



Local updates for partners and associated groups  
Summer 2024

# Lizard & Penrose Newsletter



Coastline from Kynance Cove | © National Trust Images, Ross Hoddinott

Welcome to the first edition of the Lizard & Penrose National Trust Newsletter, our summer edition.

We are a conservation charity whose purpose is to look after nature, beauty and history for everyone to enjoy. The area our local team, Lizard & Penrose covers is from south Helford to Porthleven.

Through this newsletter we will share highlights and project work from the last six months or so. As this is our first newsletter, we have included some news on our winter (2023) work too.

We've tried to give you a flavour of what we've been up to; if there's anything more you'd like to know about please do get in touch, see our feedback request below.

### **We want your feedback**

We are really interested in getting your feedback on this newsletter, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey to tell us more about what you liked about the newsletter and what you'd like to hear more about in future: [Click here for feedback form](#)

### **Get in touch**

If you have any enquiries, please contact us via email or phone:  
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Don't forget you can also keep up with all the latest news on our Facebook pages:

[Penrose National Trust | Helston | Facebook](#)

[Lizard National Trust | Facebook](#)

# Over the last 12 months...

Every spring, we look back at the previous year and celebrate our team's achievements. You can see some of what we've been up to by watching [this short video](#). Alternatively, you can read on to see our 'sum up' of 2023/24.

Over 400 local people got involved with creating space for people and nature by planting 5,000 woodland trees at Nansloe, part of Penrose, and on The Helford.

In collaboration with the 'Some Interesting Apples' project, 130 orchard trees were planted. We also took proactive steps to improve safety around trees.

The Cornwall Coastal Meadows Project got underway and we put a new seed harvesting kit to the test, harvesting 278 kilos of meadow seed and sowing seven hectares of new meadows at Chyvarloe.

A large, important grant was secured to help improve

habitats for rare species, which has enabled us to increase and improve management across cliff and heath land sites on The Lizard.

Bats, butterflies and river-fly larvae were monitored across 'the patch' and we played our part in the Cornish Cough Conservation Network to support another bumper year for Cornish Coughs.

At the Stables Cafe, Penrose, team effort and skills were put into action to transform a pre-loved office space into a new indoor seating area, complete with second-hand bookshop. The bookshop shelves were made by volunteers using Penrose's very own Monterey Pine.

More team effort readied Teneriffe Campsite, near Mullion, for opening.

Buildings and places in care were maintained, repaired and invested in - from roofs to bridges to harbour walls, holiday cottages and new campsite facilities.

New staff and volunteers were recruited to help with the season ahead.

We continued to work with Linking the Lizard partners for nature, climate, people and place.

With community action, beach waste was collected and processed which Clean Ocean Sailing helped to recycle.

The Heritage Archaeology Ranger Team (HART) Programme improved condition monitoring of heritage sites.

Social walks at Penrose and events led by the community brought people together.

We had a staggering 900,000+ visits to places across Lizard & Penrose in 2023; everyone was warmly welcomed by our staff & volunteer team.

All in all, none of these milestones would have been possible without your ongoing community support, so thank you. We look forward to working with you through 2024/25 and beyond.



Cornish Cough | © Peter Hall



CAST walled garden | © Lydia Allt



Clean Ocean Sailing | © Lydia Allt

# Penrose bookshop & Stables Cafe



Indoor seating at Penrose | © Lydia Allt

A second-hand book shop (more of a book nook) is now open at Penrose and is located inside the recently refurbished indoor seating area at the café.

The four bespoke bookcases, engineered by volunteers (Colin, Guy and John), are made from Monterey Pine from Penrose woodlands, felled for tree safety purposes and fitting in perfectly with Penrose's spirit of place.

The new seating area is a huge hit with visitors and the second-hand bookshop is popular too. Funds raised from the bookshop will go towards the ongoing care of the Walled Garden, for both nature and people to enjoy.

# Coast path improvements



Chyvarloe | © Lydia Allt

Over the last year Lizard & Penrose have been working with local groups such as Disability Cornwall, Rolling Ramblers and Access Cornwall to better understand people's access needs and what changes we can make to improve the inclusivity at the places in the National Trust's care.

In recent months over at Kynance the coast path has been upgraded to make it more accessible from Kynance carpark to Holstrow. Over at Penrose a surfaced track has been completed, connecting Penrose Hill Car park through Higher Penrose and around to Porthleven.

At Poldhu we have secured planning for an upgraded boardwalk to improve access from the carpark to the beach, due for completion this coming winter.



# Species recovery programme

Despite its wonderful landscape and rich biodiversity, the Lizard is no more immune than anywhere else to the pressures that climate warming and habitat change present. As a result, many rare species are struggling.

In late 2023, significant capital funding from the Natural England's Species Recovery Programme (SRP) was announced for two related major conservation projects on The Lizard National Nature Reserve.

The two projects – The Lizard Rarities Project and Back to the Future – are led by the National Trust and Natural England teams on The Lizard respectively. In practice, they will be managed through active collaboration between the different conservation partners. This means the National Trust can make the best use of local resources and knowledge to help rare species thrive.

Specific plans include:

- Actions targeted at 15 of The Lizard's rarest and most threatened species, including plants, lichens, liverworts and the Grayling butterfly. The habitat management and creation planned for these 15 species will also support a wider range of other species that live alongside them.
- Targeted management of small-scale habitats (micro-habitats), which are vital to a range of rare plants and animals, such as the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and Pigmy Rush, among others.
- Exploring different land management techniques at the wider landscape scale, including the restoration of trackways and seasonal ponds and the burning and grazing of heathland.

Click below to view project updates:

[Species Recovery Programme – Natural Lizard](#)



Heathland on The Lizard, at Kynance Gate Bronze Age village | © Natural Trust Images



Mullion Cove | © Natural Trust Images, John Miller

# Mullion Cove & Harbour works

Mullion Cove takes on the full force of the Atlantic and the ageing harbour structures have been seeing increased pressure from the impact of climate change, rising sea levels and more extreme weather events.

We have a working partnership with Mullion Cove Harbour Group to ensure that day-to-day harbour operations run well. We are also working together to explore options for how best to respond to the quickening pace of climate-related change we are seeing around our coast, which will mean adapting the harbour structures over time.

A long-term strategy and management plan for Mullion Harbour was drawn together with the local community after a comprehensive Harbour Study was completed in 2006. It was agreed that the Trust would continue to maintain and repair the harbour for the time being while accepting that, over the course of time, various 'thresholds' would be met when like-for-like repairs were no longer viable.

At these junctures, the focus would need to move

towards adapting affected parts of the harbour structure(s) to improve resilience in the face of increasing environmental pressures. You can read more about the Trust's plans for Adaptation here, in the [Climate Adaptation Report](#).

## Ongoing harbour repairs

Throughout 2023 we spent over £25K on repairs to the western breakwater and working with the local harbour group we delivered six pointing sessions, where we undertook small but vital repairs to help keep the harbour stronger for longer.

So far this year, together with the harbour group, we've held four volunteer pointing sessions and lined up the repair schedule for the rest of the year. Later this year, we will hold more pointing sessions and contractors will make repairs to the western breakwater and do a medium scale repair on the middle of the southern breakwater; these were largely areas of damage endured during the 2023/24 storm season.

The tip of the southern breakwater will not be repaired on a like-for-like basis as, despite efforts to

repair the increasing damage caused by rising sea levels and storms, the persistent decline of this section of the harbour means this is no longer viable. Together with the local community and our partners we need to refocus efforts on exploring how to adapt the southern breakwater to best respond to the quickening pace of change we are seeing around our coast.

## Get Involved

Please keep an eye on [our website](#) for news of our 'autumn update' event, which we are co-hosting with Mullion Cove Harbour Group. We plan to hold this event at a venue in Mullion village after the school holidays.

On [our website](#), you'll also find out more about upcoming 'lime pointing sessions' (dates released in autumn): If you fancy lending a hand, we are looking for willing volunteers to help us carry out small but vital harbour repairs, no previous experience required, full training provided.

# Lower Nansloe & Lizard: Planting trees in response to the nature and climate crisis

The first stint of tree planting at Lower Nansloe, part of the Penrose estate next to Helston, wrapped up in the spring.

Half of the site has now been planted with native trees. Over 4,000 are now in the ground: oaks and cherries; wild pears and crab apples; hazels, hawthorns and elders; rowans, holly and birch; field maples, willows and limes. Over the course of 23 sessions, on weekdays and weekends from mid-November through until early February, more than 400 different individuals, including over 200 children, all planted at least one tree.

A big thank you is due to the Penrose Woodland Volunteers and Penrose Ranger Volunteers who were the backbone and driving force of planting efforts last season, not only planting plenty themselves but also providing the required support to enable hundreds of others to get involved too. Thank you!

Planting will resume next autumn when we'll plant the second half of the trees, a further 4000+ to create over six hectares of brand-new broadleaf woodland.

This scheme will cost over £60,000 to deliver and has been fully funded by the England Woodland Creation Offer provided by the Forestry Commission. This new woodland plays a large part in the ambition to increase the woodland cover at Penrose by 10%.

Keep an eye on [our website](#) if you'd like to get involved in this year's tree planting; we'll be sharing more information on our website from autumn 2024.

Overlooking Fal Bay, near to Manaccan, 1,000 native trees were planted last winter to expand existing woodland, supported by funding from Forest for Cornwall and made possible by lots of volunteer involvement.

## Plant a Tree Appeal

The National Trust's [Plant a Tree fund](#) was established in 2020 and is an opportunity for members and supporters to help reach their target to plant 20 million trees, nationally, by 2030.

The suggested donation is £5, which is the average amount it costs to plant and establish one new sapling; many National Trust supporters give even more generously to help create new habitats for wildlife, help nature flourish and lock up carbon. We are sincerely grateful for this continued support.

There are many examples of where this funding has made a difference. In this tree planting season for example at Kingston Lacy in Dorset, a new 650 square metre woodland copse has been created - introducing new corridors and varied habitats for local wildlife. A wide variety of trees have been planted in the space - including oak, hazel, hawthorn, birch, holly and wild cherry.



Tree planting at Gilly Wartha | © Lydia Allt



# Friends of Poldhu beach clean

The Friends of Poldhu meet on the first Friday of every month next to the café, for a beach clean at Poldhu. It is open to everyone, no need to book, just turn up.

Meet at 9am April to September, 10am October to March. Please email [friendsofpoldhu@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpoldhu@gmail.com) to join their mailing list.

On occasion, if the weather is unfavourable, the date or time may be changed. This is communicated via an email mailing list. Please note that it is a council car park so parking charges apply.



Poldhu Cove | © National Trust Images, Hilary Daniel



Penrose woodlands | © National Trust Images, Chris Lacey

# Social walks at Penrose and across the Lizard

This year volunteer walk leaders have been leading social walks to bring people together in the great outdoors. These walks are for everyone and are an opportunity to spend time in nature, meet new people and learn a bit more about these unique places.

Everyone is welcome, all abilities and experience. The walk leader will facilitate the walk, helping to ensure everybody feels comfortable.

To find out more or to book:

Penrose walks  
[Events at Penrose \(nationaltrust.org.uk\)](https://nationaltrust.org.uk)

Lizard walks  
[Lizard Point walks | National Trust](#)

Mullion walks  
[Teneriffe Farm Campsite walks | National Trust](#)

# Meadow Creation

We are working to create 250 hectares of new species-rich grassland at National Trust sites across Cornwall. The project, due to be completed by 2026, will help us rise to the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.

## Why are wildflower grassland areas important?

UK grassland has more associated priority species than any other habitat type and can support over 700 species of wild plants and 1,400 species of insects.

Unfortunately, 97% of species-rich grassland has been lost in the UK since the 1930s, with the remaining 3% mostly fragmented across the country, leaving little room for wildlife to spread.

At its best, an expertly managed and well-established grassland will create healthy soils that are far more resilient to drought and floods. They can also help us in our fight against climate change, acting as important carbon stores, often more quickly than woodlands.

The seed has been collected from healthy, already species-rich 'donor' meadows across the county, thanks to collaboration with Natural England, Cornwall Council, Meadow Match, private landowners and the National Wildflower Centre. Over the three years we will harvest, dry, store and sow around 5 tonnes of seed. If we had to buy this seed in, it would cost anywhere from £350,000 to £1 million.

All this work contributes to the National Trust's aim to create 25,000 hectares of priority habitat on the land in our care by 2025.

## Working in partnership

The Cornish coastal meadows project is working in partnership with Cornwall Council, Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts, Buglife, Natural England, Meadow Match and the Eden Project.

The project has been made possible by a supporter's generous legacy gift, a generous grant from Delia's Fund and other donations to the National Trust.

Read more about this here: [Cornish Coastal Meadows Project | National Trust](#)

Ranger hand sowing wild flower seeds  
©National Trust  
Images/John Miller





# Gunwalloe Project

The Gunwalloe Project began in 2018 and since then we've been working to make improvements for nature, people and climate.

The project has many strands which will develop over the course of many years as we take a phased approach to the changes we want to implement.

Our broad aims are to:

- Plan all future work within the context and knowledge of climate and coastal change
- Manage the area to support nature recovery, mitigate climate change and provide inclusive public access and enjoyment
- Conserve and where possible, re-purpose the traditional farm buildings to positive end uses

Since 2018, the project has made some good progress. This includes, the renovation and conversion of the farmhouse to a holiday cottage, income from which directly supports our conservation work. Removal of the redundant, end of life farm buildings and infrastructure to enhance the landscape and views, and managing the land to reduce soil nutrients, and to manage hedgerows, grass margins and winter arable crops to benefit wildlife.

We have set out an ambitious vision for how the site can change to benefit nature, people and climate by 2050, and the steps we need to achieve it.

A significant part of this involves a re-focus in land management from food production towards more varied aims; restoring habitats at scale, carbon capture and climate resilience, public access and enjoyment and protection of soils and water.

Building on the land management changes already underway, during 2024 and 2025 we are creating and planting up broader



Gunwalloe | © Mike Hardy

woodland corridors and re-planting a historic Orchard. We're also creating a new circular footpath route on the coastal side of the land this Summer, with over 650 metres of new hedgerow to be planted alongside it.

Work has also started this year to begin to create species rich grasslands across the whole site, and we'll also be establishing 20 'Tree crates' in more sheltered areas as new habitats for wildlife. By 2030 cattle will be re-introduced to support the management of the land.

**For more information and to keep up to date the project's progress visit:**  
<https://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cornwall/gunwalloe>

# Waymarkers



Penrose waymarkers | © Calum McIntosh

We are in the process of installing the final batch of new waymarking posts and fingerposts at various sites in and around Penrose; this project will help link together all the public rights of way across Penrose, around Loe Pool.

When complete, we'll have installed a total of 58 new signs, from Helston to Porthleven to Gunwalloe as well as half a dozen across at Porkellis.

As part of our "Everyone Welcome" ambitions we realise that not everybody enjoys the countryside with an OS map and compass, these new waymarkers make it easier for everyone to explore Penrose.

All the posts are constructed using oak from Devon and Cornwall and have been expertly put together by WildWork in Dartmoor. Our contractors Cornish Countryside Services have been installing them over the last few weeks.

Back in November, the first 16 were installed along the coast path with the support of the South West Coast Path Association.

Follow news and updates here:  
[Penrose National Trust | Helston | Facebook](#)

# Duke of Edinburgh

From September 2024, at Lizard & Penrose National Trust we will be offering a limited number of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh places.

Students will have the opportunity to work across a few different National Trust sites, with different staff members, carrying out a variety of tasks.

This will include working in the Walled Garden at Penrose, at Mullion Harbour, Poltesco and Nansloe (near Penrose, Helston). We hope to recruit a team of four to six students who will meet on Saturday mornings to carry out various tasks.

If you would like to know more, please contact Lydia Allt: [Lydia.allt@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Lydia.allt@nationaltrust.org.uk)



©National Trust Images/Trevor Ray Hart

# Lizard Wireless Station 150<sup>th</sup> birthday event



Wireless station | © National Trust Images | David Sellma

Thursday 25 April 2024 marked the 150th birthday of Guglielmo Marconi, the famed “Father of Radio” who received the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work in wireless communication.

In 1901 the Italian inventor undertook ground-breaking wireless experiments on The Lizard. With determination and vision, he developed technology on these remote Cornish clifftops that paved the way for today’s instant worldwide communication. His 150th birthday was celebrated at the Lizard Wireless Station in April.

On 25th April at Lizard Wireless Station, the Cornish Amateur Radio Club were on air, making connections with other stations in Italy and beyond, with the on-air element of the celebrations continuing until July of this year.

On 27th April a celebratory event was held at the Wireless Station where the amateur radio team, led by volunteer Geoff Bate, spent the morning connecting with other radio enthusiasts around the world with an on-air celebration using call sign GB 4LD. Golf Bravo 4 Lizard - LD being the original callsign when the station first opened.

This was followed by an afternoon birthday party, with demonstrations, kids’ activities, and of course tea and cake. On the shortwave bands, the station had 240 contacts with amateurs in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Perth) plus a contact in New Zealand, with the rest of the contacts all around Europe.

On satellite, volunteer Tim had 75 contacts, mainly around Europe and a couple in Asiatic Russia: Given that the radio conditions were being severely affected by solar wind storms hitting the onosphere and causing radio fading and blackouts at times (as well as aurora fading), the team did extremely well.

Despite a wet weather system passing a few miles north throughout the event, the wireless station remained sunny and dry. Lovely visitors came to the station, some who had never been before and had made a special trip. Other visitors happened to be walking the south west coast path and thought their luck had all come at once when they stumbled over an event serving tea and cake!



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