

Annual Parish Meeting, 11th May 2026, Written Reports:

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation:

Jewels in the Cornish Mining Landscape...conserving our butterflies

This autumn/winter season our conservation volunteers, lead by Sue Allen, did 8 days work across mine sites in the Camborne/Redruth and Gwennap Cornish Mining World Heritage Sites. The work involved removal of invasive vegetation to improve the habitat for our target species: Silver-studded Blue, Small Heath, Grayling, Dingy Skipper and Wall.

We visited :-

West Basset Stamps

Ale and Cakes mine, near Wheal Clifford

Poldice, 2 visits

Wheal Maid, 2 visits

Carnon Valley, with support from Richard Rider from the Environment Agency

Cook's Kitchen at South Crofty with permission from Cornish Metals

We supported United Downs Environment Group at United Downs Raceway who have links with the racing teams and encouraged them to help.

We have also engaged with various community groups and Parish Councils in the area, regularly attending meetings of the Mining Villages Regeneration Group and Wheal Maid Solutions Group. We have been helping King Edward Mine with their school programme and attended a student fair at Dutchy Rosewarne.

Carn Brea Women's Institute:

2025 – our 85th anniversary year – was another busy and enjoyable year at Carn Brea W.I. We had some really good speakers at our monthly meetings, starting the year with a History of Cornish mining from a representative of Geevor Mine. The following months were peppered with memorable talks, including a journey of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, a representative from the County Council talking about the issues surrounding waste collection, a history of Charlestown, and look behind the headlines of the Mutiny on the Bounty, the unexpected joy of hearing about the poetry of women's wild swimming, and an uplifting talk on the work of the West Cornwall Search and Rescue organization. Finishing the year at Christmas with a lovely description of a Victorian Christmas – very Dickensian!

This may seem a little on the serious side, but they were fascinating, every one. And we still managed to fit in our coffee, cake and chat! As well as the talks, we enjoyed many eating opportunities – Harvest Supper, summer garden parties, lunches out etc – as well as taking a trip to Killerton House in Devon during the warmer weather. There was a fascinating display of “The Red Dress Project” at Killerton, which was a gown that had travelled the world over a 2-year period, with women from around the globe – particularly from some of the less economic areas – embroidering different sections which were incorporated into the finished gown. The project was aimed at providing an organized workshop for the women embroiderers to complete their section, and the legacy of that was to empower the women to set up their own business in their part of the world. Not only was the gown spectacular to see, but it was also a thought-provoking visit.

Individual members also attended various events organized by the County Federation, which are open to WI members throughout Cornwall. We were also represented at the Annual Meeting of the Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes (CFWI) at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro, where the national President was one of the guest speakers, along with Pam Ayers, who was delightful.

We love to see new members, so if you would like to come along to one of our meetings to see what we are like, just call in. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Trevenson Church Hall, Pool. Or visit our Facebook page. Or for more information, contact Vicky (vicky.watkins.134@btinternet.com, 07510 554852). We'd love to see you!