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Subject: CHT Penwith Volunteers bulletin 10 June 2024

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To: Richie Smith richie@cornwallheritagetrust.org

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RS

Dydh da,

For a change, we got the full sunshine treatment last week up at Chûn Castle -



For those who are unfamiliar with the site, here's Thursday's crew at tea time, inside the massive, tumbled down walls on the eastern side. 85 metres across, the castle's size still impresses, even after repeated visits..





The walls on the western side, with Carn Kenidjack on the horizon to the left and the village of Pendeen visible to the right.





The only orchid - Heath-spotted - inside the castle.



Yellowrattle inside the castle. This semi-parasite (on grass) was, we think, accidentally introduced by the PLP team bringing seeds up on their boots after either collecting or sowing said seed a couple of years ago. The patch has now expanded and will help keeping the grass in check - allowing more wildflowers to establish themselves.





Heath bedstraw





Here's CHT's wonderful apprentice James, sharpening his scythe with Mount's Bay in the background.



Here's a section of the inside of the outer wall clearly illustrating the rapidly growing bracken...





And after clearance.



Looking directly across the interior of the castle towards the main gate. The inside of the castle will be the subject of attention for our final (!) visit this week. With the blessing of CHT, our repeated visits to Chûn this year has meant that both the inside and outside walls have been cleared for the first time for a while. It is looking better now than at any time in the past few years. I encourage you to visit.

Thursday 13th June 2024 (Suggested forecast – wet, wet,wet! - Look out for my text message on Thursday morning if the forecast doesn't change and I have to cancel))

Place: Chûn Castle.

Activity: Vegetation clearance mainly inside this impressive iron age hillfort and the paths around it. Scythes, shears, loppers, secateurs.

Time on site: 9.45am

Directions: BY CAR: Park at Trehyllys Farm, Newbridge, Penzance TR20 8NP. Grid Ref. SW409336.

Coming up the road heading north between Madron and Morvah, pass Lanyon Quoit on your right, then past the track up to Men an Tol (also on your right) and turn left at the sign post to Great Bosulow (also says a dead end). (From the other direction, take the road to Madron from Morvah and after passing the sign to Garden Mine Cottage on your left, turn right at the sign post to Great Bosulow)

Follow the road to the end and park on the left opposite Trehyllys Farm farmhouse. The site is a short walk up to the Castle.

BY BUS: Sadly, the nearest bus goes to Morvah which is about a 40 minute walk away from the site...

BY BIKE/FOOT: Yes please!

As ever, we break at 11 for tea and biscuits, 1 for lunch and finish up at 3pm. Please bring your own hot/cold drink, and packed lunch; wear suitable clothing for the weather. We supply gloves and all the tools.

Please let me know if you can make it.

SUNSET WALKS ETC.

Our good friend Carolyn Kennet has some walks - for sunset and full moon rise at Tregeseal Stone Circle and Bosacwen Un - planned in the next few weeks, and more.

Full details and booking can be found on her website - <https://archaeoastronomycornwall.com/> A font of knowledge, I can recommend Carolyn's walks for anyone interested in the relationships between ancient sites and astronomy.

That's all for now, folks - fingers crossed for the weather on Thursday!

Yeghes da,
Richie