

Paloresow Kernewek

Celebrating the return of Cornish choughs



Issue 1 - August 2011

Welcome to the first edition of 'Paloresow Kernewek' (Cornish Choughs), a newsletter about Cornwall's special bird, the chough. This is the 10th year that wild choughs have bred in Cornwall following their historic and natural return in 2001. Read on for the latest news on Cornwall's choughs, and how people far and wide are taking action for them.

Has 2011 been a good year for choughs?

Yes it has! This year has been significant for choughs and their best breeding season so far!

The Lizard

The Southerly Point pair raised two male and two female chicks this year, making a total of 40 chicks safely fledged from that famous sea cave. What a pioneering pair they are! This year's brood is doing well, the family are spending most of their time feeding on the west coast with sightings of them as far as Rinsey. Another Lizard pair fledged a brood of two female and one male chick. Having found their wings, this family, though initially hard to track down, has been seen on the east coast of the Lizard and feeding on the west coast around Predannack.

Penwith

The pair from the Botallack area successfully fledged five chicks, including one female, their fourth brood since 2008. The fledglings were very confident from the start, treating the local gulls and even the peregrines with less respect than they ought.

The great news is there is another breeding pair of choughs in Penwith. This young pair, model parents, had three male chicks, all of which are thriving and often seen around Land's End.



There was a fifth breeding attempt this year by a pair of young choughs who have headed to the north coast of Cornwall. Sadly, their nest was predated by ravens and unfortunately they did not attempt again.

Have you seen a chough?

If you see choughs please send us your sighting, including grid reference and date. If you see rings on their legs, please let us know the colour combinations per leg, as this helps us identify that individual bird. E-mail records to cornishchoughs@rspsb.org.uk

If you haven't seen a chough but want to know where to look, visit our website for the latest news: www.cornishchoughs.org

On sale

We have produced a new anniversary booklet celebrating the return of choughs to Cornwall and some of the people involved in helping them which is available for £1.00.

10th anniversary T-shirts are also available through our website.

www.cornishchoughs.org



Chuff stuff - hot off the press!

Alongside all of the media attention the choughs have received this year, Cornwall's magical birds are inspiring all sorts of creative designs for products such as tea cups to tea towels, t-shirts and much more...

Pictured (right) is Louise from the Lizard Farm Shop and Paula from Pentreath Pottery who, along with other local artists, have produced a series of fantastic chough crafts now on sale at the Pentreath Pottery in the Lizard. Both Paula and Louise donated some of their products to the Anniversary Celebrations (see opposite). We also received donations from the Alverton Gallery (Penzance), The Most Southerly Gift Shop (Lizard), Ron and Jo from Henry's Campsite (Lizard), Gilly and Kit Johns from the 'Crows Nest' (Cadgwith), Ian Griffiths (Helston), Nigel and Sian Legge, Malcolm Ellis and Keith Johnson amongst many others. Not only have their exciting creations helped raise money for Cornish Choughs but they are raising awareness with locals and visitors. We can't wait to see what's coming next...



Local action for choughs

Thanks to a grant from the Cornwall Development Company's Local Action Group and the Tanner Trust, the Cornwall Chough Project has been able to develop new work including an annual events programme and an exciting education programme in West Cornwall. We are running chough clubs in two schools with the aim of expanding this to six by March 2012. The Chough Clubs use enquiry based learning techniques to teach children about their natural environment and their relationship to it. Choughs make a fantastic focal point for their enquiry.

Volunteers needed

We need energetic, enthusiastic people to help with Chough Club. If you are interested, please get in touch. e-mail: cornishchoughs@rspb.org.uk

[Please note we put all volunteers through a screening process to ensure the safety of the children, staff and our volunteers.]



10th Anniversary Celebrations

Wildlife Weekend in the Lizard

The highlight of this season's events was the Wildlife Weekend in the Lizard. With the help of the village, the Chough Project hosted a weekend of wildlife activities including guided walks, talks, landrover safaris, pond dipping, natural crafts and more. The weekend also included another of our 'Nos Palores' evenings of live music and entertainment.

This evening was particularly special because guests dressed in black and red made a stunning spectacle in support of the choughs. Guests were entertained with music from Loose Fingers, John Gallagher and Gwelhellin Goth, and refreshed with Ann's Cornish Pasties and a slice of anniversary Chough cake. We received some fantastic donations for the charity auction which raised over £300. A huge thank-you to everyone involved.

The Wildlife Weekend on the Lizard was a lot of fun and we hope to organise more exciting events for local residents and visitors. Keep an eye on our blog or sign up to our mailing list for more information. And, if you've an event idea, please let us know:

www.cornishchoughs.org



Sketchy business...

Are you a budding artist or designer? If so read on...

We would like a Cornwall Chough Project logo to use on some of our publicity material and merchandise. The design should be a chough or part of a chough eg. its head, be suitable for a 10cm diameter finished image and display the partnership logos of the Project (RSPB, National Trust and Natural England).

If you are interested or for more information
e-mail: claire.mucklow@rspb.org.uk
tel: 01392 453775



Can you help choughs?

Hundreds of people have helped choughs in many and varied ways over the last decade, without them the choughs would not have flourished. *Would you like to get involved?*

As well as people prepared to spend time during the breeding season monitoring choughs and taking a turn on the Watchpoint to show visitors these amazing birds, we are looking for volunteers of all ages to help with other activities including 'Chough Club' education work, organising and attending events in Cornwall on our behalf, assistance with writing and expanding our paper and electronic publications (such as this newsletter), raising funds to buy the equipment we need and much much more.

It is great to see local businesses celebrating choughs in so many innovative ways. Perhaps you have a business that can also feature choughs? Whilst not conventional volunteering, raising awareness of choughs in Cornwall through such products helps to spread the word that the choughs are back for good. You may even like to donate a portion of profits to the Cornwall Chough Project.

For more information:

blog: cornishchoughs.org.uk
twitter: [twitter.com@cornishchoughs](https://twitter.com/cornishchoughs)
e-mail: cornishchoughs@rspb.org.uk
tel: 01392 453775

Chough confidential

The protection of choughs, especially their nests, is still very much our priority so we need to continue to ensure confidentiality around some aspects of the project. Please help us keep Cornwall's choughs safe and post online responsibly – be aware that egg collectors will also be checking websites for information on nest location, so take care when you tweet or post to any website. Thank you.



The Cornwall Chough Project is a partnership between the RSPB, National Trust and Natural England. The RSPB is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no SC037654.

The RSPB's work for choughs in Cornwall is supported by the West Cornwall Action Group.

