

## Kilminorth News 2011

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Congratulations to the winners of our **photo competition**: Bill Mammatt for his beautiful picture of a heron and Paul Lightfoot for his amazing swallow, both below. Congratulations to Amelia and Celine for winning the junior sections. Thanks to photographer David Chapman, from the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, for judging and the interesting presentation .Posted 18.11.11



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September 30th; a very well-attended **quiz night** in St Martin's Church Hall, ably organised by Liz W. and Sue C. Many thanks to our excellent quizmaster, Roger, and congrats to the winning team - Nick and Mags Pope and Les and Eileen Richmond. Posted 24.10.11

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October 15th: our stand at the **Looe Societies' Fair** attracted plenty of interest, not least the excellent video loop provided by Peter McMurdie. Welcome to nine new members who joined on the day! Posted 24.10.11

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October 16th: Pete McMurdie led this year's **check of our nest boxes**, and once again we found evidence of use in many boxes, especially by blue tits. But no signs of dormice this year. Both the owl box and the woodpecker box had been home to mystery guests, which we later concluded were probably grey squirrels. Posted 24.10.11

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Well-supported **litter-pic** on Sunday - thanks, guys - and, apart from one or two black spots, not a huge amount of litter. And thanks too to Jenny the Ranger for putting the big KW sign back up at the old boatyard site, ably assisted by two of our big blokes with shovels. Posted 13.09.11

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Lovely **bat meeting** last Wednesday night with a full house: kids and adults enjoyed our encounter with Norman the Noctule, 4 baby 'pips' and a brown long-eared, all in the expert care of Chris and Sue Harlow, to whom many thanks. Sadly the heavy rain afterwards deterred the bats of Looe from showing themselves in Kilminorth Woods, but we know they're there!. Posted 26.08.11

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Highly enjoyable **'Looe Life at Low Tide'** on Wednesday - thanks to Abby, Nick and Amelia for their expertise and enthusiasm and for giving us all the chance to get muddy - it wasn't just the kids who enjoyed it! Posted 20.08.11

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A BBC Natural World programme, that 'friend' Peter McMurdie worked on for Charlie Hamilton James, is being broadcast this coming week. **'Heligan - Secrets of the Lost Gardens'** will be shown on BBC2 on Wednesday 17th August at 8.00pm. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes). Posted 14.08.11.

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Despite the showers today, we went ahead with the **Family Trails Walk** and managed to find wildlife, including gatekeeper, holly blue and speckled wood butterflies, when the sun eventually came out!. Those attending created some lovely artwork! Posted 14.08.11



observational drawing of a cricket and creating artwork



artistic ladybirds and butterfly



the cricket



birding from the car park

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**Friends of Kilminorth Woods attended the Friends of Churchtown Farm's Discovery Day** at the beautiful Saltash Nature Reserve; enjoyed meeting friends old and new despite the morning drizzle, and loved the falconry display. Lanner falcons really rock! Posted 14.08.11

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**Marathon planning session** last weekend to decide on events for 2010 - watch the events page for details once finalised. There are perks to being an organiser on the committee - bring & share lunch was heavenly! Posted 14.08.11.

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**Recent sightings** in or from Kiliminorth Woods include: common sandpipers (mitgrating back - where is this year going?), kingfisher family, foxes, buzzards, green woodpeckers, jays, whimbrel and too many different moths and butterflies to mention! Posted 06.08.11

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Had a lovely **night out** last evening to mark Al Collins retirement from Cornwall Council. Al's advice and knowledge, and his role as our point of contact with the council, have been invaluable over the past few years. Thankfully, we won't lose his extensive experience as he is going to join the Friends now! Posted 06.08.11.

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Took a risk and held a **Big Butterfly Count** at the Old Boatyard site today between showers and saw: Large, small and green veined whites, silver washed fritilleries, red admirals, a small copper, ringlets and meadow browns! Really pleased - we didn't think anyone would turn up, given the weather, but seven of us were mad enough! Posted 16.07.11



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A lovely walk at **Seaton Countryside Park** yesterday with local 'amateur' experts, finding butterflies and moths. Despite the seemingly unpromising weather, once in the shelter of the valley, we found ringlets, burnets, whites, crickets, damselflies, dragonflies and many more species, including a young toad! It was good to see the areas cleared for butterflies having a positive impact. Many thanks to John and Leon for sharing their passion and knowledge. Posted 10.07.10.

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Friend Paul Lightfoot has had his book '**Exploring the Fowey Valley**' published in the Pocket Cornwall series by Alison Hodge. An informative introduction to this delightful and distinctive landscape, with a genuine feel for the spirit of the place and at a reasonable price of £5, it is a lovely addition to any collection of local information books. Posted 10.07.11

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The summer issue of our quarterly newsletter, **Leaf-Letter**, is now out. If you haven't received your copy yet, please contact Chrisitne. Posted 03.07.11

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We have added two downloadable **self guided trails** to our [About the Woods](#) page to help visitors explore Kilminorth Woods. Feel free to print these off and use them to enjoy your walk in the woods! Posted 20.06.11

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Issues affecting the future of woods and forests in UK haven't gone away. **Have your say to the Independent Panel on Forestry**, set up to hear your views on forests and woods in England. [Click on this link](#) to make sure *YOUR* views are heard. Posted 12.06.11

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Very exciting news - **confirmed evidence of dormice has been found in Kilminorth Woods!** During a routine check of the dormouse monitoring tubes yesterday, a dormouse was photographed by Christine. See [Picture Gallery](#) to see a pic. This is exciting because it proves that dormice do live in Kilminorth and is additional evidence of why the site is a very special place for wildlife that needs to be protected. Please note that because of the decline in population in UK and Europe, dormice are very strictly protected by law, it is an offence to disturb them and they can only be handled by someone with a licence from Natural England. We will be continuing to work with the University of Exeter to monitor and protect this important species. **Another new find in Kilminorth this week is the forest shield bug nymph**- not rare, but not common either! Such an exciting time for wildlife in Kilminorth Woods! Posted 05.06.11.

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[Green Woodpecker - Female and chick](#) from [Peter McMurdie](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Here is Pete's fantastic video footage of the female feeding one of the young.

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**Dormouse boxes** have been re-installed in Kilminorth Woods, maybe this year we'll find evidence of these elusive little creatures. In the meantime, many birds have been raising their young in Kilminorth Woods, including a pair of **breeding green woodpeckers** (also very elusive). See our [gallery page](#) for some amazing stills of the male feeding it's young from video footage taken by [Peter McMurdie](#) this week. Peter says "The mother also fed the young shortly afterwards. There are more young in the nest, and they are very vocal at feeding time." Posted 05.06.11.

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A busy weekend for Friends, those who had a stall at the **May Fayre** in Looe and attended the **Woods Watch Walk**. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't great for the former, but it was lovely for the latter as a group of twelve, plus two dogs, enjoyed ravishing displays of bluebells, and four ravens now fledged and more or less 'full-size'. Walkers checked out the signposting on the 'red route' with a view to seeking improvements too. Posted 09.05.11.

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Our 6th annual **Dawn Chorus Walk** went well this morning. The rain held off and the site was sheltered from the wind. The 5am start was worth it to record 30 species of birds seen or heard and evidence of Roe Deer. The bluebells look stunning again this year too and, as always, breakfast in West Looe afterwards was very welcome! For a full list of the birds seen and heard at the Dawn Chorus Walks over the last six years [click on the link here](#). Posted 01.05.11



Birdwatching at 7am and native bluebells.

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Lovely weather for a **litter pic** in the woods today. Despite finding wrecked camping equipment (what a waste!), less rubbish collected is a very good sign that keeping on top of it is working. Polystyrene containers thankfully on the decline. Looks like the ravens are nesting in KWs again too. Posted 10.04.11



Thanks to [Pete McMurdie](#) for his informative and entertaining **talk about wildlife filming** on Friday evening. Excellent evening! Posted 10.04.10



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Around 50 people were introduced to the joys of walking in Kilminorth Woods this morning as part of the **Walk for Health** initiative. Our very own 'Friends' Derek Spooner and David Winter led groups. The weather was superb - hottest day of the year so far! Posted 06.04.11.

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Thanks to committee member Susan Nellor for her kind donation to the Friends from the proceeds of her **Gemstone Jewellery** party in Widegates last evening. Susan makes the beautiful jewellery and attractive cards and sells them at parties or at local craft fairs. Posted 26.03.11

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Friends made the most of the recent fine weather with a **walk and talk to Watergate** and back earlier this month. Posted 26.03.11



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The Friends of Kilminorth Woods have been named as **GREEN HEROES...in the West** in the Cornish Times this week! Thanks to Kate Whittington for the nomination and The Cornish Times for the honour! Posted 05.03.11

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Thirteen members and friends enjoyed a **cruise up the Tamar and the Lynher** today with Bruce Taggart, in lovely spring-like weather - spotted at least 31 bird species, including plenty of avocets and two super spoonbills. Posted 22.02.11

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The consultation on the future management of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed, Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman confirmed today. Read the full story at [the defra website](#). Posted 17.02.11

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The **Woods Watch Walk** today was enjoyable despite being very wet and muddy underfoot. We checked the rhododendron we'd pulled and bashed last year. We'll need to take care the some roots don't take again in the leaf litter. Many more patches of this invasive species were found. We'll continue to monitor the situation closely. Also being monitored is the damaging effect of the few

individuals who still appear to be illegally riding bikes off track as well as on and across footpaths and the bridleway. This is a dangerous practice for walkers, horse riders and cyclists as well as the jumps and tracks being made that are damaging to this ancient woodland site. Posted 13.02.11.

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Nick Tomalin spoke about the **Re-introduction of the Cirl Bunting to Cornwall** after the AGM last night. Nick is a Project Officer with this fantastic project that is having amazing success, breaking new ground and collecting much new evidence about these rare little birds. More about this project can be found at the [Cornwall Birding website](#). Posted 12.02.11.



Liz and other members at the AGM Nick Tomalin talking about the re-introduction of cirl bunting to Cornwall

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Christine Spooner was elected Chair of the Friends of Kilminorth Woods at our **AGM** last night. A founder member of the Friends, and Secretary since it started in 2006, Christine has been integral to the success of the group. Katy Bowler was elected as secretary. Katy brings a wealth of experience (and humour!) with her and will be assisted by Susan Nellor. Liz Woollard was re-elected treasurer. Lyn Winter stood down as Chair and was presented with bunches of local flowers and a publication of Woodlands by Oliver Rackham in thanks for her five years as Chair. Posted 12/02/11

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**Pete and Leia featured on BBC1's Inside Out South West filming Kingfishers at Watergate.** [Click here to see it on iplayer](#) and go to 20.47 minutes to go to the start of the item. Posted 08.02.11

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The Forestry Commission website has details of their **Consultation on 'The Future of Public Forest Estate in England'**. [Go to their website for more information](#). You may also be interested in viewing the [Woodland Trust's position](#). Posted 29.01.11

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The **bird boxes** have been repaired and are all ready for the nesting season. Posted 29.01.11

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Due to a double booking at the original venue, we've had to move **our AGM**, on Fri 11 Feb, to St Martin's Church Hall. All other details remain the same ([see events page](#)). Many thanks to St Martin's for helping us out at short notice! Posted 10.01.11

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The **first organised walk of 2011** took place in glorious sunshine! Those attending enjoyed a healthy walk with exercise and relaxation. What better way to start the year? Posted 09.01.11

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Watch out for the **government consultation on the future of state owned woodland** due out soon. We'll post a link when we see one. Make sure you have YOUR say! Posted 02.01.11

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Link to [Chris Packam item](#) on **importance of ancient woodland**. We have the diversity in KW - we just need to look after it! Posted 02.01.11

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**Help us raise funds by shopping!** Use [the easy giving website](#) to access well known online shops and the Friends will get a percentage, at no extra cost to you. You can also help us by using the [easy search](#) facility for your online searches. Posted 02.01.11.