

# Lewtrenchard WI November Report

**We met on November 11 at Lewdown Victory Hall.**

Barbara welcomed many members, their husbands, visitors from Lifton WI and of course Rupert Kirkwood - the Lone Kayaker. Jerusalem was sung. We were very sad to hear of the passing of Graham Bevan and our thoughts go to Josie and the family. **Then we handed over to Rupert - The Lone Kayaker:** Rupert's talk was named 'Wildlife Safari around Cornwall and Devon' and boy, did it deliver. Rupert was no stranger to many of our members and visitors, most of them knew him as their

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INSPIRING WOMEN



vet. After 33 years, he took early retirement due to an injury and decided to pursue his hobby: Wildlife. It all started as a child, watching a snail. He explores rivers, estuaries, the coast, caves & canals all over the South West of England. Based in Holsworthy, he has easy access to many of them. Since he set off in his kayak just over 10 years ago, he clocked up 1,156.27 miles! Rupert has seen water & land creatures he never dreamt of seeing in our waters. From Ospreys, beavers, otters, swimming

squirrels & badgers, seals, giant 7 feet blue tunas, sun fish, puffins, leatherback turtles, humpback and minke whales, basking shark and of course dolphins, he has encountered them all, close up, captured on film and most only 3-5 miles off our Devon & Cornwall shores. Amazing. Nothing phases him; surprisingly, he has not been sunk by any of those discoveries. He uses a very simple camera, packed in a plastic bag and just points. We all enjoyed his relaxed presentation, the stunning photography, fantastic videos; we were literally riding on his kayak! Asked if he ever felt afraid, it was a definite NO! Not only did Rupert discover a humpback whale in our waters, but he got to name it too because he was the first to spot it, of course, having been spotted off the Cornish Coast, he named it 'Cream Tea'. Lundy Island is a great place to spot Puffins, their population increased due to the eradication of rats on the island. Mousehole is an excellent place to spot dolphins. Want to know more, read Rupert's blog: [thelonekayaker.wordpress.com](http://thelonekayaker.wordpress.com).

**Date and venue for next meeting: Monday December 9 at 7pm,  
Lewdown Victory Hall, Christmas Party!**

## Dates for your diary:

19 Dec Thursday Coffee morning - Alder Vineyard

13 Jan Monthly meeting @ 7pm Lewdown Victory Hall

16 Jan Thursday Coffee morning - Alder Vineyard

19 Jan Christmas Lunch with partners/friends

Monday walks are suspended during winter, will resume in Spring