood Eco Garden. £3. wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 2

Open Garden – Little Park Farm

Nr Truro, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Meet at Little Park Farm, St Clements, Malpas TR1 1SX.

South-facing hillside garden with views over the Malpas Passage & downriver to Kea and beyond. Disabled access surrounding house & some garden area. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 303939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 5

Geological Walk

Bude, 12.30pm to 3.00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at slipway onto the beach, Crooklets car park EX23 8NE.

Hear about the extraordinary cliffs & rocks with geologist Jane Anderson on a walk from Bude to Northcott Mouth and back. Rocky terrain. Facilities & refreshments at Crooklets. £5 payable on booking. Leader: Ursula Edwards. Organiser/contact: Programme Organiser, CWT Bude Group (01288) 321078; ursulaedwards42@yahoo.com

Wednesday 5

Garden Walk

Gillan Creek, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at Hallowarren Barn, Carne, TR12 6HD (SW77292487).

Rare chance to stroll through 15-acre woodland garden, wildflower meadow & head of the creek with owner Amanda Loxley. Spaces limited. Under-18s & HMCG members free. Others, £4. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Friday 7

Newquay Evening Boat Trip

See 16th May for details.

Sunday 9

Open Gardens – Boswiddle Farm

Nr Truro, 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at Boswiddle Farm, Ladock TR2 4NU.

Cottage-style plantsman's garden. Sunny terrace with garden views. Kitchen garden, orchard with ducks, circular walk taking in meadows, woodland & streamside. Sheltered courtyard for refreshments. Dogs on leads. Disabled access limited to area around house. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 10

Mosses and Liverworts Workshop

Bodmin, 10.00am to 4:00pm

Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. Cornwall's amazing bryophyte flora. Includes advice on equipment, techniques & where to get ongoing support. Bring notepad, pen, camera, hand lens. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government, £25 for EcoSoc members. Leader: Roy Jeffries. Contact us re disabled access. Contact: see 15th April.

Saturday 15

Seaweed Pressing

Nr St Agnes, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Booking is essential

Explore the beach for seaweeds, then learn how to press them. Make beautiful art to take home. Age 7+. Leader: Liz Barker. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 16

Rockpool Safari

Lizard, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch & Heather Buttivant, to see what creatures we can find. Bring sturdy beach shoes/wellies, bucket. No nets, please. Kindly supported by South West Water. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 16

Conservation Cruise

Helford River, 3.30pm to 6.00pm

Booking is essential

Meet at Ferryboat Inn jetty TR11 5LB (SW764269).

Annual conservation cruise up the Helford with local experts. Displays & children's activities. Payment in advance. Binoculars useful. Adults £14, children £7. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Monday 17

Learn to Snorkel

Bude, 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers, CWT YSBR & Bude MCG to learn to snorkel in a safe, sheltered spot. Equipment provided. Bring own wetsuit. Leader: Jacqui Keenan. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 19

Learn to Snorkel

Penzance, 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers, CWT YSBR & Mounts Bay Marine Group for an opportunity to learn to snorkel in a safe, sheltered spot. Equipment provided. Bring own wetsuit. Leader: Jacqui Keenan. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 1

Marine Art Exhibition

West Looe, 6.30pm to 9.30pm
Meet at Heritage Centre, Old Sardine Factory, Pennyland PL13 2BX (SX254531)

Local children & artists' artwork using materials found on local beaches. Drinks & nibbles. Under 18s accompanied. Organised by Looe MCG. Leader/contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

Sunday 23

Open Gardens – Lethytep

11.00pm to 4.30pm
Lethytep, Penadlake, Lanreath, PL13 2PG (SX175588).

52-acre wildlife haven: wildflower meadows, large ponds full of aquatic plants, birds & insects. Meandering path through woods to wetland area with orchids, dragonflies & butterflies. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Reasonably level access. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 28

Dune Flora Workshop

Upton Towans, Hayle, 10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. Wildflowers adapted to unstable conditions of fore dunes, well-drained calcareous grasslands of fixed yellow & grey dunes, & damp dune slacks. Bring notepad, pen, camera, hand lens. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government, £25 for EcoSoc members. Leader: Derek Green. Contact: see 15th April.

Saturday 29

Radical Rockpooling

West Looe, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Booking is essential
Meet below coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

Extreme rockpooling mixing snorkelling & coasteering. Ideal for the young & adventurous. Kiosk & toilets. Unaccompanied under 18s must be signed in by a parent/guardian. Confident sea swimmers only. Snorkelling equipment provided but bring own kit if you can. Leaders: Jenn Sandiford/Amelia Bridges. Organised by CWT/Looe MCG. Contact: Jenn Sandiford 07973 728775 or Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; Jennifer.Sandiford@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk / looevmca@gmail.com

Saturday 29

Wildlife Gardening Club – Companion Planting & Bug Life

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
We'll join Perennial Harvest to learn about how plants & bugs help each other. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 30

Nature Diary of an Eco Garden

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch & Daena from Wildwood Eco Garden to create an eco garden & begin a nature diary. £2 per diary. Leader: Daena Rose. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 1

Looe Island Guided Walk

See Wednesday 17th April for details.

Saturday 6

Rockpool Expedition

Nr Porthcothan, 12.30pm to 3.30pm
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch & Heather Buttivant, cornishrockpools.com, for a ½-mile walk through a lovely valley to a secluded rocky beach – hills & rocks. No toilets. Over 6s only. Bring picnic, sturdy beach shoes or wellies, bucket. No nets, please. Kindly supported by South West Water. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 6

Big Seaweed Search

Prisk Cove, 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Meet at Mawnan Church, Old Church Road, Mawnan TR11 5HY (SW788272).

Search for 14 species of seaweed as part of the MCS's seaweed project. Leaders: Angie Gall & Sue Scott. Organised by Helford MCG. Contact: Sue Scott (01326) 340961; coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Sunday 7

Open Gardens – Cornish Cutting Garden

Porkellis, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet: Vellanusun, Lower Releath, TR13 0HB.

The contemporary 1½-acre Cornish Cutting Garden is a social enterprise company that supports biodiversity, eco-therapy & education through creative engagement. The owner, Clare, is passionate about organic cultivation, growing flowers in a natural, chemical-free way. Dogs on leads. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 8

Dune Invertebrates Workshop

Gear Sands, Perranporth, 10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking is essential

Biological recording workshop. Classroom session, followed by field trip. Bring notepad, pen, camera, hand lens. £35 for most, £72 for commercial/government, £25 for EcoSoc members. Leader: Dr Keith Alexander. Contact: see 15th April.

Friday 12

Night Rockpooling

West Looe, 9.00pm to 11.00pm
Booking is essential
Meet below coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

Join the YSBR to explore rockpools using torches & UV lights. Bring own kit if you have it. No nets, please. Under 18s accompanied. Leaders/contact: see Radical Rockpooling, 29th June.

Saturday 13

Summer Bughunting

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
What's come out to play in a historic site? wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 13

SW Coast Path Walk

Bude, 10.00am to 12.30pm
Booking is essential. Meet at Duckpool car park, Stibb, EX23 9HW.

Strenuous, vertiginous walk from Duckpool to Crosstown. Car sharing please. No dogs, max 15 people. Toilets at Duckpool; tearoom & pub at Crosstown. £3. Leader: Ursula Edwards. Organiser/contact: Programme Organiser, CWT Bude Group (01288) 321078 or ursulaedwards42@yahoo.com

Sunday 14

Open Gardens – Arundell

1 mile west of Crantock, 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Meet at 'Arundell', West Pentire TR8 5SE.
1 acre around original farm cottage: Mediterranean courtyard, rockery, shrubbery, cottage garden, pond & stream, herbaceous borders, gravel garden, pinetum area & exotic garden. Some shallow steps in centre of garden. Dogs on lead. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 14

Cabilla Woods Butterfly Hunt

Nr Bodmin, 10.00am to 3.00pm
Meet at Saw Mill car park PL30 4BE (SX129652).
Ancient woodland walk with Dave Conway. Target species: the silver-washed fritillary; also commas, ringlets, gatekeepers & dragonflies. Organised by CWT Restormel Group. Contact: Dave Conway (01208) 77686.

Sunday 14

Summer Forest School Fun

Nr Bodmin, 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking is essential
Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers & Badger Forest School for summer fun: campfire, den building & exploring. Leader: Ysella Wood. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 15

Looe Island Guided Walk

See Wednesday 17th for details.

Wednesday 17

Newquay Evening Boat Trip

See 16th May for details.

Saturday 20

Butterflies and Moths

Saltash, 10.00am to 1.00pm
Meet nr Cecil Arms by St Stephens Church PL12 4AR (SX417583).
Bring camera, binoculars. Free for members of Friends of Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve. £2 non-members. Leader: Gary Lewis. Organised by FoCFCNR. Contact: Mary (01752) 843852.

Saturday 20

Glowing Glow Worms

Nr Penhale, 9.30pm to 11.30pm
Booking is essential
Search for amazing glowing beetles. Strictly age 6+. Bring torch. Leader: Jon Cripps. wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 20

Summer Beach Clean

Padstow, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Booking is essential

Join co-founders of Beach Guardian Rob & Emily, on a beach clean. Learn about nurdles, microplastics & plastiglomerates. Use a Trommel sand sifting machine. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 27

Gardening Club – Vegetable Harvesting

Nr Truro, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers & Perennial Harvest inside or out, whatever the weather. Leader: Tamasin Pemberton. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 28

Herbs for Pollinators & Health

Camborne, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch & Daena from Wildwood Eco Garden to learn about herbs & plant some to take home. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 28

Open Garden – Millpool Grange

Nr Bodmin, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. *Meet at Millpool Grange, Millpool, Cardinham PL30 4HZ.*

Delightful wildlife-rich woodland garden in a deep valley. Terraced semi-formal garden, woodland walks & stream with cascades & pools, used by otters. Disabled access limited to house & surrounds. Dogs on leads. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939; info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 29

Sensory River Beach Adventure

Saltash, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Booking is essential

A riverside sensory journey down on the farm. Leaders: Stephanie & Olivia. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 29

Beach Clean & Art Session

Nr Penzance, 10.00am to 1.00pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch Volunteers & YSBR for a strandline treasure hunt & art session. Leader: Jax Keenan. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 31

Snorkel Safari

West Looe, 11.00am to 2.00pm

Booking is essential

Meet below coastguard station, Hannafore Beach, Marine Drive PL13 2DJ(SX255523). Supervised snorkelling event for adventurous 9–24 year old locals with CWT's YSBR Project & Looe MCG. Hot chocolate on beach afterwards. Equipment provided but bring if you have it. Confident sea swimmers only. Unaccompanied under 18s must be signed in by parent/guardian. Leaders/contacts: see Radical Rockpooling, 29th June.

Thursday 1

Snorkel Safari

Porthean, 12.00pm to 3.00pm

Booking is essential. *Meet at bottom of slope to beach PL26 6AX.*

Supervised snorkelling event for adventurous 11–24-year-old locals with CWT's YSBR Project & Three Bays Wildlife Group. Rules as for Snorkel Safari on 31st July. Leader/contact: Jenn Sandiford 07973 728775; Jennifer.Sandiford@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 1

Summer Rockpool Ramble

West Looe, 12.00 noon to 2.00pm

No booking required

Meet below the Coastguard Station, Hannafore, Marine Drive PL13 2DL (SX255523). Look out for our sail flags.

Discover wonderful creatures & seaweeds. No nets, please – all equipment provided. Bring beach-shoes with good grip. Under 16s accompanied. Toilets & refreshment kiosk. Leader: Matt Nott. Organised by Looe MCG, www.looemarineconservation.org. Contact: 07539 530020; looevmca@gmail.com

Friday 2

Snorkel Safari

St Agnes, 12.30pm to 3.30pm

Booking is essential. *Meet at bottom of slope to beach, Trevaunance Cove TR5 0RU.*

A supervised snorkelling event for adventurous, experienced snorkelling locals aged 11+ with CWT's YSBR Project & St Agnes MCG. Rules as for Snorkel Safari on 31st July. Leader/contact: Jenn Sandiford 07973728775; Jennifer.Sandiford@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 2

Bat Walk

Kilkhampton, nr Bude 8.00pm to 10.00pm

Booking is essential. *Meet at NT Office, Stowe Barton EX23 9JW (SS212113).*

Introductory talk about bats over a cup of coffee or juice, followed by Coombe Valley walk with bat detectors. Children with adult supervision encouraged. Bring torches. £3. Leaders: Rob Robinson / Sarah Stevens. Organised by CWT Bude Group, National Trust & Cornwall Bat Group. Contact: Rob Robinson (01288) 321236; binsrob@aol.com

Friday 2

Explore the Shore

Polridmouth Beach nr Fowey, 11.30am to 2.00pm. **Booking is essential**

Join Matt Slater & Adele Morgan for a ramble & Shoresearch survey in a sheltered bay. Wear rockpooling footwear. Organised by Shoresearch Cornwall, YSBR, FFE. Kindly supported by South West Water. Contact: Matt Slater (01872) 302251; shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 4

Open Garden – Trenarth

Constantine, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. *Meet at High Cross, Constantine, Cornwall, TR11 5JN.*

4-acre garden around a 17th century farmhouse with panoramic views. 16th century courtyard, listed garden walls, gravel & palm area, unusual plants, yew rooms, vegetable garden, orchard & woodland area. Dogs on leads. Refreshments. £5 entrance. Under 16s free. Organised by CWT. Contact: (01872) 273939 or info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 5

Rockpool Ramble

Nr Polzeath, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Booking is essential

Join Wildlife Watch & expert Heather Buttivant to explore this watery world. Sponsored with thanks by John Bray Cornish Holidays. No nets, please. Contact: wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 6

Crabbing Takeover Day

West Looe, 10.00am to 5.00pm

Meet at Heritage Centre, Old Sardine Factory, Pennyland, West Looe, Cornwall PL13 2BX (SX254531).

Talks on crabs (including display), crab-themed arts, crafts, games & poster competition. Under 18s accompanied. Organised by Looe MCG. Contact: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345; looevmca@gmail.com

Wednesday 7

Radical Rockpooling

Nr St Just, 3.00pm to 5.30pm

Booking is essential. *Meet at NT car park, Cape Cornwall TR19 7NN (SW353317).*

Challenging adventure at a rarely visited location. Try snorkelling in huge natural tide pools. Age 12+ only. Under 18s accompanied. We can lend equipment & wetsuits if you need them. Must be confident with climbing, swimming & wading over difficult terrain. Organised with permission from NT. Old trainers or wetsuit shoes essential. Leaders: Matt Slater & Jenn Sandiford. Organised by YSBR & Shoresearch Cornwall. Contact: Matt Slater (01872) 302251; shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 10

Night Time Rockpooling

Polzeath, 8.00pm to 10.30pm

Booking is essential

Meet at the Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch & putt green PL27 6TA.

Rockpooling is even better at night with UV torches. A supervised event for 11–24-year-old locals with CWT's YSBR Project & Polzeath MCG. Unaccompanied under 18s must be signed in by parent or guardian. All equipment provided. Leader/contact: Jenn Sandiford 07973728775; jennifer.sandiford@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 10

Wild Flowers

Saltash, 10.30am to 1.00pm

Meet at the Cecil Arms by St Stephens Church PL12 4AR (SX417583).

Discover the wide variety of wildflowers on Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve. Bring camera, binocular, tripod if you have one. £2 or free for members of the Friends. Leader: Ian Bennialck. Organised by FoCFCNR. Contact: Mary (01752) 843852.

Further details of events and activities are available on our website:

cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on



Proud to support
**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



Love Organic

Summer 2019 Collection **OUT NOW!**



Inspired by the beautiful Isles of Scilly



Visit us at
welovefrugi.com

Organic, license number BK2228



Super soft **organic cotton clothing**
for babies, toddlers, kids and **adults** too!



A wilder way to do business

Frugi, the organic childrenswear brand, has been a Business Supporter of Cornwall Wildlife Trust for over a decade, recently donating an incredible £24,691 to our Living Seas work. We caught up with Frugi's founder, **Lucy Jewson**, to hear about what has inspired her business, and why she decided to go wild.



What do you love most about Cornwall and why is your business here?

What's not to love? Kurt and I both grew up in West Cornwall, having a fab childhood messing about in the sea. We left for a while to study and get our careers off the ground – I did Marine Biology and Kurt did Marine Science at uni – so I guess the sea is in both our souls. But Cornwall is where we wanted to get married and have our own children. I love the creativity here, and the real sense of community. We started our business here to create our own career opportunities – it's now a really entrepreneurial environment!

Cornwall's marine life is facing many threats and pressures. What do you think is the most important?

I think our ever-growing personal consumer footprints are one of the biggest threats – we are just using too much stuff and then it all ends up in landfill, litter, or in the sea. The spectre of climate change feels like it's breathing very heavily down our necks and I'm really concerned that we are not doing enough, with enough urgency.

How do you educate and inspire your own children about the natural world?

Well, my kids are teenagers now, but I'm pleased to say that everything still stops for a good David Attenborough programme! They both love getting out on the boat, fishing and exploring in the woods, and they love animals. I think as a parent it's so important to 'be'

with them in the natural world as much as possible, and if you do it enough when they are young, they never lose it, despite the distractions of teenage life!

Your products are ethically sourced and Frugi is run with the environment in mind. How important is this to your business and customers?

We set up Frugi to prove that you could be successful in business but still do everything possible to help protect the environment – from the people growing our organic cotton and all the way through to the tailors who make the clothes. We are certified to prove that to our customers, and I think in general, people are a lot more savvy about the power their purchasing decisions can have on the world. Our customers love the fact that they can choose one of our three nominated charities – and make a difference for that charity with every purchase.

Does the natural environment influence the designs of your clothes?

Completely! That's the brilliant thing with children's clothes – you can have such fun with them. They are always adorned with the most incredible animal (and plant!) characters and prints – lots of them inspired from our natural environment in Cornwall. I'll let you into a secret... Our theme for Spring 2019 is 'The Summer of Scilliness' – our design team spent a lovely few days camping on the Scillies drawing all the wildlife to adorn this collection – worth checking out.

Why is it vital for businesses and charities like Cornwall Wildlife Trust to work together?

I think it is really good for businesses to involve their customers and their teams in giving back. It's so much easier to go to work on a dreary Monday morning if you know you are contributing to good things. We've worked with Cornwall Wildlife Trust for over 10 years now, donating over £130,000 to many projects, from the Marine Strandings Network, to 'pinger' trials to help keep marine mammals out of fishing nets, to the Living Seas programme in general. It's a win-win for the charity and for our team here at Frugi and our customers.



Kurt and Lucy Jewson enjoying their ethical business life in Cornwall

What is the best thing about being a Cornwall Wildlife Trust Business Supporter?

We've been working with Ruth and her marine team at Cornwall Wildlife Trust for so long, we've got to know each other really well. They give us detailed information about how our donations have been spent and I think that makes it very real for our customers. The special events you arrange for us and our customers every year are wonderful – rockpool rambles and snorkelling safaris, for example. I had the honour of holding a little barn owlet on a wildlife walk with all the team at Frugi and Cornwall Wildlife Trust last summer – an absolute highlight for me.

You can shop Frugi's latest collection at wlovefrugi.com

We have over 160 Business Supporters who play an essential part in helping to protect wild Cornwall.

Discover more at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/business or contact Serena Pettigrew-Jolly on (01872) 302264 or serena.pettigrewjolly@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



Proud to support
**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



Be a wildlife superhero

wildlife watch



When you join Wildlife Watch, you'll discover that our many and varied activities for children and families open up a world of wonderful wildlife right before your eyes. If this inspires your child to do more – that little bit extra – they are on their way to becoming a wildlife superhero.

Over-8s Superheroes

The Kestrel award



When children approach or reach the age of eight, the extra things they do as a Wildlife Watch member can count towards the Kestrel award. There are four challenges –

'Create it' – they can use their artistic and observational skills to write, draw or make something inspired by nature

'Record it' – the next big step towards becoming a real naturalist, as they learn to observe and record wildlife during six visits to their chosen area, using notes, photos, drawings, maps, or even video or sound recordings

'Do it' – three practical activities that make a real difference to wildlife from a list of six options, from helping to build a wildlife pond or making bird or bat boxes, to going on a litter pick or helping at a nature reserve

'Shout about it!' – telling other people will encourage others to help wildlife too, and is a vital part of the Kestrel award. This could be a presentation, a written article, a display or perhaps a film.



Under-8s Superheroes!

The Hedgehog award



After attending eight Wildlife Watch events, collecting a sticker each time, every child of any age is given a Hedgehog award certificate to celebrate what they have already learned about wildlife. There are three certificates to collect: bronze, silver and gold. Under-8s can be wildlife superheroes by helping wildlife at home, too. Have a look at our fab wildlife factsheets that are on the Wildlife Watch website www.wildlifewatch.org.uk, or how about these ideas?

Feed and give clean water to the birds all year round (adults can supply ingredients and help keep bird baths, feeders and the ground below clean). **Plant a wildlife garden**, and why not make the whole garden more wildlife friendly as a family. **Make homes for wildlife**, as learned at Wildlife Watch events – come and join in one of our events to build a bug or bird house. **Be a wildlife detective every day** (keep an eye out for all sorts of wildlife and draw or write what you see in a special wildlife notebook).



Our Family Events and Volunteer Coordinator **Joanna Arvor** and her team of Wildlife Watch volunteers are here to help. You can call **Jo on (01872) 302241**, go to Wildlife Watch events throughout Cornwall

(see the diary on the centre pages) and visit our webpage for more information and ideas: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch. We're also on Twitter with lots of ideas and factsheets and activities sheets!



wildlifewatch

How to go further – The Nature Ranger Award



Any Wildlife Watch member who has a Kestrel award can do a six-month project to gain the Nature Ranger award. This involves some in-depth study of an aspect of UK wildlife and a report on what they have learned. Watch leaders can provide help and guidance. Those who complete the award receive a certificate signed by Chris Packham, a badge, a mention in Wildlife Watch magazine and some Wildlife Watch goodies in appreciation of the fact that they are a wildlife superhero, now and into the future.

a day in the life...

Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve proved useful to Proboscis resident Rob Holland last winter, when he revived the sustainable craft of willow lobster pot making, writes Rowena Millar.

Not so long ago, using a simple wooden frame and a knife, Cornish fishermen used to weave 'green' (fresh) willow into traditional inkwell-style crab and lobster pots. The type of willow withies they used were spotted by Rob at Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve, a few miles southwest of Truro, and that is where he met volunteer reserve warden Duncan Viner to cut a bundle one winter's morning. Rob was planning to use Bissoe Valley willow to revive a craft he learned 53 years ago from Lewis Billing, one of Gorran Haven's last traditional seiners and fishers.

Duncan has been cutting willow for years, to prevent it from taking over the marsh area of the reserve, piling the cut branches as wildlife habitat. These days he is helped by the Wild Allet volunteers. Rob remembers a time when many acres of willow 'gardens' were cultivated on the cliffs of Gorran Haven, where he grew up. In those days, each tree was cut to a stump, known as a 'motte', which expanded as branches were harvested regularly for pot making.

Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve is a 7.5 hectare mosaic of heathland, woodland and ponds on an old mining site. Willow is cut to prevent it from taking over a marshy area. The word 'Bissoe' may derive from 'besow', the Cornish for birch trees.



DUNCAN VINER

Rob shoulders his cut willow at Bissoe Valley Nature Reserve



Rob Holland Making a lobster pot.

DUNCAN VINER

Rob heaved a bunch onto his shoulder, took it home and later cut it to length. He didn't use a ruler – just looped each supple stem around his knee, sharpened the ends, measured the length of his arm, then his hand, then a bit more. Some fishermen used split sticks – quite an art – each making their own distinctive pots to use on their particular patch of seabed. Lewis's was the Dodman Ground, where the spring tide is "like a torrent".

With strong hands, Rob began weaving the lobster's entrance hole. Ribs are inserted into the weave, sticking upwards before being bent back, around and down, and then tied firmly in place. "If you don't control the basket, it can expand and fall apart," he said. The ribs are 'ringed' by weaving more willow around them, and extra ribs are forced in, to narrow any gaps. The base or 'cheam' is made last, and 'takes the rub', or ribs. Then the pot is ready for baiting. When 17-year-old Rob's first basket was completed, Lewis had told him, "Looks like a crow's nest". Crows – or crows – are not renowned for their neatness.

The traditional pots were fewer in number than today's modern plastic ones, and soon biodegraded – a natural process but replaced by the seemingly superior resilience of plastic. Rob reckons each traditional

pot caught more crabs or lobsters though, as they were "something natural in the water". He advised that "you should always shet your pot on splatty ground" (toss the pot over the boat's side above a place where rock and seaweed meet sand). Lobsters come out at night onto the sand looking for food, scouring the seabed for tasty morsels such as crabs and starfish and meeting up with other lobsters.

We are all looking at ways to reduce our reliance on plastics and live sustainable lives. And there is much we can learn from the times when Cornish people relied on the local land and sea for survival – a time when, just like Rob's pots, people and nature were bound tightly together.

Traditional lobster pots need to be kept damp, so the wood doesn't harden and crack. This stack is out on Rob's garden wall.



DUNCAN VINER

There is more information on baited pots on Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Good Seafood Guide website: cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk/fishing-methods/potting.php



cec

Plan with landscape in mind

Our landscape architects create appealing designs for private or business clients to benefit planning applications, landscape management or enhancement proposals. Bring beauty and biodiversity to your doorstep.

For a complete survey and design package, call our friendly team for a quote.

Invest in nature: CEC is the consultancy arm of Cornwall Wildlife Trust and helps to fund its conservation work.

ECOLOGY

LANDSCAPE

ARBORICULTURE

01872 245 510 enquiries@cecenvironment.co.uk www.cecenvironment.co.uk



Cornish Seal Sanctuary

DISCOVERY COVE PLAYGROUND

NEW
for 2019



- Hear about our rescued **seals** and their stories
- Meet our **otters, penguins & many more** amazing animals
- Explore woodland walks, relax at our café and enjoy the **amazing views of Helford River**
- With fun talks, animal feeds, a kids quiz trail, there's loads for the whole family to enjoy



Pay once and visit all year!

www.visitsealife.com/gweek



Desert drifter

The British butterfly that can cross the Sahara, p6

A law to help nature recover?

Support our campaign for a strong Environment Act



See your first orchid

Find a great place for these flowers near you

“We can inspire young people”

How we're bringing children closer to nature



BREXIT UPDATE

Shaky start for new Environment Bill

The Government has published a draft Environment Bill. We say they could do much better

Just before Christmas, the Government faced the first real test of their commitment to our natural world as the long-awaited part one of the draft Environment Bill was published. It was a result of successful lobbying by The Wildlife Trusts and our partners in the Greener UK coalition.

This draft Bill aims to create a replacement environmental governance system after we leave the EU. Published alongside this was a policy note setting out the Government's ambitions for part two of the Bill, expected in Spring 2019.

The Wildlife Trusts have fought hard for the Government to

recognise the need for an ambitious Environment Bill to help our natural world recover. However, in their current form the Government's plans fall well short of what is needed.

We need the new environmental watchdog to be much more independent and able to hold the whole Government to account to

“The plans fall short of what we need to tackle the challenge”



TOM MARSHALL

Surveys show that thousands of once-common species are declining sharply

begin to match the environmental enforcement powers currently held by the European Commission and European Court of Justice.

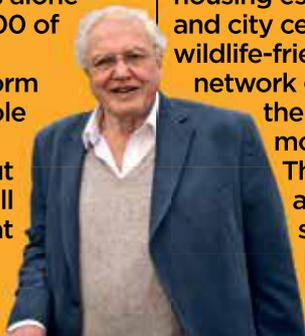
**Have
your say**

Turn to page 12 to
change the Bill for
the better

“Every space in Britain must be used to help wildlife.”

Sir David Attenborough

The UK has thousands of nature reserves – the Wildlife Trusts alone look after 2,300 of them. These reserves perform an essential role in species protection. But wildlife has still disappeared at an alarming rate.



For wildlife to recover and thrive, parks, housing estates, farms and city centres must be wildlife-friendly: a network giving wildlife the freedom to move around. This can be achieved with a strong Environment Act.

**Main pic above:
a pyramidal
orchid about
to disappear
on a site in
Kent being
cleared for
development**

What’s more, it is vital that the Bill makes it a statutory requirement to produce Nature Recovery Network maps. These must influence decisions both about built development and about farming to give wildlife room to manoeuvre.

As part of our Wilder Future campaign we are encouraging our supporters to meet with their MPs and ask them to stand up for wildlife and create a bold visionary piece of legislation proportionate to the vast environmental challenge we face.

Unless Ministers and MPs improve upon this draft Bill, we will continue to see a decline in our wildlife and the health of our ecosystems for generations to come.

“

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

A network to put nature into recovery



While the political battles rage on, wildlife faces its ongoing battle to survive. Despite political upheavals, there are some things that are certain: nature needs our help, butterflies don’t recognise borders and wildlife won’t recover if we don’t act now.

Wildlife Trust members have formed a movement and fought off thousands of risks to wildlife. Hundreds of wildlife sites are still here because we’ve saved them: Askham Bog in York, Rampisham Down in Dorset, Eithinog in North Wales.... We’ve campaigned to end the use of pesticides that all but killed off our otters, and helped bring otters back. We’ve secured over a hundred Marine Protected Areas. As charities, we care for over two thousand wildlife refuges and we’ve started to piece things back together with landscape scale initiatives.

This is all great stuff, but we have been swimming against the tide. Much stronger laws are needed to halt and reverse nature’s decline. This is the only sure way to remove barriers to the free movement of wildlife across our islands.

So the solution we are calling for is this: statutory Nature Recovery Network maps. These would map out how to join-up important places for wildlife that are currently isolated, identifying where habitat needs to be put back. These would result in better planning decisions and better targeting of farm support and funds from developers. After all, we are part of nature, so this will also benefit us through reduced flooding, cleaner air and better health.

With your help we can ensure that the Westminster Environment Act planned for 2019 is improved to make provisions for this. But individual actions are also important. Wherever you live, you can help create more space for nature. Why not install a bee brick in your wall or have flowers in a window box as a service station for a passing pollinator?

Together we can create a Wilder Future.

Stephanie Hilborne OBE

Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts
@stephphilborne

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

Website: wildlifetrusts.org **Tel:** 01636 677711

Email: enquiry@wildlifetrusts.org

Twitter: @wildlifetrusts

Facebook: [Facebook.com/wildlifetrusts](https://www.facebook.com/wildlifetrusts)

Instagram: @thewildlifetrusts

Charity No: 207238

Cover: Painted lady on black knapweed, by Bob Coyle

Knowing where species go helps conservation groups to protect them

Goose migration secrets revealed

GUY EDWARDES/2020VISION

New research shows how brent geese get to Siberia

How do the UK's 91,000 dark-bellied brent geese migrate to their summer breeding grounds in Siberia? Research at Essex Wildlife Trust's Blue House Farm reserve is finding out.

In January 2018, experts from the Southern Colour Ringing group, licenced by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), ringed the legs of 18 geese on the reserve, to help

track their 5,000-mile round trip. Individuals were recorded in the Netherlands and the Baltics as they flew east. Last winter, several were spotted back in Essex.

The Wildlife Trusts work with the BTO to monitor migrant birds on many of our reserves, which are important feeding grounds. Studies like this demonstrate the need for a global approach to conservation.



DAVID TRILING/2020VISION

Research shows the geese migrate to Siberia via the Netherlands and Baltics



CHRIS WOOD

Barry Sheerman MP meets Moustafa Atta and Liam Jackson of Sheffield WT

60 MPs make time to meet The Wildlife Trusts' young stars

Last November, the Wildlife Trusts hosted a Parliamentary Reception in Westminster. Over 60 MPs attended to meet our young staff, trainees and volunteers.

It was a chance for our young stars to highlight the need for an ambitious Environment Bill.

Georgina Umney of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust said in a speech: "Everyone has the right to freely

access and defend the natural world. No young person can avoid being an environmentalist as it is defining our future."

Stephanie Hilborne OBE, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts said: "Young people are a vital part of our movement. They want to guarantee a more positive future for our natural environment."

Farming and Fisheries Bills need more work

As part of the arrangements for leaving the EU, MPs and Peers have recently debated both a new Fisheries Bill and a new Agriculture Bill for England. These two key parts of the legal Brexit jigsaw will have a significant impact on the health of our natural environment on land and at sea.

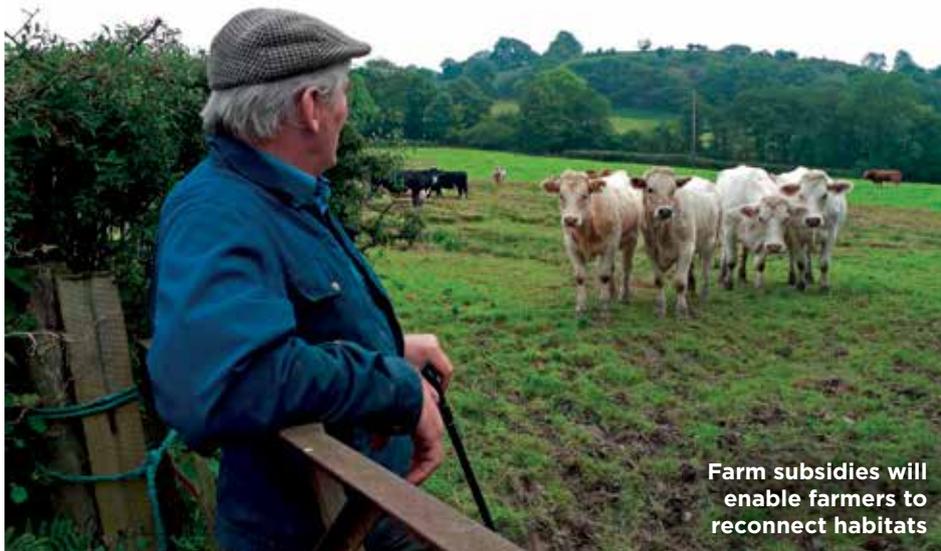
On the Agriculture Bill, we have worked hard to ensure there will be long-term funding at the right level to restore and reconnect wildlife habitats on farms, and to create a Nature Recovery Network. On the



TOBY ROXBURGH/2020 DIVISION

Work by The Wildlife Trusts will ensure UK fishing is sustainable

Fisheries Bill, we have sought to strengthen its sustainability objectives to ensure a healthy marine environment.



KATHY DEWITT/ALAMY

Farm subsidies will enable farmers to reconnect habitats

Red squirrels more diverse than thought

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have discovered new genetic diversity in the mid-Wales red squirrel population. Analysis of hairs left on sticky pads in a feeding station has identified a unique sequence of DNA.

This is great news for the squirrels, as it means their diversity is better than scientists thought. That variation will help them adapt to changing environments. The research was part of the Mid Wales Red Squirrel Project, a branch of Red Squirrels United.



PAUL HARRY

The study obtained DNA from hairs stuck to sticky pads in the feeder

A new home for bees

Solitary bee homes are hard to find in modern gardens, but an ingenious solution – the bee brick – can turn a wall into a bee hotel. Bee bricks are full of holes in which solitary bees can lay their eggs. They can be used on their own, or built into a wall.

Last summer, The Wildlife Trusts' Adam Cormack fitted a bee brick to his house. Six months later he found several bees in residence. Adam shared his find on Twitter and more than 46,000 people 'liked' his tweet. Individual actions like this are key to creating a wilder future.



GREEN & BLUE

A red mason bee (an excellent fruit tree pollinator) investigates a brick

HS2 dooms 19 ancient woods



ARUP

HS2's proposals pay little heed to the amount of nature the project will engulf

HS2's newest phase, due to connect Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds, offers 'derisory' consideration of wildlife, The Wildlife Trusts said in a consultation last year.

The 176 miles of track will seriously damage 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 111 Local Wildlife Sites and 19 ancient woodlands.

"HS2 Ltd's work lacks sufficient proposals to compensate for nature's loss," says Katherine Hawkins, Senior Living Landscapes Officer. "We have challenged it to create and restore more wild places than are being destroyed and damaged, and to save irreplaceable wetlands and woodlands."



Patrick Barkham is a natural history writer for The Guardian and author of The Butterfly Isles

Butterflies without borders

MAIN PIC: MATTHEW ROBERTS; INSET: PAPILO/ALAMY

With luck, you'll see a lot of butterflies visiting gardens this summer. But the story of how some species get there is incredible

Swifts, cuckoos, wildebeest and basking sharks – we admire these creatures for their epic seasonal migrations. But there is another, far bigger group of species who undertake even more audacious journeys: insects.

During the Second World War, military observers reported a golden ball drifting over the Channel. What they feared was a cloud of poison gas was actually a huge mass of migrating clouded yellow butterflies. In 1846, the *Canterbury Journal* reported a “cloud” of small whites so dense that it obscured the sun as it passed over a Channel steamer.

These mass migrations are not ancient history. In 2009, 11 million

painted lady butterflies arrived in Britain from southern Europe. These strong-flying migrants were spotted everywhere from the Highlands to central London, and produced millions more offspring. Two fields in Cornwall contained 500,000 painted lady caterpillars.

The painted lady is our best-known migratory insect but there are many others, including moths, dragonflies, ladybirds, hoverflies and even aphids. Climate change will bring more to our shores. It seems far-fetched that insects can cross continents, but we now know they do. Satellite tags are still too large, but other technologies are shedding new light on the marvels of insect migration.

Each autumn, given favourable winds, moth traps fill with exciting continental arrivals such as the enormous convolvulus and death's



MARGARET HOLLAND

Clouded yellows migrate to the UK from North Africa and the Med

A single painted lady butterfly can cross Europe and the Sahara



head hawkmoths, and the delicate vestal moth. Enthusiasts call these migratory moths, but Richard Fox of Butterfly Conservation distinguishes between insects that are simply dispersing as widely as possible after a successful breeding season, and “obligate”, or true, migrants.

Most migratory moths are on a fairly fruitless dispersal. “The killer piece of evidence is that the best time of year to see migrant moths is the autumn,” says Fox. “To me as a biologist they can’t be ‘proper’ migrants because the habitat here in winter is not going to support their breeding cycle and they are unlikely to survive.” In other words, Britain is a dead-end.

“It seems far-fetched that insects cross continents”

In contrast, obligate migrants build their life-cycle around migration. For British butterflies, the big challenge is to survive winters when caterpillars’ food plants don’t grow. Most do this by hibernating. But migrants such as the clouded yellow survive by moving south, to warmer climes. It was long assumed that the painted lady retreats to Morocco but scientists have recently discovered

that it also crosses the Sahara. Then, when it gets too hot for the sub-Saharan African generation, they move north again. The painted lady migration route can span up to 7,500 miles but this may be via three or more quickly-reproducing generations. Such insights have been gathered using new forensic techniques, analysing chemicals found in painted lady wings to discover where individuals grew up as caterpillars.

Until the 2009 painted lady invasion, it was unclear if Britain was a dead-end for the species. People observed painted ladies arriving but never saw them depart and their offspring couldn’t survive winter.

Scientists solved the mystery using Rothamstead Research's two upward-facing radars in Hampshire and Hertfordshire. These special entomological radars identified painted ladies flying southwards at the end of the summer: the butterfly previously evaded detection because it rises to an average of 500 metres to take advantage of prevailing winds, flying south at 30mph.

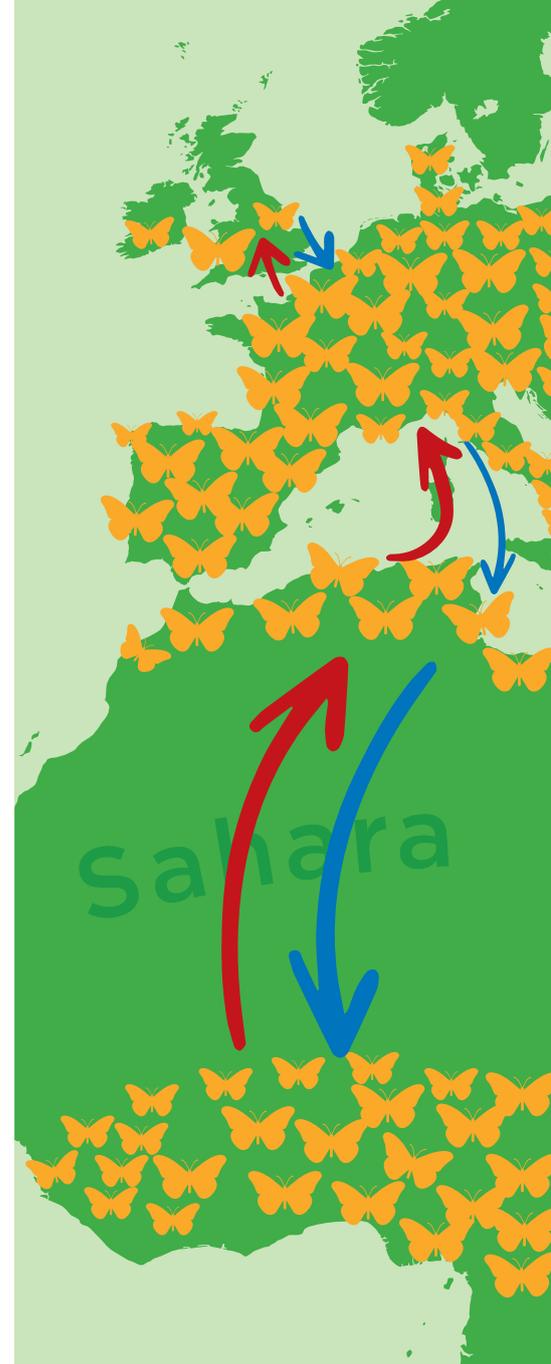
These radars have also revealed the miraculous powers of Britain's only confirmed obligate migrant moth, the Silver Y. "We suspected they might have some pretty cool capabilities but when we saw the data for the first time it was an exciting surprise," says Jason Chapman, associate professor at the University of Exeter.

Chapman discovered that the Silver Ys were choosing the altitude that bequeathed most advantageous tail-winds. Radar also revealed that Silver Ys could even orientate their bodies in the correct direction to compensate for cross-winds. Most incredibly, Silver Ys were revealed to be travelling as fast – and sometimes faster – than migrating birds such as

thrushes. This was because the moths identified the best spot in the air column for favourable tail-winds, whereas the larger birds didn't bother.

But how do these insects know which way to go? Lab tests have revealed that the lengthening or shortening of days is the painted ladies' cue: caterpillars growing while days are lengthening become adults who fly northwards. When days shorten, the butterflies are born with an awareness of the need to travel south, to warmer climes. The painted lady orientates itself using the sun, but night-flying moths can't use a sun compass. A study of Australia's bogong moth reveals they use the Earth's magnetic field to guide them.

As the climate changes, some dispersing insects will take up permanent residence in Britain. Charismatic arrivals could include the continental swallowtail and the long-tailed blue, but here's a tip: the southern small white is making remarkable progress across northern Europe and was first spotted in the Netherlands in 2015. It could soon cross the North Sea into East Anglia.



MARGARET HOLLAND

In summer the Silver Y moth moves from southern Europe into Britain, the Netherlands and Scandinavia



Many gardeners will not welcome another "cabbage white". Some insect migrations are portrayed as problematic. Tabloid newspapers reported "swarms" of harlequin ladybirds "invading" last autumn. Ladybird expert Professor Helen Roy worked with Rothamstead's radar to identify harlequin and seven-spot ladybirds flying as high as 1,100m.

Ladybirds, says Roy, are dispersers rather than true migrants. "Generally ladybirds are a little bit bumbly. The harlequin ladybird is a real opportunist. Because it is generalist in what it eats, it doesn't matter so much which way it's going – its main motivation is to move out of overcrowded habitat. They can get across the Channel but mostly they are making more local movements." The harlequin ladybird's rapid spread across Europe has been assisted by us, however. New research from



A migration miracle

Species: Painted lady
Weight: 0.2-0.3g
Range: 5,000+ miles

We're used to strong-flying insects migrating to the UK from Europe. But the painted lady butterflies we see in warm summers easily beat that.

Most specimens start as caterpillars in the Sahel region of Africa. As spring begins they move north over the Sahara, some making it to Southern Europe and the Med, others only getting to North Africa.

With summer on the way, the next generation continues the journey north. Research shows some individuals hop directly from North Africa to the UK. Others filter through Central Europe and then into the UK across multiple generations.

But here's the amazing bit: in the autumn, they've been found to fly 5,000+ miles back in a single generation!

Key

- █ Spring migration north
- █ Autumn migration south

“They do an incredible service of free biological pest control”

Croatia reveals that harlequins are attracted to the lights on ships - they are literally being ferried around Europe.

For all the scares about marauding “invasive” insects - and there is genuine concern about the honeybee-devouring Asian hornet - most migratory insects perform crucial “ecosystem services”. Jason Chapman has studied the Marmalade hoverfly, our commonest species. To his surprise, these show an ability to choose favourable days for wind-

assisted migration. Hundreds of millions arrive in the spring; up to a billion depart each autumn. “The really exciting numbers,” says Chapman, “are when you calculate how many aphid pests are eaten by the hoverflies’ larvae. You rapidly get into the trillions. We think they are doing an incredible service of free biological pest control.”

For all the great insect clouds of old, only now are we gaining a sense of the true scale of insect migration. Migratory ecologists looking at radar data have revealed a startling fact: a biomass of 3,200 tonnes of migrating insects. Imagine 270 London buses made from solid insects passing over southern England each summer. Or, if you prefer, roughly 3.5 trillion insects.

That’s an awful lot of bird food. And each one a minuscule everyday miracle.

Top sites for butterflies

Our nature reserves are home to dozens of butterfly species, including (see below) some of the UK’s rarest. But for these insects and other wildlife to thrive, we also need country-wide networks of wild spaces, and you can help. For tips on butterfly-friendly gardening, visit wtru.st/butterfly-garden

Daneway Banks

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WT

37 species. Second largest known population of large blue.



ELLEN WINTER

Hutchinson’s Bank

LONDON WT

35 species recorded. This is one of the UK’s best sites for the small blue.



LONDON WT

Lydden Temple Ewell



KENT WT

34 species including the Adonis and chalkhill blues. One of Europe’s finest chalk downlands.

RAY LEWIS

Llanymynech Rocks

MONTGOMERYSHIRE WT

33 species, including the very rare pearl-bordered fritillary.



The House that Jack Built

We asked the Wildlife Trusts to share their favourite stories. Here's one: meet four-year-old Jack, who loves nature

MAIN PIC: HELENA DOLBY

I first visited Hem Heath Woods three years ago, when I started working as a Wildplay officer. This hidden gem, in the middle of a city I had worked in for ten years, quickly became my favourite place in Stoke-on-Trent.

I can still remember one of the first people to arrive for my debut Wildplay session. He was a rosy-cheeked four-year-old boy hiding behind his mum, wide-eyed and shy. His mum encouraged him to say hello and listen as I explained the activities on offer. He then disappeared into the woods to build a den and hunt for bugs. At the end he left slightly muddier than when he had arrived, with a silent wave goodbye.

At the next session the boy was back, eagerly tugging at his mum's



Writer **Katie Shipley** is Wildplay Officer at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

arm: "He hasn't stopped asking about when he can come back to Wildplay." This time he braved a wobble on the slackline, gripping tightly to his mum's hand.

Next time he brought a friend along. With growing confidence, he showed his friend how to balance on the slackline, and the best place to build a den. Later, at a different park, with another friend, he built bug hotels, followed picture trails and created obstacle courses.

Any challenge we set, Jack took up with great enthusiasm. "We've never been to this park before!" his mum exclaimed - and then a little later she asked, "Jack wants to know if you can bring Wildplay to his park?"

So we did, and it was really popular. Jack had told all his friends about Wildplay. He had also told his teachers, who invited us to come in and deliver Wildplay at his school.

Three years later, Jack and his mum are still regulars at our sessions across the city. He has joined Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, declared himself a Wildplay Ambassador and even sponsored me to run the London Marathon last year with his own pocket money, happy in the knowledge that he was supporting the work we do.

Jack's mum tells me that Wildplay has had a huge impact on his life:

“ Jack is proud he has provided a place for birds to nest ”



Another ten species ticked off: Jack and Katie at a Wildplay session



he is more confident, outgoing, independent and adventurous. He has developed a great love of the outdoors. Stories about wildlife even encouraged him to start reading.

Wildplay has given Jack a lot. He has given back in return, in small ways and big ways. Not only have we been able to talk to more people about what we do; he has provided a home for a family of birds.

Last February he came to one of our workshops and built a bird box. He took it home to hang up in his

STAFFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST



Jack's story - and research from across the world - shows that messing around in natural environments has huge benefits for children

garden. Over the spring a family of birds moved in. Jack told me how he loves watching the birds, and is proud that he has provided a place for them to nest. I hope his passion for wildlife continues to grow and lasts a lifetime.

I hope the same for all of the young people that we work with, because the future of our wildlife sits in their hands. If we can inspire and educate young people today, then we have done the very best we can to protect our wildlife for the future.

We're growing nature-friendly schools

Everybody has the right to experience wildlife in their daily lives, and children are happier, healthier and more creative when they're connected to nature.

That's why we're proud to be leading a project to bring children closer to nature in school. Thanks to a £6.4 million grant from the Department of Education, Defra

and Natural England we're helping children and teachers discover the joy of wildlife. With our partners YoungMinds, Groundwork, SensoryMinds Trust and the Field Studies Council we are showing schools how to deliver lessons outdoors in natural spaces, to improve children's mental health and wellbeing.

It's time to join our campaign for a Wilder Future

We need massive public support to bring about nature's recovery - everywhere



Like so many species in our degraded landscapes, brown hares are finding it hard to survive

Our natural world is in a critical condition. The laws and systems to keep it healthy are failing. More than 60% of plants and animals in the UK are now under threat. One in eight face extinction.

This is our problem too. Nature is vital for our physical and mental health, yet plastic litter, pesticides and dirty air are a fact of life. Our obesity problem is the worst in Europe. Floods are becoming more common and more destructive. Damage to farmland soils costs us around £1bn a year.

These issues show that our lifestyles overlook the value of natural systems - systems that underpin everything we do. We need

“**Nature is vital for our physical and mental health**”

healthy soil to grow food in, clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and green space for exercise and relaxation. No one disputes this, yet our farming, planning and economic systems have often taken us in the opposite direction. Our wild places are becoming disconnected - and people disconnected from them too.

The Wildlife Trusts want a Wilder Future. A future where existing

wildlife sites are better protected, and connected to more space for wildlife, and people too. A future where nature is in recovery.

Do you share our vision? If so, we need your help. We need you to explain to your local politician that more wildlife is better for us all, so that they support new laws - which are being debated right now - that will succeed in achieving nature's recovery.

We also need you to help us create new wild places, and protect those we already have. From April onwards, we will share actions you can take in your personal life to help.

Please join us in creating a Wilder Future. We can make a difference.

From this

Our homes



DARREN TANSLEY

Many streets are now sealed under tarmac and concrete

Our public spaces



HELEN HOYLE

Two-thirds of amenity grassland is close-mown...

Our cities



SHUTTERSTOCK

The sheer mass of concrete in cities heats them up in the summer

Our roads



GOVUK

Major roads are impassable barriers for many species

Our farmland



DARREN TANSLEY

Grazing too close to riverbanks erodes soil and destroys habitats

To this



AVON WILDLIFE TRUST

Plants and trees improve the atmosphere and help reduce flooding



HELEN HOYLE

...but research shows meadows benefit people and wildlife



AFL ARCHITECTS

Green roofs and spaces absorb heavy rain and cool things down



HIGHWAYS AGENCY

Green bridges allow wildlife to shift as the climate changes



DARREN TANSLEY

With a fence the bank becomes stable again and plants return

What new laws should contain

■ A Nature Recovery Network

A joined-up network of existing and new habitats that provide space for wildlife to recover and allows people to thrive.

■ Legally Binding Nature Targets

For example, clean air to breathe in our cities – which politicians must report on regularly and ultimately achieve.

■ A Nature Watchdog

That is truly independent from Government to hold them to account on decisions that destroy nature – and helps people challenge this behaviour.

What you can do



Show your support

The more people who show they care about bringing back nature, the stronger our case becomes.

Visit wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future where you can find out how to help. Or search [#WilderFuture](https://twitter.com/WilderFuture) on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Spread the word

Share your love of nature with family, friends and colleagues. Could they become supporters too?



Help nature in your daily life

Join a beach clean. Take up wildlife gardening. Walk and cycle more. Shop for food without packaging. Sign up to Wilder Future for more ideas.



Top places to see Orchids

GUY EDWARDS/2020VISION

Colourful orchids might seem too exotic for our wind-swept islands, but we have more than 50 native species. Here's where to find them

Orchids aren't just beautiful. They're also ancient. Fossilised pollen suggests they've been around since dinosaurs walked the earth, and in that time they've evolved a spectacular range of reproductive strategies.

Some, such as fly orchids, mimic insects to seduce unsuspecting pollinators into 'mating' with them and carrying off pollen. Others take the more traditional route, luring specific insects in with bright colours, delicate nectars and powerful scents.

The first orchids bloom in April. How many can you find this year?

1 Talich Wildlife Reserve **Scottish Wildlife Trust**

There's a proliferation of orchids in this Easter Ross reserve, including fragrant, heath spotted and the rare lesser butterfly orchid.

Where is it? Near Tain, IV20 1TP
Map reference: NH 850 786

2 Coatham Marsh **Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**

A wetland reserve in an urban landscape, with a wide variety of flowers including swathes of northern marsh orchids and clusters of bee orchids.

Where is it? Redcar, TS10 5BQ
Map reference: NZ 586 247

3 Mere Sands Wood **Lancashire Wildlife Trust**

This reserve's mosaic of habitats encourages an impressive array of plants to flourish, including marsh helleborine and common spotted, early marsh, southern marsh and bee orchids.

Where is it? Near Rufford, L40 1TG
Map reference: SD 447 159

4 Llanymynech Rocks **Montgom/Shropshire WT**

Share your experiences

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

Orchid starters

Greater butterfly orchid



Graceful night-scented flowers attract big moths. June is the best time.

Early purple orchid

A good first orchid: out alongside bluebells in May, often in good numbers.



Fly orchid



Easy to miss until you get your eye in. Looks incredibly fly-like. May, South-East.

Green-winged orchid

Found in the open on grassland that has escaped intensive agriculture. Best in May.



Common spotted orchid



Our commonest orchid, easy to spot and often in big clusters. May to June.

Gwent Wildlife Trust's New Grove Meadow is one of Britain's wildflower wonders. Green-winged orchids galore

Straddling the border between England and Wales, this former limestone quarry has a great selection, from early purple orchids in spring to autumn lady's-tresses in September and October.

Where is it? Oswestry, SY22 6HD
Map reference: SJ 262 216

5 Tasker's Meadow Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

A beautiful grassland site with abundant wildflowers including the county's largest population of greater butterfly orchid. You can also find twayblade, and bee,

common spotted, green-winged and pyramidal orchids.

Where is it? 1km north of Stockton, CV23 8HQ

Map reference: SP 437 651

6 Chafford Gorges Essex Wildlife Trust

An orchid haven thanks to its chalky soil. Seven different species are found here during spring and early summer, including man orchid, bird's nest orchid and bee orchid.

Where is it? Grays, RM16 6RW
Map reference: TQ 588 793

7 Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

This scenic reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its orchids, butterflies and chalk grassland. Look for lesser butterfly, frog, musk, fly, burnt and green-winged orchids.

Where is it? Calne, SN10 2LW

Map reference: SU 025 672

8 New Grove Meadows Gwent Wildlife Trust

In May and June thousands of orchids give a wonderful display of colour. Look for green-winged, common spotted and greater butterfly amongst the wildflowers.

Where is it? Trelleck, NP25 4PD

Map reference: SO 501 066

9 Dunsdon Devon Wildlife Trust

This is a very special place: one of the best remaining Culm grasslands in Devon, with a rich range of wildflowers that includes southern marsh and lesser butterfly orchids.

Where is it? Holsworthy, EX22 7JW

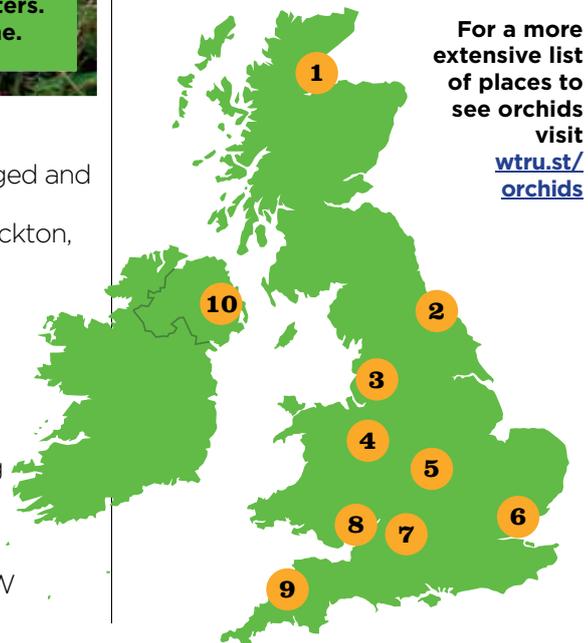
Map reference: SS 302 080

10 Slievenacloy Ulster Wildlife

Tucked in a valley in the Belfast Hills, this grassland reserve is particularly important for orchids, birds and fungi. You can find frog orchid, small white and lesser butterfly orchids flowering in early summer.

Where is it? Lisburn, BT28 3TE

Map reference: J 245 712



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

30
DAYS
WILD

1st - 30th June



Do
Something
Wild
this June!

Can you go wild for 30 days?
Make time for nature,
explore wild places near you
and share your love of wildlife
with the world this June

#30DaysWild

wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild

You can change the future too

Every penny you leave as a gift in your will helps us to protect wildlife now, and in the future.

“ The future of life on earth depends on our ability to take action. I've been lucky in my lifetime to see some of the greatest spectacles that the natural world has to offer. Surely we have a responsibility to leave for future generations a planet that is healthy, inhabitable by all species. ”

Sir David Attenborough,
President Emeritus, The Wildlife Trusts

BEN WATKINS



To help you, we have teamed up McClure Solicitors to offer a free, year-round Will writing service. An appointment or home visit can be easily arranged by calling **Hayley Bayfield** on **0800 852 1999**.

For more information, please contact **Emma Miller**, Fundraising Officer on **01872 273939** or go to www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy

Cornwall Wildlife Trust 

Wilder FESTIVAL

a naturally wild day
out for everyone



Sunday 26th May 2019 : 12 noon till 8pm

Mount Pleasant Eco Park, Porthtowan, TR4 8HL

Wildlife workshops
Forage & feasts
Children's Wildlife Parade
Farm Corner
Wild art and crafts
Feadon Farm animals

Bird-ringing
Live music
Street food and picnic areas
Mini-beast hunts
Forest schools



Everyone
welcome
FREE
entry


Dogs on leads
welcome
Wild camping
available



Wildlife
Watch
Children's
Parade
at 3pm



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**

See our website for more info
or call (01872) 273 939
email info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderfestival

**wildlife
watch**



Kindly supported by:



Wilder FESTIVAL

a naturally wild day
out for everyone



Sunday 26th May 2019 : 12 noon till 8pm

Mount Pleasant Eco Park, Porthtowan, TR4 8HL

Wildlife workshops
Forage & feasts
Children's Wildlife Parade
Farm Corner
Wild art and crafts
Feadon Farm animals

Bird-ringing
Live music
Street food and picnic areas
Mini-beast hunts
Forest schools



Everyone
welcome
FREE
entry



Dogs on leads
welcome
Wild camping
available



Wildlife
Watch
Children's
Parade
at 3pm



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**

See our website for more info
or call (01872) 273 939
email info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderfestival

**wildlife
watch**



Kindly supported by:

