

**Incredible Marine Mammals sightings**  
**Beaver Reintroduction**  
**Camera Traps**  
**Confusing Shrews**  
**Mammal Society Award**  
**National Hedgehog Awareness week**



Image by Al Scarlett  
<http://www.alscarlett.com>

c/o Cornwall Wildlife Trust, 5 Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ.

[enquiries@cornwallmammalgroup.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwallmammalgroup.co.uk)



### Would you like to join the committee?

The following are all the roles currently filled within the Cornwall Mammal Group but we would love to encourage more of you to get involved:

Chair:	Sarah Hodge
Vice Chair:	Kate Hills
Treasurer:	Kelly Moyes
Equipment:	Kelly Moyes
Membership Secretary:	Steve Adams
Meetings Secretary:	Simon Richardson
Newsletter:	Angie Nash
Seal Group Liaison:	Angie Nash
EcoSoc Liaison:	Pete Cooper
Bat Group Liaison:	Sarah Stevens
Website:	Katie Bickerton
Social Media:	Amy Campbell/Katie Bickerton

We could still use more help in keeping the group running – not only help with administration, but also organising events.

The committee meets 3 or 4 times a year (outside of events) but we are in touch by email too so people can also be involved at a ‘virtual’ level as well as we appreciate that getting to meetings in a county the size of Cornwall is not always easy.

The committee tries to organise a range of events to engage, entertain, and educate – so if you feel there is an area (geographic or subject) that we have overlooked and you would like to help us fill the gap, get in touch.

**We would also love to receive original articles or images that we can include in our newsletter and don't forget to visit our Facebook page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cornwallmammalgroup/>

### Events for Autumn and Winter 2016:

Dates for CMG events are still being confirmed, however, please make a note of the following and we will send you full details soon.

In particular, please note the AGM will be in October this year and we're also holding our very first CMG conference!

Also this weekend there is the Lundy Bay bioblitz, full details at the end of the newsletter.

We hope to see you there!

- AGM - **October**
- Hedgehog Workshop (led by Kate Hills) - **September**
- Dormouse Day (led by Kate Hills) - **September**
- CMG Conference (led by Peter Cooper) - **October**
- Lundy Bay BioBlitz (led by Sarah Stevens and Dave Groves)  
**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1pm until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1pm.**  
 See end of newsletter for full timetable.

## Notes from our new chair: Dr Sarah Hodge

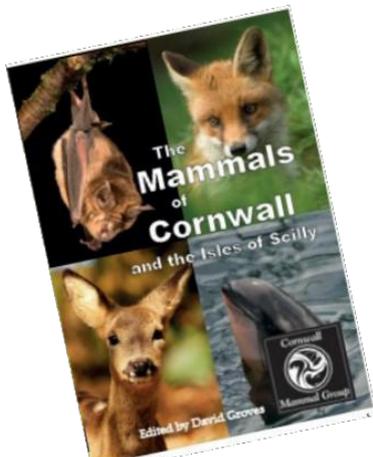
I have been a member of the Cornwall Mammal Group committee since 2009, and for the majority of this time Dave Groves has held the role of Chair. I've watched him take the group from strength to strength, organising a range of events and activities to promote awareness of the wonderful mammals that we have here in Cornwall, culminating in the publication of the Cornwall Mammal Atlas in 2014. So it's with excitement and some trepidation, that I find myself stepping into the role of Chair while Dave takes a well-earned break... he's certainly a tough act to follow! Dave will still play a key role in the committee though, so we'll still be seeing plenty of him.

The group has been busy this year already and has lots of exciting plans for summer/autumn. One of the main goals of Cornwall Mammal Group is to raise awareness of mammals in Cornwall and so far we have a number of events planned to do just that. These include mammal trapping at the Lundy Bay BioBlitz in July, our Biodiversity Action Plan Dormouse workshop in September, a hedgehog workshop in September and our Cetacean themed AGM in October. Committee member Pete Cooper is also organising the first Cornwall Mammal Conference at the start of October which will be an opportunity to update members on mammal research in Cornwall and discuss key conservation and research priorities. Watch this space for details about all of these events! If you're very lucky, our two newest event-going members, Marmite and Peanut the harvest mice might make an appearance!

We've had a number of people join the committee this year, which has really kick-started the group. As a result of Katie Bickerton's hard work we now have a fantastic new website, which contains up to date information on CMG activities and recording priorities as well as useful mammal resources. You'll find it at [www.cornwallmammalgroup.org](http://www.cornwallmammalgroup.org) - please go and have a look! One of our other priorities this summer is to improve communications with members. We're working on updating our membership lists, so expect to hear a lot more from us in future.

Finally, as always, we are constantly trying to come up with ways to increase information about mammals locally. The autumn workshops will go a long way to consolidating our knowledge on key species, particularly the hedgehog, which is one of our focal species this year. We are also discussing a new recording scheme that we hope to launch in the autumn. In the meantime, please continue to send in your mammal records – from mink to moles, house mice to hedgehogs, we want them all! Don't forget that we have several camera traps that can be loaned to members, so if you want to find out which mammals are visiting your garden at night, feel free to borrow them by filling in the form on the website, or contact our membership secretary.

**So here's to a mammal-filled rest of 2016!**



### **Our Atlas - The Mammals of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.**

Still available from all good bookshops or direct from <http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shop> or by mail; Please send a cheque for £13.50 made payable to **Cornwall Mammal Group** to Cornwall Mammal Atlas, c/o Gimblets Mill, Laneast, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 8QQ

Please include your full address, telephone number and email (if available). *Please allow 28 days for delivery.*

Over the last few months there has been some really exciting marine mammal activity around our coast. This newsletter brings to you some of the highlights so far. Remember to keep your eyes peeled when walking along our coastal paths as you never know what you might see.....

One of the most unusual and exciting marine mammal encounters was spotted off of Long Rock beach by Dan Jarvis from British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). He called in Hannah from Marine Discovery whose silent catamaran was able to get closer to the species in question, a species that is considered to be the longest living mammal at 200 years old! Here is their account:

“Over the course of a season we can count on seeing five species of cetacean reasonably regularly in the Mount’s Bay and the Land’s End area - these are harbour porpoises, common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, Risso’s dolphins and minke whales. Occasionally we will encounter a species more unusual, such as the 2011 dwarf sperm whale (whose live recording was a first for Cornwall and the UK), a sei whale in 2014 and humpback whale encounters in 2015. Then there are other species which have been recorded in Cornwall which we haven’t been lucky enough to find yet, such as pilot whales, fin whales, white beaked dolphins and orcas.

Strangely enough the bowhead whale wasn’t on this list, as it never occurred to us that it would turn up where palm trees flourish. It had happened before of course: in February 2015 a strange whale

was photographed off a beach in St Martin’s, Scilly, which left people scratching their heads, until a couple of small but significant features were spotted. These were the “double humped” profile, and the strongly arched jawline, the tip of which was just visible on grainy photos. This was assumed to be a very lost bowhead whale, a once in a lifetime sighting for Cornwall. These are whales which have evolved for life in the Arctic, with their massive heads, finless backs, and gigantic blubbery bodies up to 18 metres long.

On a sunny, calm Sunday in May I had a call from Dan Jarvis of BDMLR asking if we were out on the boat, because there was a whale very close to the shore at Long Rock beach. It was hard to discern the species, and equally hard to estimate length, but it was suggested that it was a (very) young humpback. Even though humpback calves wean fairly quickly compared to their toothed cousins, it sounded odd, and Dan didn’t seem quite sure – something seemed unusual. Whatever it was, no one wanted it to strand on a busy beach. He asked if we could approach from the sea and give our perspective. By a quirk of fate we had on board Dr Marijke de Boer, a good friend and our science advisor, who has conducted cetacean surveys and observations all over the world. We approached slowly and carefully, at an angle to the shore, and for a while couldn’t even see it, but remained in contact with Dan throughout.

Ah, there it was!

Definitely a whale – dark shadow in the shallow, clear water with a strange hump near the front. We stared and stared through binoculars, trying to see humpback features, but couldn't seem to see any. "I don't think that is a humpback" said Marijke calmly. She initially wouldn't say what she thought it was, but pointed out those features described above, and it dawned on us what she was suggesting. I phoned Dan again: "Dan, we think it's a bowhead whale, what do you think?" He agreed, and sounded concerned. It was very shallow, the tide was dropping, and the water was becoming enclosed by the "long rocks" which give the beach its name. Another boat with loud diesel engines was also approaching to see what we were looking at.



But actually the whale itself decided what it was going to do. It stopped tracking up and down the beach and turned towards the catamaran, surfacing several times and giving the people on board views which no one in British waters had had before – its broad, finless back, designed for smashing up through ice, and the double blowhole, even the great tail

flukes. This whale was about eight metres long. Cameras clicked dementedly. It then unhurriedly headed towards the channel which took it through the rocks and headed slowly out to sea. We tracked it at a distance for a couple of miles, watching the distinctive V shaped blow as it surfaced, and the great black back rolling over, and then left it.

On board was a nine year old girl from St Buryan. "I bet you are the only nine year old in the country who has seen a bowhead whale," Marijke told her, and she looked suitably impressed!

Since that day a couple of interesting things have come to light. The first was an unidentified whale photographed off a beach in Bénodet, Brittany a couple of weeks before our sighting. It was described as behaving very similarly, and the photos posted on social media appear to show identical features. Bénodet is really not far from West Cornwall as the whale swims. And then 10 days or so later, there was another sighting, this time off the east coast of Ireland. Very clear photos were taken of the animal's head and the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group have recorded it as Ireland's first ever record of a bowhead whale. So this makes four sightings of an Arctic whale in temperate European waters in fifteen months, when it has never before been recorded south of the Arctic Circle. Is it the same whale? The one we photographed had a scar on the left side of its back, whereas the Irish photos were only of the head, so it's impossible to say. But it certainly seems likely that the three sightings this year were the same animal.

With climate change and food shortages set to cause havoc in the world's marine ecosystems it's likely that more bizarre sightings like this will occur. However what really struck me was that within a mile of each other on the same beach, we have recorded an Arctic bowhead whale

and a dwarf sperm whale, which is a cetacean more associated with deep, subtropical waters. Might it also prove what an important crossroads our Cornish waters are for all kinds of species? "

- Angie Nash

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You may also have heard through the recent press, that there have been other important marine mammal sightings in our Cornish waters recently. A member of the public reported seeing what they thought were two fins of a pair of Killer Whales also known as Orcas, *Orcinus orca* (the largest member of the dolphin family) and one of the creatures breaching the water. The sighting at Gerrans Bay, near Portscatho on the Roseland peninsula was reported to Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Seaquest Southwest Project. There has been some discussion as to whether they may have been another similar looking, but smaller dolphin species that we occasionally see off our coasts, the Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus*. CMG and Seaquest Southwest are keen to encourage anyone to keep looking out over our coastal waters and report any sightings to [www.ORKS.org.uk](http://www.ORKS.org.uk)



- Angie Nash

Risso's dolphins. Image taken by ©Melissa Crewes-Hartland

Unfortunately, not all marine mammal sightings end in good news. If you come across a stranded marine mammal, the Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Strandings Network is the licensed recorder for all marine strandings in Cornwall.

The Marine Strandings Network consists of a team of over 100 volunteers who record all reported strandings of marine organisms on Cornwall's coastline. The volunteers' main activity is recording and photographing all stranded dolphins, whales and porpoises (collectively known as cetaceans) as well as seals, basking sharks and turtles but they also collect data on all marine life stranded in Cornwall, everything from guillemots and zulu fish to violet snails and buoy barnacles.

If you find any marine animal that looks stranded, please call their 24hr emergency hotline:

**0345 201 2626**

The volunteers have been collecting data on strandings for many years and now have over 5500 records on their strandings database, the earliest dating back to 1308! All marine records are welcome and kept by the Strandings Coordinator. The data is shared with all interested individuals and organisations. Information courtesy of the Marine Strandings Network <http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/strandings>

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## Grey Seals in Cornwall taste freedom again.....first reports back suggest it tasted salty!

Within Cornwall and the larger ecological community, it is imperative that all of the different wildlife organisations are able to work together; through sharing of data, sharing of knowledge, and particularly in emergency wildlife rescue situations, the sharing of



Grey seal image taken by ©Angie Nash

resources. When a member of the public reports an injured wild animal, it quickly becomes a role for the different organisations, many of whom rely on volunteers, to coordinate with each other to give that animal the best chance of survival and quality of life. In Cornwall we have recently had some really good news stories in the form of several of our Grey seals finding their way back to the Atlantic Ocean after being stranded or injured.

During the winter months, alongside the Marine Strandings Network, British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) are busy answering calls from the public informing them of young Grey seals, *Halichoerus grypus*, injured and stranded, many from the increasing swell we are seeing during the last few years winter storms. In a carefully coordinated effort, volunteers from BDMLR and the Cornwall Seal Sanctuary, Gweek, Cornwall, UK work together to rescue these animals, often requiring scaling perilous cliff faces to reach them. The seals are treated and rehabilitated at Gweek until they are well enough to be released again, where they are flipper tagged to help monitor them in the future, and released back into the oceans from whence they came.

On a morning in late May, I was lucky enough to be invited down (as a member of the Cornwall seal group and through my role as liaison with the seal group on behalf of CMG), to watch these young seals get their first taste of freedom since their rescue. Some charged full tilt to the ocean, whilst others were definitely more hesitant and needed a bit of persistent encouragement. One by one they finally all made it into the open water where hopefully

that'll be the last we see of them. The following video was taken during that release, [Grey seal release video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi0Cry_1PPs&feature=youtu.be) ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi0Cry\\_1PPs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi0Cry_1PPs&feature=youtu.be))

Grey seals are one of the rarest seals in the world, and **in the UK we are lucky enough to have 40%** of that population right on our doorstep. We have both Common and Grey seals as residents on our coast but in Cornwall we are most likely to see the larger Grey seal, with their sweet dog like faces, along our rocky shores.

If you come across any seals along the coast of Britain, that appear to be injured (some have clear 'ringing' injuries from fishing nets and marine litter), then please contact BDMLR on;

**Working hours – weekdays.**

*If you wish to report an marine animal that you are concerned about or have a general enquiry about BDMLR, please call **01825 765546** during office hours 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.*

*Any messages left on the answerphone will not be checked until the morning of the next working day.*

**Outside office hours, weekends and bank holidays.**

*Outside normal office hours and over weekends and bank holidays, we operate a rescue line (no general enquiries please) on **07787 433412**.*

*Please notice that this number diverts to one of our Out of Hours coordinators and therefore cannot accept texts, voice messages or photographs.*

- Angie Nash



Image of Grey seal underwater by © Alistair Scarlett of <http://www.alscarlett.com>

## Is there a future for beavers in Cornwall?

Beavers have been in the news frequently over the last couple of years, with the 'wild' population on the River Otter in Devon and other individuals and small populations being discovered. It causes us to wonder whether we should welcome these arrivals and if we would like beavers to be a more permanent, common and widespread feature of our ecosystem.

Beavers have been known to be present in Cornwall, before they were driven to extinction throughout the UK during the 16<sup>th</sup> century due to hunting and persecution. In Europe, beavers were reduced to only five isolated populations by 1900, but they are gradually becoming more widespread, partly through reintroductions. The Eurasian beaver typically lives in small family groups of approximately four individuals, including an adult pair. Beavers are herbivorous and feed mainly on bankside vegetation in summer and bark in winter.

Many people are very keen to see a wide-scale reintroduction of beavers in the UK, as they are believed to offer benefits to other habitats and species in their role as ecosystem engineers. Beavers do substantially alter the habitat, as evidenced by the fenced trial that Devon Wildlife Trust has undertaken in north Devon since 2011<sup>1</sup>. In particular, beavers create a network of small pools, linked with canals. This type of habitat is ideal for populations of amphibians and many other species which can then lead to wider-scale benefits. In addition, this trial

has also demonstrated that the creation of these pools can also lead to changes in the flow rate of the water. The small pools allow increased storage of water meaning that in heavy rains, downstream of the beaver dams flow rate is lower than would be expected in the absence of beavers, while in drought periods flow rate is greater downstream than would be expected. Therefore it appears that beavers can have wider impacts than just on habitats and species. This has led to suggestions that beavers could be doing the job of managing waterways to protect us from inland flooding which is so expensive for us to do ourselves.



Image taken by ©Amanda Stott

However, before we all start releasing beavers all over the place, we do need to properly assess the impacts they have. Although as herbivores they do not eat fish, the dams they create may have some impact on migratory fish populations (research is currently being undertaken into this potential effect). We also need to find out how wide ranging the effects

that beavers have on the landscape will be. Assessing all of these risks enables us to be better informed so that, if a large scale beaver reintroduction is to take place, we will understand and be able to mitigate any potential risks. Locally based fenced trials, such as that taking place in Devon, along with potential trials in Cornwall, offer us a unique opportunity to explore the benefits and challenges that may be presented by a larger scale reintroduction of beavers into the south-west.

For further information, do take a look at the informative report that Devon Wildlife Trust has produced<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/devon\\_beaver\\_report\\_27-8-13.pdf](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/devon_beaver_report_27-8-13.pdf)

Also, if you would like to give your opinion on the future of beavers in Cornwall then please do take part in this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/beaversincornwall>

- Kelly Moyes

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## Vic Simpson - Mammal Society Award Winner 2016



CMG would like to congratulate our very own Vic Simpson for winning the 2016 Mammal Society Award. The award was for his outstanding work on mammals as he has carved out a unique role as a wildlife veterinary pathologist. He has worked on a range of mammals, large and small including dolphins and porpoises, otters, mink, bats, hedgehogs, voles, dormice, moles, stoats, weasels and water shrews.

Vic accepted his award at the gala dinner and gave a superb illustrated presentation about his life, unusual career and the people who have helped him. His talk featured photos of many CMG members who have helped, whether delivering corpses or helping in the lab. He also thanked his wonderful wife Jane, who helped

established Britain's first ever Wildlife Veterinary Investigate Centre (Wildlife VIC) in Chacewater in 2001.

Although Vic has already received a host of awards, he is renowned for his mammal work, particularly on otters, and was delighted to accept this award at the Mammal Society Spring conference in Stafford, just half an hour from his home town of Birmingham.

Please remember, if you do find a good corpse of one of our more unusual mammals, contact Vic to see if he would like it. E-mail: [vic@wildlifevic.org](mailto:vic@wildlifevic.org)

- Kate Hills

## Camera traps

The Cornwall Mammal Group now has two fantastic camera traps that are available for use. Members of the group have already started borrowing these traps with some fantastic results. These have included:

- Fox
- Badger
- Rabbit
- Roe deer

Along with some non-mammals such as sparrows, starlings, magpies, rooks and jackdaws (we do allow these to be filmed too on the traps!). Take a look at the amazing picture that one of our members, Robert Wells, managed to get with a camera trap (below).



Image taken by © Robert Wells using Bushnell Natureview HD Max

The cameras are Bushnell Natureview HD Max units and are supplied complete with a full set of rechargeable batteries and a rapid charger as well as a cable lock to secure the unit, or at least discourage theft. The kit is packed in water resistant tough plastic cases and includes all the instructions. Thank you to the lovely people at Handykam for helping us to source the kit (and for the discount!).

If you would like to borrow the cameras you can contact me (Steve Adams: [steve.adams@cecenvironment.co.uk](mailto:steve.adams@cecenvironment.co.uk)) to book them out and arrange collection and return. We ask for a £5 contribution towards batteries for each loan and, although the cameras are covered under CMG's all risks insurance, we may ask for a £20 contribution towards any excess payments if reasonable care has not been taken and the camera is lost or damaged.

We also ask that you send any records resulting from the cameras to ERCCIS and we would like to share images and videos with members and so I am currently researching the best method of doing this. Also, I think this provides Cornwall Mammal Group with a fantastic opportunity to monitor wildlife around Cornwall, so I will also be asking for data that you collect from camera traps and I'll share it with you in the next newsletter (hopefully in the form of a snazzy graph).

- Steve Adams

## Confusing shrews.

Our two smallest insectivores, the common shrew (*Sorex araneus*) and the pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*) are quite tricky to tell apart. Field guides often include such helpful hints as ‘...the pygmy shrew is smaller than the common shrew...’ or the ‘common shrew is more common than the pygmy shrew..’. Factually correct of course but of little use if you are trying to identify one of these little critters.

Fully grown common shrews measure between 5 and 8 cm from the base of the tail to the tip of the nose, the tail adds another 2.5 to 4.5 cm, and they weigh up to 14 g. The body of a pygmy shrew is rarely more than 6 cm long and the tail may add another 4.5 cm, at their plumpest they weigh only 6 g.

At first glance it is easy to mistake a small common shrew for a large pygmy – they both have the long, narrow, active snout and the somewhat frantic approach to life.



The distinctive long, narrow snout of a shrew. Image taken by ©Angie Nash

The common shrew has smooth brown fur with a paler brown band along the flank and a grey belly, pygmy shrews are generally paler and greyer and with no intermediate banding. The head of the pygmy shrew often appears more domed than its common cousin. Perhaps the most useful discriminator is the tail – that of the pygmy shrew is usually at least 70% as long as the body whilst the common shrew's tail is usually closer to 50%. The tail of the pygmy shrew is also more densely furred and appears larger. Occasionally the ear tufts and tail tip of the common (but not the pygmy) shrew may be white.

Both have to eat close to their own body weight every day (twice that if it is a pregnant female). Both species consume spiders, beetles, woodlice and other denizens of the litter layer but common shrews also eat earthworms and are more likely to dig for their prey. Shrews are active throughout the day in bursts of 1-2 hours interspersed with rest periods and there is a suggestion that these intervals are shorter and more frequent in the pygmy shrew.

Shrews are solitary outside the breeding season and they patrol and defend surprisingly large territories of over 500 m<sup>2</sup> which they mark with scent glands. They shriek loudly at any interlopers and this may be followed up with scuffles and fights. They breed between April and September and the females build nests lined with dry grass and often underground, giving birth to 4 – 10 blind naked young which even in the corpulent common shrew weigh only 0.5 g. Three weeks later the young are ready to leave home and the female mates

again, producing 2-4 litters/year. If the mother has to move her young family they may process in a caravan where each youngster hangs onto the one in front.

Shrews epitomise the 'live fast, die young' approach rarely making it through a full year. They are predated by many larger animals and are a favoured item of the owl and raptor diet although many mammalian predators seem to find them distasteful.



Common and pygmy shrews occur throughout Cornwall. There seems to be a degree of behavioural and habitat separation between these two apparently similar animals where they co-exist. Pygmy shrews seem to be more commonly found in wetter habitats such as blanket bog and moorland as well as at higher altitudes. Both species occur in woodland, hedgerows, scrub and grassland. Pygmy shrews also seem to be more likely to use trees and bushes and are often found using dormouse boxes as nest chambers which they may fill with dead leaves (no mean feat in itself....). Pygmy shrews do not construct their own network of runs like the common shrew and may be preferentially active during daylight hours.



These tiny shrews rarely leave footprints, and then only in the softest and finest of mud, but the presence of 5 toes separates them from the 4 toed prints of mice and voles. Droppings are surprisingly large and often pink-brown and left in latrines in or near the nest. The skulls of both the common and pygmy shrew can be identified from owl pellets by their dental

formula and distinctive red-tipped teeth (a feature they share with the water shrew). The two species can be separated by the relative sizes of the teeth on the upper jaw.

Most shrew records come from animals found dead, brought in by cats, or trapped in discarded bottles. Trapping for shrews should only be done with the greatest of care – a licence from Natural England is required – as they are highly susceptible to dying in traps from starvation or stress.

Two areas for shrew fans to consider are if the common shrew and the pygmy shrew, are able to use ultrasonic clicks for navigation in the dark as has been suggested, and also if the saliva of the either species contains venom – as has been demonstrated in the water shrew (*Neomys fodiens*) and the northern short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*) of America.

- Dave Groves

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## Have you seen any hedgehogs recently?



Image taken by © Angie Nash

During National hedgehog awareness week (1-7th May, 2016), I was lucky to witness a pair of hogs huffing and puffing outside of a friends house. It was great to have such a close wildlife encounter but more so considering the massive decline in their numbers.

In the 1950's the UK population was estimated at over 35 million (based on unreliable data) but more recent estimates suggest the population is now less than a million.

Part of the reason for their decline is urban development and use of pesticides so with that in mind, what can we do to help?

The Hedgehog Preservation Society is asking us all to think about ensuring there is a gap in our fences (13cm X 13cm) to allow the hedgehogs to roam freely....they are great at keeping slug numbers down on your plants and veggies! Also, try and reduce pesticides and ensure there is a means of hedgehogs getting out of garden ponds if they fall in.

If you're unsure as to whether you might have hedgehogs visiting your garden, look out for hedgehog faeces. They're about 4cm long, normally full of insect wing cases, and often deposited somewhere off the ground, like your doorstep but also found in the grass near flower borders.

Please remember to report any sightings to ERCCIS and come along to the CMG Hedgehog workshop in September.

- Angie Nash



## Who's been clip clippety clopping over my beach?

Take a look at these tracks made on or near our Cornish beaches and have a go at guessing which animals they might belong to (the key is there for size comparison);



All images ©Angie Nash

If you want to learn more about how to identify different species from their tracks and signs then join us for one of events.

## Marine Mammal Quiz

Test your brain cells with these questions sent in by Rebecca Allen, Programme Manager for Marine Zoology, Cornwall College, Newquay.

- What species of seal are most commonly found around the Cornish coast?
- What species of mysticete whale has unusually large pectoral fins which they can use to communicate with each other by hitting the surface of the water? (Hint we have had several sightings of these whales around Cornwall this winter.)
- Great whales have special plates of keratin in their mouths which they use for filter feeding - these are known as?
- Where are Bowhead whales usually found?
- What is the old name for Risso's dolphins?
- How tall is the dorsal fin of a male Orca?
- How long can a grey seal hold its breath for?
- What is the deepest dive by a marine mammal?

And finally.....

Some mammal related events organised through the National trust are coming up...



National  
Trust



# Lundy Bay BioBlitz



From 1pm Saturday 2 July to 1pm Sunday 3 July

***Definition of Lundy Bay BioBlitz:*** finding and recording as much wildlife as we can in 24 hours at Lundy Bay.



Become a wildlife detective by seeking out plants and animals whilst discovering facts about them from the wildlife experts. There will be bug hunting, rockpooling, butterfly hunt, wildflower walk, small mammal discovery, reptile search, bird watching and so much more, all at Lundy Bay near Polzeath, North Cornwall.

Whether for an hour or 24, the choice is yours, get involved with as much or as little as you like, but come along and discover the wildlife on your doorstep.

For full info: [northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
or 01208 863821



#LBBioBlitz



## Lundy Bay BioBlitz 2 & 3 July timetable of sessions to get involved with:

All sessions start from the event base marquee in the field next to Lundy Bay and finish in Lundy Bay.

Please wear footwear and clothing suitable for the weather conditions. Long trousers are suggested as a number of the sessions will include walking through tall plants.

Start time	Finish time	What	Suggested extras to bring along (if you have them)
1pm	2pm	Beautiful butterflies, day flying moths, maybe some bees and dragonflies too?	Binoculars.
1pm	5pm	Sea watching for whales, dolphins, porpoise and coastal birds.	Binoculars.
2.15pm	3.15pm	Plants – flowers and grasses.	Camera.
3.30pm	4.30pm	Bug hunting.	Camera and binoculars.
4.45pm	5.45pm	Trees and associated plants.	
6pm	7pm	Have some dinner!	Bring along your own dinner or cash to buy dinner from the on-site caterers.
7pm	9pm	Set up small mammal traps and ink traps.	
7.30pm	8.30pm	Seal talk by Sue Sayer of Cornwall Seal Group	A comfy seat or rug to sit on.
9pm	10.30pm	Going batty - talk and walk.	Torch – red filter if you have one.
10.30pm	11.30pm	What's that moth? Checking moth traps.	Torch – red filter if you have one.
10.30pm	midnight	Night time rock pool ramble.	Footwear you can get wet = wetsuit boots ✓ or wellies ✓ (not crocs X or flip flops X). LED torch. Hi-viz top.
midnight	1am	Stop, look and listen – will there be some twit twooing, deer browsing, foxes barking or badgers snuffling?	Torch – red filter if you have one.
1am	4.45am	Sleep!	
4.45am	5.45am	Up with the birds for the dawn chorus.	Binoculars.
5.45am	7am	Have some breakfast.	Bring along your own brekkie or cash to buy some from the on-site caterers.
7am	8am	Checking insect pit fall traps.	Camera.
8am	10am	Checking small mammal traps and ink traps.	Camera.
9am	10am	Bug hunting and land snails.	Camera and binoculars.
9.30am	10.30am	What's that moth? Emptying the moth traps.	Camera.
9.30am	12.30pm	Sea watching for whales, dolphins and porpoise.	Binoculars.
9.45am	10.45am	Freshwater life and amphibians.	Wellies.
10.30am	11.30am	Reptiles.	Camera.
11am	12.30pm	Intertidal discovery – exploring the beach, including rockpooling, shell search and seaweeds.	Footwear you can get wet = wetsuit boots ✓ or wellies ✓ (not crocs X or flip flops X).
12.30pm	1pm	Final count up of how many species we have found.	
1pm		Finish - now relax.	

Of course you are free to leave the sessions at any time you like, just let the leader know.

Sorry this event isn't suitable for dogs; please leave your dogs at home.

Some areas of Lundy Bay are suitable for pushchairs. Unfortunately Lundy Bay is not suitable for wheelchairs.

There will be catering at the event base provided by Victorian Mobile Catering. Bring cash or bring a picnic.

There will be portaloos at the event base.

Parking is in the event base field right next to Lundy Bay – please follow the signs.

Any questions before the day? [northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk) or 01208 863821

**Some of the ranger days and events with the National Trust in North Cornwall - Tintagel to Holywell. - June to December 2016**

Date	Information
Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 July	<p><b>Lundy Bay Bioblitz</b> 1pm Saturday 2 July to 1pm Sunday 3 July.</p> <p>Definition of Lundy Bay Bioblitz - <i>finding and recording as much wildlife as we can in 24 hours at Lundy Bay near Polzeath, North Cornwall.</i></p> <p>Become a wildlife detective and help wildlife experts find our wildlife and learn about what you find at the same time. There will be bug hunting, rockpooling, butterfly hunt, wildflower walk, small mammal discovery, reptile search, bird watching and so much more. Whether for an hour or 24, the choice is yours, get involved with as much or as little as you like, but come along and discover the wildlife on your doorstep.</p> <p>For full information: <a href="mailto:northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk">northcornwall@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> or 01208 863821 #LBBioBlitz</p>
Wednesday 27 July	<p><b>Bat Night at Pentire</b> near Polzeath. 8.30pm until after dark</p> <p>Join National Trust rangers for an evening all about bats. Starting with a talk about British bats, we will then see and hear greater horseshoe bats emerge shortly after sunset from old mine workings. Talk starts promptly at 8.30pm. Bring a chair or rug to sit on, warm clothes and a torch is useful. Bat capes optional. £3 per person. Booking is essential as the date may change due to unfavourable weather. 01208 863046</p>
Wednesday 10 August	<p><b>Bat Night at Pentire</b> near Polzeath. 8pm until after dark.</p> <p>Join National Trust rangers for an evening all about bats. Starting with a talk about British bats, we will then see and hear greater horseshoe bats emerge shortly after sunset from old mine workings. Talk starts promptly at 8pm. Bring a chair or rug to sit on, warm clothes and a torch is useful. Bat capes optional. £3 per person. Booking is essential as the date may change due to unfavourable weather. 01208 863046</p>
Saturday 10 September	<p><b>Hay Rake at Lundy Bay</b> 10am – 2pm Join the rangers for their annual hay raking day in the meadows above Lundy Bay, near Polzeath. To encourage wild flowers, it's a good idea to cut and rake off late season hay and we need your help to do this! Suitable for families and individuals, we'll provide a ploughman's lunch to go with this traditional activity. All tools and equipment provided. £2 per person to cover our costs. Bring clothing suitable for the weather, drinks and suncream. Booking essential. For more information please phone 01208 863821 or email <a href="mailto:tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk">tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p>

<p>Saturday 8 October</p>	<p><b>Reed bed management day at Park Head</b> 10am - 2pm</p> <p>Join the rangers for a few hours managing the reed bed habitat in Porth Mear valley near Park Head. Help us rake up and burn the cut reed to help prevent the wetland from drying out. All tools and equipment provided just bring clothing suitable for the weather, wellies, food and drink. Free. Booking essential. For more information please phone 01208 863821 or email <a href="mailto:tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk">tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p>
<p>Wednesday 26 October</p>	<p><b>Talk 'The National Trust at Pentire Farm'</b> 7pm – 8.30pm Find out what the National Trust are doing at Pentire Farm near Polzeath.</p> <p>At the Tubestation, Polzeath, PL27 6TB. No booking required. £2 per person or free to Polzeath Marine Conservation Group members. Further info 01208 863821 or <a href="mailto:sarahe.stevens@nationaltrust.org.uk">sarahe.stevens@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p>
<p>Saturday 12 November</p>	<p><b>Scrub and Spuds</b> 10am – 2pm</p> <p>Join the rangers at <b>Epphaven Cove</b> near Polzeath, for a few hours clearing invasive scrub to promote greater biodiversity at this valuable coastal habitat. All tools and equipment provided and to say thank you for your help, we'll cook you up a jacket potato lunch on the bonfire. Please wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for the weather, working in thorns and brambles and that you don't mind getting smoky/muddy and bring along drink and snacks. Family friendly and a great way to meet new people. Free. Booking essential. For more information please phone 01208 863821 or email <a href="mailto:tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk">tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p>
<p>Saturday 10 December</p>	<p><b>Christmas Scrub Bash</b> 10am – 2pm Join the rangers on <b>Pentire Head near Polzeath</b> for a festive scrub bash overlooking Padstow Bay. We'll be clearing invasive scrub to promote greater biodiversity at this valuable coastal habitat and cooking a jacket potato lunch on the bonfire. Mince pies included. Fancy dress encouraged! Please wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for the weather, working in thorns and brambles and that you don't mind getting smoky/muddy and bring drinks and snacks. Family friendly and a great way to meet new people. Free. Booking essential. For more information please phone 01208 863821 or email <a href="mailto:tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk">tom.sparkes@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p>

## Answers:

The first two tracks (A) were made by a Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus* flippers. The animals direction of travel was heading North of the image. The track (B) was made by an otter, *Lutra lutra*. Did you get them right?

- What species of seal are most commonly found around the Cornish coast?  
**A) Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus***
- What species of mysticete whale has unusually large pectoral fins which they can use to communicate with each other by hitting the surface of the water? (Hint we have had several sightings of these whales around Cornwall this winter.)  
**A) Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae***
- Great whales have special plates of keratin in their mouths which they use for filter feeding - these are known as?  
**A) Baleen**
- Where are Bowhead whales usually found?  
**A) Arctic**
- What is the old name for Risso's dolphins?  
**A) The Grampus (also used for Killer whales)**
- How tall is the dorsal fin of a male Orca?  
**A) 1.8m/6ft ish**
- How long can a grey seal hold its breath for?  
**A) Routine shallow dives around the coast may be 3-4 minutes but they can hold their breath for over an hour.**
- What is the deepest dive by a marine mammal?  
**A) Cuvier's Beaked Whale - deepest = 2992m - longest = 2hrs and 17 minutes**