

# St Davids: Wales' First Bee Friendly City

St Davids has been announced as the first 'Bee Friendly' city in Wales.

This is the first city-wide accreditation for the Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly initiative: a scheme that encourages schools, businesses and communities to help combat the decline of insect pollinators.

Mayor of St Davids, Mike Chant, says: "I am delighted with our Bee Friendly status and proud of how the community has come together to look after our world-class landscape and wildlife. Special thanks to Dr Beynon's Bug Farm for coordinating the project."



Small Tortoiseshell butterfly on Verbena

Many local residents, businesses, Open Gardens St Davids, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and the St Davids City Council have supported the project by providing food and habitat for pollinators and reducing pesticide use.

One of the main actions of the new Bee Friendly status is the St Davids Pollinator Trail. The innovative project, pioneered by Dr Beynon's Bug Farm and supported by The Tourism Product Innovation Fund and Biodiversity Solutions, is an interactive trail linking tourism sites across the St Davids Peninsula. Each 'station' will showcase a different pollinator alongside their habitat or forage. Aimed at

## PEMBROKESHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP



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families, the educational trail plans to link art, science and conservation, inspiring visitors to get involved at home. The St Davids Pollinator Trail is due to launch in summer 2018.

The Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, Lord Elis-Thomas, said:

“It’s fantastic news that St Davids has been awarded Bee Friendly status and I’d like to congratulate everyone that’s been involved – a true community effort. I’m delighted that we’ve been able to support the Pollinator Trail and I look forward to the launch in the summer. With wildflower habitat, artwork, interactive activities and interpretation, I’m sure it will be popular with visitors and locals and will further enhance Wales’ reputation as an internationally renowned, sustainable wildlife tourism destination.”

Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, said:

“St Davids becoming the first Bee Friendly city in Wales is a great achievement. Places that are good for pollinators are good for people too. Natural green spaces and contact with wildlife is essential for our wellbeing, and the buzz of bees creates a sense of place and is the sound of our summer. Wales is leading the way in raising awareness of the importance of these pollinators and our role in protecting them.”

If you think your school, business or community could become Bee Friendly, or for more information about the Action plan for Pollinators in Wales, please visit:



Bumblebees on Sedum

[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators)

For more information about The St Davids Pollinator Trail please contact Sarah Sharpe at Dr Beynon’s Bug Farm, St Davids: [sarah.sharpe@thebugfarm.co.uk](mailto:sarah.sharpe@thebugfarm.co.uk).

**Sarah Sharpe**  
Dr Beynon’s Bug Farm



Caru Gwenyn  
Bee Friendly

## Pembrokeshire Marine Code App

The Pembrokeshire Marine Code protects the amazing marine flora and fauna of Pembrokeshire, through voluntary codes of conduct and seasonal agreed access restrictions. The codes of conduct, agreed access restrictions maps, wildlife fact-sheets and information on invasive species can now all be easily accessed at your fingertips on your IOS or Android device.

Features include:

- Codes of conduct for seals, seabirds, & cetaceans
- Information on the plants and animals you might see whilst exploring the coastline
- Best place to view some of the most popular animals
- The ability to report a wildlife sighting for wildlife records
- Information on the geology of Pembrokeshire
- Information on marine invasive species
- Agreed access restrictions maps using Google maps, satellite, and PDF imagery

Get the free app here: <http://www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk/marine-code-app/>

Jetske Germing. PCF



## Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Pathways project

*Pathways* is a project set up to help more people to get into Pembrokeshire's great outdoors, and builds upon the 'Your Park' project which ran from 2012-2016.

We know a lot of people get great benefits to their health, happiness, work opportunities and quality of life by being more active outdoors, but many aren't able to get out as much as they would like for various reasons.

Pathways sessions currently run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 4.00– there will potentially be some shorter sessions and taster events coming up too.

Pathways volunteering sessions are for individuals aged 16+ - they go out and tackle practical jobs in the outdoors across the County and National Park. These might include building or maintaining path infrastructure, or conservation tasks as well as getting to some amazing places.

### Volunteers in action!



The project helps with transport (minibus pickups from various points and travel expenses covered) and can provide equipment and clothing to make sure everyone is safe and comfortable. Participants get access to

training in practical skills (like hedge-laying or tool use) and many different interesting things related to the outdoors (like habitat exploration or outdoor photography). There are also special trips and other activity days.

To get involved contact *Pathways* Volunteer Officer Tom Iggleden on

[tomi@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](mailto:tomi@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk) or call 01646 624856

**Tom Moses**  
PCNPA



## Great British Wildflower Hunt 2018

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/>

For centuries, children have made daisy chains, held buttercups under their chin and told the time with dandelion clocks but for many, these simple pleasures are no longer part of their lives. Even the word 'buttercup' isn't included in the current *Oxford Junior Dictionary* reflecting that common wild flowers are simply not part of the language of today's child. Yet research by Plantlife shows that 70% of the public want to know more about wild flowers...

Taking part in the Great British Wildflower Hunt is a great way to enjoy flowers, whether you're familiar with them or not. And by letting Plantlife know what you've found, you'll help our work to make sure that there are more flowers and that people can enjoy them.





Flowers are beautiful and intriguing. Why not get down on your hands and knees and up close and personal with a flower? Look and enjoy. And find out a bit more.

### How to take part

Simply go outside, somewhere you think there might be wild flowers and hunt! Records are welcome from anywhere. We've split the Wildflower Hunt into three sections:

- Towns and cities (parks, footpaths, school grounds, churchyards and so on)
- Countryside walks
- Down to the woods

Pick which you prefer but only choose your garden if you have a wild area.

Take a walk with your family, with friends or on your own if you want a little peace and quiet. You can walk for just a few minutes or cover a bigger area. See what you can spot.

Remember that your count is useful even if you do not see any flowers. We want to know what's there – and what's missing. That will help us campaign for more flowers and help you find more in the future.



## Who is running the Wildflower Hunt?

Plantlife is running the Wildflower Hunt. We're a charity dedicated to protecting the UK's native plants and helping more people enjoy them.

Wild flowers are vital to our planet. So much nature depends on them – bees, butterflies and us. Flowers are just not as common as they were a few decades ago. By taking part in the Hunt, you'll give us more information about where flowers can be found. This will help us to campaign for more wild flowers and help us give more information to people wanting to find more flowers. You'll help us make the country a prettier place to live and better for wildlife.

Wild flowers, plants and fungi are the life support for all our wildlife and their colour and character light up our landscapes. But without our help, this priceless natural heritage is in danger of being lost. From the open spaces of our nature reserves to the corridors of government, we work nationally and internationally to raise their profile, celebrate their beauty, and to protect their future.

**Michael Krause**

Plantlife



## Wildlife Sightings Event: save the date

This year's event will take place on Friday 26 October, at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven - featuring great speakers highlighting the fantastic Pembrokeshire Wildlife.

Line up and Photo Competition to be announced soon!



## NRW Begin Flood Defence Project in Solva

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have begun a two-year project in Solva, Pembrokeshire that will aim to reduce flood risk for the local community.

The project, working with many local partners including Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council, the National Trust and local landowners, will focus on using natural flood risk management techniques along with traditional methods to 'Slow the Flow' and manage flood risk.



Leaky Dams

The first phase of this work involved the installation of 11 leaky dams on a tributary near St Davids airfield on land managed by the National Trust and Pembrokeshire County Council.

Leaky dams allow normal flows to pass underneath them. In flood conditions they help to hold back the flows and increase local infiltration rates.

Over the next two years NRW plan to install leaky dams at other suitable locations as well as other ways of working with natural processes along the local water courses. This will improve the level of flood protection given by Pont y Cerbyd Flood Storage Area to the communities of Middle Mill and Solva.

Lowering the potential for flooding in at risk communities is one of our biggest goals which is why we monitor river levels 24 hours a day and work to install further defences where we can.



Leaky Dams

The work we've started in the Solva catchment is an example of green engineering, where a solution to a problem not only has minimal environmental impact but can also bring improvements to water quality, biodiversity and habitat creation.

By working with natural processes we are helping to sustainably manage the natural resources of Wales"

We're very excited to be starting this project and we look forward to working with our partners again and with local land owners and communities in the future.

Cllr Cris Tomos, Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Welsh Language, said:

"We are very pleased to support the NRW in this exciting project and are hopeful that it will result in a much improved flood defence system for Middlemill and Solva while continuing to protect the natural habitat.

"The project is an excellent example of joint working across various organisations, with several officers providing assistance from different teams within the County Council, as well as support and advice from the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership."

**Mair Rees**  
NRW



# Sea Trust and “The Year of the Sea”

Since 2003, every year has been the year of the sea for Sea Trust!

Our Ocean Lab Base situated in Goodwick, overlooking Fishguard Harbour is open throughout the year, seven days a week. With its Sea Môr Exhibition, visitors and locals can see some of the amazing marine wildlife we have right on our doorstep. Our catch and release aquarium currently features all sorts of local fish, crustaceans, and interesting sea life including an octopus and jellyfish. We also offer visitors a variety of activities including day courses, Sea Shore safaris, and the opportunity to take part in our dolphin and porpoise surveys.

The exhibition aims to educate, inspire and entertain, with our enthusiastic staff and volunteers showing people around in a guided tour and explaining about the different animals, their habits and environment and what we can do to protect our seas. We also take school groups and can tailor these days for the particular age ranges or language preferences, Welsh or English.



We are a community interest company and we recruit and train local people as volunteers to take part in a variety of roles. These include; photographing Porpoise fins as part of our “Peoples Porpoise Project” from land-based locations such as Strumble Head and Ramsey

Volunteer survey



Sound. There are also our long-term Irish Sea cetacean surveys aboard the “Stena Europe” on her route between Fishguard and Rosslare as well as the Holyhead to Dublin route aboard the “Stena Superfast.” With our small boat surveys aboard the Cartlett Lady, people can share the cost of the boat with us allowing us to survey way out into the Celtic Sea, The Smalls and the other Pembrokeshire Islands in search of Whales, super-pods of Common Dolphins, Leatherback Turtles, Sharks and giant Bluefin Tuna, all of which were encountered on trips last year.

For more details of what you can do with us, including our accredited Wildlife Observer Training courses with Pembrokeshire College, or volunteer and internship opportunities, see our website <https://seatrust.org.uk> or telephone (01348 874737) between 10 am and 4.30pm

**Cliff Benson**  
Sea Trust



# Naturally Connected Project

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority were successful in securing £12,300 from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund to support a pilot project specifically aimed at tourism businesses which own land in the National Park. The aim of the initiative is to encourage tourism business to adopt land management practices that provide suitable habitats for wildlife and also to promote local 'wildlife aware' visitor activities and experiences that will bring benefits to both the environment and also the business.

Seven businesses took part in the project, including Manorbier Youth Hostel, Brandy Brook Camping Site, Penrhwi Hotel, Tyriet Farm (Bluestone Brewery), Llwyngwair Manor, May Cottage and Picton Castle.

Each participating business received an ecological survey of their land along with an ecological report and recommendations for enhancement of their land and buildings for wildlife. The final report also included information on wildlife sites and experiences within the immediate locality of the business. This formed an ideal information pack which we encouraged businesses to share directly with their visitors.



Installing an otter holt

Martin at Manorbier Youth Hostel said "The report helped to us to realise that we could promote interesting wildlife right on our doorstep as well as the big ticket items such as islands and boat trips".

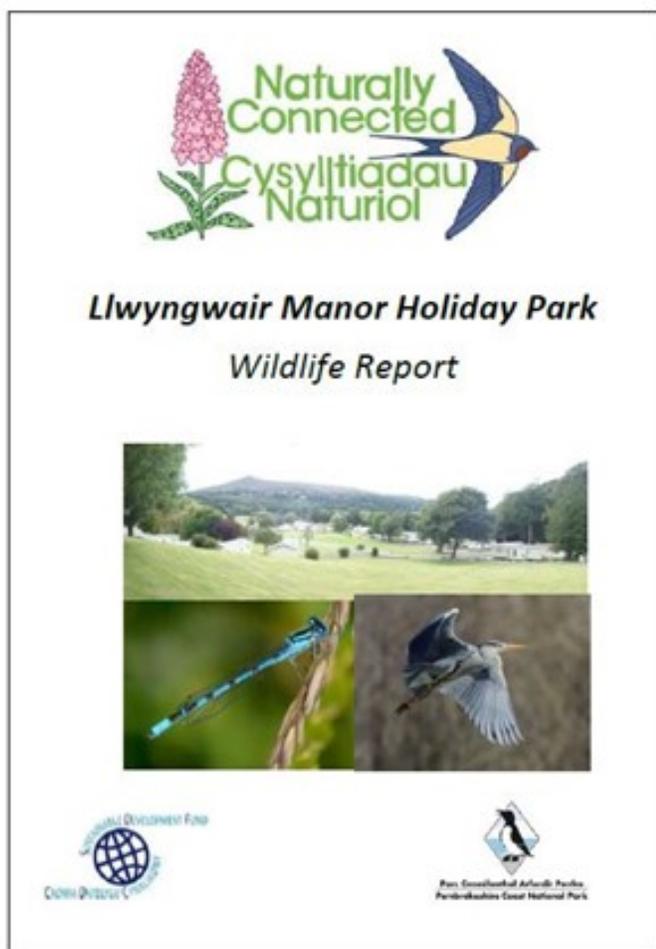
Through the autumn and winter we have been working with businesses to implement a wide range of exciting biodiversity and interpretation projects. Volunteers have been helping to install dormouse boxes and an otter holt (no occupants yet!) at Tyriet Farm (Bluestone Brewery). At Penrhwi Hotel near St. Davids we provided some funding for the purchase of yellow rattle seeds to help them improve the hay meadow which they manage adjacent to the hotel. Yellow rattle is parasitic on grass and so adding it in to the meadow should help to reduce the vigour of the grasses. Hotel staff have also captured some wonderful footage of badgers and foxes on a trail camera purchased by the project.

## Wildlife Camera footage from Pen Rhiw



Picton Castle staff have managed the hay meadow in front of the castle for over 16 years now and have been rewarded with the appearance of their first orchid last year. Naturally Connected helped fund the design and purchase of an interpretation board to draw the attention of visitors to this very special and rare habitat.

The campsite manager at Llwyngwair Manor Holiday Park near Newport received training in running river and pond dipping sessions. The project helped with purchasing the necessary equipment to allow her to run sessions through the summer, engaging visitors and locals with the River Nevern which wends its way through the site.



One of the key natural features of Brandy Brook campsite is the abundance of mature and veteran trees. All of these trees are of a similar age and the campsite owner was keen to look towards planting trees that would shade

the next generation of campers. In-field trees are not as common as they used to be as they are less compatible with modern intensive agriculture; newly planted in-field trees are very scarce indeed so this was a wonderful opportunity. The project funded 7 standard trees (2-3 years old) along with tree guards to provide sheep protection when fields are grazed in winter. The trees were planted by West Ranger Ian Meopham and volunteers from Portfield School.

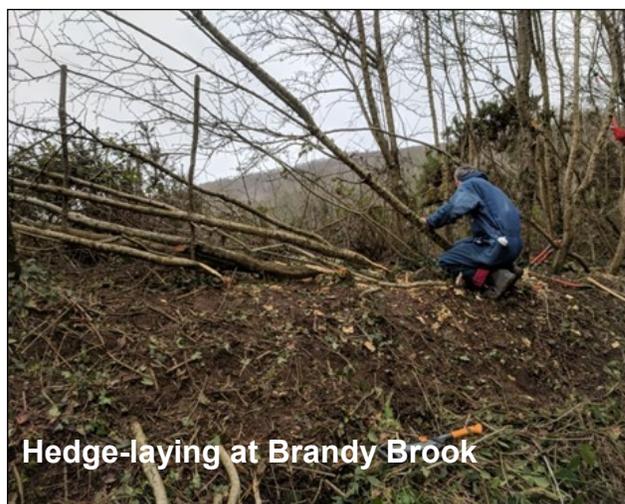
Some of the hedges on the campsite were planted around 10-15 years ago meaning they were ideal for laying. Laying is a traditional form of hedgerow management which aims to make hedges thick at the bottom to ensure they are stock proof – which incidentally also makes them better for wildlife. We chose a hedge along a public footpath which runs through the campsite for Authority colleague Tom Iggleden and his Pathways Volunteer Group to tackle. The Group were grateful to local expert hedge-layer Gareth Evans who gave his time to show a new style of hedge-laying to add to their repertoire. There are several more hedges in need of management at the campsite which we hope to tackle in the future.

The project came to an end in March this year and the project evaluation report will be available on the Authority's website shortly.

**Sarah Mellor**  
PCNPA



[Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro](http://Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro)  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park



# Biodiversity Events June—September



Date	Title	Information	Contact
1 <sup>st</sup> June 14:00	Explore the Seashore, Caerfai	Head to the beach for an adventure with our local National Park Ranger, searching out the extraordinary world of rock pools, sea creatures and seashore finds. Children must be accompanied by an adult	01437 720392
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Wales Nature Week	Events running throughout the country during this week. Check the website for details.	<a href="https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Nature-Week">https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Nature-Week</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Wildlife Gardening Workshop, Castell Henllys	Gardening for Pollinators Workshop Join Jenny Steel, Plant Ecologist and Author who has been specialising in Wildlife Gardening for almost 30 years, for a Gardening for Pollinators workshop.	01239 891319
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Wildlife Gardening Workshop, Castell Henllys	Gardening for Pollinators Workshop Join Jenny Steel, Plant Ecologist and Author who has been specialising in Wildlife Gardening for almost 30 years, for a Gardening for Pollinators workshop.	01239 891319
17 <sup>th</sup> June 12:00	Annual picnic at West Williamston Nature Reserve	Join South Pembrokeshire local group for their annual picnic at West Williamston Nature Reserve. Meet in car park (SN 030 058).	01646 673912
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 10:00	Birds of the Pembrokeshire Coast, Marloes	Join the local Ranger, Dan, for a walk along the coast from the fantastic Marloes Sands to the Deer Park right on the end of the Marloes Peninsula.	01437 720392
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 14:00	Stackpole Walled Gardens	Join Mid Pembrokeshire local group for a guided walk around gardens and estate wood with National Park Ranger Haydn Garlick. Meet at Stackpole Walled Gardens car park (97292 96120)	01646 278966
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 20:30	Brilliant Bats at the Bishop's Palace	This ever popular event invites you to take a twilight stroll around the Bishop's Palace, St. Davids. Amanda, the site Custodian, will take you on a journey through time as she brings to life the building and the people who lived there in this very special guided tour.	01437 720392
24 <sup>th</sup> June 14:00	Wildflower Walk, Tenby	Explore the flora of Pembrokeshire in Spring and early Summer. Join our National Park leader, Vicky, who will identify species, and share stories on their history and varied uses; medical, culinary and household.	01437 720392
11 <sup>th</sup> July 10:00	Nature Tots, West Angle	Special events for when big brothers and sisters are at school! Join National Park leaders for fun activities and stories in exciting locations around the Park.	01437 720392

# Biodiversity Events

## June—September



Date	Title	Information	Contact
14 <sup>th</sup> July 10:00	Birds of the Pembrokeshire Coast, Martin's Haven	Join the local Ranger, Dan, for a walk along the coast from the fantastic Marloes Sands to the Deer Park right on the end of the Marloes Peninsula. This has excellent views over Skomer and Skokholm Islands.	01437 720392
18 <sup>th</sup> July 10:00	Nature Tots, Pentre Ifan	Special events for when big brothers and sisters are at school! Join National Park leaders for fun activities and stories in exciting locations around the Park.	01437 720392
18 <sup>th</sup> July 14:00	Wildflower Walk, Manorbier	Explore the flora of Pembrokeshire in Spring and early Summer. Join our National Park leader, Vicky, who will identify species, and share stories on their history and varied uses; medical, culinary and household.	01437 720392
26 <sup>th</sup> July 11:00	Pond Safari at Colby Woodland Garden	Get up close and personal and discover the fascinating wildlife in Colby's streams and ponds. Hands-on activities and family fun all day.	01834 811885
28 <sup>th</sup> July 11:00	Butterfly Walk at West Williamston Nature Reserve	Join Mid Pembrokeshire local group for a butterfly walk at West Williamston nature reserve. The walk is with voluntary warden and County Butterfly Recorder David Redhead. Meet at reserve car park (SN0323805879)	01646 278966
28 <sup>th</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> August	National Whale & Dolphin Watch.	Members of the public are invited to take part in cetacean surveys all around the UK as part of Sea Watch Foundation's 16 <sup>th</sup> National Whale and Dolphin Watch (NWDW) event.	<a href="mailto:chiara.giulia.bertulli@seawatchfoundation.org.uk">chiara.giulia.bertulli@seawatchfoundation.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/nwdw/">http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/nwdw/</a>
30 <sup>th</sup> July 20:30	Brilliant Bats at Carew	This ever popular event invites you to take a gentle stroll around the Mill Pond at Carew Castle to search for bats.	01437 720392
5 <sup>th</sup> August 12:00	Skomer's Hidden Secrets	Spend two days on the island exploring the hidden side to Skomer. Activities include rock pooling, night time walks to see the mysterious Manx Shearwaters, moth trapping and reptile rambles.	01656 724100
24 <sup>th</sup> August 20:30	Brilliant Bats at the Bishop's Palace	This ever popular event invites you to take a twilight stroll around the Bishop's Palace, St. Davids. Amanda, the site Custodian, will take you on a journey through time as she brings to life the building and the people who lived there in this very special guided tour.	01437 720392

# Biodiversity Events June—September



Date	Title	Information	Contact
27 <sup>th</sup> August 20:30	Brilliant Bats at Carew	This ever popular event invites you to take a gentle stroll around the Mill Pond at Carew Castle to search for bats.	01437 720392
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 12:00	Shearwater Week: The Manx Shearwater Experience, Skomer	Nearly half the worlds' population of Manx shearwaters travel all the way from South America just to breed on Skomer. At night the island echoes with their calls as they return from a day at sea. Graceful in flight but awkward on land these birds guarantee a wildlife encounter you will never forget.	01656 724100
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10:00	Nature Tots, Carew Castle	Special events for when big brothers and sisters are at school! Join National Park leaders for fun activities and stories in exciting locations around the Park.	01437 720392
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10:00	Nature Tots, Broad Haven	Special events for when big brothers and sisters are at school! Join National Park leaders for fun activities and stories in exciting locations around the Park.	01437 720392
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 12:00	Moths of Skomer	Discover the magical moths of Skomer over a two night stay. Multiple methods of catching moths will be employed and it's a chance to learn from the experts and get hands on with moth trapping. Upwards of four traps will be set each night.	01656 724100



# PNP Contact Details

**Biodiversity Implementation Officer:**  
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[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk) (search - biodiversity)  
Wales Biodiversity website:  
[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)

# Nature Newsletters

Mae'r cylch-lythyr hwn ar gael yng Nghymraeg, cysylltwch â Ant am gopi cymraeg.

*PNP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.*

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of the article and may not represent the position of the wider Partnership or its constituent members.

# PNP Members

amphibian and reptile  
conservation



gwarchod

amffibiaid ac ymlusgiaid



Bumblebee  
Conservation  
Trust



cadwch keep  
gymru'n wales  
daclus tidy



Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Genedlaethol  
National Trust



Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park



Plantlife



 Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**



WEST WALES  
BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE  
CANOLFAN WYBODAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH  
GORLLEWIN CYMRU