

## 'FRIENDS OF THE TOWANS'

### Events September-December 2015

Hello again, I hope you've all enjoyed the typical Cornish (British?) summer, the odd good day sprinkled in with lots of grey....and with plenty of rain too in the second half of August. Firstly, I must apologise for going 'off-line' during August! I know it was school holidays, but I hadn't intended that we wouldn't meet at all, but events just went that way I'm afraid.

As we enter September, birds have completed nesting and so we start to turn our minds towards scrub clearance again. You know there is a lot to do....! We have recently trialed a different technique for scrub removal (not very hi-tech): uprooting clumps with a tractor. This is proving far more efficient than using hand tools and reduces the need for so much herbicide. So, you will see that our programme for the next few months includes lots of bonfires, where we will be coming along behind the contractors, burning up the piles they generate. This will certainly keep us warm and cheery on the grey days ahead...

The Towans Partnership, our umbrella organisation, would like to encourage our group to become sustainable into the future, possibly to consider setting up as a community interest company or charity for example. This would, among other things, enable the group to apply for funding for specific projects, ensure ongoing funding for a co-ordinator (currently 'me!'), for example. Like all of you, I do not welcome much bureaucracy, but some roles will be essential such as treasurer, publicity officer, secretary...Our focus should always be on getting stuff done on the ground, but we do need to consider and set up a structure that enables that to take place

With this in mind, our first event is a Towans-wide 'post school holidays' litter pick on 10<sup>th</sup> September. I will invite the Cornishman newspaper along to get us some publicity. Cove Café at the Bluff, where we will end up, have very kindly offered to provide a cuppa and bacon butty each. Please could you give some thought to whether you would be able to become more formally involved in the group, and we can have a discussion on the day. Funding bodies, quite rightly, love truly community-based groups which is what we must strive to be.

**THANK YOU!!**

## Future Events

### **Thurs Sept 10th, 10-2ish, Towans-wide Litter-pick**

Let's give the Towans a post-summer holiday spruce-up! What I hope to do is co-ordinate people heading out across the Towans from several locations – Gwithian, Upton Towans nature reserve entrance and Phillack Church. We will spend several hours meandering through the Towans and along the top of the beach, removing litter as we go.

We will all meet up at the Cove Café around 12.30-1pm for a welcome cuppa and sandwich or bacon butty, kindly provided by the café.

If you want to help it's ESSENTIAL that you contact me beforehand by email or mobile (see end of newsletter), so that I can let the café know for catering purposes but also so that I can plan who is covering where. I will ferry people back to their start points afterwards, don't worry! If the forecast is foul, contact me the day before.

### **Thurs Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 10-2ish, Gwithian Green**

We will be undertaking various tasks here, including stream clearance, willow clearance and probably scrub removal.

Meet in the lay-by just north of Gwithian Church

For the rest of the autumn and early winter, we will help remove scrub in various locations across the Towans. The precise locations are not yet identified, so you will need to contact me the week before, but let's earmark the following dates:

**Thurs Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Thurs Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>,**

**Thurs Nov 5<sup>th</sup> (an extra large fire?!), Thurs Nov 19<sup>th</sup>,**

**Thurs Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thurs Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**

**How about we go to a local hostelry after the last one for a seasonal meal and drink?**

I will bring tools and gloves, tea/coffee and biscuits to all events but please bring your own suitable outdoor clothing, especially boots.

I will run through a risk assessment before each task, but you should be aware that the Towans is an open, exposed environment. We may have to contend with sun from above and adders from below on a good day, and with rain and wind when it's not so good....

It would be useful but not essential if you could indicate to me via text, phone or email if you do plan to attend, just to give me an idea of numbers of tools, tea bags etc.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Martin Rule, Towans Ranger 07854 123 877 [martinrule@talktalk.net](mailto:martinrule@talktalk.net)**