

South Devon Branch Walk in the Atlantic Temperate Rainforest of Cabilla Manor, Cornwall 29th June 2026



The group was then introduced to their leader, Ennia, who enthusiastically extolled the virtues of the habitat we were about to enter. Her knowledge of the flora and fauna inspired the group to focus and re-focus on the total environment that we were experiencing, to the extent that the birds were almost a sideshow to the splendour of the ancient oak rainforest, which had been in existence for over 3000 years. Even the cheeky young Robin, that tried to interrupt the talk, didn't really get a look in!

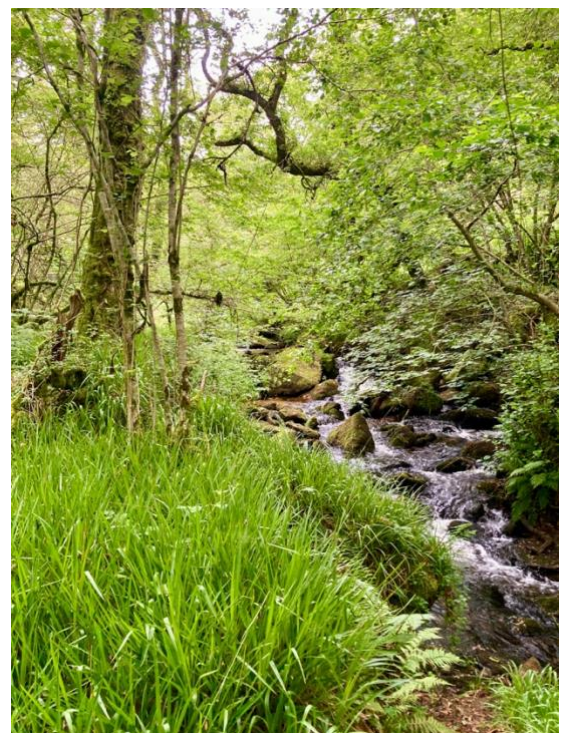
The group of 12 members, arrived for their guided tour in the heart of the Cornish countryside and were immediately serenaded by a Song Thrush perched in the boughs of an Oak tree whilst Swallows and House Martins swooped down to their nests under the eaves of the Manor House.



As the group continued into the depths of the forest, so the birdsong decreased and the peace and tranquillity of the environment enveloped the walkers, making the occasional burst of song from the Blackcap and Wren even more poignant. With Ravens croaking overhead the views over the valley showed the full extent of the forest, with the occasional squawk from a family of Jays and later on a Buzzard, somehow flying through the dense canopy from its hidden nest site.

Just as the walk was ending, the group was entertained by a real-life drama, when a tiny Wren flew onto a branch, then hid for a while as it was surprised to see so many onlookers. It persevered and eventually returned, struggling to carry a feather as big as itself into its mossy enclosure in the Mother Oak. This was a fitting end to our walk and symbolic of the massive task that Merlin Hanbury Tennison has chosen, when setting up the Thousand Year Trust, to try to safeguard and expand the Atlantic Temperate rainforest for the benefit of future generations.

Nick D'Agorne



Bird List

Stock Dove	Barn Swallow
Common Woodpigeon	Western House Martin
Common Swift	Common Chiffchaff
European Herring Gull	Eurasian Blackcap
Common Buzzard	Goldcrest
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Eurasian Nuthatch
Eurasian Green Woodpecker	Eurasian Treecreeper
Eurasian Jay	Eurasian Wren
Eurasian Jackdaw	Song Thrush
Rook	Eurasian Blackbird
Carrion Crow	European Robin
Common Raven	Dunnock
Coal Tit	Meadow Pipit
Eurasian Blue Tit	Common Chaffinch
Great Tit	European Goldfinch