



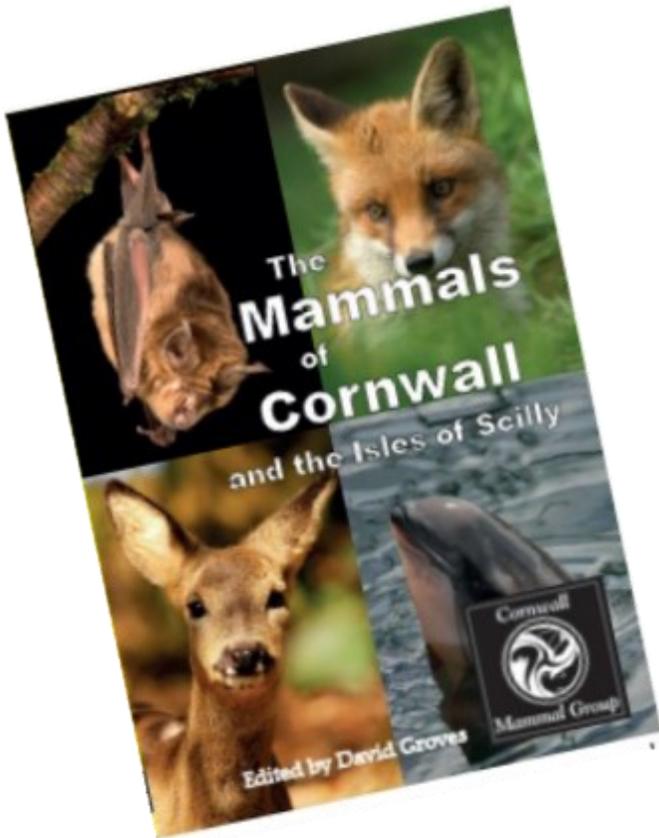
Cornwall Mammal Group



NEWSLETTER, 2014-15

C/O CORNWALL WILDLIFE TRUST, 5 ACRES, ALLET, TRURO. TR4 9DJ

enquiries@cornwallmammalgroup.co.uk



The Mammals of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

This beautifully illustrated and insightful book has been a clear success, having sold steadily in local Cornish venues this year and raised valuable funding for the Cornwall Mammal Group. If you haven't yet purchased yours, there's still time now before Christmas. It's a real gift at £10.00 with the proceeds used to support all the work the Cornish Mammal Group do. It's your good deed waiting to happen!

Come on....you know you want to...

Contact Dave Groves

enquiries@cornwallmammalgroup.co.uk

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A word from our Chair - Dave Groves

I hope everyone took advantage of a wonderful summer to get out there looking for Cornish mammals. CMG has had a busy year, averaging an event every month, several of which we shared with other groups. This makes a lot of sense and cuts down on the administration for everyone, whilst offering a wide range of experience for CMG members.

In July we held our AGM at Lanhydrock. Kate Hills stood down as Chair after 2 years (thanks Kate!) and we also bade farewell to Ali North who is heading off to seek her fortune. The Committee welcomed two new members: Phin Frewin and Angie Nash.

Forty members enjoyed talks from Johnny Birks, Sue Sayer and Steve Marshall – covering land, sea and air. I hope that we can continue to work closely with other conservation and specialist groups locally and nationally like this. Thanks as well to Mary and everyone else who provided cakes and/or raffle prizes!

Finally...

We are hoping to encourage more members to attend our management meetings – it is a chance to get involved and raise issues that you feel are relevant to CMG. We try and hold our meetings 3 to 4 times a year and they are generally in mid-Cornwall, so please try and get along and support your Group.

Chair : Dave Groves.

With the Atlas up and running – about 600 copies sold to date – we should now have a little more time to develop our other interests. CMG now has a modest budget to support member's mammal projects, so an added incentive to get involved with the Group!

My personal interests include working with the Coastal Otter project in the coming year to see if we can understand how Cornish otters are using coast and estuarine habitat. I'm also keen to continue monitoring our polecat and polecat-ferret populations and to see if we can study changes in distributions and genetics.

It would also be good to keep our involvement with dormouse studies going and to that end we are intending to organise another Dormouse local BAP day in the New Year. So, there are a few ideas, but if you have any other projects that we can join with, or support, please let us know.

Tributes to Rob Strachan,

13 December 1958 – 17 May 2014

Rob Strachan wasn't a stranger to Cornwall; he carried out surveys in the County, had friends here and came on holiday here. He was perhaps best known for his mammal work, but he wasn't just the otter man or even the water vole man – the breadth of his wildlife knowledge was extraordinary and he was a talented author and artist. Rob was fun, which made him a great teacher and friend. He had many friends (not least in part being nomadic during his big surveys, like his beloved otters) and was a strong family man. I am still in shock that we have lost him, but I am proud to have known this amazing man.

Kate Hills, CMG committee

Rob with a weasel dropping, March 2014 just after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.



When Rob Strachan died at home in Wales on 17th May 2014 after a short illness we lost an inspirational friend and outstanding naturalist who shared his exceptional knowledge widely. Always modest, selfless and patient in his dealings with others, yet fired by a deep passion for wildlife, Rob embodied the true, generous spirit of natural history. With the quiet authority only found in truly great people, enlivened by many a twist of Strachan wit and charm, these qualities made Rob the most effective of teachers.

I became friends with Rob in the early 1980s, when he worked for Durham Wildlife Trust and we both helped to run the newly-formed Durham Bat Group.

From 1985 Rob embarked on a ten-year semi-nomadic life in a camper van, conducting national surveys of otters, mink, pine martens and water voles, initially for the Nature Conservancy Council and, later, for The Vincent Wildlife Trust. During this roving phase Rob honed his already impressive field skills to become, in the words of Don Jefferies (retired NCC chief mammal ecologist) “simply the best wildlife surveyor I have ever known”.

When he parked his van for the last time and started working at Oxford University's WildCRU, Rob wrote and illustrated his first delightful book, *Mammal Detective*, published by Whittet in 1995. The WildCRU years were very important to Rob. Notably, he was centrally involved in research to on the water vole's decline, becoming a national authority on the species and contributing to influential publications such as the *Water Vole Conservation Handbook* and his second book, *Water voles*, published in 1997. In 2005 Rob left WildCRU to work for the Environment Agency/ Natural Resources Wales in their Biodiversity Team.

Rob was an enthusiastic supporter of The Mammal Society (he was awarded The Society's medal in 2008). There are other dimensions to Rob's life that I do not have space to explore fully here: he was a superb all-round naturalist and an exceptional birder and botanist; he was an accomplished artist and poet; he relished foreign travel, preferably to remote and challenging places from which he sometimes returned accompanied by exotic new friends (he once happily showed me the Peruvian bot-fly larva growing within his scalp, until its wriggling kept him awake at night so his long-suffering GP had to remove it prematurely). Rob spent the last few years living in Tretower with his beloved new wife Jane – they married in their sunlit garden surrounded by close family and friends the day before he died.

Johnny Birks, chair of The Mammal Society

Feisty Ferret or Potential Polecat?

Di Stephenson of Laneast took this picture of a young polecat-ferret in North Cornwall.

Di says “I met a little family - a Mum and two kittens on the road down to Laneast. I stopped the car and tried to encourage them by clapping at them to go onto the bank and off the road. The Mum screamed at me - a very loud piercing scream and then came towards me baring her very sharp looking teeth, before turning around grabbing one of the kittens by the scruff of its neck and running off up the road. Meanwhile this little one was left - I clapped at this one and it too screamed at me and bared its very sharp teeth also coming towards me - not a pretty sight.. so after taking this photo, when it had calmed down - I got back in the car and drove off .The kitten screamed at the car as I drove carefully by. That was the middle of the day - the next day it was squashed on the road - such a shame! I guess the polecat population is expanding in this area. I'm not too sure of how big a territory they have. I have joined ORKS to record this encounter, but needed to be sure it was a polecat before doing so!!”

Take a look...what do you think?



Pine Martens in Scotland: Dave Groves



Apparently the reason that Pine Martens have survived in Scotland is that they have adapted to a diet of peanuts and cat food! Not much use if anyone is hoping to reintroduce them in order to keep the grey squirrels at bay. This one was a regular visitor at our holiday cottage in Applecross on the west coast – and didn't seem too worried about the two trail cameras, or even the people watching him from the other side of the window.

Armstrong's Wood Reserve Boxes Inspection: Tony Atkinson

About 15 people turned out to see and help with the half-yearly inspection of the bat and Dormouse boxes inspection at Armstrong's Wood Reserve which takes place on the first Sunday in May and the second Sunday in October every year. Most were interested in the bats, and there was a mixture of licensed and experienced bat workers and four trainee bat workers and a few just interested to see the bats. Daniel Eva was the only licensed Trainer present.

This year was the twentieth anniversary of my first inspection of these boxes. But I've only been looking at the boxes in May since 2011.

For many years I had just 15 conventional wooden cubic boxes, but since 2006 I have also had four of the

I now sustain the scheme because it gives an opportunity for trainees to handle wild bats.



"honeycomb" polyurethane boxes with plywood casings. (Since last year there are now 5 of these.)

Over the years I have had to replace all of these boxes, and many are now wedge-shaped, and all are now bottom opening. Except of course the heavily insulated polyurethane boxes which have no bottom. (And we can't



handle the bats from these, but we can see what is in them from the ground.)

The choice of this old mixed woodland site for a boxes scheme would seem questionable, but the use of boxes allows the monitoring of the presence of bat species with-

out expensive technical equipment. (I make all my own boxes from recovered materials; I can't afford to buy boxes!)

Until 2005 occupancy of the conventional boxes was about 7% at each inspection, so we were lucky if we had any bats at all to demonstrate. But since then not only has the occupancy rate increased to over 18%, but the number of bats has also increased. So whereas we might have had just one or two bats at a visit, we now frequently get into double figures. Why this should be so is a bit of a mystery. There are now more wedge boxes; but the Natterer's and the Long-eared Bats prefer the cubic boxes, and they are what have increased in number.

What has been a revelation is the popularity of the heavily insulated boxes; take-up is almost immediate and occupancy has been running at 67% and we've had circa 104 bats out of 40 inspections. A couple of times we have not been able to identify the species, but we have had Pipistrelles, Noctules and Natterer's. Strangely, there have been no Brown Long-eared, which we have had frequently in the conventional boxes.

On this last visit we had 2 Pipistrelle, a single Brown Long-eared, 3 Long-eared, and 2 Natterer's Bats in the conventional boxes, and two of the "beehive" boxes had 2 and 7 Pipistrelles. So the trainees were able to handle three different species and I was able to replace the first of the insulated boxes I'd put up which got carried away in the landslip of last winter. What was interesting, and gives rise to some speculation, was that there had obviously been some massive occupancy of one of the hanging "beehive" boxes along the top ride. The box itself was very heavily stained and contained, we think, 7 Pipistrelles yet beneath it was an obvious pile of very weathered droppings. It probably amounted to about 5 litres of largely decomposed droppings, which could have been Noctule or Pipistrelle. Too decomposed to tell, but so many droppings would indicate a breeding colony. So, I will have to pay more attention next summer!

CATASTROPHE...?

Paul Diamond.

What is the most abundant land predator in Britain? Foxes or stoats perhaps?

Would you be surprised to learn that actually the most abundant and arguably the most efficient predator is the domestic cat ?

Domestic cats are the most abundant carnivores in Great Britain and their numbers appear to be growing.

In 1981, the national population of cats was estimated to be 6 million (UFAW, 1981).

In 1993, the Cats Protection League estimated that approximately 25% of British households owned at least one cat and that the national population was approximately 7.6 million.

Current estimates (2014) suggest that there are now 13 million cats, (<http://www.pfma.org.uk/pet-population/>).

In addition, a minimum of 813 000 cats are estimated to live in a feral or semi-wild state in rural areas and a further unknown number of cats have only loose associations with domestic households in urban areas (Harris et al, 1995).

Assuming that these estimates are inaccurate and instead of 13 million cats we have a population of only 9 million (i.e 30% less), this is still nearly 20 times the estimated pre-breeding populations of stoats and weasels and 38 times the estimated pre-breeding population of foxes (Harris et al., 1995).

Not only do cats out number all other predators, but they are generally well fed and cared for, unlike wild predators. This means we have an abundance of fit and healthy predators prowling both city streets and rural areas.

What impact does this have on our native wildlife?

In 1997, a study was conducted by MICHAEL WOODS, ROBBIE A. MCDONALD and STEPHEN HARRIS on the effects of Domestic Cat Predation on Wildlife. The results were published by the Mammal Society. The full study can be found at:-

<http://www.mammal.org.uk/sites/default/files/Domestic%20Cat%20Predation%20on%20Wildlife.pdf>



A proud owner's cat and its prey.

A questionnaire survey of the numbers of animals brought home by domestic cats was conducted between 1st April and 31st August 1997. A total of 14,370 prey items were brought home by 986 cats living in 618 households.

Mammals made up 69% of the items:

- birds 24%,
- amphibians 4%,
- reptiles 1%,
- fish <1%,
- invertebrates 1%
- unidentified items 1%.

A minimum of:

44 species of wild bird

20 species of wild mammal

3 species of reptile

3 species of amphibian were recorded.

Of a sample of **696** individual cats, **634** brought home at least one item and the average number of items brought home by cats was 11.3 (95%)

The average number of cats retrieving at least one item from each prey group were:

- 8.1 mammals for 547 (79%) cats
- 4.1 birds for 506 (73%) cats
- 2.6 herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) for 145 (21%) cats
- 2.2 other items for 98 (14%) cats.

The number of birds and herpetofauna brought home per cat was significantly lower in households that provided food for birds. The number of bird species brought home was greater in households providing bird food. The number of birds and herpetofauna brought home per cat was negatively related to the age and condition of the cat. The number of mammals brought home per cat was significantly lower when cats were equipped with bells and when they were kept indoors at night. The number of herpetofauna brought home was significantly greater when cats were kept in at night. Based on the proportion of cats bringing home at least one prey item,

a population of approximately **9 million** cats was estimated to have brought home around **92 million prey items** in the period of this survey

Including:

- 57 million mammals
- 27 million birds
- 5 million reptiles and amphibians.

Although 55 million birds were estimated to have been lost to cat predation in 2013 / 2014 the RSPCA suggest that cat predation has little impact on birds. My own view is that the RSPCA perspective is possibly skewed because of the need to rehome huge numbers of cats. They assert that many birds would die during the winter or suffer illness. This rather ignores the fact that wild animals including sparrow hawks, merlins, hobbies, weasels and pine martins might have produced bigger broods had they been able to source more abundant food supplies. The most recent estimates from the Mammal Society suggest upwards of 275 million casualties of domestic cats each year. 275 million cat-predated casualties equates to almost 9 wild animals being killed by cats, every second of every day.

A recent article in the Telegraph makes thought provoking reading. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/10319711/What-effect-do-cats-have-on-British-wildlife.html> Land use and land change is often quoted as being the major cause of falling animal numbers in the UK. It is of course difficult to argue against this view; there is after all a great deal of evidence to support this assertion. However, there are other factors at play and the impact of increasing cat numbers on our declining wildlife should not be ignored. The question is not whether or not cats are having a catastrophic impact upon Britain's wildlife, but what, if anything, can be done to limit or reduce it.

Thanks to Professor Robbie McDonald for permitting me to reference his work. Any comments should be viewed as mine and not those of CMG.



FANTASTIC MR.FOX

Copyright Frances A Chapman.

Seen near St Erth.

It caused some interest on the Facebook mammal group page because of it looking as though it had sat in white paint!

Check out our pages and comments on Facebook and add your own insights.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cornwallmammalgroup/?fref=nf>



The fox sprayed every few feet . We were fairly sure it was a male and a very healthy looking chap too!.

Frances Chapman

Cornwall Deer Research Programme

Mission Statement (2014) for the Deer Support Group within Cornwall Wildlife Trust

This research programme is in one respect, unique. The native species of wild deer within Cornwall had a natural ecological distribution throughout the now County from the Mesolithic Period relative to their habitat needs, which amounted to approximately 90% of the terrestrial areas, until as records allow, circa 500 BP.

Since the development of human settlements and relatively sustainable agricultural systems, the quantity of natural habitat for historic wildlife declined with the unsustainable deterioration of the population of the now two native deer species present. These species were and still are, the Red Deer, (*Celaphus celaphus europeaus*) and the Roe Deer, (*Capreolus capreolus europeaus*).

Since then two other species were introduced into the wild deer population but only in an extremely limited numbers, as too were their distribution. These included from 900 BP in respect of the Fallow Deer (*Dama dama europeaus*) and the Chinese or Reeves' Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) 100 BP. The principles of carrying capacity and the accompanying destruction of one of Cornwall's remaining Mesolithic predators, the European Wolf, (*Canis lupus europeaus*) coincided with their final extirpation at the same time with their main prey species, both the last populations of Roe and Red Deer. The last family group of wolves were killed in Cornwall at that time with the last wild deer populations.

Over the centuries and in particular, since 500 BP the numbers of deer in the UK remained low until 200 BP, when relevant game protection laws were enacted. Since that time the numbers of deer increased gradually to the extent that at its end relevant game management practises became widespread throughout the majority of those areas of the UK in which wild deer inhabit.

The Roe and Red Deer were only logged as being present in the Tamar Valley of east Cornwall in the early 1970's, Environmental Record's Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS). From then, reports of recording the populations of both wild and introduced species of deer were then undertaken by small groups of volunteers with the UK Mammal Society and the Cornwall Mammal Group. Data logged analysis was then subsequently made and produced for the ERCCIS in 2001, 2006 and finally in 2012, (published in December 2013). These are available for observation and record.

Research Objectives

- ⇒ To obtain and quantify as many sightings of individuals of wild deer populations as possible within Cornwall and to record them and to qualify their validity for ERCCIS et al recordings.
- ⇒ This will be undertaken by the research group and the wider public residents in Cornwall as a whole.
- ⇒ To establish autecological investigations in known recorded areas of the highest sightings to evaluate population studies amongst the two main wild deer species.
- ⇒ To widen the prospect for a long term study within the framework of the above and to expand the remit into developing opportunities for a reconnection with nature paradigm and to promote a possible re-wilding programme using the evidence gained.

Currently the research programme is very limited in its development. The following actions have been undertaken since January 2014.

- * Educational developments and contacts with 266 primary and secondary schools in western and central Cornwall.
- * Contact with citizen groups with an interest in the countryside and environmental issues, wildlife and the culture of Cornwall including local radio and television organisations and the Cornwall Mammal Group.
- * Local community and local government groups via 69 Local Parish and Town Councils in west and central Cornwall.
- * Establishing links with Higher Education establishments, including the Combine Universities of Cornwall and the University of Aberdeen.

Always remember please, every observation made by our resident Citizen Scientists IS important for us to understand more about our wild deer species and their distribution and abundance.

Nigel Miles - 07415 628628/

email: nmipbes@hotmail.com



Which Trap Traps?

Two mammals trap smaller mammals!

A comparison of the effectiveness of two differently priced small mammal traps.

By Steve Adams.

For years the **Longworth** trap has been the standard small mammal live trap, but it has one big drawback, it's expensive at £60 a trap. Now there's a cheaper alternative, the **BioEcoSS** tube trap which costs roughly a third of the price but is just as effective.



Earlier in the year I trialed the two traps against each other. Admittedly it was not a very in-depth trial, only one night of trapping on five different sites. I had 10 of each trap and placed them in pairs roughly every 10 metres. The sites were marram dune grassland in Penhale Dunes, alongside Bolingey stream (hoped to get water shrew but no luck), the woodland at Five Acres, hedges and bramble scrub at Two Burrows and a second night at Penhale Dunes.

and the results were...

BioEcoSS and Longworth traps in reeds at Bolingey Stream.

Penhale	BioEcoSS	1	Longworth	3
Bolingey	BioEcoSS	1	Longworth	5
Two Burrows	BioEcoSS	2	Longworth	8
Five Acres	BioEcoSS	4	Longworth	3
Penhale	BioEcoSS	4	Longworth	4
Total	BioEcoSS	12	Longworth	23

A big mammal and a small mammal checking an even smaller mammal!

The more trapping I did the closer the results were between the two, but still the Longworth seemed to out perform the BioEcoSS by 2:1.

However Longworths cost three times more than BioEcoSS so you are catching more for your money with BioEcoSS.

My main issue with them was that they seem to work or not work, if a quick clean didn't fix it then there wasn't anything you could do about it, while with Longworth's, it's possible to clean/ bend/ mend them to make it trigger again.



Michelle Underwood, a student at the University of Chester, carried out a more detailed comparison study between the traps. She also found that the Longworths out performed the BioEcoSS traps in all habitats, but with slightly closer results.

However, she also looked at factors that may have animal welfare issues, as she looked into temperature differences between the two traps. By putting data loggers inside the traps, she was able to compare the hottest five hours of each daytime period and the coldest five hours on each night time period over a 6 week study period.

For the coldest hours of the night the difference between the internal temperatures ranged from

0.03°C to 2.55°C, but were always lower in the Longworth trap. During the hottest point of the day the differences were even greater, with the Longworth traps being over 5° hotter than the tubes for several hours on some occasions. The tubes had a much more stable internal temperature overall making them a much better option for the welfare of the animals (they just don't catch as many).

She did do another week of temperature recordings in Feb when it was really cold just to see if the outcome was the same, and it was. Temperatures over the week ranged from 1.56°C - 7.51°C so it was pretty cold. The temperature differences weren't huge, but the tube trap was warmer all points (between 0.5 and 2°C warmer).

However, she doesn't mention whether she also put bedding in with the data loggers. The nest box in the Longworth trap is considerably larger than the BioEcoSS allowing more bedding material to be put into the trap. I've carried out trapping in temperatures of -10°C on sites in North Wales with Longworths traps and had no fatalities.

In conclusion the Longworths trap more animals than the BioEcoSS, but not the three times more that they cost.

EcoSoc Update!

PENRYN COLLEGE

It's been a busy start to term on the Penryn Campus, and EcoSoc have been running lots of events to welcome the new students to university and get them excited about the natural world.

Alongside our other events, we've held lots of mammal-dedicated trips and demonstrations in the past couple of months. We started with camera trapping around College and Argal reservoirs, managing to capture some great footage of badgers and even a brief glimpse of a weasel. Following this, we led a demonstration of small mammal trapping on campus, catching some feisty wood mice in the process! Finally, we led a bat walk around the reservoirs, making sure the 'freshers' got the chance to see bats this year before hibernation. There were great views of pipistrelles and daubentons enjoyed by all the students that evening, before heading back to the union bar for a pint!

In the next few months, EcoSoc are hoping to run many more mammal events. Over the summer we brought some footprint tunnels to see if we can record hedgehogs on campus before they shuffle off for the winter. We have also got some talks lined up with the local wildlife officer and other guest speakers.

We will be running another small mammal monitoring event for both EcoSoc and CMG members in November.

Hopefully we'll see some of you soon!

EcoSoc.

Rare to see a Hare in Cornwall?

*Photograph of a **Brown Hare** sighted at St Clether at the end of September, by Di Stephenson.*



There have been a few records of Brown Hare in this area which isn't far from Davidstow airfield; home to a small population on the edge of Bodmin Moor.

Contact Us

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Cornwall Mammal Group



Mammal / Reptile / Amphibian Quiz & Supper **Mainly British Species**

Wednesday 3rd December 2014

6.30pm – 9.00pm at The Hawkins Arms, Zelah,

01872 540339 (just off the A30, near Allet) TR4 9HU

A time to chat over supper & show off your wildlife trivia with a light-hearted quiz!

Can you answer the following questions?

- Which bat has the furriest feet?
- What do you call a group of porpoises?
- Adders mainly eat what group of animals?
- Can you finish the expression 'Sly as a
- Who lives in a fortress?
- What is the largest bat currently in the UK?
- What is a sloth?

A fun way to learn more about mammals, reptiles and amphibians – their names, diet and droppings, myths and legends, habitat and homes...

The QUIZ evening starts with an excellent supper with a choice of
either -



Price includes the supper & quiz - the quiz will begin around 7.30 pm

CMG members & Students £9.00

Non-members £10.00

To book, please call Paul Diamond 07736 458609 or email your booking to include:

Names, menu choice and cost

admin@ecologicalsurveyscornwall.co.uk

Please Pay at time of booking.

If this is not possible please call me – **07736 458609**

Cheques payable to:- **Cornwall Mammal Group and send to:**

14 Lower Clicker Road, Menheniot, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3PJ

BACs Details:- Lloyds TSB

Cornwall Mammal Group

Account No: 00823527

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Cornwall Mammal Group



Events are organised on a voluntary basis through the Mammal group committee and are by professionals and enthusiasts from all walks of life. So, if you have something to offer in terms of a talk or workshop, don't be shy! Come forwards and share your passion with like-minded others. Here are some ideas for future workshops. Full details and descriptions to follow, so keep a look out on our website and Facebook page.

Dormouse Day 2015

Date and venue to be confirmed
Dormouse workers and experts from across county will gather and offer their experiences.



Harvest Mice

Talk and training day.

TBC

MAMMAL DAY

PENRYN. date to be confirmed



HEDGEHOG

Workshop

Venue: Penryn

Date: to-be-confirmed

Water Voles:

Venue: Bude

April/May to-be-confirmed.

A joint event with Eco-soc!

Talk on Badgers.

February 2015

Venue TBC.

Prof' Robbie McDonald



National Trust

Events and ranger days in North Cornwall

– Tintagel to Holywell properties.

October to December 2014

- * Monday 27 October **Rockpool Ramble at Polzeath** with the Polzeath Marine Conservation Group and National Trust. 12pm – 2pm. Discover and learn about the amazing marine life found on the rocky shores at Polzeath. No nets please. £2 per person or free to Polzeath Marine Conservation Group Members. **Booking essential** on 07779 8896650 or polzeathmc@gmail.com
- * Tuesday 28 October **Geology rocks!** Pentire Head, near Polzeath. Guided walk with geology expert and National Trust rangers. £3 per person. 11am - 3pm. Booking essential 01208 863046
- * Wednesday 29 October **Family Scrub Bash at Lundy Bay, near Polzeath.** Bonfires, potatoes, toasting marshmallows, we've got the lot! Bring along the family and help National Trust rangers in their efforts to reduce scrub to help the wildlife living in our valuable coastal habitats. Don't forget your Mum or Dad! Free. 10am-4pm.
- * Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November **Scrub n Spuds at Porthcothan Cliffs** Join National Trust rangers in their efforts to reduce scrub to promote greater biodiversity at this valuable coastal habitat. We'll cook up a jacket potato lunch on the bonfire. Family friendly and a great way to meet new people. Come along on one or both days. Free. 10am-4pm.
- * Wednesday 19 November **Scrub n Spuds at Willapark, Tintagel** Join National Trust rangers in their efforts to reduce scrub to promote greater biodiversity at this scenic coastal site. We'll cook up a jacket potato lunch on the bonfire. Free. 10am-4pm.
- * Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 December **Scrub n Spuds at Baby Bay, Polzeath** Join National Trust rangers in their efforts to reduce scrub to promote greater biodiversity at this valuable coastal habitat. We'll cook up a jacket potato lunch on the bonfire. Family friendly and a great way to meet new people. Come along on one or both days. Free. 10am-4pm.
- * Wednesday 17 December **Christmas Beach Clean Up at Holywell and Crantock** Take a break from Christmas shopping and present wrapping to help the rangers clean up these spectacular beaches ready for those Christmas time walks. 10am -12pm at Holywell and/or 1pm – 3pm at Crantock.

For further information about any of the above and to book on to any of the ranger days, please phone the rangers' office on 01208 863821

or email sarahe.stevens@nationaltrust.org.uk