

SPNAG meeting 24th March 2025. Sancreed Village Hall

Our third meeting and numbers were good again, 18 people attended and 3 apologies.

Luke New from the Penwith Landscape Recovery Project gave us an update now that the CWT team are halfway through the 2 year funding bid for the 20 year plan.

Luke has been correlating the results of the community consultation and 'improving the environment for wildlife' was a highly supported goal of the communities visited. The finished report will be completed at the end of the year.

He has been meeting with groups who will be invested in the projects and there will be grants for land management, for environmental projects and joining with other groups and forming clusters with a common goal will amplify the benefits to nature. Schools are asking to be involved, educators want to have sustained and regular input that will benefit both nature and the children.

Access to the Penwith Landscape - the condition of paths and bridleways, improvements, new circular routes from joining existing paths, cycle routes to link towns safely, so many aspects and ideas have been put forward.

Thanks to Luke for keeping us updated.

Nick's talk

Simple Ideas for Enhancing Biodiversity.

It is becoming apparent that we have to do things differently, the previous conservation methods are not increasing biodiversity.

There is a Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-nature-recovery-strategy>

and we need to have the ambition for our parish to begin to create a connected network across our parish and to other parishes in Penwith.

The interactive map on the CC website is an incredible resource. The layers that can be applied to the ground area selected are amazing and very useful for planning positive changes. This is the mapping tool that will show us the best route to join up isolated areas by working together on the 'in between spots'. This will be creating the much needed wildlife corridors.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust have the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) where we can check out what has been found in an area in the past from their species list, perfect guidance for nature recovery projects.

Land in the parish is used for many purposes, grazing, food growing, orchards, woodland, moorland and more. We need a dynamic mindset that understands that wild places are not static, we need to understand succession takes place. A pond becomes weed bound and fills in, a stream slows and forms a boggy area, a wood ages and trees fall. Nature is made up of communities that need to travel to new places along wildlife corridors as these natural changes occur.

Nicks central message is be guided by natural processes and embrace change. Oh, and Love Scrub!

Simple Idea 1 – Grass to 'meadow'. Suppress grass growth over time by removing cuttings and sowing yellow rattle or yellow bartsia. Cutting should be limited to an early cut in spring and a late cut in August, allowing flowering of plants and seeds to set. If you plant native plug plants into the grass area you will have a high success rate. Start with a small

area and grow your success.

Simple Idea 2 – Miyawaki – the crowded planting of trees, the natural process of a thicket of trees forming a valuable small woodland, from which the strongest trees will emerge. Again, start with a small area. Brambles are welcome!

Simple Idea 3 – Water – a damp patch is a good habitat, temporary pools that dry out in summer are good habitats, ponds are good habitats. Run the water from your roof drain pipe into an area to make one of the above.

Thank you so much again Nick.

Thank you also to Julian who has been keeping an eye out on the interactive mapping system for the improvement he put forward last year, to allow text to be written on maps being created, and he is pleased to report that this has now been done.

link: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0f354c9cacab4d52a10a719e0b6503b5/page/Map/>

Julian kindly has offered that if anyone requires a more detailed description of how to use the tool, he can produce one like he did earlier for the whole map system. The latter was circulated just prior to Christmas if you want to look back for a refresher.

Other News this month

Sancreed Green. - Nick, Kate and David met with LiveWest and their contractor. A biodiversity friendly management cutting scheme is being worked on.

Drift Slope - South West Lakes have a mangement plan to cut twide a yesr.

Planters - The Sancreed Parish Council have paid for 2 large planters at Newbridge and 1 at Drift. Residents have volunteered to plant and maintain with a variety of plants.

Connectintg Communities with Budding Nature - Sancreed will be having a nature focussed weekend in May next year. Treneere and Constantine will have theirs this year and we are all invited.

Penwith Landscape Recovery Project – Luke is looking for input on paths, bridleways, churchway paths, to make new circular routes and extend others.

Sancreed Cemetery – With a total of only about a dozen hours work, a significant change has been made at the lower end of the old cemetery through the removal of the Three-Cornered Leek, now considered an invasive species. Well done to 4 grannies in the graveyard!

Opportunity missed – We were offered an apple/fruit tree pruning training session by David Knight which I didn't respond to in time. I'd have liked to be shown how to do that properly. I think if anyone has skills to share could you offer a date and that would ensure better admin.