

Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust



# Wild Cornwall

ISSUE 141 SPRING 2020



## Where butterflies flutter by in Cornwall

SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

**SEEING THE WOOD  
FOR THE TREES**  
Tree planting guidance to  
tackle climate change

**HEDGEHOGS**  
and their super(sonic) powers

**GRUBS UP!**  
Insects on the menu

# welcome

Spring is the time of year that hedgehogs, one of the few British mammals that hibernate, wake up and become active again. But when did you last see a hedgehog in Cornwall? Sadly, many of us haven't seen one for a long time and this is one of the reasons why, this year, Cornwall Wildlife Trust is launching our Hedgehog Appeal. We will be asking everyone to take part in a 2020 Cornwall hedgehog survey to record hedgehog sightings through the [www.ercis.org.uk](http://www.ercis.org.uk) record centre. This vital conservation research will help us to understand how we can bring back our missing hedgehogs – see page 8 for more details.

There are loads of ideas in the magazine suggesting places to see wildlife across Cornwall this springtime. Our nature reserves provide some of the best sites for butterflies (see page 14) and we are delighted to share this year's programme of wildlife-friendly Open Gardens, on page 18. Once again, thank you to all the garden owners, volunteers and visitors who continue to support these events.

Cornwall Council's Forest for Cornwall initiative has captured the imagination of many people, political groups, local businesses and organisations in these times of climate emergency and ecological crisis. Cornwall Wildlife Trust has developed simple guidance to help select the right sites for tree planting; sites that minimise impacts on rare and valuable habitats for wildlife such as heathlands, wetland and ancient woodlands (see page 24).

Finally, one of my highlights of last year was presenting the Environmental Award to Pauline Ryan at the Cornwall Volunteer Awards, run by our friends at Volunteer Cornwall. Thank you, Pauline, for all your efforts in your practical conservation work to help restore Cornwall's wildlife and wild places. Pauline's story is on page 50.

Enjoy your spring edition of Wild Cornwall and I hope to see you at Wilder Festival on Sunday 21st June – a perfect way to round off spring.

Carolyn



**Carolyn Cadman**  
Chief Executive,  
Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust

## 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 [cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join) or call (01872) 273939

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Cornwall Wildlife Trust Local & Specialist Groups:  
[localgroups@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups)

Marine Strandings Network Hotline: 0345 2012626

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres,  
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[www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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[ella.clark@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:ella.clark@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Cover: **Orange tip butterfly** Andy Sands/naturepl.com

If you'd like to include your events for the diary, please ask for an Events Form from [mark.dungey@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mark.dungey@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
Events deadline: Summer Issue - 1st May 2020  
for August to November events

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FESTIVAL  
21st June 2020

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  
**Paul Coyne** – Hon Treasurer, Chair of Finance Committee  
**Stephen Warman** – Chair of Council



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**Ian Pye** – Vice-Chair of Council, Chair of Strategy Committee  
**Steve Crummay** – Chair of ERCCIS Advisory Board  
**Phil McVey** – Chair of Audit & Risk Committee  
**Charlie David** – Chair of People Committee



## Your Shore Conference

In February, over 160 people attended the Your Shore conference. The event was a collective celebration of the achievements of the brilliant Your Shore Network and the Beach Rangers, with workshops themed around looking to the future and how the network can do more to tackle the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

Find out more about the Your Shore network at [beachrangers.com](http://beachrangers.com)



YSBR

## Badger vaccination update

In addition to starting to vaccinate badgers against bovine TB on some of our nature reserves, we are working with a group of farmers in mid-Cornwall to vaccinate badgers on their land. Farmers paid to be involved and helped with some of the leg work. We were very pleased with the trap rate and succeeded in vaccinating 75 badgers, including 25 cubs. The work will continue this year.

Read more about farmers' involvement and the science behind Badger Vaccination on our website.



ADRIAN LANGDON

## Wild talks at our AGM & Discovery Day



**Wilder People panel** - David May, from the Upstream Thinking Project, Jenn Sandiford, Youth Engagement Officer, Your Shore Beach Rangers Project, and Sean O'Hea, CWT's Deputy Head of Nature Reserves.

With environmental awareness high up on the agenda of so many, this year's Discovery Day (after our Annual General Meeting on 19th November 2019) was dedicated to answering some of the big questions around nature's recovery to reverse the ecological crisis. Is rewilding the answer? How can we engage more people to take action for nature? And what does a wilder future look like?

Cornwall Wildlife Trust supporters from all over the county came together at Heartlands to hear expert speakers and local conservation trailblazers.

Carolyn Cadman kicked off the day with a look back at 2019, recognising the great work

done by so many Cornwall Wildlife Trust staff volunteers, local groups and supporters. Sufficiently enthused, everyone then heard real-life examples from a 'Wilder People' panel of our 'in the field' conservation experts.

Speakers throughout the day included Gemma Jerome, who explained the huge benefits of making space for nature in new building developments, and Paul Jepson, who concluded that we have an opportunity to revitalise our conservation movement – with a whole host of rewilding solutions from which to draw inspiration.

To close the day, the discussion was opened up, enabling the audience to put questions to the expert panel. Supporters then heard from Merlin Hanbury-Tenison, relating his experiences of rewilding at his farm on Bodmin Moor, before Cheryl Marriott, (Head of Nature Conservation) and Callum Deveney (Head of Nature Reserves) explained how rewilding fits into Cornwall Wildlife Trust's approach to protecting wildlife.



Wasp nest and otter exhibit, part of the Cabinet of Curiosities at the AGM

## Green Ridge Partnership Project

The Trust is a delivery partner with, among others, Cornwall Council in the Highways England funded Keyn Glas, or 'Green Ridge', project. We have landowners signed up for some large-scale habitat creation and enhancement projects to be delivered this spring, including tree planting, species rich grassland creation, habitat management and natural flood management with woody debris dams.



Visualisation of a Green Ridge before (above) and after (below) at Keyn Glas



ARUP GROUP

## Wild Penwith Volunteer Group celebrates 10 years

December 2019 marked the 10 year anniversary of the Wild Penwith Volunteer Group, whose members carry out practical conservation work as part of the Trust's delivery of South West Water's Upstream Thinking project. To celebrate, the volunteers (some of whom have been there since the start) enjoyed a task-free day and were treated to a buffet, slide show and musical entertainment!



PENWITH VOLUNTEER GROUP

## Cornwall Wildlife Trust's new online clothing store

Don't forget to look out for our new online clothing store. We've teamed up with Teemill to produce T-shirts made from organic cotton, printed in the UK in a renewable energy powered factory and adorned with designs inspired by nature and the county we love. We have some 'Proper Wild' T-shirts for kids and adults; Cornwall Beaver Project T-shirts to celebrate the reintroduction of Cornwall's beavers; plus, in support of the *Cornwall Good Seafood Guide*, we have some beautifully illustrated T-shirts featuring a variety of Cornish species – some sustainable and others that need your protection. Choose your favourite, or choose a species you'd like to protect – there is something for everyone! All profits go to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and will help us to protect your favourite Cornish wildlife species.

Link to online store:  
[cornwallwildlifetrust.teemill.com](http://cornwallwildlifetrust.teemill.com)





A bottlenose dolphin leaps clear of the water in the Moray Firth

## UK UPDATE

# A big splash for UK seas - our 2019 marine review

Together, the Wildlife Trusts form the UK's largest marine conservation organisation. Our Living Seas teams are the eyes and ears of the UK's coast. Throughout 2019, with the help of over 5,000 volunteers, they did wonderful things for the wildlife in our seas.

Careful monitoring revealed some fantastic good news stories around our shores, from bumper breeding seasons to amazing discoveries.

A new citizen science project logged 320 sightings of cetaceans off Yorkshire's east coast, including minke whales, bottlenose dolphins and harbor porpoises. There was good news for seals too, with Cumbria Wildlife Trust counting a site record of 483 grey seals at South Walney, including seven pups. Elsewhere, an individual seal, nicknamed Tulip Belle, was discovered commuting between the Isle of Man and Cornwall.

Lara Howe, Manx Wildlife Trust's marine officer, says: "It shows that seals will swim great distances for food and a place to pup, highlighting the importance of a network of Marine Protected Areas around the UK, so that wherever marine wildlife goes there are healthy seas to support them."

Our fight to secure this network saw a huge victory last summer, with the designation of 41 new Marine Conservation Zones.

2019 also saw a welcome boost for some of our struggling seabirds. On Handa Island, Scottish Wildlife Trust counted 8,207 razorbills, the highest number since 2006, though the population is sadly still in trouble. In North Wales, Sandwich terns had a bumper year, with 800 chicks fledging compared to just 180 in 2018.

Sadly, it wasn't all good news. Several Wildlife Trusts reported an increase in disturbance. Jet skis, kayakers, boats and drones have all been recorded causing distress to marine wildlife such as dolphins, seals and seabirds.

Plastics, ocean litter and discarded fishing gear also continue to devastate marine wildlife, though Wildlife Trusts around our shores cleared up huge amounts of litter, including 2.5 tonnes picked up by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust.

All of this was made possible by the fantastic support of all our volunteers and members. For more amazing stories head to [wildlifetrusts.org/marine-review-19](https://wildlifetrusts.org/marine-review-19)

## 2019 IN NUMBERS

- Over **5,000 volunteers** supported coastal Wildlife Trusts with beach cleans, surveys and shore-based events.
- More than **200 sharks, skates and rays** were tagged as part of Ulster Wildlife's SeaDeep project, helping us to monitor these vulnerable animals.
- Two giant gobies were among **1,310 species recorded in just 24 hours** as Devon Wildlife Trust's Wembury Marine Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary.
- **27 tonnes** of litter and fishing gear collected by fisherman for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Fishing 4 Litter.



### Get involved

We need to put nature into recovery on land and at sea. Join us on our campaign for a wilder future: [wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future](https://wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future)

UK UPDATE

## 100 miles wilder

Space for nature should be at the heart of our planning and farming systems. This is the only way we can create a Nature Recovery Network, enabling wildlife to thrive across the landscape and bringing nature into our daily lives.



But current proposals for developing the land between Oxford and Cambridge do not have nature at their heart. Without proper assessment, planning officials cannot know whether the area could support the

current proposals for housing, road and rail and stay within environmental limits for nature, carbon and water.

Special habitats are under threat, including ancient woodland and grazing marsh, which supports rare and declining wading birds like curlew and redshank.

The Wildlife Trusts have created an alternative vision for this land: 100 miles of wilder landscape in which people can live, work and enjoy nature. By protecting and connecting the wildest places, we can introduce a new way of planning that has nature and people's wellbeing at the centre.

Find out more [wildlifetrusts.org/100-miles-wilder](http://wildlifetrusts.org/100-miles-wilder)

## UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are helping wildlife across the UK



### 1 Inspirational youth

Over the last year, over 2,800 young people aged 11-25 rolled up their sleeves to help nature thrive in their local area. The Grassroots Challenge project, led by Ulster Wildlife, gave young people the opportunity to unleash their passion, creativity and potential to make a real difference to their environment and community. [ulsterwildlife.org/news/inspirational-youth](http://ulsterwildlife.org/news/inspirational-youth)

### 2 Attenborough appeal

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust launched an appeal to raise £1 million to safeguard Attenborough Nature Reserve, a wild oasis at the edge of Nottingham that's home to large numbers of wildfowl. The appeal was supported by Sir David Attenborough and raised over £900,000 in its first month. [nottinghamshirewildlife.org/lifelineappeal](http://nottinghamshirewildlife.org/lifelineappeal)

### 3 Spooky sighting

A ghost slug was discovered in the gardens of Devon Wildlife Trust's Crickepit Mill. The origins of this mysterious species are uncertain, but it's thought to be a native of Ukraine. Since ghost slugs were first discovered in the UK in 2007, there have been a scattering of reported sightings, mainly from South Wales. It's a predator of earthworms and may cause problems for our native worms if it becomes established. [devonwildlifetrust.org/news/ghost](http://devonwildlifetrust.org/news/ghost)



## New leader for The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts are delighted to welcome Craig Bennett as their new Chief Executive Officer.

One of the UK's leading environmental campaigners, Craig joins The Wildlife Trusts from Friends of the Earth, where he was Chief Executive.

In a conservation career spanning over 20 years, Craig has led a movement to end peat cutting on important moorlands, helped to secure better wildlife legislation through The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and, more recently, led successful campaigns to highlight climate change and to protect and restore bee populations.



Craig says: "The Wildlife Trusts are an extraordinary grassroots movement that is uniquely placed to work with local communities to make this happen and ensure a wilder future, and I could not be more pleased to have been asked to lead them at this incredibly important moment."

[wildlifetrusts.org/new-leader](http://wildlifetrusts.org/new-leader)

## An insect apocalypse

A new report, *Insect Declines and Why They Matter*, commissioned by an alliance of Wildlife Trusts in the south west, concluded that drastic declines in insect numbers look set to have far-reaching consequences for both wildlife and people. The report concludes: "if insect declines are not halted, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems will collapse, with profound consequences for human wellbeing."

[wildlifetrusts.org/urgent-action-insects](http://wildlifetrusts.org/urgent-action-insects)



REDSHANK: TOM MARSHALL, MARSH FRIT-ILLARY: ROSS HODDINOTT/2020VISION, GHOST SLUG: PHIL SANJUM



# The Super(Sonic) powers of the Hedgehog



Beyond their charismatic cuteness, there's a lot to discover about these wonderful little creatures and their secret superpowers!

We might take hedgehogs for granted as they are such a familiar creature from story books – and, in recent years, internet videos – but when was the last time you actually saw one in the wild?

Hedgehogs attract a lot of interest in the press these days because of their dwindling numbers, but what about some of the facts that make these animals so interesting in the first place?

We shouldn't overlook the well-documented population decline but let's first learn something about these nocturnal mammals. To understand why they are so important to our native ecosystems, why we should aim to protect them, and how we can influence changes, would be taking a big step towards helping our local hedgehog population to recover.

The earliest known member of the hedgehog family lived about 58 million years ago. Hedgehogs have always fascinated people and this dates back to the Neolithic Period – proof of which exists in the form of a carved toy hedgehog that was found buried next to a grave, unearthed near Stonehenge, dating back some 3,000 years. There are now seventeen species of hedgehog in five genera found through parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The smallest hedgehog that ever existed was a species called *Silvacola acares* that lived 52 million years ago in the rainforests of northern British Columbia. It was about 2 inches long. All species are now extinct in the Americas – possibly due to their small size.

Slightly more recently.. hedgehogs were actually domesticated by the Romans, who were well known for adapting European mammal species for all sorts of things including food, weapons and clothing. As a result of Roman conquests throughout England, we now have species such as rabbits and 'edible' dormice (*Glis glis*) in our countryside.

Cornish hedgehogs have long enjoyed a largely undisturbed existence, unlike their cousins elsewhere in Roman Britain, who lived in fear of having a spine or two nabbed for use as quills, or worse, ending up as a tasty snack in a centurion's lunchbox!

## A prickly situation

The facts indisputably show that hedgehogs are amazing animals that have been around for many millennia and we want this to continue. But more importantly, and the reason behind the alarm at their population decline, they are an 'indicator' species – the foraging equivalent of the coal-mine canary for our environmental health.

If hedgehogs exist in a habitat, then all the food they eat lower down the food chain must also exist to sustain them. They must be able to access other areas in which to breed and keep the population going. However, habitat fragmentation,

farming, garden pesticides and the hedgehog's unfortunate susceptibility to becoming roadkill are the biggest threats to hedgehogs and has resulted in a significant population decline. In fact, it's statistically likely that the last hedgehog you saw was lying dead at the side of the road. This sobering fact is one that we want to change by helping these creatures – and the ecosystems that they represent – to become part of the countryside, our gardens, and Cornwall's wildlife again.

Unfortunately, no superpower can save hedgehogs without human intervention. Cornwall Wildlife Trust, alongside our partners the Cornwall Mammal Group and Prickles and Paws Rescue Centre, is part of *Operation Hedgehog*, which is working to understand where hedgehogs still exist in Cornwall – and where they are absent. We aim to build this population back up to strength with local initiatives to reverse the population decline across the county.



**For more facts on hedgehog decline and how you can help, our Hedgehog Appeal is detailed on the next page...**

We need to do a lot more for our Cornish hedgehogs to prevent them being lost forever. The Wildlife Trusts have produced a leaflet that explains how you can help these prickly hogs in your garden and local parks. [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/hedgehogs](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/hedgehogs)



# 12 hedgehog facts and threats

There are between  
**5,000 and 7,000**  
spines on an average adult hedgehog.

## A hedgehog's spines are shed under certain circumstances.

Much like humans and their milk teeth, young hedgehogs outgrow their baby spines, which are gradually replaced by adult ones as they develop.



## Hedgehogs are nocturnal.

If spotted in the daytime, it is often a sign that something is wrong, so please contact Prickles & Paws, or your local wildlife rescue centre.



## The Cornish name for hedgehog is 'sort'.

This word is also used for 'sea urchin' due to their shared spiny appearance.



**Other hedgehog superpowers include their super speed** – they can run at speeds of up to six feet per second – that's four miles an hour, which is pretty impressive for their size!



Hedgehogs, along with dormice and bats, are the only **British mammals that hibernate**, although they may become active during mild winter periods.



## A hedgehog's behavioural response to perceived threat

(especially noise) is to roll into a ball, which unfortunately offers very little protection against the cars and lorries on our roads and strimmers in our gardens.



## Hedgehogs can climb very well.

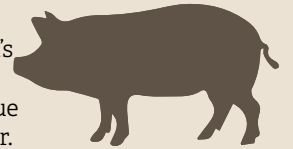
Obstacles such as stone-faced earth banks (e.g. Cornish hedges) and even small garden brick walls are easy going for them.

In Cornwall and milder parts of the UK, instances of pregnancy reach a peak between May and July, and then again in September. The latter breeding attempt **making them vulnerable to losses over winter.**



## While defending territories, hedgehogs emit snorts, squeals and grunts

– just like pigs – hence the 'hog' part of their name. Shakespeare mentions hedgehogs in *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as 'hedgepigs' as well as 'urchins' due to their spiny exterior.



**Hedgehogs are omnivores** and make the most of the countryside larder with a diet that includes insects, berries, birds' eggs, mushrooms, mice and amphibians.



They also eat reptiles, particularly juvenile snakes – **hedgehogs are highly resistant to adder venom!** A protein called erinacin in the hedgehog's muscular system has healing properties that prevent a blood haemorrhage if bitten by an adder. This provides effective armour should they accidentally disturb a resting adder during their nocturnal activities.



## Hedgehogs have the ability to camouflage themselves from predators.

They do this by licking certain objects or food until a frothy saliva forms, then rubbing the saliva onto their skin and spines, which is believed to make them smell less palatable to predators.





# MISSING! Can you help?

When did you last see a hedgehog in Cornwall?

Target **£25,000**



TOM MARSHALL

They may be the UK's favourite mammals<sup>(1)</sup>, but hedgehog numbers have halved in the countryside in the last 20 years.<sup>(2)</sup>

You can probably remember when hedgehogs were a familiar sight at night in gardens and hedgerows but recent years have seen their numbers dramatically decline. Cornish children are now saying "I've never seen a hedgehog in real life."

**Small but mighty mammals.** Hedgehogs are a great indicator of environmental health, as they feed on insects at the bottom of the food chain. A decline in hedgehog population is a warning sign that nature is out of balance.

Our teams are ready to take action to reverse this rapid decline – we just need your support – together we can save them!

We urgently need your help in raising **£25,000** to fund vital research, education, lobbying and conservation work. Donate today and play your part in ensuring that hedgehogs once again become a familiar sight throughout Cornwall, for generations to come.

“ Hedgehog numbers are at an all-time low and if we don't act now they could be lost forever. ”

Dr David Groves, Chair of Cornwall Mammal Group

## How to donate:

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

Text **HELPHOGS £10, £15 or £20 to 70085** to donate now (Texts will include the donation amount, plus one standard network rate message, charged to your mobile phone credit or mobile bill. To see how your data is processed, please see the privacy policy at [donr.com/legal/privacy-policy](http://donr.com/legal/privacy-policy))

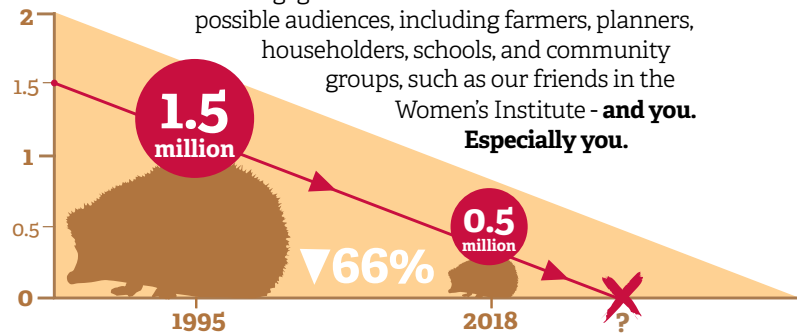
Or call us on **(01872) 273939** (credit/debit card donations)

## Decline in the UK's hedgehog populations

There are many reasons for their decline: increased housing developments, intensification of farming, loss of habitat and food supply, the destruction of hedgerows (which allowed them to travel in safety), the concreting over of gardens and the growth in pesticides that have not only decimated their food supply but actually poisoned these gardeners' friends.



It's a desperate situation and one that can only be solved by this generation. To reverse the rapid decline, Cornwall Wildlife Trust is leading Operation Hedgehog. The project is being delivered in partnership with Cornwall Mammal Group, Prickles and Paws Hedgehog Rescue, and the University of Exeter. To deliver real and lasting success we need to engage with and influence the widest possible audiences, including farmers, planners, householders, schools, and community groups, such as our friends in the Women's Institute - **and you. Especially you.**



Estimated figures: Natural England Joint Publication JPO25 'A Review of the Population and Conservation Status of British Mammals: Technical Summary' ISBN 978-1-78354-485-1

## What your donation could fund\*

A gift of **£15** will pay for more survey tunnels that pick up footprints and allow us to monitor hedgehog movement and numbers.

A gift of **£25** will pay for information packs and advice for community groups on how to help hedgehogs thrive in wildlife-friendly gardens.

A gift of **£100** will pay for advice from our expert Wildlife Information Service.

A gift of **£500** will pay for us to set up a training course for hedgehog ambassadors to carry out hedgehog talks and surveys across Cornwall.

A gift of **£1,000** will pay for time to make and enhance hedgehog habitats (e.g. hedgehog refuges) on our nature reserves closest to hedgehog hotspots, to help expand hedgehog ranges.

<sup>(1)</sup> The Royal Society of Biology. <sup>(2)</sup> The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018 Report, by The British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species.



# wilder home for wonky veg

## Cornish businesses lead the way with Tevi

**Catherine Pinney**, Tevi Business Advisor at Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Happy birthday to us! Tevi has been running now for two years, working with a huge number of businesses across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The project is based at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and provides support and advice to businesses looking to make their business more environmentally aware. The team, including experts from Cornwall Wildlife Trust, work around two areas: environmental growth and circular economy. Being more nature-friendly is at the heart of its work, working with businesses to increase space for wildlife and develop habitats across the county, with a certain amount of 'rewilding' along the way.

Tevi (Cornish for 'grow') has engaged with over 340 businesses so far, and run a staggering 38 events with over 1,200 attendees, including the Trust's annual Wilder Business networking event. The project has also influenced policies and strategies across the county.

"Tevi's success stems largely from its wide-ranging nature, which means we can engage with most Cornish businesses to help them all feed into improving Cornwall's wild places. The business decisions that are made now can make a huge difference to improving our environment in the future" says Catherine.

Tevi businesses can also apply to receive ERDF grants to help bring to life ideas identified through the project's 'Business Assist' programme. A good example is highlighted by the Real Food Garden, just one of the businesses that's had a boost from Tevi.



The Real Food Garden is a small business near Bodmin that grows vegetables and supplies veg boxes to the local area. As a business, they were keen to expand their product range and also find a use for some of the 'wonky veg' that weren't suitable for their veg boxes.

Chloe and Amelia applied for a Tevi grant to help buy two used shipping containers, which they have refurbished as a kitchen area, a shop and a packing space. They can use this new space to create delicious pasta sauces and soups from the remaining 'wonky veg' that would otherwise have gone to compost.

This is exactly what Tevi is all about – helping businesses to grow and helping the environment at the same time.

The Real Food Garden has also supported other Cornish businesses through their Tevi grant, by sourcing local materials and using local labour. The shipping containers were sourced near Bodmin. This means that the ERDF grant funding has been used to full advantage within Cornwall as much as possible.

The business will soon host courses in its garden on how to grow your own vegetables.



**Catherine Pinney**  
Business Advisor  
Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust



Chloe and Amelia say,  
*"We are delighted with our new expanded premises and look forward to welcoming customers to taste the fruits of our new kitchen and wonky veg!"*

**Wilder Business event**  
Cornwall Wildlife Trust's annual business networking event is held in October, with details on our website soon...



Tevi is an European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) partnership project .

If you would like to find out more about the Tevi project and Business Assist please contact Catherine on [catherine.pinney@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:catherine.pinney@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Find out more about Tevi at [tevi.co.uk](http://tevi.co.uk), along with the benefits of environmental growth and a circular economy.



The Real Food Garden is helping Cornwall Wildlife Trust with various events throughout the year, including Wildlife Watch.

Visit [www.realfoodgarden.co.uk](http://www.realfoodgarden.co.uk) for details about their forthcoming courses.

THE REAL FOOD GARDEN



# Nature Reserves news

## A Winter of Transformation at Helman Tor <sup>1</sup>



SIMON STUART-MILLER

Fen habitat restoration at Breney Common with new wetland

Anyone visiting the Helman Tor sites over winter will probably have noticed lots of activity across Breney, Red Moor and Lowertown Moor as our long-planned Countryside Stewardship funded habitat restoration work has gone ahead. Wildlife will emerge in spring to find a wide range of new habitat features in which to feed, breed, grow and live. However, it's hard to visualise the concept at the time of writing; the unusually wet weather has left parts of

the nature reserve resembling a quagmire. But nature's ability to adapt to change will ensure that multiple new habitats develop on the site, such as open water, marshes and grasslands. There's also a huge increase in woodland edge habitat, one of the richest habitats for a range of wildlife, with slowly rotting wood providing niches for fungi and invertebrates.

Having carried out a survey of a small area of land on Breney Common (restored from woodland to wetland by Cornwall Wildlife Trust two years ago – see Wild Cornwall summer 2018), the charity Buglife recorded some fascinating results. The rare mud snail *Omphiscola glabra*, which had not been recorded on the site since 1992, was found to be thriving. The figures were amazing, with 215 snails counted in a 60-second survey of one of the new pools – the previous record for a temporary pool in mid-Cornwall was just 50!

This provides good evidence that nature embraces diversity; the newly created habitats should produce some very interesting results. The contractors will return in April to do some further work reversing drainage on Red Moor. In the meantime please bear with us while we repair footpaths that were unavoidably damaged during the project.



CAZ ORTON

Working Woodlands Cornwall ran two horse logging courses at Devichoys Wood Nature Reserve.

## Coppicers at Devichoys Wood get a helping hoof! <sup>2</sup>

Working Woodlands Cornwall – the coppicers for Devichoys Wood Nature Reserve, put on a Logging with Horses course in November. It was so popular that a second course was put on in January.

Keep an eye out for this year's events, which will be advertised locally.

To find out more about our woodland partners, Working Woodlands Cornwall, visit: [workingwoodlandscornwall.com](http://workingwoodlandscornwall.com)

## Wilder Beef Works for Wildlife

Last November, our trial of selling beef from cattle sustainably reared on a Cornwall Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve resulted in the delivery of Wilder Beef to 54 Cornish homes. The trial was a success for several reasons:

- **Local Cornish choice** – The cattle were fed, reared, slaughtered, butchered and sold in Cornwall – a local alternative and choice that many people in Cornwall as wanting instead of beef, and cattle feed that's imported from across the globe.
- **Incentive for farmers** – Selling the beef direct to the public allows us to attain higher profits for the farmer than market beef prices, which are at an all-time low, would yield. This has enabled us to provide a financial incentive for farmers to take positive action for wildlife, independent of grant funding.
- **Welfare, environment, health and wildlife** – We engaged local consumers with food that has been shown to have strong welfare, environmental, health and wildlife credentials. Customer feedback was very positive, with strong indications that peoples' main motivations for buying the product were wildlife benefits, buying local and it being 100% grass fed.

- **Wildlife-friendly farming awareness** – The project caught the attention of many people in the food industry including farmers and restaurant owners. It was positive for Cornwall Wildlife Trust to be acknowledged as working with farmers and the food sector, enabling them to support wildlife friendly-farming.
- **Funding stream** – We were able to generate some income for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and further fund the work we do protecting wildlife and wild places.

We are currently deciding what to do next with the Wilder Beef project, to develop it to its full potential. We could support more of our graziers on our Nature Reserves to provide animals for Wilder Beef in exchange for supporting more wildlife on their farms, and could go beyond our own graziers to work with the wider farming community. Look out for Wilder Beef on the Porthminster Beach Café menu in St Ives as they are working with us on a trial to sell Wilder Beef direct to restaurants. They think carefully about sourcing sustainable, local ingredients for their customers, so are a perfect partner for this project.



SIMON STUART-MILLER

If you would like to be kept up to date Wilder Food initiatives, please go to [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-food](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-food) or email [wilderfood@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wilderfood@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)



## 100 Seal Surveys completed for Looe Island citizen science project <sup>3</sup>

Back in December 2008, Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust, Looe Marine Conservation Group and Cornwall Wildlife Trust's own Abby Crosby floated an idea – to survey the seals around Looe Island Nature Reserve. Now, eleven years on, this citizen science project has crossed an amazing milestone. Despite the Cornish rough seas and wild weather putting a stop to several boat crossings, one hundred surveys have now been completed.

This incredible long-term study has involved over 120 wonderful volunteers and, through survey analysis, photo ID and report writing, we have learnt a huge amount about how our local grey seals use the island. This data, including instances of rare visits from common seals, has added to our understanding of how their movements link in with other sites around the South-West. In turn, this has also helped the Looe Island wardens, Jon and Claire, share the wonders of these amazing marine creatures with greater numbers of human visitors to the island. So thank you and congratulations to all involved!

Now, what are the chances of completing the next hundred surveys before 2030...?



CLARE LEWIS

## Finding feathered friends from France

The following snippet from Mark Grantham's blog about Looe Island's records of migrating ringed-birds reveals some interesting details of unexpected visitors:

... amongst the gull records was a sighting of a colour-ringed Shag to our Looe Island Nature Reserve, which is pretty unusual in the southwest. Claire [Looe Island warden] photographed the bird by the jetty in December and it turns out it belonged to a French project, perhaps not surprising considering the closest UK projects are in West Wales and southern Ireland. K26 had been ringed as a chick in 2015 on Chausey, a small group of islands off the Normandy coast, geographically part of the Channel Islands group and managed as a bird reserve by the Groupe Ornithologique Normand.

It turns out that this is just the seventh record of a French-ringed Shag to be found in the UK. Of the previous six, three have been in Cornwall, sadly all young birds found dead in fishing nets (in 1982, 1984 and 1985). Of the other three, two were also in the South West, found dead on the Isles of Scilly in 1981 and in Devon in 1989 (actually ringed 11 years earlier).

The only other record was also from the same French colour-ringing project, of a bird ringed as a chick in 2017 and seen later that year in Sheringham, Norfolk.

You can read more from West Cornwall Ringing Group on Mark Grantham's blog:

<http://cornishringing.blogspot.com>



CLARE LEWIS



### Callum Deveney

Callum is Head of Nature Reserves. He loves to travel and keep fit, having completed several marathons in different countries.



### Seán O'Hea

Seán manages mid Cornwall's nature reserves including our Five Acres HQ. A passion for surfing, sailing, camping and wild food.



### Nick Marriott

Nick manages West Cornwall's nature reserves. Loves bikes, creating ponds and spending time in wild places.



### Peter Kent

Pete manages East Cornwall's nature reserves. A keen and talented photographer with a particular interest in birdwatching.



# Where Butterflies flutter by...

**Cornwall Wildlife Trust nature reserves are wonderful places to go for butterfly spotting walks. The sites suggested below list a number of unusual butterflies but it is highly likely that you will see more than just the species listed here. It is relatively easy, with some practice, to identify most of the 57 resident UK butterfly species.**

Check the weather forecast when planning a butterfly walk, with sunshine and light winds being the best conditions – although some species do fly on cloudy days. Mid-morning to late afternoon is the best time to go out. Recent hot summers, particularly those of 2018 and 2019, saw a few species of butterfly in abundance but the general pattern is that many species are still in dramatic decline. There are many factors that are contributing to this decline, including climate change, so nature reserves are vital havens where butterflies can survive and flourish.



## 1 Helman Tor Nature Reserve

Helman Tor looks out across a wilderness landscape that includes vast areas of wet, tussocky grassland. In late May and early June, these grasslands are home to the marsh fritillary butterfly – a weak, skittish flier that moves in short bursts. It is easy to confuse the marsh fritillary with the small pearl-bordered fritillary when you are in the field, so have a good look at an ID book or on the internet to note their distinctive features. They are both beautiful butterflies. In the heathland and grassland beneath the tor you will also find silver-studded blue butterflies. This butterfly is found mainly on heathland sites but in Cornwall you will also see them on sand dunes.

Helman Tor is near Lanlivery in mid Cornwall. You can park in a small car park near the Tor (SX063613) and walk down to the nature reserve below or, for a more direct route in to Breney Common (the main marsh fritillary site), park at Gurtla Chapel (SX052612) and walk in to Breney (SX053610).



Marsh fritillary

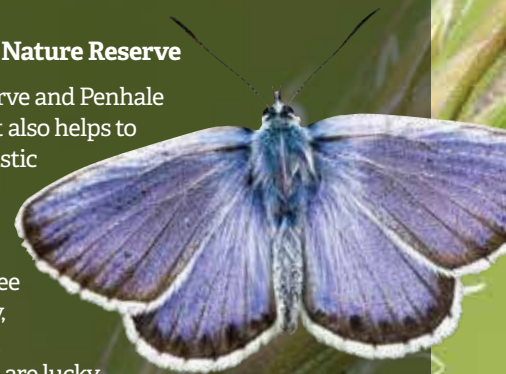
## 2 Upton Towans Nature Reserve

This nature reserve and Penhale Dunes (which the Trust also helps to manage) are both fantastic places to see the silver-studded blue butterfly. On sunny days in June you may see thousands of these tiny, pretty butterflies. It is a spectacular sight if you are lucky enough to be in the dunes on a day when so many butterflies emerge and can be seen.

The dark green fritillary butterfly, a large, strong flyer can be spotted in and around tall grass and scrubby edges.

The flower-rich coastal grassland is providing a perfect habitat for these butterflies

There is a small parking area at the entrance to Upton Towans (SW581407) or at Perran Sands (SW769548) for access to Penhae Dunes.



Silver-studded blue

BUTTERFLY CUOUTS: BEN WATKINS



Small Pearl bordered fritillary

**3 Cabilla and Redrice Woods Nature Reserve**

The largest of the fritillaries is the graceful silver-washed fritillary that can be found in woodlands in the height of summer. Cabilla & Redrice Woods is a great site to see this butterfly, along with other species that feed in the rides and glades that are created by the woodland management work carried out by our nature reserve wardens and volunteers.

There is a small parking area for this nature reserve next to Branston Sawmill (SX129652).

**4 Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve**

In the summer of 2018, whilst a television film crew gathered footage at this nature reserve for a wildlife programme, the show's presenter was amazed to see 13 species of butterfly on just one section of hedge. This was a glimpse of how our countryside used to be, before agriculture became so industrialised. Churchtown Farm is an ex-dairy farm with stunning views across the River Lynher. A walk there on a sunny day in summer will reveal many butterflies, such as peacock, red admiral, comma, and small tortoiseshell. Even some of these relatively common butterflies are in decline, so it's a real treat to see them together and in such high numbers.

Churchtown Farm is on the edge of Saltash. For access into the nature reserve, park at Wearde Road (SX419576).

ADRIAN LANGDON



Dark green fritillary at Penhale Dunes

ADRIAN LANGDON



Pale clouded yellow butterfly

JIB&S BOTTOMLEY

**factbox**

The UK has **59 species** of butterflies

**57 resident species** of butterflies and...

**2 regular migrants** – painted lady and clouded yellow



Marsh fritillary caterpillars

SEAN O'HEA



A bumper crop of Devil's bit scabious, the marsh fritillary food source

SEAN O'HEA



Marsh fritillary

BEN WATKINS

# Gardening for moths and butterflies

By day and by night, gardens large and small can provide a haven for Britain's beleaguered butterflies and moths. **Kate Bradbury** suggests nine ways to support all the stages of their life cycles

## Grow nectar-rich flowers

Make sure something is in flower from March through to November, starting with primroses, bluebells and forget-me-not in spring, then alliums, lavender and scabious in late summer, and late-flowering *Verbena bonariensis*, sedums and rudbeckias in autumn.

## Plant some climbers

Bare fences and walls are a wasted opportunity to help butterflies. Cover them with plants and provide nectar-rich flowers and shelter for species, such as brimstones, to hibernate. If you grow hops, comma butterflies may lay their eggs on its leaves.

## Provide caterpillar foodplants

Butterflies need the right plants in order to lay eggs in your garden. Grow cuckooflower for caterpillars of the orange-tip butterfly, nettles for peacocks, small tortoiseshells and red admirals, and holly and ivy for the holly blue.

## Add a window box

If you don't have a garden or your space is small, grow nectar-rich flowers in pots, window boxes or hanging baskets. Choose low-growing primrose and lavender for pots, and nasturtiums for baskets.

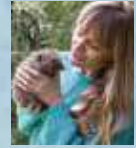


Butterflies and moths have suffered huge declines in recent years. This is largely due to habitat loss, but agricultural pesticides and climate change have made life even more challenging for many species. Happily, there's plenty we can do to help them on our own patch, no matter its size. The UK's gardens take up more space than all of its nature reserves put together, so if we all gardened with butterflies and moths in mind, we could help slow, or even reverse, some of these declines.

We tend to feel more fondly about butterflies than moths, which can be viewed with ambivalence as they fly at night and a few species eat our clothes. But not all moths fly at night – the six-spot burnet and hummingbird hawkmoth can be spotted during the day – and many of them are just as beautiful as their day-flying cousins. Only about five of our 2,500 species eat clothes and moth caterpillars are an important source of food for nesting birds,

hedgehogs and amphibians. So by gardening for moths, we can also help other wildlife.

As adults, most butterflies and moths drink nectar, but their caterpillars eat leaves and other plant material. To make them truly welcome in our gardens, we need to support all stages of their life cycles by growing nectar-rich flowers for the adults and foodplants for the caterpillars. We also need to accommodate the stage in between caterpillar and adult – the chrysalis (butterfly) or cocoon (moth). Many species spend the winter in this vulnerable stage so leave a little patch to grow a bit wild for them. Making space for butterflies and moths to feed, breed and hibernate in our gardens will make all the difference to these struggling pollinators.



**Kate Bradbury** is passionate about wildlife-friendly gardening and the author of *Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything* in association with The Wildlife Trusts.



Discover more ways to welcome moths and butterflies into your garden on our website: [wildlifetrusts.org/butterflygarden](http://wildlifetrusts.org/butterflygarden)

### Avoid cutting down plants in autumn

Some butterflies, such as orange-tips, overwinter as chrysalises, which makes them vulnerable to tidying. Leave plants intact over winter and clear them in spring instead. Always check for chrysalises just in case!

### Plant a mixed native hedge

If you have space, plant a native tree or two. Many moths lay their eggs on the leaves of willow, dog rose, birch and hawthorn. Grow a climber, such as honeysuckle, through the hedge to make it even more moth-friendly.

### Grow night-scented plants

Plant groups of common jasmine, evening primrose, honeysuckle and night-scented stock together, so that moths can find them more easily.

### Leave some weeds

Many moths lay their eggs on the leaves of nettles, brambles, dock and dandelions. Even leaving weeds at the back of borders, where you can't see them, will make a difference.

### Don't be too tidy

While some moths breed in long grass, many caterpillars and pupae spend winter hibernating in grass or among leaf litter and other plant debris. Leave things where they are in autumn and winter, and tidy up in spring instead.



# Open Gardens 2020

**A great big thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and visitors who helped us raise nearly £18,000 at our Open Gardens in 2019. We invite you to join us again this year as we open 11 exclusive gardens to supporters across the county.**

This year our old favourites, and new locations, will kindly be sponsored by St Eval Candle Company.

We're excited to visit these wildlife-friendly gardens, and eat delicious volunteer-baked cakes, or cream teas provided by Roddas and Cornish Coffee!

Each garden celebrates wildlife-gardening in a different way – come along for wildlife inspiration in your own garden and take home some plants too! Our plant sales include vegetables and perennials, with all sales directly supporting Cornwall's wildlife.

## APRIL

Popular **Pedn Billy (5th)** begins the season, showcasing its spectacular ancient woodland filled with bluebells, and winding paths. This is the time of year when Cornwall is ablaze with colour, and Pedn Billy is no exception – full of camellias, azaleas and flowering bulbs.

## MAY

Discover thousands of spring bulbs at **South Bosent (3rd)** Dobwalls, quite a difference to last year when they opened in the autumn. The land surrounding this old farmhouse has been planted to encourage wildlife; fruit trees, a wild flower meadow, and ponds all enrich the local ecosystem.

In the tranquil valley of the River Fowey, you'll find **The Lodge (17th)** at Fletchersbridge, a new garden for 2020 that specialises in trees and shrubs chosen for their flowers, foliage and form, including 35 magnolia varieties. Ponds, waterfalls, spring flowers and a regularly changing collection of modern sculpture (some of which is for sale) surround the gothic lodge.

The month concludes at **Restineas Cottage (31st)** Garker – a garden created for people and wildlife. Take one of the suggested walks and find yourself at Eden Project estate wildflower meadows, or along the magical 'fairy' walk. The garden includes unusual trees, a natural stream, vegetable patch and polytunnel as well as nest boxes, bug hotels and wildlife ponds that are home to an array of wildlife.

## JUNE

**Lethyep (7th)** opens its 52-acre wildlife haven to the public in aid of Cornwall Wildlife Trust for the 8th consecutive year. Sheltered in Lanreath, the landscape includes wildflower meadows and three large ponds, much beloved by aquatic plants, birds and insects. Meandering paths take visitors through grass meadows, woodlands, and wetland areas where they can find wildflowers, orchids, dragonflies and butterflies.

Business Supporters HPB open the grounds of holiday home **Duloe Manor (21st)** to supporters this summer. Once a rectory, the Queen Anne manor house is surrounded by beautifully maintained gardens and parkland with herbaceous borders, a rose garden, quiet shady corners, and ancient woodland.

## JULY

For the first time ever, Cornwall Wildlife Trust will be hosting a safari around **Playing Place (5th)** village with Kea Garden Society. Starting at Kea Community Centre, visitors will be provided with a map to discover any, or all, of the 11 gardens at their leisure. You'll find all styles; bog gardens, Mediterranean-styles, unusual shrubs and trees, and beautiful views towards the Roseland.

**Trevoole Farm (19th)** at Praze-an-Beeble, boasts buzzing bee borders that provide much needed nectar for the resident beehives. Everything in the garden plays a part in helping nature to thrive at Trevoole – including the pond, long grass, random wood piles and even garden waste!

## AUGUST

Ever-popular, our regular **Trenarth (2nd)** is abundant with wildlife thanks to water and bog features, orchards and lawns, and is home to a maternity roost of lesser horseshoe bats. Plants encourage birds, butterflies and insects all year round. The pastoral setting of this four acre garden boasts panoramic views without a road in sight! A garden trail for children makes this location perfect for families.

**Bolts Quarry Farm (9th)** at St. Breward, Bodmin, has evolved over 20 years from a rocky heap into a diverse wildlife garden. Its broadside leaf plantation, granite spoil heap and wildflower meadow attract a wealth of wildlife, whilst the Mowhay rock garden and quarry garden give a nod to the old site.

## SEPTEMBER

Completing the Open Gardens for 2020 is the **Cornish Cutting Garden (6th)** at Lower Releath – a social enterprise that supports biodiversity, eco-therapy and education through creative engagement. Taking an organic approach to cut flowers, it breaks the mold of a traditional cutting garden and incorporates shrubs, climbers and garden flowers not usually seen in the cut flower market.

Kindly supported by:

ST. EVAL

CORNISH  
COFFEE



Ponds a Lethyep



Pedn Billy

## DATES

Gardens will be open on the **following Sundays** between **2pm & 5pm unless stated otherwise.**

Please **see our website** for more details and directions for each garden or call **01872 273939.**

**April 5th**  
**Pedn Billy**  
 Helford Passage, TR11 5LF

**May 3rd**  
**South Bosent**  
 Dobwalls, Nr. Liskeard, PL14 4LX

**May 17th**  
**The Lodge**  
 Fletcher's Bridge, Bodmin, PL30 4AN

**May 31st**  
**Restineas Cottage**  
 Garker, St. Austell, PL26 8YA

**June 7th**  
**Lethytep** 11am-4pm  
 Penadlake, Lanreath, PL13 2PG

**June 21st**  
**Duloe Manor**  
 Duloe, Liskeard, PL14 4PW

**July 5th**  
**Playing Place Village Safari** 11am-4pm  
 Kea Community Centre TR3 6ET

**July 19th**  
**Trevoole**  
 Praze-an-Beeble, TR14 0RN

**August 2nd**  
**Trenarth**  
 High Cross, Constantine, TR11 5JN

**August 9th**  
**Bolts Quarry Farm**  
 St. Breward, Bodmin, PL30 4NY

**September 6th**  
**Cornish Cutting Garden**  
 Vellanusun, Lower Releath, TR13 0HB



Views at Lethytep



Playing Place



Walk way, Trevoole



Playing Place



# Photographic Group Annual Photo Competition winners

In November we held our annual competition. This year it was judged by member Joanna Clegg, whose own natural history photography is extremely accomplished. Jo gave us a great critique on our images and afterwards she said "I very much enjoyed the opportunity to select my favourites, explaining my reasoning, based on aspects like composition, quality, lighting, and perspective. It wasn't an easy process, with such diverse, excellent entries, having to choose a select few winning images".

To see more of Jo's images see [flickr.com/photos/abstractnature](https://www.flickr.com/photos/abstractnature)

**David Chapman**, Volunteer.

Join us at our events or find our contact details at [cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups](https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/who-we-are/local-groups)

## Winners

### Fauna (birds)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Bee-eater with painted lady by **Adrian Davey**

*A beautifully composed shot of a wonderfully colourful subject, but that's not all. Look at how the background colours compliment the plumage details of the bee-eater. The soft light has allowed details to be shown in every part of the image, even the unfortunate painted lady butterfly.*

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Female kingfisher in rain by **Bill Hall**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Puffin by **Adrian Davey**

### Fauna (other)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Common blue butterfly by **Malcolm Bishop**

*Sometimes less is more. This is a tremendously simple image and yet so very eye-catching. Good use of aperture has helped to blur the background, but not beyond recognition. In fact the subtle patterns in the background of this image are part of its charm. The eye is immediately drawn to the butterfly because it is so sharp but it rests comfortably against a background with which it shares just two attractive colours which fill the whole frame.*

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Keeled skimmer by **Karin Aldridge**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Cheetah, scent-marking by **Margaret Hocking**

### Flora

**1<sup>st</sup>** *Lycoperdon perlatum* on beach litter by **Andy Brown**

*Threes usually work well in photography because this number makes for a pleasing composition. This is a well-balanced image with incredible detail and sharpness throughout. The soft light has enabled the photographer to reveal detail not only in the pale fungi but also the darker surrounding leaf litter.*

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Teasel by **Jane Pickles**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Fungi by **Chris Robins**

### Composition & Form

**1<sup>st</sup>** Cormorants in willow by **Adrian Davey**

*This image is a work of art. The use of the silhouette removes layers of complexity from the photograph. We don't have colour to distract us, we don't even have detail in the subjects and yet we can see exactly what we are looking at and we can enjoy the shape of the tree and the behaviour of the cormorants.*

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Poppy by **Malcolm Bishop**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Storm-swell by **Alastair Scarlett**



**Cormorants in willow**  
by **Adrian Davey**



**Bee-eater with painted lady**  
by **Adrian Davey**



*Lycoperdon perlatum* on beach litter by Andy Brown



Common blue butterfly by Malcolm Bishop



## Swimming with giants

Swimming with one of Cornwall's stranger summer marine visitors.

Sometimes you can sit on a boat for hours and not see a thing, or you turn your head for one second and miss the most amazing sight.

With the sun shining we left Penzance and headed out in to the beautiful blue of Mounts Bay. The hunt was on for one of Cornwall's stranger summer inhabitants. It was quite a way along the coast to where we had an inkling we might find them. Were all our efforts going to be rewarded? Yes! A small splash nearby caught our attention; breaking the surface was the distinctive thin elongated dorsal fin. An ocean sunfish! True to form, the sunfish (as it's generally known) was sunbathing, its huge silver body glistening just under the surface.

We turned the engine off, and quietly slipped into the water. The visibility was fantastic so we had a good view from a safe distance of around five metres. We took our time to edge a little closer. We were fortunate that this sunfish was happy to let us stay around for a while. It observed our approach, turning upright whilst it checked us out and then continued with its original activity.

The ocean sunfish *Mola mola*, is one of the heaviest known bony fishes in the world, with adults typically weighing anywhere between 250 and 1,000 kg and growing to almost 2 meters in length. The German name for these creatures seems slightly more apt; schwimmender kopf, or 'swimming head'. This remarkable fish has global conservation status as vulnerable. They can easily suffocate on plastic bags, which resemble their favourite food,

jellyfish, or fill its stomach to the extent that it starves. Sunfish are accidentally – but frequently – caught in drift gillnet fisheries, making up nearly 30% of the total catch of the swordfish fishery employing drift gillnets in California. The bycatch rate is even higher for the Mediterranean swordfish industry, with 71% to 90% of the total catch being sunfish.

What a privilege it was to be in the proximity of this marvelous and huge curiosity of nature, which allowed us to stay around and take some photographs before we quietly left it to continue its day.

**Constance Morris and Andy Cowie**  
**Mounts Bay Marine Group**

 @MountsBayMarineGroup

CONSTANCE MORRIS ATLANTIC ADVENTURES AND CORNWALL COST PHOTOGRAPHY

# Dragons, drones and declining owls

## *Restoring the Balance*

by Dr Mateo Ruiz of the Barn Owl Trust (BOT)

We were entertained by the calls of different types of owls – more often heard than they are seen – before being shown some amazing photos and having the issues responsible for their current decline explained.

The BOT monitors 75 sites in Devon and East Cornwall and this talk gave a very real picture of what the organisation is doing in regard to reversing the falling numbers of owls in the South West as well as clear advice as to how we, as individuals, can make a real difference to the situation.



ANDY ROUSE

## *The Plight of the Bumble Bee*

by Robert Ashworth

Robert shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for this species, struggling to survive in a world that is reducing its natural habitat year on year. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is working hard with farmers and volunteers to instigate projects that will reverse the downward decline of our fuzzy little friends. Bumblebees only live for a year, apart from the queen, whose purpose is to lay enough eggs to rebuild the nest. The queen requires an enormous amount of energy to do her job and so she needs to feed on nectar-rich flowers, which is where we, as gardeners, can help. Creating a wildflower area in our gardens will provide the food and habitat that they need to survive.



FELICIA JONES

## *Enter the Dragons*

by Nicola Morris

Our final talk had the intriguing title above, and was a description of the lifecycles and habitats of Cornwall's amphibians and reptiles. Nicola, the chairperson of the Cornwall Reptile and Amphibian Group (CRAG) gave us a comprehensive description of common frog, common toad, palmate newt and common newt, adder, slow-worm, grass snake and common lizard that make up these two groups and their decreasing habitats. She explained how to create a happy habitat in our own gardens, which proved to be the constant theme through all our speakers' narratives. Our actions, however small, can make a big difference in preserving our wildlife.

**Ursula Edwards**, Volunteer, Bude Group



STEVE LANGHAM



# Seeing the wood for the Trees

## Tree planting guidance to tackle climate change

There is growing recognition that changes to how we manage land can provide us with natural solutions to the climate crisis. 'Natural solutions' like increasing tree cover, restoring peatlands, protecting marine habitats and better management of agricultural soils work by capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Crucially, natural solutions can bring major additional benefits; they are often fast to implement and low-tech, so relatively low-cost. Natural solutions can also help to tackle the ecological crisis by enhancing and expanding wildlife habitats and improving their resilience (think beaver-created wetlands preventing the spread of wild fires). Implementing natural solutions to climate change in a way that simultaneously addresses the ecological crisis is entirely possible right now in Cornwall.

Tree planting is the natural solution receiving most attention – and for good reason. Woodlands store more carbon than other habitats and the carbon builds up over decades as wood is formed.

Woodland has an additional benefit for climate change mitigation in that wood fuel and forest products can be used as substitutes for fossil fuels and high carbon-emission building materials like concrete. The UK Government's Committee on Climate Change has said that 30,000 hectares (116 sq miles) of new trees are needed per year until 2050. The Government responded last November by launching a £50 million Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme to encourage farmers and landowners to plant more trees.

Locally, Cornwall Council's ambition under the 'Forest for Cornwall' programme is an increase of 8,000 hectares of tree cover by 2030, which will cover 2% of Cornwall's land area. So, a significant amount of tree planting is coming to Cornwall.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, along with other nature conservationists, wants to minimise any potentially negative impacts from trees being planted into existing habitats that already support numerous wildlife species.

This should give us all cause for optimism, but there are some important things to bear in mind before jumping in feet first...

### 1 Natural solutions are not enough on their own;

we must also make changes to significantly reduce carbon emissions

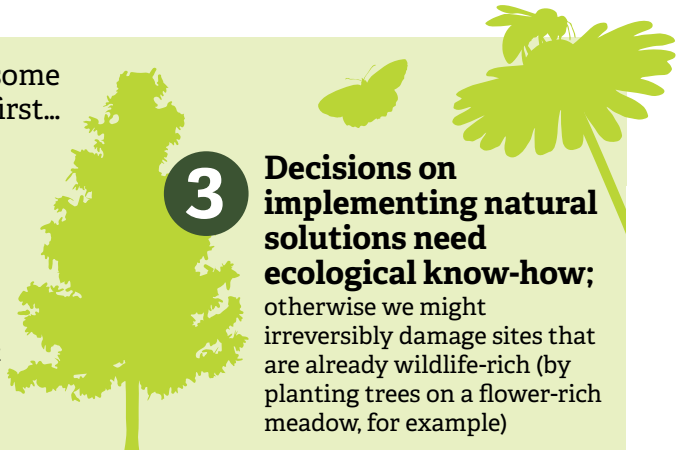


2 It is not all about trees; there are many different natural solutions to climate change that will be suitable in different situations



### 3 Decisions on implementing natural solutions need ecological know-how;

otherwise we might irreversibly damage sites that are already wildlife-rich (by planting trees on a flower-rich meadow, for example)





Over time, changes in management (like the exclusion of grazing animals) and shade provided by the trees makes the habitat unsuitable for many species, resulting in the decline of the site's biodiversity. There are numerous examples of this having happened already in Cornwall, and that was before the recent mass-interest in tree planting. To the untrained eye, an area of grassland might look unimpressive in the middle of winter and be earmarked for well-intentioned tree planting, yet in summer it may be bursting with wild flowers, bumblebees and birds and be vitally important in its own right. This is why it is so important to know what you are planting into. Ideally we would target areas that are the wildlife equivalent of a 'blank canvas', such as an unproductive corner of an intensive silage field. Trees can even be positioned to help deliver other benefits, like slowing the flow of surface water to help reduce flooding, or to provide shelter for livestock.

The way in which trees are introduced to a site is also up for debate. The conventional method of planting tree nursery stock and protecting with plastic tree guards is coming under increasing scrutiny. The argument is that natural regeneration (germination of seed already present in the area) is a better option. Natural regeneration is likely to be lower cost and ensures that the resultant trees and shrubs are well-suited to the local soil and weather conditions.

If tree planting is being planned in your area, please ask the organisers if they have sought advice from an experienced ecologist; some of Cornwall's most sensitive wildlife habitats may depend on it.



**Cheryl Marriott**  
Head of  
Conservation  
Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust



In Cornwall, protection of existing seagrass and kelp beds is a top priority – they are vital carbon fixers but we have very limited opportunities to expand their range further

MATT SLATER



There is growing recognition that the dam building activity of Eurasian beavers stores carbon by creating new wetlands and trapping soil particles

CHERYL MARRIOTT



Natural regeneration at Pendarves

CHERYL MARRIOTT

## Reducing your carbon footprint

### Taking the first step

Natural solutions will only take us so far; we must reduce emissions of carbon as well. The first step is to understand what your personal impact is – then you can make changes. You can calculate your own ecological footprint here:

<http://www.footprintcalculator.org>

Follow us on social media and let us know what you're doing to reduce your footprint:

**CornwallWildlife** **@CwallWildlife**



## Forest for Cornwall Programme

The Forest for Cornwall is not a single area of new forest, but will cover about 2% of Cornwall's land area. The aim is to significantly increase all forms of canopy cover throughout Cornwall, whilst strengthening the protection of our existing backbone of trees, woodlands and hedges.

You can find out more on Cornwall Council's website, including how to get involved.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has produced some guidance to help people make the right decisions on when, where and how to increase tree cover.



Semi-improved grassland

SUE HOCKING

# Natural Carbon SOLUTIONS

BY JOANNA RICHARDS

We face a climate emergency. Extreme weather events are on the increase and the impacts of a warming climate are becoming evident on our beloved wildlife, with some UK species being pushed to the furthest limits of their natural ranges. To tackle a crisis of this scale, it is imperative every tool in the box is used, and this includes the natural solutions offered by our planet. Over half of all carbon emissions released into the atmosphere by humans are re-absorbed by the Earth's natural systems. And yet, many of these systems are broken, the habitats providing them damaged and degraded. Restoring these systems would allow even more carbon to be absorbed – and The Wildlife Trusts are playing a leading role in helping this happen.

At sea, the Trusts fought for the Marine Act 2009: properly implemented it restores our most important carbon absorber and the wildlife that lives within it, including kelp and phytoplankton. On land, 9% of the UK's surface is a huge carbon store with carbon locked up in wet peat. Carbon is also stored in organic rich soils, especially those under grasslands and woodlands. For decades, The Wildlife Trusts have pioneered peatland restoration and sustainably managed woodlands and grassland meadows. This work continues, thanks to our supporters, helping in the fight against climate change.

## Saltmarsh

Like peatlands and grasslands, intertidal saltmarsh provides an important carbon store in its soils. Saltmarshes also act as a buffer against coastal erosion – although this and rising sea levels is leading to the loss of this habitat, with only 15% of its historic range remaining.

## Woodland

As they grow, trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere, storing it in their trunks, boughs and roots and as organic matter in woodland soils. So, new woodland creation – through natural regeneration for example – helps to combat climate change.

## Peatland

Peatlands cover just 3% of the Earth's surface, but store more carbon than any other habitat on land (more than twice the carbon of all the world's forests put together). But when damaged, as in the UK, they release carbon, contributing to climate change – so restoration is essential.

## Seagrass meadows

These aquatic flowering plants are responsible for around 10% of all carbon buried in the ocean, despite covering less than 0.2% of the ocean floor. They store carbon 35 times faster than rainforests, but estimates suggest that globally we are losing an area of seagrass the size of two football pitches every hour.

## Urban

Urban greenspaces help make cities better in a world that's getting hotter. Young street trees take up carbon dioxide and urban woodlands help control the local climate by providing shade and reducing the street temperature. Pleasant greenspaces can also encourage people to walk and cycle rather than jump in a car!

## Grassland

Healthy grassland soaks up and stores carbon in its roots and the soil. Grasslands that are undisturbed by arable agriculture and protected from soil erosion through sustainable management are important stores. Yet in the UK, we've lost 97% of our semi-natural grasslands and they continue to be at risk.

## Seaweed and kelp forests

Kelp grows incredibly quickly, sucking up carbon as it does. These underwater forests provide critical short-term carbon stores. When they die, bits of kelp sink into the deep sea, where they remain for a long time.

## Marine sediments

Phytoplankton – miniscule marine algae – absorb carbon as they grow. When they die, some of the carbon they've taken up sinks to the ocean floor, where it can remain for thousands of years.



Wildlife Watch

# Get outside and let Nature Nurture

Here at **Wildlife Watch** we are passionate about sharing nature with the younger generation and understand the positive impact this can have on children's wellbeing. So we were super-encouraged to read The Wildlife Trust's survey *Children and Nature 2019*.

This is the largest study of its kind and was carried out by the Institute of Education at University College London. It explores the impact of nature and outdoor activities on children's wellbeing and their views on nature. The survey was based on the responses of children attending events run by local Wildlife Trusts across Britain, just like the ones we run here for Cornwall's Wildlife Watch.

The summary of this report is aptly called *Nature Nurtures Children*, and highlights the personal, educational and social benefits children gain from being in contact with nature.



**The report found, that through events like the ones we hold here for Wildlife Watch:**

**90%** **79%** **84%**

90% of children felt they learned something new about the natural world

79% felt that their experience could help their school work

84% of children felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried

**79%** **81%** **79%**

79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves

81% agreed that they had better relationships with their teachers

79% reported better relationships with their class-mates

“Contact with the wild improves children's wellbeing, motivation and confidence.”

**Nigel Doar**  
The Wildlife Trusts' Director of Strategy

To conclude, **Professor Michael Reiss**, Institute of Education, UCL, says:

*“Each generation seems to have less contact with the outdoors than the preceding one. We owe it to all young people to reverse this trend – for their sakes, for our sakes and for nature's sake.”*

The simple message was, and still is, that more children need more time outdoors. So we'd like to ask you to encourage more children outside with Wildlife Watch. Can you recommend Wildlife Watch to your friends and maybe buddy up with them and join us on some of our events? From forest school and gardening club sessions to bird box building and rockpool rambling, it's a great excuse to meet new friends not just for children, but for parents, grandparents and anyone who looks after children.

For full details of the report go to: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/new-report-nature-nurtures-children>



**Jo Arvor**  
Jo has a background in play therapy and loves children and their families enjoying time in nature.

### How to book a Wildlife Watch event

All our Wildlife Watch events are now bookable via eventbrite on [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch)

**Nigel Doar**, The Wildlife Trusts' director of strategy says: *“This research shows that children experience profound and diverse benefits through regular contact with nature. Contact with the wild improves children's wellbeing, motivation and confidence. The data also highlights how children's experiences in and around the natural world led to better relationships with their teachers and classmates.”*

Just one hour of nature a day is recommended – which we feel is something we can all reasonably help our children to aim for. This was also highlighted during Outdoor Classroom Day on November 7th 2019 when Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Cornwall College's Your Shore Beach Rangers were fully involved in the Our Bright Future campaign – An Hour Outdoors.



**Melissa  
Harrison**

## Discover your secret garden

“ When I lived in central London I had my very own Secret Garden: a tiny pocket park a couple of streets away. That’s even what I called it, as its real name was long and humdrum and totally failed to capture how magical the place felt to me. An overgrown and largely overlooked half-acre created from the abandoned grounds of a long-gone Victorian villa, there was a pond, a single redwood, an old statue and winding paths lost under ivy, brambles and bindweed. I found frog spawn in spring, and sometimes a heron visited. Long-tailed tits chirruped in the branches overhead and when it snowed neat lines of fox prints led to a den deep beneath the brambles. For years my Secret Garden was a refuge from the city and a source of inspiration, even becoming a key location in my first novel, *Clay*.

For the two decades I spent in the capital I relied on contact with nature to help make urban life not just survivable, but enjoyable. Finding special places like my Secret Garden proved transformative, keeping me connected to weather, wildlife and the ancient cycle of the seasons – all things modern life can ameliorate or sometimes erase. Even in my twenties I instinctively knew I needed nature, and now the science is bearing it out: spending time in wild places eases stress, regulates our emotions, boosts our immune systems and improves both physical and mental health. None of that should come as a surprise, given that we evolved in nature, rather than separately from it. We fare less well in myriad ways the further removed we allow ourselves to get.



Creating a life that’s connected to nature doesn’t have to mean moving to deep countryside, going on long hikes in technical clothing, getting in the car and driving to a national park or learning long lists of Latin names for birds (though you can do all those things if you like!). Nor is connecting to nature something we should experience as a duty – one more thing to fit into an already busy life.

All it requires is a little curiosity about the wilder world around you – whether that’s your garden, park, local beauty spot or nearest Wildlife Trust reserve – as well as an ongoing interest in what’s living there, and a willingness to find out what it looks, sounds, feels and smells like during all four seasons of the year.

To connect with a special place in this way taps into age-old instincts, answering deep, subconscious, but often unmet needs. Over time, your attention will be repaid tenfold, it deepens and enriches your daily life, filling it with wonder.

 The Wildlife Trusts are looking forward to the release of *The Secret Garden* in cinemas this spring. Search for your own secret space at your nearest Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Visit [wildlifetrusts.org/nature-reserves](http://wildlifetrusts.org/nature-reserves)

### A LITTLE BIT WILD

#### Find your connection

Create an ongoing relationship with your special place in a way that works for you – drawing, meditating, writing or even going for a run. Be inspired by our 30 Days Wild Challenge! [wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild)



**Melissa Harrison** is a nature writer and novelist, and editor of the anthologies *Spring, Summer, Autumn* and *Winter*, produced in support of The Wildlife Trusts.



# Insects on the Menu

## Why more grubs means more grub...

**There has been well-documented international alarm about the plight of insects, and in particular the apparent declines in numbers of pollinators over recent decades, with media focusing on both domesticated honey bees and a range of wild bees.**

The loss of pollinators has been attributed to a combination of climate-change, habitat loss and, most contentiously, the use of various pesticides in modern industrial agriculture. Although this has raised public awareness of the importance

of certain insects that play an essential role in the production of humans' crops, we must also understand that beyond bees, a huge range of insects (and other invertebrates) provide crucial functions and services for not just humans, but for whole ecosystems, including those found here in Cornwall.

Insects, which naturally proliferate in huge numbers, are at the lower end of complex food-webs, leading up to the larger and more iconic wild animals that we all know.

Some people may at first be pleased that there are fewer flies buzzing around their homes, fewer splats to scrape off their car windscreens after a motorway journey or fewer pest species eating the plants in their gardens. But, for some of our most loved wildlife, the decrease in insect numbers is a very big deal as insects are their main food source.

Let's consider a few of the Cornish critters that would prefer humans to change their ways, and try to help insects increase in number once again...

“Water shrew is now present on four tributaries of the River Cober in west Cornwall... giving us hope that local freshwater quality is improving.”



### Water shrew *Neomys fodiens*

At 6-9.5 cm long with a silky, dark grey or black back and white underside, the water shrew is our largest shrew. It is mainly nocturnal and elusive, and you may be unaware that it is living nearby.

If spotted at all, it is the only shrew likely to be seen in water. Water shrew breed during the summer, and have between three and fifteen young per litter. It is mainly found in wetland habitats – such as streams, ponds, mires, and reed-beds – and lives in small burrows in mud banks.

As a good swimmer and diver, the water shrew is aptly named, with stiff hairs on its hind feet and tail to aide swimming.

It also has water-repellent fur, and can float like a cork. It prefers flowing water, but strangely it can be found more than a kilometre from any water. Active throughout its short life (often less than two years), it spends most of its time hunting for live prey. It has such a fast metabolism that it has to consume up to 50% of its bodyweight in food a day! In running water it will swim to catch small invertebrates such as caddisfly and mayfly larvae, although it will also eat land-based prey such as beetles. Rather unusually, it's the only UK shrew to have a venomous bite, and the venom in its saliva will immobilise its prey.

The only other venomous mammal in the UK is the mole. Good water quality means plenty of insect larvae to eat, so the presence of water shrew is a good indicator of reasonably clean water.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust was excited to hear that since post-graduate students from Exeter University's Falmouth campus began surveying several farm sites in summer 2019, they have discovered water shrew on four tributaries of the River Cober in West Cornwall. These new records provide vital knowledge of the local ecology, and give us hope that local freshwater quality is improving.



“  
 ..to some of our most loved wildlife, the decrease in insect numbers is a very big deal, as insects are their main food source.  
 ”

HELEN FEARNLEY

### Common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*

The common lizard is the UK's most familiar and widespread reptile, although not found on the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands, or many of the Scottish Islands. Interestingly, it is the only reptile native to Ireland and is also found the furthest north of any reptile – well within the Arctic Circle in Norway. It inhabits many habitat types, including heathland, moorland, woodland and grassland, and even gardens. Being cold-blooded, it is often seen basking in sunny spots such as the stones on a Cornish hedge. Adults live for five to six years, but can survive for up to 12 years. They emerge from hibernation

in spring, and sexually mature adults (over three years old) mate in April and May, producing three to eleven young in July. The common lizard is unusual among reptiles, as females incubate their eggs inside their body and give birth to live young. The basking helps to accelerate the development of the unborn.

Adults are usually 10-15 cm long and, whilst variable in colour, are usually brownish-grey, with rows of darker spots or stripes down the back and sides. Males have bright yellow or orange bellies with spots while females have paler, plain bellies.

They will move quickly to catch live prey, which includes a range of insects (such as flies, beetles and grasshoppers) and other invertebrates. Prey is pounced upon and grabbed in their jaws, then shaken vigorously to stun it, before being swallowed whole. If a common lizard is attacked by a predator, it can take drastic defensive measures, and shed its still-moving tail to distract an attacker whilst making a quick getaway. This leaves scar-tissue, but a tail can be re-grown, although the replacement is often shorter than the original.



STUART COLEMAN



JEREMY BARTLETT



STUART COLEMAN



An estimated **20 tonnes** of unlucky toads are killed on UK roads annually.

TERRY DUNSTAN

## Common toad *Bufo bufo*

The common toad is an amphibian, found throughout much of the UK, except for most islands. Common toads have however been introduced on St Marys and Bryher in the Isles of Scilly. Although colour can vary, it usually has olive-brown, warty skin, and copper eyes. Adults are



STUART COLEMAN

8-13 cm long, with short back legs but, unlike the common frog, it generally walks rather than hops. It usually lives up to four years, but can reach 10 years.

Reaching sexual maturity at three to four years, adults emerge after hibernation in early spring to breed in ponds and lake margins, preferring deeper water than frogs. Large females can lay between 3,000 and 8,000 eggs each year, and lay spawn in long strings around aquatic plants. For the rest of the year adults feed within terrestrial habitats, ranging from woodland, grassland, and moorland to gardens, as well as wetlands. They are often seen as adults during mass migrations to breeding ponds around February, but these gatherings are less impressive nowadays, as the species has suffered significant population declines. Building developments and busy roads can make it difficult to reach breeding ponds, and an estimated 20 tonnes of unlucky toads are killed on UK roads annually.

In their tadpole stage they eat plants and algae, but once common toad tadpoles start to grow their adult legs, the food preference

tends to change to live prey. Insects and a range of other invertebrates that move too close to this slow but stealthy hunter will wish they hadn't. With a large mouth and a sticky tongue, an adult toad can tackle a substantial victim, which it will swallow whole. Although mainly nocturnal, during summer months toads can sometimes be discovered hunting some distance from water, or amongst flower pots in gardens. They may also be woken from their slumbers when shifting logs or rocks in the winter. Choosing to eat a range of small 'pest' species makes the common toad very much the gardener's friend.



Riverine aquatic inverts



## Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*

Originally a cave-dweller, the greater horseshoe bat has adapted to use new roost opportunities in old houses, churches, barns, disused mines, and tunnels. Its fur is generally reddish-brown with a cream belly. Its characteristically fleshy nose is shaped like a horseshoe, and it is one of only two types of horseshoe bat in the UK, and the largest found in Europe. With a wingspan of up to 40 cm, and a body the size of a pear, this substantial flyer can live for up to 30 years. It hibernates over winter and, from May, females form maternity colonies, each having a single pup.

Like all UK bats, the greater horseshoe bat is nocturnal, and feeds on insects found using echolocation. In late spring, they will emerge at dusk and dawn, preferring to roost through the middle of the night. They will routinely fly from four to eight kilometres to reach favourite feeding areas, sometimes travelling up to 12km. Rows of trees and tall mature hedgerows are extremely important features to aid bats' navigation. Although they will take small midges and moths, they prefer larger prey such as dung-beetles, chafers, and craneflies – and will even land on the ground to snatch particularly choice prey.

They will choose a regular perch in a tree, from which they can wait for passing

insects. When they 'scan' their prey, they fly out to catch it, and will either eat it on the wing, or return to the perch to munch. Insect remains beneath such perches can be spotted in spring and autumn in particular.

As a species, greater horseshoe bats are legally protected, but remain threatened by agricultural intensification, landscape changes, and loss of roosting sites through redevelopment. The bat's stronghold is in South Wales and the South West, including several colonies in Cornwall that we are working to protect. But since accurate records began in the early 1900s, it now covers only half its former range, and its population is down to just 1% of its former numbers. This iconic bat has attracted a considerable conservation effort in recent decades. Known roost sites are being protected, ecological requirements better understood and landowners advised within the bats' range. It particularly likes sheltered wooded valleys, with good access to livestock pasture free from insecticide use, and some flowing or open water. It will also hunt over species-rich meadows, and along bushy hedge-banks.

**Stuart Coleman**, Upstream Thinking Farm Advisor, Cornwall Wildlife Trust



MIKE SYMES

With a wingspan of up to **40 cm** and a body the size of a pear, this substantial flyer can live for up to **30 years**



STUART COLEMAN



STUART COLEMAN



DAVID MAY



# Thank You!

From Cornish cream teas to plant sales, wild yoga to coastal ultramarathons, choirs, carols, and kayaks – we've loved hearing about your fundraising adventures. Our incredible fundraisers know no boundaries when it comes to age or activity, and have used their own time and money to spread awareness to support Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

All the money you raise is used to protect wildlife and wild places in Cornwall and we thank you from the green-fingered and grass-roots bottom of our hearts.



## Charity of the Year

We were lucky enough to be supported by some communities and businesses for an entire year as their dedicated Charity of the Year.

Bridge Schools Trust raised £450 across 14 schools through environmental days and summer fairs, whilst Lizard Art Group donated sales from their artwork and raised over £600.

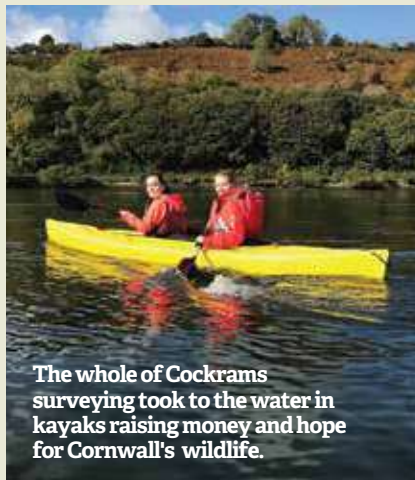
Lizard Art Group will be supporting us again in 2020!

## Employee Fundraising

Employees of Frugi and Cockrams Surveying were out and fundraising in 2019 - taking part in an ultramarathon and a kayaking expedition respectively.

Jason Ratcliffe, of Cockrams Surveying said :

"We wanted to do more than just donate to a charity, and really explore the wildlife and wild places that we fundraised to protect."



The whole of Cockrams surveying took to the water in kayaks raising money and hope for Cornwall's wildlife.



A wildlife hero's effort from Frugi's new chief exec who set the pace for their fundraising ultramarathon.



## Wild walk

Jack & Katy walked the Cornish coastal path in all weathers to raise money for wildlife.

Masses of great ideas are in our fundraising pack, get yours from [fundraising@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)



## 2020 Wild Cornwall Charity Calendar

Thank you for all the incredible photo entries we received as part of our Wild Cornwall Calendar competition.

It is brilliant to see so many so many talented photographers in Cornwall, people who can share their unique experience of wildlife in Cornwall. We have selected 13 stunning images to feature in our 2021 calendar.

This stunning image of a badger, submitted by Richard Birchett through our annual photography competition, has also been shortlisted for the British Photography Awards and will star as our 2021 calendar cover image.

You can buy the 2020 Wild Cornwall Calendar from our online shop at [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop) or from local stores in Truro including Waterstones.



ELLIOTT NEEP

### Thank you for supporting our badger vaccination programme!

We would like to say a massive thank you to our partners at The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), specifically Rosie Woodroffe, Cally Ham and Kelly Astley; to farmers, land owners, scientists and conservationists; and all our supporters who donated, voted, wrote to their MPs and got behind our Badger Vaccination Appeal. You helped raise awareness and fund programmes supporting an alternative to culling, and collectively we have had an impact in Cornwall and in the UK.

The Government has now responded to the Godfray review of Bovine TB policy that it commissioned in 2018. It appears to be good news for badgers in that the government envisages that 'the current intensive culling policy would begin to be phased out in the next few years, gradually replaced by government-supported badger vaccination and surveillance'. Keep a look out for updates on the Badger Vaccination pages on our website.

How your fundraising can support the work we do :

**£1,000**

looking after our hardy native breed ponies vital to conservation grazing. *Ponies on our dunes help wildlife through vital conservation grazing.*



**£500**

new chainsaw or brush cutter for scrub clearance

*New equipment like a chainsaw is essential to conservation and tree management on our nature reserves.*



**£250**

run an educational wildlife watch event

*Discovering starfish at a Wildlife Watch rockpooling session.*



**£60**

desk study to identify habitat and species

*The Environmental Records Centre Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly (ERCISS) holds over 6 million species records for Cornwall.*



**£86**

dormouse box check and recording

*Dormice spend their time high off the ground in the tree canopy in summer, so volunteers need to maintain and check nest boxes in the trees.*



**£20**

bottlenose dolphin and seal sampling kit

*Marine Stranding Network have around 120 trained volunteers working along the Cornish coastline.*



(TOP TO BOTTOM): ELLA CLARK, CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST; HEATHER BUTTAVANT, CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST; JEFF LOVERIDGE, CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST

Swifts epitomise British summertime with their screaming flight but as fewer of these miraculous birds return to our skies each year, **Sarah Gibson** reveals how we can help them

# The secret lives of **swifts**

**Swifts are not the quietest birds. Nor are they given to skulking in the undergrowth. They live their entire lives in the open air, scything past on crescent wings, often making piercing screeches. Yet, like many people, I never used to notice them.**

There had been swallows nesting in a barn near my old home in the Welsh borders. I'd see them swooping over the stable door, beaks stuffed with insects for their chicks. Later, I'd watch the fledglings practise flying in the safety of the barn. When I moved to a nearby market town, I missed that closeness... until I discovered swifts.

There was a pair nesting in the eaves of the house next door. They would storm down the narrow gap between the buildings with a rush of wings, and perform a handbrake turn to enter their nest hole. Blink and you'd miss them. Sitting in the garden on fine, still evenings, I watched them gliding through the air, snapping up insects, until the light drained from the sky and the first bats emerged.

#### **Life on the wing**

Swifts are incredibly aerial birds, living entirely on the wing for years at a time, rarely touching ground for even a moment. They catch all their food in the air: aphids, flies, spiders, beetles, moths;

even dragonflies, whirled into the sky, carried on the wind. Swifts drink and bathe, sleep and even mate on the wing. They fly closer to the sun than any other bird, feeding and resting at altitude.

Swifts spend most of their lives in Africa, but they journey thousands of miles to breed in a vast swathe across the world, from the westernmost fringes of Europe, eastward to China. Around the globe there are estimated to be somewhere between 95 million and 165 million of them sailing across the skies, justifying their English name of 'common swift'.

You may wonder why these well-travelled birds come to the UK when so many of



**Sarah Gibson** works for Shropshire Wildlife Trust. She's met swift experts across Europe, raises local awareness of the birds' plight and revels in the aerial skill of these awesome birds.



our summer days are rain-soaked, making it difficult, you might think, to catch the insects they need to feed their young. The answer must be that, apart from the occasional particularly bad year, it works for them – and has done for millions of years. In fact, our northern summers have a great advantage for swifts – long daylight hours, which allow them to forage for 16 hours a day at the season's peak.

Swifts have several unusual adaptations that enable them to cope with our bad weather. The eggs and chicks of most small birds are vulnerable to chilling, so extended feeding forays by the parent birds during

incubation and brooding can cause the nest to fail. Swift embryos, by contrast, are resistant to cooling, except at the start of incubation. Chicks can become torpid (a state of lowered metabolism) to conserve energy, enabling the parent birds to feed elsewhere, until the weather improves. Once they are a few weeks old and have fat reserves, swift chicks can survive several days without nourishment, greatly enhancing their chances of fledging in variable weather conditions.

Swifts make their nests in crevices in walls, under roof eaves or inside pantiles

(S-shaped roof tiles). Gathering materials takes time – all the feathers, wisps of grass, tree seeds and flower sepals must be found on the wing, blowing about in the air. Inevitably, scraps of plastic are now often found woven into the nest, a shallow dish glued together with saliva.

Finding a nest hole is the most crucial thing a swift has to do. Most individuals do not breed until their fourth year, but the young birds still make the migration journey and start looking for a safe, dark hole. Once they have found one, the young birds pair up and start to bring in feathers and other nest materials.



## How to distinguish swifts

Swifts are not hirundines (the family of birds that includes swallows and martins), but they have a similar appearance and lifestyle, so are often confused with them

### Common swift

*Apus apus*

Uniform dark brown all over

Slender, scythe-shaped wings

Pale throat patch



### Swallow

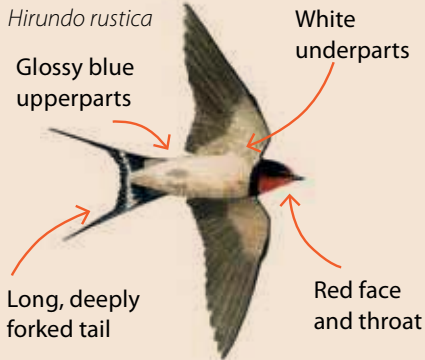
*Hirundo rustica*

Glossy blue upperparts

White underparts

Long, deeply forked tail

Red face and throat



### House martin

*Delichon urbicum*

Black tail short and clearly forked

Glossy blue-black upperparts

Bright white rump

Underparts white



### Sand martin

*Riparia riparia*

Sandy brown above

White belly and throat

Shallow fork in tail

Brown breast-band separating throat from belly



Swifts like high, deep crevices to nest, but as many old buildings have been lost and roof spaces filled, their numbers have declined



The apparent *joie de vivre* of young swifts is breathtaking. You hear them before you see them, screeching over the rooftops in gangs of seven or eight, racing circuits around buildings. As the poet Ted Hughes put it:

*Their lunatic, limber scrambling frenzy  
And their whirling blades  
Sparkle out into blue*

Hughes also wrote the much-quoted lines about the swifts' return:

*They've made it again,  
Which means the globe's still working,  
the Creation's  
Still waking refreshed, our summer's  
Still all to come*

This anxiety about whether or not 'our' swifts will return each May is something most swift-watchers can relate to, but concerns have escalated since Ted Hughes's poem was published over 40 years ago, with a massive and alarming 57% decline in numbers in the UK recorded between 1995 and 2017.

As traditional nest sites become scarce, you can help by fitting a wooden nest box to your home

For thousands of years, swifts have lived alongside us, because the homes and other buildings we constructed for ourselves have also suited them. Today though, we make it much harder for these birds to survive. Fewer insects is likely to be a factor – many other insectivorous birds are also in decline – but swifts are also up against a catastrophic loss of nesting cavities. Renovation of old buildings

## Renovation of old buildings almost always results in access to swift nest holes being blocked



Swifts migrate between the UK and their wintering grounds south of the Sahara. They are the UK's fastest birds in level flight, reaching speeds of up to 69.3 mph



almost always results in access to their holes being blocked, while new housing tends to be sealed completely against nature. Modern building materials, such as plastic soffits (part of the eaves), offer little potential for future weathering and gaps opening up. We need to accommodate nesting swifts – and urgently.

### Meet the swift champions

Thankfully, an inspirational movement of swift champions is coming to the rescue across the UK. Around 90 small groups are taking action locally. They run surveys to find swift breeding sites, work to prevent nesting holes from being blocked, install nestboxes, share information and help raise awareness through walks and talks – all with the support of their communities.

Several of these groups work with their regional Wildlife Trusts, which are perfectly positioned to assist grassroots action, such as nestbox schemes in church belfries and public buildings. The Wildlife Trusts also advocate the use of swift nest bricks – and nature-friendly green spaces – in new housing developments. Several Trusts are campaigning directly with local authorities and working with planners to get the installation of swift

nesting bricks (a brick with a hole behind which a nest box is fixed) written into local planning policy and building conditions.

North Wales Wildlife Trust is particularly active on behalf of swifts.

Ben Stammers, the Trust's people and wildlife officer, is passionate about the birds and, since 2014, has raised funds to install more than 300 nestboxes on schools, houses, university buildings, a community pub, a doctor's surgery, a theatre and a chapel in the area. More than 60 people have been trained as surveyors and, so far, 500 swift records have been submitted to their database. Dozens of talks, walks and other events have engaged more than 1,000 local people.

Ben sums up what it means to him: "Seeing joy in people's faces when they watch swifts on their own patch is so uplifting. I hope swifts can become an inspiration for how we can share our living space with wildlife, to the benefit of us all. If we can't find ways to help a species as fascinating and charismatic as the swift – and one so dependent on us – what hope is there?" I feel sure that's a sentiment we can all agree with. 🐦

## GET INVOLVED

### Five ways to help swifts

- 1** Ensure nesting holes are kept open when carrying out roof renovations or fitting insulation
- 2** Put a swift box on your house, ensuring it's at least five metres above the ground
- 3** To support a healthy insect population, stop using garden chemicals
- 4** Keep records of swifts entering holes in buildings and tell your local record centre
- 5** Find out more about swifts and how you can help protect them at [wildlifetrusts.org/swifts](http://wildlifetrusts.org/swifts)



**Swifts & Us: The life of the bird that sleeps in the sky** by Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Sarah Gibson will be published by William Collins this spring.

ILLUSTRATIONS: CHRIS SHIELDS; SWIFT AT EAVES: NICK UPTON; NEST BOX: NICK UPTON; SWIFTS IN FLIGHT: GRAHAM CATLEY

### GET IMERSED IN OUR LOCAL MARINE WILDLIFE

#### WILDLIFE GARDENING CLUBS AND OPEN GARDEN EVENTS



### 'Bloomin Marvellous

Truro | Mawnan Smith | Bodmin  
Liskeard | Mevagissey | Garker  
Lanreath | Playing Place

With spring well and truly bursting out all around the county, our thoughts, naturally, turn to our gardens and how to improve them, both for ourselves and for the wildlife that will visit during the coming year!

We have lots of wildlife events for adults and children, aimed at helping you rewild your garden this year!

Plus, we also have our ever-popular, sneak preview into just how others make their gardens grow, with many Open Garden events taking place throughout the county over the Spring months – everyone is welcome.

Full details are available on our website.

### Snorkel your way through National Marine week

**Monday 27th July** sees the beginning of National Marine Week and here in Cornwall, we think the best way to enjoy it is to pop on a mask and snorkel to explore the underwater beauty of the Cornish coast.

Not confident in the water? Don't worry; the first week will be Learn to Snorkel week followed by a week of Snorkel Safaris from the 3rd August. Keep your eye out on the Your Shore Beach Rangers website or Facebook for event details.

All events will be booking only.



YOUR SHORE BEACH RANGERS

#### LOOE ISLAND EVENTS

### Set sail for wildlife adventures

April | May | June | July

Come and join us at the Trust's only island nature reserve. The stunning Looe Island reserve provides a quiet haven for wildlife with a variety of habitats, including woodland, maritime grassland, sand, shingle and rocky reef!

Throughout the spring, the Trust is offering various guided walks around the island, where you will learn about both its wildlife and history. The island is only accessible by boat from the mainland, so any trip to Looe Island generates a real sense of adventure for visitors of all ages!

Want to extend your island stay? Each year, we offer a number of three-night camping breaks on the island, giving visitors a great opportunity to truly experience the peace and tranquillity of this very special place. Full details are available on our website.



MARK CAMP

#### WILDER SPRING FOR OUR JUNIOR MEMBERS

wildlife  
watch

### Wildlife Watch

April | May | June | July

From rockpool rambling to wildlife gardening; seaweed pressing to pond dipping; glow worm investigation to beaver watching... these are just some of the many brilliant events aimed at our younger members, over the next four months!

Other highlights include: learning batty facts about bats; joining a rockpool safari; going on a snake patrol and going really wild about hedgehogs!




Full details are available on our website.

All Wildlife Watch events are aimed at families with children aged 4 – 11yrs old unless otherwise stated,

Events are free with a refundable deposit of £5 is required at time of booking unless otherwise stated.

Events will go ahead in all weathers unless you are contacted by the leader beforehand to cancel or change the location. Please bring appropriate clothing and shoes to outside events.

#### Key to symbols:

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



#### 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.**



Saturday 4

**Wildlife Gardening Club – Gardening For Wildlife.**

Allet, Truro | 10.00am to 12.00 noon

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Cornwall Wildlife Trust HQ, Five Acres, Allet. TR4 9DJ.

Join Wildlife Watch volunteers and Elly from meadowsweet.uk for a practical outdoor session on making your garden more wildlife friendly.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 5

**Open Garden Pedn Billy**

Mawnan Smith | 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at Helford Passage, Mawnan Smith, TR11 5LF

The Trust's first open garden event this year begins with a real stunner. Amazing views of the Helford, ancient woodland and paths that wind down to the garden's own beach.

More details: info@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 5

**Great Eggcase Hunt**

Swanpool Beach, Falmouth | 10.00am to noon

Meet at Swanpool Beach, Falmouth, Cornwall. TR11 5BG (SW800311).

Our annual Great Eggcase Hunt. Explore the strand line looking for egg cases and learn how to identify which species they belong to.

More details: Lorian Hartgroves  
info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

Sunday 5

**Seaqwest Public Seawatch**

Falmouth | 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Meet at Pendennis Point Falmouth TR11 4WZ (SW825316).

Join marine life experts to look for and learn about whales, dolphins, seals, sunfish and sharks as part of the CWT Seaqwest Southwest Project.

**Alternative dates:** Sun 3rd May and Sun 7th JuneMore details: Willow Bank  
info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

Monday 6

**Looe Island Guided Walk**

Looe | 2.15pm to 6.15pm

**Booking is essential.** On-line booking only  
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Boat ride to the island where you join the warden for a guided walk, spotting wildlife and learning about the Trust's work and the challenges of island life.

**Alternative dates:** Mon 20th April, 2.15pm to 6.15pm

Tues 5th May, 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Wed 20th May, 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Thurs 4th June, 2.15pm to 6.15pm

Thurs 2nd July, 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Sun 19th July, 2.15pm to 6.15pm

More details:  
www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks

Monday 6

**Ladybirds Workshop**

Newquay | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite:**  
http://ercisworkshops.eventbrite.com

Covering the range of 30+ species found in Cornwall with identification tips for recorders and how to find associated habitats.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



Monday 6

**Make Your Own Birdfeeder**

Landulph | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Lower Marsh Farm Landulph PL12 6NG.

Attract beautiful birds to your garden by making useful and attractive bird feeders that will keep your feathered friends coming back for more.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 8

**Newquay Beach Care – Clean**

Newquay | 10.30am to 12.30pm

Meet in the lower Gannel Car Park off Gannel Road (SW808608).

Come and join us for our monthly beach clean. Clean, chat, walk and stay for cake!

More details: newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com

Wednesday 8

**Rockpooling**

Bude | 11.15am to 1.15pm

Meet at the top of Northcott Mouth Beach. Parking up the hill at the National Trust car park (SS203084).

We will explore the rocky ribs and pools looking out for marine animals.

More details: budemarinegroup@gmail.com

Thursday 9

**Easter Rockpool Ramble**

West Looe | 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Meet at Hannafore Beach, meet below the coastguard station, Marine Drive, West Looe, Cornwall, PL13 2DJ (SX255523).

Ever wondered what lives in the rockpools near you? Come to our rockpool ramble and find out!

More details: Amelia Bridges 07926 091345 or looemvca@gmail.com

Sunday 9

**Shoresearch Survey**

Mounts Bay | 10.00am to 3.00pm

**Booking is essential.**

Meet at Stackhouse Cove, Mounts Bay

Explore a fascinating and rarely visited shore within Mounts Bay Marine Conservation Zone. Help us carry out a survey of marine life.

More details: Matt Slater (01872) 302251  
Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Monday 13

**Photographic Group Meeting**

Allet, Truro | 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Meet at Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DJ

Members evening.

**Alternative date:** Mon 11th MayMore details: Adrian Langdon (01208) 813440  
07702527603. Adrian@adrianlangdon.com

Wednesday 15

**Heron Count and Breakfast**

Calamansack, Port Navas | 6.30am to 9.00am

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Calamansack, between Port Navas and Constantine (SW746281).

Annual heronry survey on the Helford, listening to the dawn chorus, counting nests, followed by full English breakfast at Trengilly Wartha Inn.

More details: Sue Scott (01326) 340961  
coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk

Thursday 16

**Tiscott Wood Nature Walk**

Bude | 10.00am to 11.30pm

**Booking is essential (max 12).** Meet at junction of A39 and Ivyleaf Hill (1.5 miles north east of Bude) (SS2416091)

A pleasant walk through Tiscott Wood with a detour through its very own ancient Hill Fort.

More details: Ursula Edwards (01288) 321078  
ursulaedwards42@yahoo.com

Sunday 19

**Coastal Photography**

Padstow | 10.00am to 3pm

Meet at Crugmeer car par, PL28 8HN (SW902 765).

A walk along this beautiful coast. Gunver Head to Stepper around to Hawkers Cove. Coastal wildflowers, birds and seascapes.

More details: Dave Thomas  
Davecarp86@hotmail.com

Sunday 19

**Homes for Bats**

Allet, Truro | 10.00am to 12 noon

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Cornwall Wildlife Trust HQ, Five Acres, Allet. TR4 9DJ.

Learn batty facts and make a bespoke bat home to take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 23

**Ancient Trees Workshop**

Trelissick | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite:**  
http://ercisworkshops.eventbrite.com

Learn about the fascinating world of ancient veteran trees, including their biodiversity and ecology, how their structure changes as they age, and their cultural importance.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 25

**Dawn Chorus**Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve, Saltash  
4.45am to 5.45am**Booking is essential.** Meet at The Cecil Arms by St. Stephens Church, PL12 4AR. (SX417583)

Listen to the amazing dawn chorus and discover the different species of birds on the reserve.

More details: Mary (01752) 843852

Saturday 25

**Rocking Rockpools**

Treyarnon Beach, Padstow | 12.30pm to 2.30pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at top of the beach below the car park.

A rocky shore explore of this wonderful beach.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 25

**Wildlife Gardening Club – Spring into your Garden**

Bodmin | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at The Real Food Garden, Inches, Bodmin, PL30 5LR

A fun, engaging session planting veggies, creating a bug hotel from recycled materials and making seed creatures to take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 26

**Rewilding your Garden**

Camborne | 10.00am to 12 noon

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Wildwood at Carne Skyber Lodge on Carn Meor Farm, Black Rock, Camborne TR14 9NG.

Pot up some willow saplings, explore the eco garden and rewilding ideas for your garden area and add to a nature diary you can take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 26

**Shoresearch Training**

Gwithian | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential**

A training session that introduces the Shoresearch project, a citizen science project that empowers the public to help us monitor marine life on our shores. Improve your marine species knowledge and survey skills.

More details: Matt Slater (01872) 30225  
Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 29

**Our Beach and Ocean Talk & Discussion with Mini Fry**

Bude | 7.00pm to 9.00pm

**Booking is essential**

Meet at Marine Cafe, Bude

An informal talk and discussion with a marine theme in a cafe/bar environment.

More details: budemarinegroup@gmail.com

Saturday 2

**Wild About Hedgehogs**

Nr Bodmin | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential**

Meet at car park for short, guided walk to forest school area. Oak Lodge, Cotton Wood, Nanstallon, Nr Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5LQ (SX017676).

As part of National Hedgehog Awareness Week learn all about these timid creatures. From fun facts to helping our spikyfriends by building nests for them. Enjoy a campfire snack too.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 2

**Snake Patrol**

Penhale, Truro | 9.30am to 11.30am

**Booking is essential.** Meet at the South Gate entrance to MOD training area, Penhale. Truro, TR8 5PZ.

Its back for another year, our fantastic reptile adventure. What will you find this year?

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 3

**Open Gardens - South Bosent**

Nr. Liskeard | 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at South Bosent, Dobwalls, Liskeard, PL14 4LX

This amazing 9 acre wildlife garden has been developed from farmland over the last 5 years and is still evolving.

More details: (01872) 273939  
isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 8

**Evening Wildlife Boat Trip**

Newquay | 6.00pm to 8.00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Newquay harbour, car park on right at bottom of Harbour. TR7 2PZ. Look for Atlantic Diver boat. (SW808620)

Sail around Newquay Headlands, Carters Rocks and Hollywell to spot seabirds, jellyfish and dolphins.

**Alternative date:** Fri 5th June and Fri 10th July

More details: Chris 07860 92783  
atlanticdiving@gmail.com

Saturday 9

**Guided Walk, Marsland Nature Reserve**

Bude | 11.00am to 1.00pm

**Booking essential (max 10).** Meet at Gooseham Mill. Park at top of the lane on the green (car parking is restricted at nature reserve office). (SS230172)

Tour around an area not open to the public, hoping to see Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly.

More details: Ursula Edwards (01288) 321078  
ursulaedwards42@yahoo.com

Saturday 9

**Newquay Beach Care – Clean**

Newquay | 11.00am to 1.00pm

Meet in main National Trust car park, Crantock Beach, Newquay (SW7886 6097).

Come and join us for our monthly beach clean. Clean, chat, walk and stay for cake!

More details: newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com

Saturday 9

**Spring Birds Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Meet at Cecil Arms by St. Stephens Church (SX418583)

Discover the different species of birds on the reserve.

More details: Mary (01752) 843852

Saturday 9

**Red Moor Spring Walk**

Bodmin | 9.30am to 12.00 noon

Meet at the grass triangle, Tredinnick Pits, Bodmin, PL30 5AP (SX076622).

Morning walk on Red Moor, looking for resident and returning migrant birds and other wildlife.

More details: Phil McVey (01208) 873300  
littleboslymon@aol.com

Saturday 9

**Orchard Exploration**

Newquay | 10.30am to 12:00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Newquay Community Orchard, Yeoman Way, Tretherras, Newquay, TR7 2SL. Just inside the main entrance .

A wild treasure hunt; get creative with natural materials in the outdoors; explore the lovely Orchard site and see what wildlife we can spot.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 9

**Reptile Ramble**

Windmill Farm | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Winmill Farm Nature Reserves, Ruan Minor, Helston TR12 7LH.

Join us for a reptile ramble on this wonderful site.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 9

**Rockpooling**

Bude | 12.15pm to 2.15pm

We will explore the rocky ribs and pools looking out for marine life.

More details: budemarinegroup@gmail.com

Sunday 10

**Rockpool Safari**

Fowey | 1.00pm to 3.00pm

**Booking is essential.** Meet at Readymoney Cove. Fowey. PL23 1JD (SX11875104).

Join us at this wonderful sheltered cove. See what rockpool creatures the tide has left behind.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 10

**Bird Watching on Bodmin Moor**

Temple, Bodmin | 9.00am to 2pm

Meet at Colliford reservoir NW car park, near Temple just off the A30, (SX246537).

A birdwatch around two of Bodmin Moor's reservoirs Colliford and Dozmary Pool.

More details: Dave Conway 07929 443401  
avid.conway423@btinternet.com

May 13

**Talk: Blue Health**

Falmouth | 7:00pm to 8.30pm

**Booking is essential.** Venue TBC.

Hear stories from inspirational speakers and find out how the natural environment improves our physical health and mental wellbeing.

More details: Lorian Hartgrove  
info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk

Saturday 16

**Wildlife Gardening Club – its Childrens Gardening Week**

Mevagissy | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite**  
[www.perennial-harvest.co.uk](http://www.perennial-harvest.co.uk).

Meet at Pemberton Farm nr Mevagissy.

Prepare seeds and seedlings to take home, learn practical skills for gardening, take part in our butterfly survey and explore our beautiful hedges.  
[www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk](http://www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk)

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 17

**Open Gardens - The Lodge**

Bodmin | 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at the garden. The Lodge, Fletchers Bridge, Bodmin, PL30 4AN

In the tranquil valley of the River Fowey, enjoy a 3 acre riverside garden specialising in trees and shrubs chosen for their flowers, foliage and form.

More details: (01872) 27393  
Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 19

**Ancient Woodland Indicators Workshop**

Ponsanooth, Truro | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite:**  
<http://ercisworkshops.eventbrite.com>

We take a look at the species of woodland ground flora in Cornwall which can be used as ancient woodland indicators and learn how to identify them.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 21

**Looe Island Bird Walk**

Looe | 2.45pm to 6.15pm

**Booking is essential. On-line booking only**  
[www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks)

Join local birder, Derek Spooner for a boat ride to and an escorted walk around Looe Island Nature Reserve. During the walk you'll encounter a range of birds and learn about how they are monitored.

**Alternative date:** Wed 3rd June, 1.30pm to 5.00pmMore details:  
[www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks)

Tuesday 26

**Wildlife at Dusk**

Liskeard | 8.15pm to 10.00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at reception area by café and park, Deerpark Holiday Park, Herodsfoot, Liskeard PL14 4QY (SX205608).**

Join us at this wonderful forest location to explore what creatures call this site their home and are out and about at dusk.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Thursday 28

**Spring Beaver Watch**

Nr Truro | 8.00pm to 10.00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at Cornwall Beaver Project, Woodland Valley Farm, Ladock, Truro, TR2 4PT**

The first of our visits this year to see the amazing work of two beavers and their kits. See what they have been up to.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 30

**Wildlife Gardening Club – Encouraging Pollinators**

Nr Truro | 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**Booking is essential. Meet at Cornwall Wildlife Trust HQ, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ**

Create mini meadows to take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 31

**Open Gardens – Restineas Cottage**

Garker, St. Austell | 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at the garden, Restineas Cottage, Garker, St. Austell, PL26 8YA

Developed over 11 years, this 2 ½ acre garden aims to attract wildlife, so look out for various nesting boxes, bee houses, bug hotels and log piles.

More details: (01872) 273939  
[Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## JUNE | MIS METHEVEN

Friday 5

**Starfish and Urchins Workshop**

Falmouth | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite:**  
<http://ercisworkshops.eventbrite.com>

Focusing on the echinoderms found on the Cornish coast. These radially symmetrical species include starfish, sea urchins and sea cucumbers. After an introductory classroom session we will go down to the shore to see what we can find.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or [WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 6

**Walking Beach Clean**

Downderry | 10.00am to 12.00pm

Meet at Downderry Slip, Downderry, Cornwall, PL11 3LL (SX315538).

Come and join us for a fun walk along the coast. We'll be collecting litter as we walk and looking out for any wildlife we might come across.

More details: **Amelia Bridges 07926 091345**  
[looevmca@gmail.com](mailto:looevmca@gmail.com)

Saturday 6

**Rockpooling**

Bude | 11.15am to 1.15pm

Meet by Bude Surf Lifesaving Club, Crooklets Beach, Bude (SS203072).

We will explore the rocky ribs and pools looking out for marine life.

More details: [budemarinegroup@gmail.com](mailto:budemarinegroup@gmail.com)

June 6

**Talk: Blue Health**

Falmouth | 12:00 noon to 3:00pm

Meet by FMC flags, Gyllyngvase beach, Falmouth TR11 4PA (SW808317).

In collaboration with Eden project's THE BIG LUNCH, join FMC for a picnic on the beach followed by sea-nic rockpool sessions.

More details: **Lorian Hartgroves**  
[info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk](mailto:info@falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk)

Sunday 7

**Wildflowers**

Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve

10.30am to 12.30pm

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

Discover the numerous wild flowers on the reserve.

More details: **Mary (01752) 843852**

Sunday 7

**Rockpool Ramble**

Coverack | 12.00pm to 2.00pm

**Booking essential. Meet at Coverack Beach, northern end below Bay Hotel. TR12 6TF (SW783185).**

Another chance to see what wonderful creatures you can find in the rockpools around you.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 7

**Open Gardens – Lethytep**

Lanreath | 11.00am to 4.00pm

Meet at the garden, Lethytep, Penadlake, Lanreath, PL13 2PG

Lethytep is a stunning 52 acre wildlife haven set in a sheltered valley, designed to attract wildlife with wild flower meadows above three large ponds full of aquatic plants, birds and insects.

More details: (01872) 273939  
[Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Friday 12

**Newquay Beach Care – Beach Clean**

Newquay | 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Meet by the public toilets in the Council car park, Porth Beach, Newquay (SW82946267).

Come and join us for our monthly beach clean. Clean, chat, walk and stay for cake!

More details: [newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com](mailto:newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com)

Saturday 13

**All About Bees**

Mount Rose, Truro

10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet in field area next to car park, Upper Field, Pennans Cottage, Mount Rose, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9PP**

A wonderful introduction to bees and all they do for us. Make beeswax candles to take home too.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 13

**Minibeast Madness**

Newquay | 10.30am to 12:00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at Newquay Community Orchard, Yeoman Way, Tretherras, TR7 2SL.**

Enjoy a mini beast hunt around the orchard. See what creatures live here and call it home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Monday 15

**Mosses and Liverworts on Trees**

Bodmin | 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential via Eventbrite:**  
<http://ercisworkshops.eventbrite.com>

After our workshop on Mosses and Liverworts last year, we return to the subject to focus on epiphytic bryophytes – those that grow on trees.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or [WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Wednesday 17

**Gillan Creek Garden Walk**

Mannaccan | 2.00pm to 4.00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at Hallowarren Barn, Carne, Mannaccan (SW77292487).**

Stroll through a fabulous 15 acre woodland garden and wildflower honeypot meadow at Gillan Creek with owner Amanda Loxley.

More details: **Sue Scott (01326) 340961**  
[Coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk](mailto:Coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk)

Saturday 20

**Wildlife Gardening Club – Garden Critters**

Bodmin | 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at The Real Food Garden, Inches, Bodmin, PL30 5LR**

Discover the bugs hiding in this biodiverse market garden. Build a wormery with tiger worms and make a plant potion to take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 21

**Conservation Cruise**

Mawnan Smith | 4.00pm to 6.30pm

**Booking is essential. Meet at Ferryboat Inn Jetty, Helford Passage, TR11 5LB (SW764269).**

Annual conservation cruise down the Helford taking in the wildlife, geography, and history of the estuary with local experts.

More details: **Sue Scott (01326) 340961**  
[Coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk](mailto:Coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk)

Sunday 21

**Shoresearch Survey**

Newquay | 10.00am to 12.30pm

**Booking essential. Meet at Fistral beach, Newquay**

Explore a fascinating and diverse marine life within the Newquay and Gannel Marine Conservation Zone.

More details:  
[Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 21

**Open Gardens – Duloe Manor**

Liskeard | 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Meet at Duloe Manor, Duloe, Liskeard PL14 4PW. Beautifully maintained gardens and parkland surround the manor, with herbaceous borders, rose garden, quiet shady corners and ancient woodland.

More details: (01872) 273939  
isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 24

**Wildlife Photography**

Luckett, near Callington | 10.00am to 3.00pm

Meet at Luckett car park, near Callington PL17 8NJ (SX389736).

We will aim to photograph heath fritillary butterflies and butterfly orchids.

More details: David Chapman (01736) 850287

Wednesday 1

**Looe Island History Walk**

Looe | 12.00 noon to 3.30pm

Booking is essential. On-line booking only [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks)

Join us for a boat ride to and an escorted walk around Looe Island Nature Reserve. During the walk you'll learn of the Island's intriguing history.

More details: [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/islandwalks)

Friday 3

**Umbellifers Workshop**

Allet, Truro | 10.00am to 4.00pm

Booking is essential via Eventbrite: <http://erccisworkshops.eventbrite.com>

We delve into the family Apiaceae, commonly known as the Umbellifers, which have many small flowers stemming from a single point.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or [WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Friday 3

**Night Rockpooling**

Falmouth | 9.30pm to 11.30pm

Booking is essential. Meet at details on Booking.

Explore some amazing rockpools at night! Help us carry out a nocturnal Shoresearch, and witness the rocky shores night shift!

More details: Matt Slater (01872) 302251  
[Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 4

**Rockpooling Expedition**

Mawgan Porth | 10.00am to 12.30pm

Booking is essential. Meet at Park Head National Trust Car Park. Between Mawgan Porth and Porthcothan. PL27 7UU

An awesome expedition to a secluded rockpool.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 4

**Wildflower Wonders**

Mount Rose, Truro | 10.00am to 12.00pm

Booking essential. Meet in field area by yurt, Upper Field, Pennans Cottage, Mount Rose, Truro, TR4 9PP

Learn all about the wonders of wildflowers in this beautiful meadow setting. Enjoy making flower presses, wildflower art and join in with the development of a community wildflower meadow.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 5

**Seaweed Pressing**

St Agnes | 11.00am to 1.00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at slipway Trevaunance cove, St Agnes, TR5 0RU (SW720516).

Find out all about seaweeds and why they're so important to us. Search for seaweeds then learn how to press them, creating art to take home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 5

**Open Gardens – Playing Place**

Playing Place, Truro | 11.00am to 4.00pm

Meet at Kea Community Centre, Old Coach Road, Playing Place, TR3 6ET

Eleven gardens, open to the public as part of our first ever 'Garden Safari', including cottage style gardens, terraced and tiered hillside gardens, wooded areas, wildflower and wildlife havens.

More details: (01872) 273939  
[isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:isabella.hawkes@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Monday 6

**Seaweed Appreciation, Art Meets Science**

Mawnan Smith | 9.30am to 4.00pm

Booking is essential. Meeting at details on booking. Explore the huge diversity and beauty of seaweeds in Cornish rockpools, discover seaweed art and collect specimens from shores rich in algal life.

More details: Matt Slater (01872) 302251  
[Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 11

**Newquay Beach Care – Clean**

Newquay | 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Meet on the beach under the lifeguard hut, Towan Beach, Newquay (SW80976178).

Come and join us for our monthly beach clean. Clean, chat, walk and stay for cake!

More details: [newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com](mailto:newquaymarinegroup@gmail.com)

Saturday 11

**Flowers and Pollinators**

Newquay | 10.30am to 12:00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at Newquay Community Orchard, Yeoman Way, Tretherras, Newquay TR7 2SL. Just inside the main entrance.

Learn all about the flowers and pollinators in this wonderful orchard.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 12

**Pond Dip and Nature Hunt**

Liskeard | 10.00am – 12.00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at reception area by café and park, Deerpark Holiday Park, Herodsfoot Liskeard PL14 4QY (SX205608).

A pond dip and nature hunt at this wonderful site. Learn about the critters that call it their home.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**For full details of all our events and activities**

**Including: prices, age suitability, access information and what to bring and wear.**

[cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on](http://cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on) | (01872) 273 939

Sunday 12

**Cabilla Butterfly Woodland Walk**

Bodmin | 10.00am to 2pm

Meet in Saw Mill free car park. Between Bodmin and Trago Mills. (SX129 655).

A woodland walk through this attractive reserve with 29 recorded butterfly species and 4 forms. With butterfly expert Dave Conway.

More details: Dave Conway 07929 4434  
[david.conway423@btinternet.com](mailto:david.conway423@btinternet.com)

Wednesday 15

**Grasses, Sedges and Rushes Workshop**

Gwithian Green | 10.00am to 4.00pm

Booking is essential via Eventbrite: <http://erccisworkshops.eventbrite.com>

Learn how to separate the three groups, recognise the structures and diagnostic features and identify the species most prevalent across Cornwall.

More details: ERCCIS Wildlife Information Service (01872) 302250 or [WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:WIS@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 18

**Brilliant Bees**

Camborne | 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Booking is essential. Meet at Wildwood at Carne Skyber Lodge on Carn Meor Farm, Black Rock, Camborne TR14 9NG.

Learn all about Bees, plant some bee friendly plants to take home and enjoy a campfire snack too in this fab eco garden location.

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Sunday 19

**Butterfly & Dragonfly Photography**

Nr. Bodmin | 10.00am to 3.00pm

Meet at Sawmill Carpark PL30 4BE. Cabilla & Redrice Woods Nature Reserve (SX129652).

Ancient woodland walks with target species silver washed fritillary, commas, ringlets, gatekeepers & dragonflies.

More details: Jasmina Goodair (01208) 821223  
07974700883 or [jas.goodair@talk21.com](mailto:jas.goodair@talk21.com)  
David Chapman (01736) 850287

Thursday 23

**Radical Rockpooling**

Near Pendeen | 12.00pm to 3:00pm

Booking is essential. Meet at details on booking

A rockpooling and snorkelling adventure at one of Cornwall's most spectacular locations! Explore a rarely visited site home to fascinating and intriguing marine life. Try snorkelling in huge natural tide pools.

More details: Matt Slater (01872) 30225  
[Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Saturday 25

**Glowing Glow Worms**

Penhale | 10.00pm to 11.30pm

Booking is essential. Meet at Dog walkers car park at the entrance to Perran Sands Holiday Park.

A real treat for night owls and definitely one for older children. Join us for a late night walk to search for these amazing glowing beetles, that's right they're not a worm but a beetle!

More details: Wildlife Watch (01872) 273939  
[wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wildlifewatch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

# CHOOSE ANY COLOUR AND WE'LL HELP YOU MAKE IT **GREEN!**

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## Pauline's life-changing rewards and awards



**Pauline Ryan** has been volunteering with Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Wild Penwith group ever since their first meeting in 2010

**At the recent Cornwall Volunteer Awards at the Eden Project, Pauline was presented with an 'Environmental Award' in recognition of her cheerful determination to enhance habitats through practical conservation, despite ongoing health problems. Pauline tells us how volunteering has transformed her life for the better – perhaps the greatest reward of all.**

### Why did you get involved with Cornwall Wildlife Trust?

I had to get away from London and moved to Cornwall for a better life. I was having trouble with my health and was referred to Wild Penwith to take part in practical volunteering.

### What does volunteering involve?

Well, the work is different every week, which I really enjoy. We do a lot of Cornish hedging, vegetation clearance, coppicing, fencing and dealing with non-native species. We use bowsaws, loppers or scythes and it's hard work, but great fun!

### What do you get out of volunteering?

It's turned my life around to be honest. Volunteering has helped me live a happier, healthier life with some

fantastic people. Coming from London, doing this type of work in the beautiful Cornish landscape is fabulous. I really love it and it makes me feel so much better. I love being outside – I feel like a caged bird inside otherwise. My mum always said she could never keep me indoors as a child and nothing has changed. I've also made some lovely friends over the years in the group.

We have known each other for so long and it makes volunteering worthwhile, even when the weather's bad. It's great seeing all the amazing wildlife on offer in Cornwall. I've seen so much over the years. My favourites are birds of prey; I love seeing a kestrel hover or watching buzzards soaring high in the sky – but I am also very fond of badgers of course!

### What else do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy going to yoga with two of the other volunteers, and when I come out



Pauline Ryan

HOLLY BERWICK  
DAVID MAY

of the class I feel really chilled. It just sorts my mind and body out. It's also good to keep flexible for conservation tasks, which can be quite physically demanding. I like to read and, in my spare time, I do a lot of gardening. In the future, I'd like to have my own allotment but it's hard to find a local one available down here. I also enjoy volunteering with the National Trust at Trengwainton, working in their beautiful gardens.

### How did it feel winning the Environmental Volunteer award?

It was such a surprise – I never thought I'd get an award like that – I was quite choked! It's done my ego a bit of good too and it's given me a little lift. I was a bit nervous collecting the award, having to go up in front of so many people, but it was really enjoyable. The award ceremony was at The Eden Project and my partner and I noticed that we were the only people to arrive by public transport, so I felt quite proud about that.



The Wild Penwith volunteers take on practical tasks to restore wildlife habitats in West Cornwall's scenic Drift catchment. Their activities are part of the Upstream Thinking project, providing Penwith with a healthier environment and cleaner drinking water into the future. There are many more rewards to be gained during every day of volunteering. Why not give it a go and join one of our practical volunteering crews out in the fresh air?

Contact **Holly**, our Cornwall Wildlife Groups and Volunteering coordinator to find out more at [volunteering@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk) or look for the volunteer opportunities on our website [cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer)

# Leave a gift in your Will to something you love

Your legacy can  
protect the wildlife  
and wild places you  
cherish, for tomorrow  
and forever



Help wildlife to thrive forever; make sure it's always there to be loved, to create memories for future generations to treasure. Your gift to nature will last beyond a lifetime.

To make the will-writing process as simple and easy for you, and without charge, Cornwall Wildlife Trust has teamed up with **McClure Solicitors**. They are professional estate planners, meaning they can offer all the advice and support you need. Any questions you might have about how you can leave a gift in your will to wildlife will be answered, enabling you to make an informed decision on contributing towards nature conservation.

You can visit McClure Solicitors in Truro, Plymouth or Exeter, or arrange a home visit if you prefer not to travel.

For more information and to book an appointment, contact **Hayley Bayfield** on Freephone **0800 852 1999** or email [contactus@mcclure-solicitors.co.uk](mailto:contactus@mcclure-solicitors.co.uk)

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If you would like to speak with somebody at Cornwall Wildlife Trust for more information, or to let us know that you have remembered the Trust in your will, please contact **Emma Miller** on **01872 273939** or email [emma.miller@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:emma.miller@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Cornwall  
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**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 : 11am - 6pm**

Mount Pleasant Eco Park, Porthtowan, TR4 8HL

Go wild at our wildlife-themed festival and try out some back to nature experiences from scything to seaweed-spotting, forest-school to foraging and much more...

Music, traditional village fête games, eco-stalls and street food all day.

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fancy-dress parade  
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Cornwall

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