

**‘FRIENDS OF THE TOWANS’**  
**AUTUMN-WINTER NEWSLETTER & EVENTS 2018-19**

No need for irony this year: that really was a fabulous summer, wasn't it? I hope you all lapped it up in the knowledge that it'll no doubt be our last scorcher till who knows when.

I'm sorry not to have run quite as many summer events in 2018, especially a botany walk or moth event. Truth is I've been really busy with lots of other work, but I hope you'll forgive me as the main project I've been working on will give us 10 years' of work!

Many of you will remember working up at Godrevy Warren last winter, above the Red River. Well, thanks to funding from Natural England, the site will start a 10 year Countryside Stewardship agreement from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. Sally Foster, Colin French and I carried out surveys there this summer and then produced a Management Plan, making various recommendations. If any of you would like to see this, let me know and I will email it to you.

Sally recorded over 5,000 silver-studded blue butterflies, and widespread colonies across the site, although many were small and at risk of fragmentation due to our old friend 'the scrub'. Colin's work estimated about 25% of the area is scrub at the moment, and our initial aim is to reduce this by about 7ha in the first 2 years – don't worry, it won't just be down to us – contractors will be involved too, as well as some chomping livestock! (a new breed...)

I knew the Warren was rich in archaeology, but until I put all the paperwork together, I didn't realise quite how significant it is. Here's a quote from Historic England's Ancient Monument entry for Godrevy: *'The importance of the multi-period prehistoric settlement sites...at Godrevy Towans cannot be overstated, since it forms the primary source for much of what is known about the agricultural economy and settlement in the British Bronze Age.'*

Wow! It feels like a great privilege to be at the start of this exciting project. I'll share more information with you as it develops, but just to whet your appetite, there's a budget for 'educational access' too – guided walks, if you like - so any groups you're involved with who might want to visit, just let me know.

To set up a nice pincer-movement on the Towans this winter, we'll also be working on Riviere Towans, close to the Hayle River. The chalet park there is just about to start supporting the Towans Ranger project, and would welcome some help from us in removing some dense areas of sea buckthorn. I didn't quite realise the scale of the operation at Riviere – they have 300 chalets, so that's lots more people with the potential to find out about The Friends and what we do.

We also heard positive news in the summer regarding the Dynamic Dunescapes project we've been working on with Cornwall Wildlife Trust. This national project has received its contribution from EU LIFE funds, and work has formally started now on the project, mainly at the national level, and work on the ground will commence in mid 2019.

So in summary, if we can avoid politics and the 'B' word, 2019 is looking to be a very exciting, positive year for our Towans and I look forward to some healthy outdoor work with you again very soon.

Martin 'the Ranger'

*Sea buckthorn awaiting our attention at Riviere Towans*



#### **AUTUMN-WINTER EVENTS – Oct 2018 - March 2019**

All events **start at 10am and run until about 2pm**. I will bring tools, gloves, tea, coffee and biscuits, but please make sure you bring some lunch and appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for working in the exposed Towans' environment.

*It would be useful if you could let me know via text, phone or email if you plan to attend - thanks. [martinrule@talktalk.net](mailto:martinrule@talktalk.net); mobile - 07854 123 877*

#### **Thurs Sept 27<sup>th</sup> St Gothians Nature Reserve, near Godrevy**

Following a successful day last winter, we will carry on cutting back gorse here to enlarge an area of short turf being used by the silver-studded blue. This is an important narrow corridor that links the two main dune areas of Godrevy Warren and Hayle-Gwithian Towans.

Meet in the roadside lay-bys north of Gwithian village SW 587/416.

### **Thurs Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Upton Towans CWT Reserve**

We'll be removing non-native *Cotoneaster*, uprooting clematis stumps and cutting back scrub from within some of the WWI bunkers and pathways. Meet at main reserve entrance, near the tall chimney SW 579/397

### **Thurs Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Upton Towans CWT Reserve**

Same details as Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Thurs Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Gwithian Green Nature Reserve**

Various work – willow and elm coppicing, pond and stream 'weeding' and raking up and burning bramble cuttings. This is our nearest outing to Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, so be sure of a good bonfire. Maybe we could add a political Guy or 2...plenty to choose from these days!  
Meet in car park just north of Gwithian Church at SW587/413.

### **Thurs Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> Riviere Towans, near Hayle**

The first of 2 outings to help clear extensive sea buckthorn from the chalet park. Meet just inside the park – opposite the entrance to Haven Holidays, along the road past Phillack Church SW 557/386. You may want extra strong gloves if mine are too feeble...!

### **Thurs Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Riviere Towans near Hayle**

Same details as Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Thurs Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Godrevy Warren**

The first of 4 outings to The Warren, where we will start to cut back gorse, privet and clematis to enable cattle to move around the site and to restore open grassland areas. We'll make this date our traditional pre-Christmas get-together - jacket potatoes, mince pies etc. Meet at the 5 bar gate on the right, just inside the NT road to Godrevy, SW587/422. Park in NT car park, or the small car park on the left, just beyond the 5 bar gate.

### **Thurs Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thurs Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Thurs Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**

Same details as Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. We may be helping with fencing too, for a change and to exercise some different muscle groups!

### **Thurs Feb Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Gwithian Towans**

Following work here last winter, we'll be raking up and burning scrub cuttings, and montbretia bulbs from near the Jam Pot, to continue to enlarge an area of short turf being used by the silver-studded blue. Meet in the large council car park at Gwithian. SW 565/384.

### **Thurs Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**

Same details as Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Thurs March 14<sup>th</sup>**

No details fixed yet – we'll see how the winter has progressed and where our help is most needed. Most likely to be Mexico Towans or back at Upton.

**Thurs March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Another bash at the stream to reduce choking weeds before the summer growth rate hits. Plus, you guessed it, some raking, trimming and burning. Meet in car park just north of Gwithian Church at SW587/413.

I look forward to seeing you soon

**Martin Rule, Towans Ranger 07854 123 877 [martinrule@talktalk.net](mailto:martinrule@talktalk.net)**

*Abundant sea holly in the fore dunes at St Gothian LNR, August 2018  
Godrevy Warren is the hill in the background*

