

## 2009 News pages

Liz and Lyn met Santa when we had a stall for the Friends at Nomansland Christmas Fayre last weekend. Someone will be getting a copy of Pete's video for Christmas! Thanks for your help Liz :-)

Posted 10/12/09.



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In case you missed it, here is the link to last night's Inside Out South West programme on BBC1 South West on BBCiplayer. Be quick though, it'll only be there for 7 days! Posted 01/12/09. Sorry, link removed 09/12/09 as no longer available.

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We've just heard that the film is due to be shown on BBC South West at 7.30pm on Monday 30 November! Posted 18/11/09

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The TV presenter we were interviewed by and filmed with for **the BBC's Inside Out South West** programme last week was none other than wildlife presenter, from the BBC's One Show, **Mike Dilger!** A keen birder, [Mike](#) is very knowledgeable about birds, wildlife and ancient woodland and put us all very much at our ease. This photo shows Mike (left), with Lyn and Pete, during a break in filming at Watergate. Derek was also interviewed about the woodland birds. We don't yet know when the film will be shown, it's likely to be later this year or in January. We will try to let you know as soon as we know. Posted 18/11/09.



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**The Film night** last night went really well, fantastic attendance especially considering the awful weather!. Pete's film was very well received and The Age of Stupid was so powerful - if you missed it and want to

know more go to [Pete's website](#) or the [Age of Stupid website](#). **The Wildlife Trust Cornwall AGM** today was very good too, very interesting speakers on a marine theme. Posted 14/11/09.

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On Wednesday we were pleased to welcome a small team from the **BBC's Inside Out South West** programme filming in the woods. It was fascinating to watch the process and to meet such really nice people. The cameraman filming from the middle of a holly bush showed real dedication to getting the right shot! Thanks to Jan for supplying the bacon butties, tea and cakes! Posted 14/11/09

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Local ecologist Paddy Saunders gave a talk on **Woodland Butterflies and Cornish Woodland** at the St John Ambulance Hut. The illustrated talk was well received by the appreciative audience! Posted 18/11/09

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Our secretary, **Christine Spooner**, has won the **Award for Environmental Volunteer at the Volunteer Cornwall Awards 2009**, held today at Truro College. Christine was nominated for her tireless work with the Friends, Looe Marine Conservation Area, The Wildlife Trust (especially monitoring wildlife on Looe Island) and the Friends of the Wooldown. She's reluctant in the limelight as she's always keen to emphasize and support the work of others. The photo shows Christine and her husband, Derek, after the ceremony, with the award sponsored by Cornwall Council's Environmental Services and presented by Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. *Very, very many congratulations Christine!* Posted 29/10/09.



I'm very pleased to report that one of our tireless volunteers has been short listed for the **Environmental Volunteer** category of the Volunteer Cornwall Awards 2009 for the work she does for the Friends, Looe Marine Conservation Area, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and The Friends of the Wooldown! Congratulations - it is **very** well deserved! Posted 18/10/09.

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More **nest boxes** than ever have been used this year - even the owl box has been used - but by jackdaws! Happy birthday to Liz & Jan - cava and cake in the car park - can't be bad! Posted 15/10/09



Yesterday's **Wander for Wellbeing** went well. The sun shone, the kingfishers displayed for us both at the Millpool and at Watergate and, despite so many people out walking the peace was very therapeutic. The ideal antidote to the stresses and strains of our busy lives. Posted 11/10/09



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A few of us enjoyed a **badger watch**, with infra red equipment, last Sunday and were privileged to see seven (possibly eight) badgers eating, playing and grooming. Full details in the next newsletter. Posted 07/10/09

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Sadly we had to cancel the Open Day today due to circumstances beyond our control. It was a real shame, but did give us the chance to take a quiet walk in the woods and enjoy watching a pair of kingfishers dart, hover and fish near Watergate. We also saw a pair of jays on the way back - not an everyday sight! Posted 20/09/09.

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The **Litter Pic** went very well today. Many thanks to all of you who helped! Less bags of rubbish collected, but old boatyard site still not good. Posted 13/09/09.

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We are very sad to report that **Albert Stevens**, who loved Kilminorth Woods and the wildlife in and around Looe, passed away last week. Albert often shared his wildlife and walking observations with readers of the Cornish Times through the letters pages. Our thoughts are with his son and family. God bless you Albert. Posted 04/09/09.

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Thanks to everyone who helped and supported us at **Morval Rally** this weekend. We had a really good weekend, despite the awful weather on Sunday! Posted 31/08/09

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The **Bat Evening** went very well - the talk was great - thanks Jane, and the walk with the bat detectors revealed no less than four (yes, four!) different species of bat make their home in Kilminorth Woods. They are: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctules and daubenton bats. With the natters bats seen in 2007 - we now know we have at least five different species of bat living in Kilminorth Woods.

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**Committee meeting** last night. More events planned for early 2010, see [events page](#) for details. Film night details finalised. Watched fantastic (if a bit gruesome!) film footage of a dragonfly eating a wasp!! Posted 22/08/09

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**Mud!** event went well too - loads of children and young at heart attended and enjoyed rummaging around in the mud! A full report of the event, with sightings, will be in the next newsletter in the Autumn. We're also busy now preparing for our stall at **Morval Rally** at Nomansland. All being well, we'll be there Sunday and Monday. See the [2009 Rally website](#) for more details of the bank holiday weekend event. Posted 16/08/09.

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The **August Woods Watch Walk** went well. Lovely weather, good turn out, quiet walk. Saw a humming bird moth, gatekeepers, a silver-washed fritillary, buzzards, a kestrel and, from the vantage point of the bank, watched a cormorant swimming under the water. Some shrub clearance was carried out and when some of us went back to Watergate to treat and re-paint the sign and tidy up the area around the bird watching seat, saw the kingfishers that had been elusive during the walk! Posted 09/08/09

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The trip to **Looe Island** went well, the weather just about held off and **the butterfly walk at Seaton** was superb! Too many different moths, butterflies and damselflies to mention, but right at the end saw the silver-washed fritillary and a humming bird moth! Also had confirmation that the scarce merveille du jour

moth (and, unlike the common blue butterfly which isn't common any more, this one *is* very rare!) is still in Kilminorth Woods - seen twice this year by members of the Caradon Field and Natural History Club! Fantastic! Go to the [picture gallery](#) to see what it looks like! Full report in the next newsletter. Posted 18/07/09



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The summer edition of **the members newsletter** is now out with fantastic features on the badgers amongst other things. Members should have their copies by now, if you haven't please contact [the secretary](#). If you want to join and get your own copy please contact [the chairman](#). Posted 17/07/09.

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We have started work on designing some **new interpretation panels** for Kilminorth Woods. We are hoping to install some simple information posts in keeping with the area, similar to those at Golitha Falls, to tell people about the woods, it's wildlife and special features. If you have any thoughts on what you'd like to see on the panels please contact [the chairman](#).

Thanks to the Spar shops in Looe for their support by donating the proceeds from sales of carrier bags to help us fund this project. Posted 11/07/09.

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**The Fern Walk** at Cotehele on Sat 11 June, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. Our secretary, Christine, has completed a course in fern identification. So with that expertise now 'in house' we now have an added source of information about the special nature of Kilminorth Woods! Posted 11/07/09.



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Residents and visitors enjoyed the **Woods of the West Looe Valley** in Kilminorth Woods and Trenant. The all day walk was led by Derek Spooner and David Winter. Posted 11/07/09.

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**The Badger Vigil** last night was fantastic! This is the third year this event has been held for members and it just keeps getting better! Within 10 minutes of settling down on logs to sit very still and quiet, two young badger cubs came out to feed. They were soon followed by two more and during the course of the hour or so we sat there we were treated to the sight of many more, including yearlings, a female and the dominant boar. It was hard to work out exactly how many we saw, because they used two sett entrances, that were probably linked. At least seven were evident. It seemed as though the adults were aware of us and kept a wary eye on us too. But for them to allow us to watch them, close enough to hear them eat, was a real honour and treat! Additionally, some lucky ones also got a glimpse of a roe deer as it wandered past - a magical evening! Thanks again to [Peter McMurdie](#) for leading this activity. Posted 17/06/09.

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**Kilminorth Kids** held a successful **Bug Hunt** in half term. Lots of bugs were found, examined and painted or drawn. Posted 12/06/09.



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**First Badger Cub 2009.** Our local wildlife filmmaker, Pete, managed to catch the first badger cub from one of the setts. Here is a still of the youngster, staying close to what may be mum, from the film - wonder how many more there will be? Posted 19/05/09. PS Four spotted to date. 12/06/09.



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**Subscriptions for 2009/10** are now due. Reminders have been sent, so if we don't have yours yet, please send to Liz, Christine or any other committee member asap so we can carry on the good work! Many thanks. Posted 16/05/09.

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**The Bluebell Picnic** went well - lovely walk through the (native) bluebells and the sun came out again as we sat down to eat. Our adopted bear from the Teddy Bears picnic was found in the woods, came with us, was nicknamed 'Necessity' and taken to the nearest path to see where his next adventure takes him! Posted 10/05/09.

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**Conservation Service** at St Martin's on Sunday 3 May. We were there too! Posted 04/05/09.

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**Dawn Chorus** - 33 different species of birds seen or heard on the Dawn Chorus Walk on Sat 2 May. Also met a badger walking down the bridleway towards us and saw a young roe deer at Watergate! Posted 04/05/09.

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**The Teddy Bears Picnic** was attended by 11 teddy bears including one very ancient bear and one adopted bear for the day, found loitering by the gate!

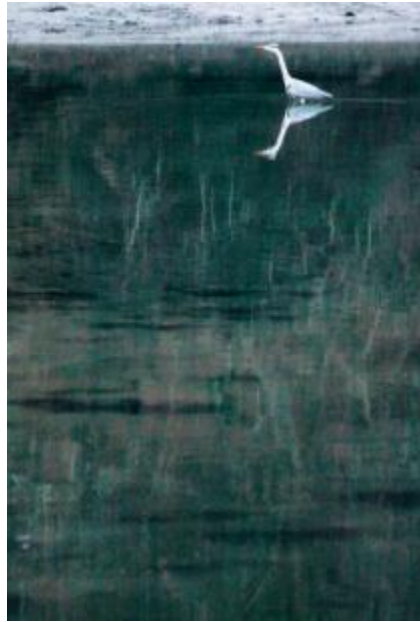


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**Winners of our 2009 Photography Competition.**

***Adult Section:***

1st - Matt Nott



2nd - Jean Tennant



Highly Commended: David Winter, Bill Mammatt and Christine Spooner.

**U18 section** in memory of Kathy Jones

1st - Leia

Highly Commended: Celine , Abigail and Elysia



**The People's Choice** - winner of the Derek Dove Trophy for the most popular photo, as voted for by those attending the exhibition. :

1st - Bill Mammatt



2nd - David Winter



The late Derek Dove was the first winner of The People Choice in 2006 and Kathy Jones was a trustee and founder member of the 'Friends' who was a very active supporter who loved the woods, especially

with her grandchildren. Kathy passed away earlier this month. Unfortunately, the photo workshops had to be moved indoors due to bad weather. Many thanks to the ToCH for helping us with a venue and to wildlife photographer David Chapman for his engaging presentation (as always) and for judging the competition. And, of course, thanks to everyone who entered the competition - with over 100 entries, it was no easy job to judge! Posted 23/04/09.

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**Litter Pic April 2009.** As part of Looe Litter Hitters and Clean Cornwall Week, Friends of Kilminorth Woods cleaned the main paths, the old boatyard site and cleared larger items from further in the woods. Despite the larger items, less rubbish was collected than in the past - which is good news, as was reported in the [Plymouth Herald](#) and in the Cornish Times.

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**Spar shops in Looe support Friends of Kilminorth Woods.** Thanks to the generosity of proprietor Pauline Tamlin, the Spar shops in Looe now charge 5p for each carrier bag and are donating the proceeds to the Friends of Kilminorth Woods. To date the number of bags used has reduced from around 4,000 each week to around 850! Funds raised are going to be put towards a project to provide information boards to tell people more about the heritage of the woods. If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact [the chairman](#).