

## Great Green Bush Cricket

There are Great Green Bush Crickets in the roadside hedges around Marloes and even in the village itself. I know they are there because I can hear them, but try as I might I cannot see them. The “song”, like a non-stop sewing machine with a tiny pause every few seconds, all through the afternoon and evening on sunny days, is loud and obvious. However if you try to find the source, it just seems to get further away and further into the bushes although the insect does not appear to move. In fact I would not be sure of my identification if I had not found two dead individuals in the road just west of Marloes last year.



The thing about Great Green Bush Crickets is that they are well worth seeing – the name is, for once, very accurate. They are indeed Great – being about 2 inches long. They are indeed Green – bright green. The overall effect is of a bright green pea pod with long legs.

I know this because I have seen one in Devon, in rather unusual circumstances. We were on a cruising holiday on our small yacht and had stopped off at “celebrity chef” Keith Floyd’s Thai restaurant, located on a tributary of the River Dart. We had just been served our starter which looked very dramatic with several colourful sauces on a large white plate. At that moment an enormous insect flew into the restaurant, whizzed past my ear and landed on the side of my plate. I am ashamed to report that I shrieked – but after the initial shock was able to appreciate that the Great Green Bush Cricket on a white plate next to red and yellow sauces was most picturesque. Whilst the restaurant staff were wondering what to do and saying things like “Is it a locust?” it obligingly took off, did several circuits of the restaurant and out of the door.

*Rosemary Royle*

**Footnote:** If you would like to see a Manx Shearwater chick inside its burrow on Skomer, then call in at Lockley Lodge at Martinshaven during the next few weeks where you can see pictures direct from two different burrows.