



April 2021

Ow solempnya keow Pennwydh Celebrating Penwith's Cornish Hedges

Welcome to another newsletter from the Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP)

Although often overlooked, there is no doubt that the Cornish Hedge is a vitally important structure in the Penwith landscape. As well as acting as field boundaries, they are also important wildlife corridors. Some of them are thousands of years old, going back as far as the Bronze Age, making them the oldest structures in the world still being used for their original purpose!

Our Penwith Hedges project aims to care for and celebrate our Cornish Hedges, and as such we have been training volunteers in hedging skills and repairing local hedges. However, we wanted to share a wider knowledge of the Cornish Hedge, and as such held our Virtual Hedge Week this month, with a range of new content related to Cornish Hedges being added to our website.



Ever wondered what would happen if the King of Cornwall asked for a film on Cornish Hedges? Well, Craig Johnson from Squashbox Theatre has the answer! His film gives a light-hearted and family friendly introduction to the Cornish Hedge and its importance, and is available to view both on our website and YouTube channel. Craig also turned his talents to creating our hedge activity pack, with a number of activity sheets to download and complete from home. They include traditional puzzles such as a wordsearch and crossword, as well as activities to help you learn more about the wildlife that live in our hedges, and a hedge game that can be played by all the family. All the pages can be downloaded from our website, as can the answers – but no cheating and looking at them first!

For those keen to learn more in depth about Cornish Hedges, Will Coleman from the Kerdroya project gave an online presentation on their importance, and how the Kerdroya project is working to raise awareness by the construction of a labyrinth at Bodmin. We're aiming to get a recording of this online very soon.

There's still time to get involved in Hedge Week too, as during the week we launched our photo competition looking for your best images of Cornish Hedges. So if you have a favourite stretch of Cornish Hedge in Penwith, snap a photo and send it to us! Top images will be featured on our website, and you have until 28th May to enter.

To find our Hedge Week content including our contest guidelines, go to www.penwithlandscape.com/penwith-hedges/

Events

We have the following free events coming up. To learn more, more details will be added to www.penwithlandscape.com/events soon.

- 14th-15th May 2021 – **Virtual Garden BioBlitz**. For the second year we're asking Penwith residents to identify the wildlife in their garden – for more information go to <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/events/2021-05-14/virtual-garden-bioblitz-2021---join-us>

Volunteering returns to help our hedges

Our volunteers are a vital part of the work of the PLP, as with their help we can undertake so much that otherwise would be impossible. They have already helped clear and record ancient sites, improve access paths, and boosted Penwith's biodiversity. Our weekly volunteer sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays are an important part of this, but during the most recent lockdown the decision was made to pause these sessions, as the health and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers are paramount.



The recent easing of restrictions has allowed us once again to restart our volunteer work sessions out in the Penwith landscape, and we have begun by concentrating on repairing Cornish Hedges. This started with work on a collapsed hedge on the Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve at Bartinney, where rabbits had caused significant damage by burrowing into the hedge's structure. More recently, our volunteers have been turning their skills to repairing several sections of collapsed hedge in St Just, near the Church. Hedging is one of the most physical of the volunteer tasks we offer as there's no denying that lifting and moving stone can be hard work, but that also makes it great exercise in the beautiful Penwith countryside! It is also an extremely satisfying task to undertake, as bringing these structures back to their former glory will enable them to keep standing for years to come.

Our team have been working hard to ensure that volunteer sessions can continue to take place in a Covid-secure way. At present our volunteer groups are limited to just five people, to allow everyone on the work task to socially distance from each other and minimise the risks from Covid-19. Volunteers also wear gloves or do not share tools and equipment on the day to prevent any cross-contamination, and hand washing facilities are available. All equipment is then thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to know more about volunteering with us, including what it's like to be a volunteer, then we have all the information you need on our website – you can even register as a volunteer online! To find out more and sign up go to www.penwithlandscape.com/volunteer

Who is on the Partnership?

Members of the Penwith Landscape Partnership board are:

Bolitho Estates
Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN)
Cornwall Archaeological Society
Cornwall AONB
Cornwall Councillors representing four Penwith wards
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Farm Cornwall
Farming representatives
National Trust
Save Penwith Moors

Spider Eye Animation
St Aubyn Estates
Towednack Parish Council
West Penwith Bridleway Association
Zennor Parish Council

Chaired by Cllr Jim McKenna

Advisors to the board include:

NFU Cornwall, Natural England, Historic England and Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service

If you would like to keep in touch with our work please contact us to sign up to this newsletter.

Penwith Landscape Partnership

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Visit www.penwithlandscape.com, or email PLPinfo@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.