

NEWS RELEASE

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Cornish gardens bloom in record-breaking year for Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Cornwall Wildlife Trust's ever-popular Open Garden events have raised £30,000 for the charity in 2022, making it the most successful year ever for the scheme.

Held as part of the Trust's 60th anniversary celebrations, the season's ten events attracted over 3,000 visitors from across Cornwall and beyond, with gardens in Liskeard, Redruth, Helston and Helford Passage opening their gates to guests.

The series showcases some of Cornwall's best wildlife-friendly gardens to members of the public. With a common theme of providing a home for wildlife, the gardens range from vast wildflower meadows to ancient woodlands and all offer exciting and innovative approaches to wildlife gardening.

This year saw supporters' favourite Cornish gardens open once again, with a superb end-of-season event at Trenarth – the Trust's longest-standing garden, having raised a total of £11,000 for the charity since it first opened in 2011.

Bochym Manor, one of two new additions to the programme this year, saw the highest guest attendance, with nearly 800 visitors enjoying the summer sunshine while wandering around the historical property. A special Father's Day event was also held at Lethyep, near Lanreath, with family-friendly activities such as pond dipping encouraging Cornwall's youngest residents to connect with nature.

Esme Plunkett from Cornwall Wildlife Trust said: "This record-breaking season is a great achievement for the Trust and the Open Gardens team. The gardens have brought so much enjoyment to thousands of visitors who don't usually get to see these hidden gems."

Rebecca David, Open Gardens volunteer coordinator for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and owner of Meadowside garden, said: "What an amazing, unprecedented season. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of a great team organising the Open Gardens scheme. We have a brilliant group of volunteers who give up their Sundays, bake cakes and grow plants for sale – all in aid of Cornwall's wildlife and wild places. See you all next year!"

Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Open Gardens programme, ran by the charity for the last 11 years, has raised a total of £140,000, which the Trust says is only possible thanks to the support of volunteers, garden owners and the thousands of people who have spent their Sundays attending the events.

Esme added: "This programme is organised and run by an incredible volunteer team who we'd like to say a massive thank you to. We're also extremely grateful to the garden owners for their willingness to be involved, to those of you that attend these events, to The Garker

Street Band for their performances and, of course, our sponsors St Eval, Cornish Orchards, Roddas and Cornico for their generosity in supporting the scheme.

“All in all, we’ve had a very successful season and we hope for another record year in 2023.”

Cornwall Wildlife Trust want to build on the success of this year’s events and are now looking for additional gardens and volunteers for 2023.

For more information on helping Cornwall Wildlife Trust as a volunteer or opening your garden as part of the scheme, visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/opengardens

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For further information contact:

- Jodie Holyoake | Content Marketing Officer | 07973 728701
| jodie.holyoake@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
- The Cornwall Wildlife Trust press team | 01872 273 939 option 4 | news@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Images:

You are welcome to use the images in this OneDrive: [Open Gardens Record Year \(Oct 2022\)](#)

Please note that all images are for one-off use only in connection with this story and Cornwall Wildlife Trust. All photographers must be credited.

Images:

- Bochym Manor saw the highest number of visitors this year, credit Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Open Gardens volunteers at the popular Bochym Manor event, credit Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- The gardens and grounds at Goenrounsen House – one of two new additions in 2022, credit Rohrs & Rowe
- The view at Pedn Billy, credit Nigel Bligh

Notes for editors:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been protecting Cornwall’s wildlife, both on land and in the sea since 1962. It is Cornwall’s leading wildlife conservation charity, with over 17,000 members and 1,000 volunteers. The charity manages 59 nature reserves across Cornwall, including a range of habitats such as woodlands, meadows, wetlands and heaths. It also runs a number of marine and terrestrial based conservation projects in partnership with others, including Upstream Thinking and [Penwith Landscape Partnership](#), and hosts the [Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly \(ERCCIS\)](#).

The Trust is one of 46 in the UK. Together, they make up the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.

Visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk and follow [@cwallwildlife](#) on Twitter or Cornwall Wildlife Trust on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with Trust’s projects, events and news.