



FRIENDS OF THE TOWANS FLYING THEIR NEW FLAGS ON TOWANS SOON!

After a very long and pretty wet winter, the local group of conservation volunteers Friends of the Towans is planning to start activities again from March 29th, subject to covid restrictions being eased. The group managed a little activity in the autumn, but then the two winter lock-downs put paid to any more group outings, just at a time when people would have benefited from some outdoor exercise, fresh air and company.

Since then, several contractors have managed to continue site management work, in particular on part of St Ives Bay Park, Mexico Towans and Godrevy Warren. Most of this work is funded via Natural England schemes, but the Riviere Estate has also funded some work next to Riviere Sands, where brambles had become abundant.

Towans Ranger Martin Rule has now devised a full programme of outings for local volunteers to help put the finishing touches to this work. Many of the cuttings remain lying on the ground, and if left to rot down would smother young seedlings, and enrich the soil making it less suitable for sand dune grassland to re-establish. Martin says it might seem like gardening the countryside and in a way it is, but it's the only realistic way to bring some of the specialised habitats back into healthy condition. By raking some areas back to bare sand, we create pockets of hot ground for ants, butterflies and lizards to bask on, for example.

Anybody is welcome to get involved. We provide tools, gloves and good company and work in a very relaxed manner. Just bring some enthusiasm, stout boots and suitable outdoor

clothing. Working in this wildlife-rich place is a wonderful way to observe the progress of spring and to see some rare flora and fauna close-up, while also giving it a hand.

Groups of 6 people maximum will operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 30th, right through till late June. See www.friendsofthetowans.org.uk for more details.

You MUST contact Martin Rule if you would like to join via 07854 123 877 or martinrule@talktalk.net.

Keep an eye open for our new Sail flags next to where we are working, and come over and say hello! We hope to plan a series of guided walks this summer too – check the website.