

# Luxulyan Valley News

Autumn 2018



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Cover painting by Cyril Tonkin. Reproduced with the kind permission of Shirley Tonkin and family.

## Hello everyone

A long hot summer has only been dampened by the sad news that the HLF Project has failed. The £5m+ set aside to restore the Treffry Viaduct, leat system and conserve the valley's other assets, has gone. For the foreseeable future this will mean no water running across the viaduct, no new turbine and no water in the leats other than rainfall runoff, and from the two streams (Trethevey and Colcerrow). Other major works to be done as part of the project will also very likely never happen.

A very sad conclusion to a very long standing project that has absorbed a lot of time and money.

See page 4 for more on the matter.

*The Eds*

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We are always keen to hear the views of our members, suggestions for future events or articles for our newsletter, so please get in touch.

**Please send your copy by 5th December 2018 to Chris at  
[folv@btinternet.com](mailto:folv@btinternet.com)**

## Forthcoming Events

### **Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 7.30 pm**

#### ***Talk on Richard Carew by Carole Vivian.***

*Learn more about the High Sheriff of Cornwall, MP for Saltash and author of 'The Survey of Cornwall' first published in 1602. Meet: Luxulyan Village Hall, PL30 5QA.*

### **Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.30 pm**

#### ***Talk on Cornish beach glass by Steve Beazley.***

*Hear about how Steve trawls the beaches for suitable items to make into jewellery. Meet: Luxulyan Village Hall, PL30 5QA.*

### **Wednesday 19 December 2018 at 7.30 pm**

#### ***Christmas Social and Cornish themed quiz.***

*Come and enjoy an end of year social gathering with Christmas indulgences. Meet: Luxulyan Village Hall, PL30 5QA.*

### **Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 7.30 pm**

#### ***Talk on Fowey Harbour by Mike Sutherland.***

*Until 2011 Mike had been the harbour master for over 25 years. He is still very much involved at Fowey and will delight us with his experiences.*

*Meet: Luxulyan Village Hall, PL30 5QA.*

*Unless otherwise stated all our events are free for members and £2 for non-members*

***For up-to-date information see our website: [www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk](http://www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk)***

## Volunteer Dates

'The Friends', in conjunction with Cormac, try to provide opportunities for volunteers to experience some practical assistance in the management of the valley. All tools will be supplied, along with hot drinks and biscuits, but please wear old clothes and strong boots.

Everyone welcome, stay as long as you like. Our next dates are:

### **Friday 12 October 2018, 10 am - 3 pm.**

*Vegetation clearance along Rock Mill Tramway and around Trevanney Dry.*

*Meet: Pontois Mill car park, Map Ref: SX 072 562, or at the Dry if coming later.*

### **Friday 7 December 2018, 10 am - 1 pm.**

*Repairing paths and clearing rhododendron.*

*Meet: Black Hill car park, Map Ref: SX 059 573.*

For more information please contact the Valley Ranger, Jenny Heskett, by email: [jheskett@cormacltd.co.uk](mailto:jheskett@cormacltd.co.uk) or call 07973 813843.

## Where did it all go wrong?...

We wish we knew!

For the avoidance of doubt, the HLF Project is not paused, or stalled, or ready to be restarted once some additional work has been done. Both project partners, Cornwall Council and Cornwall Heritage Trust, have withdrawn from the scheme, and the allocated funding set aside by them and the Heritage Lottery Fund will be transferred elsewhere. If, as suggested in their 'joint statement' published with our last newsletter, there were to be a continuance of the project, it would have to be via a completely new application to the Lottery Fund, it would have to go through the competitive selection process once again, and would have to complete another Round One development phase. Given that this failed version of the HLF Project has taken around five years to reach this stage, we can assume it is not something that is going to happen any time soon!

Throughout the development process, the team from the HLF Office involved in keeping the project on track, have been enthusiastic supporters of the project, and have done their utmost to enable a successful outcome. They appear to be in no way responsible for this disappointing turn of events. Given that so much of the project was unresolved by Cornwall Council, could it be argued that the HLF Office were a little too eager to award the £3.6m grant, or perhaps they were unaware of all the issues still needing attention? As you can imagine, 'The Friends of the Luxulyan Valley' and the Cornwall Heritage Trust regard the failure of the project as a major setback, not only for both our organisations, but also for this World Heritage Site, and the wider community.

As mentioned in the 'joint statement' the Council's project team are presumably still pursuing all necessary consents, and reviewing all options for the future, but we have heard nothing more. In the meantime CHT will focus on essential maintenance of the Viaduct and their adjoining property. Sadly though, without alternative significant funding, they do not currently have any aspirations to reinstate the water flow across the Treffry Viaduct, and so it will remain dry.

It is frightening to think about the level of time and money spent on this project. Yes, a little more knowledge has been gleaned about the construction of the viaduct, and CHT have obtained a small piece of land to enable better access; but it seems clear that the only winners in this sorry saga have been the lawyers and the myriad of consultants commissioned to provide surveys and write reports.

## ...and where do we go from here?

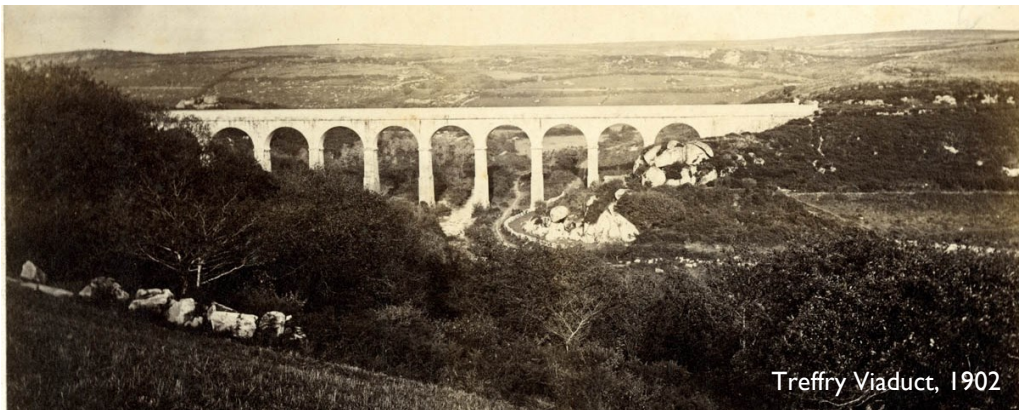
'The Friends of the Luxulyan Valley' are still very much committed to the wellbeing of the valley, and do all in our powers to ensure its future protection. We will continue to run our events programme and offer volunteers the opportunity to help with some practical management of the valley. See page 3 for more details.

As for the Pons Mill hydro-electric turbine and the leat system, all is not yet lost. Whilst for the foreseeable future the top, Carmears, leat will remain dry, because of the cessation of water flowing across the Treffry Viaduct, this does not necessarily have to apply to the lower, Fowey Consols, leat. Since the collapse of the HLF Project others have seemingly been waiting in the wings to resurrect the generation of Green Energy at Pons Mill.

New feasibility and hydrological studies of the Gatty's catchment area, i.e. the water courses that feeds the Fowey Consols leat, have already taken place. These coupled with the installation of a new smaller, more efficient turbine at Pons Mill does seem to make for a very viable business plan.

Yes, funding would still need to be found, but a fraction of what Cornwall Council were proposing. 'The Friends' have already been approached by one organisation willing to support the development and growth of a low carbon, local energy scheme. Whether Cornwall Council insist on being involved is unknown at this point in time, but a new 'Community' led project on the face of it would seem to have a much greater chance of success.

Of course any such 'Community' led scheme would inevitably rely upon a certain level of local help. If you are interested in getting involved in any way, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.



Treffry Viaduct, 1902



## Geocaching in the Valley

Many of us are familiar with the footpaths around the valley, but hands up those who knew there is a trail of geocaches placed in and around the valley?

Some may well ask 'what is Geocaching?' Essentially it's a treasure hunt for a digital generation. By using a GPS enabled device or smartphone, Geocachers seek out hidden small 'caches' cleverly disguised in the undergrowth. The GPS device will allow you to get within a few metres of the cache, but to find it you may need to solve a cryptic clue provided that helps pinpoint where and what you are looking for. Given the poor GPS signal in many parts of the valley the cryptic clues or hints can be essential.

So what's in the cache? Normally in the small treasure box will be a log book for you to leave a message and sometimes small trinkets that previous geocachers have left. If you take something out of the box it is customary to leave something in its place, so best be prepared. Of course the real satisfaction is finding the cache box.

Back in June we were introduced to the world of Geocaching by experienced geocachers 'Luxlad', 'Luxlass', 'Spooky Luke', 'Pencoise', and 'Cornish Candy', who have many thousands of finds to their names. It seems having a nickname is part of the fun. Their experience was essential at the start of the walk, but as time went on those unfamiliar with geocaching began to get their brains and eyes in sync to know what to look for.

Our circular walk was of about 2.5 miles round the valley, and we managed to find all nine caches hidden in the valley. For obvious safety reasons the caches are placed on, or very close to, the valley's footpaths. It was certainly a new way of discovering its treasures, and can perhaps make you look more

closely at its beauty, whilst enjoying this wonderful part of Cornwall.

Many thanks to our experienced Geocachers for laying on this event, and explaining all.

To discover more about the world of Geocaching visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)



## Balsam Bashing

Beautiful though its large pink flowers might seem to be, Himalayan Balsam is a very invasive plant that smothers all other native species. Fortunately it can be easily removed as its root system is very shallow, but it's important to do so before it sets seed, as its exploding seed pods scatter seeds far and wide and into river courses. Parts of the Par River and in particular around Ponto Mill have been badly affected over recent years, but thanks to our Valley Ranger, Jenny, and a trusty team of volunteers most has been cleared.



Himalayan Balsam may look pretty, but..... nothing grows under it!



## Otter Spotting

Next Survey dates:

12 - 15 October 2018

8 - 11 February 2019

Please contact Ed Harradence  
on 01726 851158 for details  
or if you want to get involved

## Colcerrow Monoliths

*“There have just been forwarded from Par to Kent four huge granite monoliths, 3’6” square and averaging nearly 30 feet long. They were all hewn out of a single block at the Colcerrow Quarries of the Treffry estate. They are to be set up in a group on the park of the gentleman to whom they now belong, and who has four daughters whom they will commemorate for a thousand years and more, if only the hand of time deals with them.”*

This is a report from the West Briton newspaper of 12 April 1875, and I remembered it when I reported on the Friends visit to Carbeans and Colcerrow quarries back in 2010. Nearly 30 years ago it caught my imagination and the desire to look further into the story.

Joseph Thomas Treffry built Par harbour in 1829, the canal from Pontoys Mill and the incline plane from Fowey Consols to move his ore. He then constructed the incline plane through the valley and the tramway to Colcerrow and Carbeans quarries to move Luxulyan granite to Par. The cost of granite when first extracted is not clear, but many extras would have been added by the time it reached its destination. In 1846 the cost of moving granite from Colcerrow to Par was 1/6d (7½p) per ton and in 1857 the Lord’s dues at Par harbour for granite were another 4d (less than 2p). Unfortunately few records exist for the 1860s and 1870s, but we do know that in 1850 of the 6,175 tons of granite shipped from Par, 5,195 tons came from Colcerrow. In the 1850s and 60s some of this went to Devonport Dockyard, Morrice Town (Plymouth), Plymouth breakwater, Newquay, Alderney, Dover, Chatham, Hull and Liverpool.

Treffry died in January 1850 and left no sons to carry on; eventually John Freeman and his sons leased the quarry but unfortunately by then there was a huge output of granite from Norway and Sweden coupled with low prices. John Freeman died in 1874 and the quantity of local stone shipped was declining even further. However, between 1900 and 1930 over 300 men still worked in the local quarries, with stone being sent to many places, including Gibraltar and Hong Kong.

Following letters to several local newspapers and journals of Kent, I received replies from two people who remembered seeing many granite ‘posts’ when travelling through Sevenoaks on the train. The search was narrowed to the Bradbourne estate and the Crawshay family. Mr Francis Crawshay of Merthyr Tydfil owned many coal mines in the Rhondda Valley, but preferred to live elsewhere because the fumes from the valley chimneys affected his health



(probably not as much as it affected the workers however) so in 1867 he bought Bradbourne House in Riverhead, Sevenoaks. Local people said he had run there after the threats to his life, property and children had become too numerous to be discounted; as he was rumoured to be the 'notorious Crawshay' villain in novels about the nineteenth century iron-founders and copper works of Wales, maybe there is some truth in it.



Crawshay had a great interest in the way of life of the Druids who had worshipped the sun etc., and his studies enabled him to become an authority on Welsh folklore; he was a member of the Order of Druids of Wales. During the 1870s he brought into the grounds of his country park many stone monoliths from Par and made two Druidical circles. The stones were brought by rail to the Bat and Ball Station of Sevenoaks; the stones were so heavy that the road from the station was badly cut up and Crawshay had to pay a large sum to repair it. The family on occasions did observe some Druid rituals, but nothing to give foundation to local tales of demons and strange happenings.

Another of his idiosyncrasies was to purchase an enormous bell weighing two tons, which was later erected on a tripod near the front of the house. He rose at 5.30am each morning in order to ring the bell at 6am 'to wake the lazy people of Riverhead'.



Crawshay and his wife Laura had ten children, of whom Isabel, Helen, Mary and Laura were the four daughters and it was for these daughters that the four monoliths were erected. He died in 1878, aged 67, and his wife continued to live in the

## Colcerrow Monoliths (cont.)

house until her death in 1896. They are both buried in nearby Brasted churchyard. The eldest son sold the house and grounds, unable to pay for the upkeep, to the Lambarde family who lived there until 1927 when developers moved in, the house was demolished and a housing estate started just before World War II.

Part of one of the stone circles remains, at its centre a polished round column,



described as being of red Cornish granite. It is now a listed monument, said to be the centerpiece of a Druidical circle, but according to the householders who have some of the stones in their gardens, it also acts as a sundial! I viewed them by standing on a garden chair in one of the gardens.

Other sundry stones also still stand in the midst of this bungalow estate, including the 'four maidens'. It seems the developer tried to dynamite them without success, they stand 18 feet apart, in a straight line running north to south and at one time cut across the main driveway of the old house. Now only the top part, maximum of 7 feet 6 inches can be seen due to the developer changing the ground levels and unfortunately due to the layout of the garden impossible to photograph, so only a rough sketch. The home-owner is proud to have them, and now he knows the story behind them, intends boring all his visitors with the details.



Sources: A History of the Manor of Bradbourne and its Owners, Charles J Phillips.  
Francis Crawshaw of Bradbourne, Robin J Brooks, Bygone Kent, August 1987.  
The West Briton 12 April 1871.  
OS map 1970.  
The Sevenoaks Society 1970  
List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest 1985.  
Various letters from estate inhabitants 1991-95.  
The King of Mid Cornwall, John Keast.  
Photograph of Bradbourne House from Ancestry.co.uk  
Photograph of Francis Crawshaw from Ancestry.co.uk

## Wheel of Mystery

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A couple of months ago 'The Friends' received an email asking if we wanted a wheel that had apparently come from a wagon, once used on the valley's tramway. Upon further enquires we were able to ascertain that the wheel was 'liberated' from its resting place at the top of the Carmears Incline in the Luxulyan Valley around 1980.



The wheel, photographed here, is now with 'The Friends'. We have no reason to doubt the authenticity of where and when it was found, but it has thrown up more questions. Constructed out of cast iron with a replaceable steel 'tyre' bolted in place, it weighs about 120 lbs., and has four spokes, but with a diameter of only 19 inches it does seem on the small side for use on a horse drawn tramway wagon.



In the 1988 Cornwall Archaeological Unit published survey of the Luxulyan Valley Project, there is an illustration of a wagon wheel found in the valley that is about 26 inches in diameter with 8 spokes. Given that various rail sizes and a number of different chairs sizes were found in the valley, it is not inconceivable that our wheel had a specific purpose somewhere in the valley. It should also be noted that it was found very close to the Blacksmith's hut, near to the wheelpit, where repairs to wagons, re-shoeing of horses etc. would all have been carried out.



If anyone can throw any more light on the subject we'd love to hear from you.

Our thanks to Robert Groves for his very generous gift to 'The Friends'.

## Congratulations to Luxulyan's new Bard

Friends' member Malcolm Gould, of Luxulyan, has recently been created a Cornish Bard for services to Cornish industrial history, including talks on China Clay and work for the China Clay museum. His Bardic name is **Map Pry Gwyn**, meaning Son of China Clay. Malcolm was made a Bard at Gorsedh Kernow's ceremony held this year in Newquay.



## Making a mess for Wildlife

We have been eagerly awaiting the summer months to see the emerging results of further wetland habitat restoration work at Breney Common and Red Moor – parts of Helman Tor Nature Reserve. We have worked in partnership with the charity Plantlife to improve habitats for wildlife, including rare plants, building on work carried out with the Freshwater Habitats Trust the previous year. On both sites willow scrub has been cleared to let light in,



and then sediment removed to create the nutrient-poor, thin soil conditions required by plants such as the rare pillwort. There's no escaping the fact that at the end of winter it was fairly messy – but wildlife often likes a mess! We're expecting more shallow pond and open marshy areas, which should provide all sorts of ecological niches for plants and insects alike – it'll be exciting to watch the wildlife move back in over the coming years.

Reproduced from 'Cornwall Wildlife' Magazine

Purple Hairstreak butterfly taken in the valley  
by Iain Stewart on 22 July 2018



## Yet Another Luxulyan Valley Walk

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August a group of over 20 people were guided around the Valley by FoLV trustees Stephen Austin, Joan Farmer, Roger Smith and Chris Tigg. The route taken will be well known to members: starting at Pontois Mill, along the lower tramway to Trevanney Dry, up to and along the Viaduct, thence to the wheelpit and down the incline plane, with a short diversion along a stretch of the Velvet Path. So: yet another walk in the Valley, just one of countless visits made over the years.

But what can we say about other visits to the Valley? When, for example, did they begin and for what reasons? The Valley we see is not the same as it was in the past: Mesolithic family groups knew a vastly different Valley, for example; even when first glimpsed by Treffry, the Valley would have been significantly different. Even as recently as the 1960s Pontois Mill was a busy place, with clay drying and both railway and lorry traffic. Trevanney Dry was only abandoned around this time. Those formerly employed in the clay industry look with wonderment at how much greener and quieter it is. The mid twentieth century marks the end of a very long period when the primary reason for going to the Valley was economic, often to exploit its resources of timber, minerals, granite or water. Nor should we forget that the Valley was a busy place even before the transformations wrought by Treffry: tin streaming and smelting; coppicing; charcoal burning; loading and unloading boats; pack mules crossing the bridge on the road linking Lostwithiel with St Austell or Luxulyan; corn milling, and so on.

At Pontois Mill, a great leap of imagination was needed to visualise it as it once was. The ground on which we stood was 25 feet above the original level because of an accumulation of silt from centuries of tin streaming upstream in the highly productive Stannary of Blackmore. It took effort not to see Pontois Mill in isolation rather than as a key location on a vast estuary that has now been choked, refigured and, in the vicinity of Par and St Blazey, built on.

Once, the tide reached this small port. The misnamed Fowey pin (found in a streamworks near Middleway), made of bronze and amber, may be evidence for local metal working during the Bronze Age and for international trade, since amber came from northern Europe. Just how busy was the estuary in prehistoric times? The discovery of imported pottery at Kilhallon Romano-British round, and also at Trethurgy round (not that far from the former river network), suggests that Pontois Mill and its hinterland were plugged into an international network. The massive Iron Age hillfort at Prideaux was presumably built to control the estuary. Fragments of a possible cliff castle

## Yet Another Luxulyan Valley Walk (cont.)

near Crinnis, plus the hillfort at Castle Dore, and the discovery in recent years of a hoard of Roman coins near Prideaux may also be testament to the former importance of the estuary.

Many people now visit the Valley for a quiet walk, to awaken the senses and rekindle the spirit (or perhaps just to walk the dog – let's not get too mystical!). Even before the Kendall family and Victorian tourists recognised it as a beauty spot there may have been visits just to appreciate nature: we shall probably never know. But the majority of visits have probably not been for pleasure: monks from Tywardreath Priory checking that the miller was doing his job properly at Pons Mill; tin streamers trudging home wet and cold after a day in the river gravels; bringing tin ore to the blowing-houses and collecting the ingots; bargemen on Treffry's canal; horses pulling trucks on the various tramways; quarrymen and miners starting and finishing their shifts; and so on were probably more typical. And from the 1870s, steam locomotives could whisk people through the entire length of the Valley in minutes.

Different sights, smells, and noise have been experienced by visitors over the centuries. For thousands of years, a clean, fast-flowing river and steep, thickly-wooded valley sides would have been familiar – but not at all times. In Treffry's days the valley was less wooded and many of us can remember how on occasions the river ran white, polluted by china clay.

For years there were more watercourses visible than there are today. We know the sad story of the now-dry Carmears leat (and the Fowey Consols leat is undergoing difficulties at the moment) but there were others: including the medieval leats for Pons Mill; one for Wood Mill; a clayworks leat connected with Wheal Rashleigh; and, of course, the Charlestown leat.

The smells of charcoal burning in the medieval period, the unique odour of horses, particularly when the tramways operated and, more recently, the damp mustiness of china clay drying, belong to the past. The loudest noise today tends to be the river. Gone is the distinctive sound of metal on granite in the quarries, metal bashing in the smithies, the squealing of the trucks on the incline plane, the grinding of china-stone at Carmears, the shouts of those working in the Valley and numerous other sounds now forgotten and unsuspected.

This was yet another walk in the Valley, but our experiences were not identical to those of countless others over the years. Time does not stand still.

## Par Beach

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, we had a joint meeting with the Friends of Par Beach. The group was led by Cathy Trodd, who took us along the sand dunes and introduced us to the vast array of flowers, insects and butterflies on Par Beach. She was assisted by Phil Hunt, a botanist who records the plants around the area.



The nature reserve is particularly rich in plants, both native and alien. Among the pale yellow wild parsnip growing on the dunes, Cathy pointed out the labyrinth spider, which makes funnel shaped webs, and also a sand wasp which burrows into the dunes.

There was a sea of bright yellow ragwort, alive with bees, and also attracting the colourful 6 spotted burnet moth which flies during the day. Ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*), is important as a major food source for the yellow and black striped cinnabar moth caterpillar.

The sunny weather brought out butterflies such as small copper, gatekeeper and meadow brown.

We identified 3 different types of knotgrass (Not in fact grasses at all.) The



## Par Beach (cont.)



Phil Hunt with Great Lettuce

common one *Polygonum aviculare*, is often found on waste ground, as well as on the shore. Sea knotgrass (*Polygonum maritimum*), is very rare, and only occurs in the South west. It is a perennial with a woody base, semi sprawling but more upright and taller than the other species we found on the beach, Ray's knotgrass. The flowers are insignificant, and there are silvery stipules (leaf like structures on the stem), but the calyx of the latter two have a white margin.

Other leaves on the dunes were prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), the fleshy leaves of sea sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*) and the kidney shaped silvery fleshy leaves of sea bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*)

At the western side of the beach, we found a single specimen of Great Lettuce (*Latuca virosa*), standing around 2 metres tall, another rare plant, similar to the more common prickly lettuce but much taller.

The larger shrubs on the beach, *Rosa rugosa*, and Sea-buckthorn, are much more showy, but unfortunately they sucker and swamp out the smaller plants so Friends of Par Beach hold periodic work parties to control these spreading plants.

Par beach is worth visiting all year round, but highlights must include the bee orchids in June. Check out the website of Friends of Par Beach for work parties and events. **See [www.parbeach.com](http://www.parbeach.com)**

Many thanks to Cathy for such an interesting morning.

*Joan Farmer, photos by Steve Barber*



## Charlestown National Coastguard Institution

The group met at the Shipwreck Centre in Charlestown and walked along the Coast Path eastwards, encountering some fairly challenging inclines. The path emerges onto the road for about 20 yards at Sea Road, Carlyon Bay, and then turns back onto the cliff; it was just after this point that we found ourselves on a very smart concrete path with steps leading down to the compound where the NCI Station is situated and where Nick Jefferies was waiting for us. Nick is a volunteer at this station and had offered to arrive early enough to tell Friends about the station before his shift.

The volunteers work four hour shifts, but only in daylight hours; two shifts during the winter months and three in summer. He told us that the old building was 'discovered' in 2000, having been completely smothered in brambles since being abandoned by the Coastguards, when so many stations were closed down. The brambles were hacked back and the post re-equipped, thanks to the generous donations of many groups and individuals. In October 2003 EV Thompson opened the newly re-furbished station for the National Coastwatch Institution, an entirely voluntary charitable organization.

There are now fifty-two NCI stations along Britain's coast, most of them on the south and east shores. The stations manned only by one person, as at Charlestown, have a 'Buddy' system whereby every hour a phone call is exchanged between two stations; just to ensure that the volunteer has stayed safe and well. A good safe-guard considering most of these people are retired and not so young.



## Charlestown National Coastguard Institution (cont.)

Julian was on duty this particular morning and in small groups invited us to his 'office' to take a look round; always keeping an eye out for anything happening at sea. He was able to tell us that they look for kayakers, fishermen, walkers along the coast path and log any significant vessels that pass through their 'patch'. There is a dedicated radio channel to converse with boats at sea; they also are able to pick up any distress calls and call HM Coastguard should their assistance be required. There is no mains electricity and the station has to rely on solar panels and a small wind turbine. Although the radios do not use much power, the radar does and on bad weather days it may not be very effective. Normally at Charlestown they handle 7-8 incidents in a year. The little Polmear Island is also a place to watch as tourists, especially those whose first language is not English, may not read the signs warning about incoming tides.

On good days it is possible to see as far as the Eddystone Lighthouse, just over 23 miles away; we could see it on our visit, but to be told that the Gribbin Daymark was nearly four miles away seemed incredible, for although the sky was overcast, the visibility was good and it seemed much closer.

Whilst keeping eyes open for those at sea, the volunteers also see plenty of marine life, such as basking sharks, dolphins and whales, apart from peregrines, kestrels, sparrow hawks and rooks. There are also two mussel farms in the bay and someone usually visits them every day, so always something to look at.

It is possible to take the diversion off the coast path to visit the compound at any time, and although the volunteer on duty has always to man his post, there are interpretation boards for visitors to see, and donation boxes should you be so inclined!

After many thanks given to Nick and Julian the group made its way back to Charlestown, not along the coast path, but on a sure-fire short cut suggested by one member. Was it a short cut though? Jury is out on that one.

*Hazel Harradence*



## 25,000 Stand up for Local Wildlife Sites

An incredible 25,000 of you responded in just two weeks this spring when the Government proposed to take all reference to Local Wildlife Sites out of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This change would have removed all protection for England's 42,000 Local Wildlife Sites. These are quiet, often unnoticed places, where wildlife thrives – meadows, woodlands, city oases. Although they tend to fall under the radar they are a critical part of our wildlife resource. Designated Local Wildlife Sites cover 3% of Wales and Northern Ireland, 5% of England and 1.7% of the Isle of Man. They are recognized and protected in planning policy – the process is one of their only protections – but nevertheless some are still lost each year.

Because of your action, Housing Minister Dominic Rabb has agreed to revisit the wording (in England). But these special places are far from secure – they may need your help again soon.

Reproduced from 'Cornwall Wildlife' Magazine

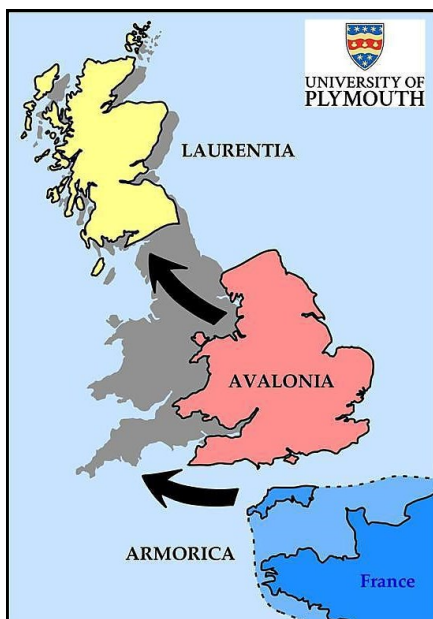
## Sacré bleu!

For centuries it was believed that England, Wales and Scotland were created by the merger of Avalonia and Laurentia more than 400 million years ago.

However, new research by geologists at the University of Plymouth has concluded that a third land mass, Armorica, was also involved in the process.

By studying the mineral deposits at exposed rock features across Devon and Cornwall, they were able to show a clear boundary running across the two counties. Areas to the north sharing their geological roots with the rest of England and Wales but everything to the south, including the Luxulyan Valley, being geologically linked to France and mainland Europe.

Scientists believe this research explains the abundance of tin and tungsten in the far South West and in Brittany.



## The Friends of Luxulyan Valley Membership

If you are not already a member of the Friends of Luxulyan Valley, then why not join us? If you are a member, thank you, but have you ever considered giving a gift of a year's Membership to a relative or friend?

Membership runs from April to March and allows you to attend most activities free of charge (there may be a charge for those activities which require an entrance fee, or incur some other cost), and provides you with a quarterly newsletter. In addition, it will give you the satisfaction of participating in the preservation of our beautiful valley.

The current Annual Membership rates are:

<i>Individual</i> .....£8	<i>Junior (under 16)</i> .....£1
<i>Joint</i> .....£10	<i>Family</i> .....£12
<i>Corporate</i> .....£25	<i>Individual Life Membership</i> .....£75

Application forms are available on our website, or contact our Membership Secretary:

Ms Harriet Nott, 75 Stannary Road, Stenalees, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 8SW.

Telephone: 01726 850735

Email: [harri@ygorow.plus.com](mailto:harri@ygorow.plus.com)

**Full details about all our events, and much more, can be found on our website:**

**[www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk](http://www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk)**

**We're also on facebook**



**Friends of Luxulyan Valley**

### We want to hear from you

Please supply your articles, letters and/or photographs by 5 December 2018 to Chris at: [folv@btinternet.com](mailto:folv@btinternet.com)

### Committee Contacts

Jim Cleare, <i>Chairman</i> -	01726 850553	
Mandy Case, <i>Deputy Chair</i> -	07779 358120	
Peter Wilkes, <i>Treasurer</i> -	01726 64693	
Joan Farmer, <i>Secretary</i> -	01726 852603	<a href="mailto:joanfarmer38@gmail.com">joanfarmer38@gmail.com</a>
Harriet Nott, <i>Membership Sec.</i> -	01726 850735	
Tracy Elliott, <i>Events Secretary</i> -	01208 831961	
Sales -	01726 850553	