

Towans Partnership Meeting

Report from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer

Wednesday, 30th September 2009

Progress Report

- ✿ The steps to the north of Gwithian Towans have been removed and the cliff re-profiled as the steps had become dangerous. The steps are not to be re-instated and Duchy College will fence the gap left to prevent people using the steep slope.
- ✿ Volunteers from BTCV spent 2 days pulling ragwort on the Towans in preparation for the winter grazing.
- ✿ A number of summer events were held on the Towans, most of which were well attended and successful. An event was also held for Riviere Sands holiday park to explain sand dunes to young people.
- ✿ During one of the guided walks on St Gothian Sands a juvenile lizard was observed under one of the reptile monitoring tins. It was identified by description as more than likely being a newly emerged sand lizard. If this is the case this is a very important record for the area. Monitoring will continue.
- ✿ There were a number of acts of vandalism over the summer including the removal of the notice board near the entrance to Gwithian Towans, removal of wooden fencing from various areas of the Towans and the removal of metal signs from the car parks and entrance of Gwithian.
- ✿ The access to the beach at Mexico Towans was diverted due to erosion that had made the original access unsafe.
- ✿ An inspection was carried out by the Rural Payments Agency to monitor the Stewardship scheme – everything was found to be in order.
- ✿ **Beach Zoning Trial – update** – The Beach Management Advisory Group has now reviewed the 2009 zoning. It has been decided that the inclusion of water based activities was not successful and these will be excluded from future zoning. People will however be advised to ask the RNLI where it is safe for them to partake in their sport. Other than that the zoning was seen to be a success and will continue in 2010. Sue Nicholls of Cornwall Council will now chair the group.

Work Programme

- ⓐ Countryside stewardship work will take place in November, cutting scrub in the southern sections of the Towans as per year 3 of the agreement.
- ⓑ There is some question as to when the grazing on the Towans will begin and in which areas. This is hoped to be resolved in due course.
- Ⓒ Duchy College will be working on the Towans over the coming months carrying out maintenance on Peter's point steps, fencing and monitoring the condition of the dunes.

Sarah Byham has left Cornwall Council and will no longer be attending the Towans Partnership meetings. She thanks all of those she has worked with over the years and wishes the Partnership continued success in the future.