

# Truro City Council

## PRESS RELEASE



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### ***Coosebean Woods is an emerging treasure of Truro life***

The Mayor and Mayoress of Truro took a walk with Truro City Council's Countryside Ranger, Chris Waddle, through Coosebean Woods last week. The 39 acres of woodland, with the River Kenwyn running through the valley, was transferred to Truro City Council by Cornwall Council after completion of the cycle trail which diverts cyclists and walkers behind Malabar to avoid the congestion and pollution of the A390 through Highertown.

Chris and his partner, Lizi (who took the photographs) showed Bert and Sue the work he has been undertaking. He said:

*'We've cleared tons of rubbish, opened old paths, and created opportunities for plants which have been crowded out. The woods are full of wildlife and richly diverse. We have thinned the thicker flora and allowed more light to encourage greater biodiversity. You can almost feel the excitement of the woods as they're coming alive.'*

Chris has found time to support an apprentice and to work with a number of voluntary groups. He said:

*'Since lockdown began we have seen many more people walking in the woods, using them as a way to do some home-schooling, watching the advance of Spring with all its changes, delighting in a place which has been inaccessible for many years, improving both physical and mental health. I feel privileged to be part of this project, particularly at this time. It feels like a coming together of all the experience, studying and training I've done – not so much a job as a vocation.'*

Truro City Council owns much of Truro's green spaces – the parks and allotments in particular. The addition of Coosebean, alongside the nature reserve at Daubuz Moor, which Chris also manages, and with small areas on the way as the result of planning agreements from developments, Truro now has within the central area about 50 acres of woodland and wilded land.

Bert Biscoe, Mayor of Truro said:

*'The Council has focused for a long time on developing good practices and managing Truro's public land in environmentally responsible and creative ways. There are few towns of the size of Truro which have a forty-acre wood in their*

*midst, as well as a nature reserve, two living main rivers and an increasingly visible and active re-wilding strategy. Finding a good balance between nature and town is a real challenge. People are beginning to study us as an example of how to do things’.*

Lindsay Southcombe, Chair of Truro Parks Committee and an environmentalist said:

*‘We are very lucky to have the services of Chris Waddle to join our expert and highly committed team. He knows his job, is not afraid of getting down to it, and loves what he does. He has very quickly become a very welcome and engaging friend of all those who meet him as they explore our woodland and natural places.’*

Truro’s open spaces, parks and woods and nature reserve are open, encouraging to walkers and lingerers alike. Social distancing is strongly encouraged, and dog owners expected to exercise cautious responsibility. Cyclists should confine themselves to main paths only.

Richard Budge, Truro City Council Parks Manager said:

‘We’re very proud of the mixture of prize-winning horticulture and environmental regeneration which lies at the heart of our green city. I hope that we are enhancing Truro as a truly living place in which society and nature can enhance each other. We strongly encourage respect and tolerance both for each other and for plants, animals, bugs and birds.’



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### Editors Notes

Cllr Bert Biscoe is the newly appointed Mayor of Truro (May 2020) who is also Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen Division, which includes Truro town centre. He has a strong interest in history, geography, archaeology, economics and community development.

Chris Waddle has a degree in sports science & has worked as a landscape gardener for many years. He gained a lot of experience about community woodlands, construction education, landscaping, council ranger contracts and running events in his ranger role at Hillholtwood in Lincolnshire. Since joining Truro City Council he has furthered his skills & also studied woodland management and ecology. He enjoys woodwork, creative landscaping & building as well as climbing.

For more information, please contact

- Truro City Council: Lydia Greet email [visitruro@truro.gov.uk](mailto:visitruro@truro.gov.uk)