

Green is the colour

Green is the colour of May - the colour of the young tree foliage as it bursts free from its buds, in varied shades of bright lemony-limey-green.

Green is also the colour of two unusual sightings on the Peninsula over the last few weeks. The first was a Green Woodpecker. This was heard calling on several occasions in Dale during April. What is so unusual about that? Well, although they used to breed in the area, Green Woodpeckers have not been recorded in Dale for many years and indeed are becoming quite scarce in the whole of Pembrokeshire. The reasons are completely unknown. Surely it can't be shortage of food - they feed primarily on ants, and if our garden is anything to go by there are plenty of those around! Incidentally, Green Woodpeckers hardly ever "drum" - instead they have a distinctive descending laughing call known as the "yaffle".

The second sighting was of a green lizard spotted by Anne Meeke whilst she was sitting on the old slipway at Pickleridge Pools car park. The features of this lizard seem to indicate it is a Sand Lizard. However, this is a very rare species in the UK, and in Wales is known from only a couple of sites in the north of the country. Although there is some sand at Pickleridge it would certainly be a very unusual location for this animal - it usually lives on sand dunes or on sandy heathland. The next step is to try and get some more sightings and a photo of this mystery creature – watch this space for further developments!



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