Monmouthshire Meadows Group

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2021 AGM
- Chair's and Treasurer's reports
- Election of committee
- Questions & any other business
- Break
- Talk: Caroline Hanks of Herefordshire Meadows Group
- Q&A/Discussion



Green-winged Orchid, New Grove Meadow (Keith Moseley)

Our Reserves

- Wet Meadow – work with GWT includes new hedging, installing bird boxes and an owl box
- Ida's Meadow - battling Japanese Knotweed with the help of AONB
  - Wye Valley Invasive Species Project
- Kingcoed Meadows - Welsh Mountain sheep from Ystradfellte graze in winter. Local contractor takes hay in summer



Owl Box installed at Wet Meadow by Richard Clarke

Practical Work

- Work parties with Gwent Wildlife Trust at Wet Meadow
- Helping prepare the community orchard in Monmouth, before the ACE festival
- Picture shows Trevor Tyler-Batt cutting an orchard edge near Llanthony



Surveys

- Steph, Elsa, Sheelagh and Wendy
- Over 40 surveys of new members and some revisits
  - Twice usual number including some backlog due to lockdown
- Wide variety, many full of interest including
  - Two fields at Crosshands: 46 indicator species - Dyer's Greenweed, Pepper Saxifrage, Devil's-bit Scabious…
    Over 200 Twayblades in garden meadow near Devauden
- Open Meadows at Crosshands in June



Dyer's Greenweed at Pip Morrison's site, Crosshands

Last Year's Open Meadows

- Llanishen and Far Hill
- Llanllowell House near Usk
- Thanks to hosts
  - Justine & David Scouller
  - Martin & Patricia Milling
  - David Hathaway
  - Hamish Sandison
- Also to Andy Karran of Gwent Wildlife Trust for flower ID walks



Other Activities in 2021

- Stalls
  - Bee Festival
  - ACE Climate Festival
- Scythe Training
- Hay rakes
- The Big Meadows Search with Carmarthenshire Meadows Group



MONMOUTHSHIRE meadows group

Jacinth and Jemima



Newsletters

Meadows News

Registered Charity No. 1192542 — Issue 35 - Autumn 2021

Conserving and Restoring Wildflower-rich Grasslands in Monmouthshire

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Contact Us

For information about the group or to join MMG contact our membership secretary Marilyn Dunkelman ***marilyn@monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk*** *tel.* ***01600 860031****, or use our* ***online membership form***

Contributions to the newsletter or items for the web site can be sent to Marilyn

Other contact details as well as news and events, and information about our meadow reserves at Kingcoed, Maryland and Trellech, are on our web site ***www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk***

Follow us on Twitter @MonMeadows

From the Chair

Well, another summer over with a bang. We had another long dry summer and the hay in our meadows was cut in good time. But not before Carys of the Gwent Wildlife Trust was able to head out and collect seed with the harvester which we jointly own.

Despite the covid uncertainties we had two lovely open days in June - very many thanks to our members: Justine & David Scouller at Elm Farm and Martin & Patricia Milling at Blue Door on Far Hill, and David Hathaway at Trewyn in Llanishen who all hosted our Open Meadows on 13th June, and Hamish Sandison of Llanllowell House, near Usk who was the host on 27th June. A special thank you too to Andy Karran of Gwent Wildlife Trust for spending his Sunday taking MMG members around Hamish's site and the GWT Springfield reserve next door.

Of the agricultural shows, all but the Usk Show was cancelled this year, and again there we shared a tent with Bee Friendly Monmouthshire. This year we were positioned in the thick of it amongst the farm machinery and animals. We also had a very busy day at the Monmouth Bee Festival in August. Committee member Pam had arranged a colouring activity for children which was a great success.

Recently, with the help of a grant from the Wye Valley AONB, members have been able to attend scything courses arranged as a joint project between MMG and the Monmouth Green Spaces group. Trainer Andrea Gilpin ran three sessions, with hosts Judith Carruthers and Clare Catto providing the land to scythe.



Learning to Scythe with Andrea Gilpin (photo Clare Catto)

Meadows News

Registered Charity No. 1192542 — Issue 36 - Spring 2022

Conserving and Restoring Wildflower-rich Grasslands in Monmouthshire

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From the Chair

Two years on from the start of the Covid pandemic, we really hope we are going to be back to normal this coming season, with meetings in person, Open Meadows days and appearance at various events and shows. So be sure to put all those dates in your diary - see back page for a full list.

It was a shame to have to cancel our Autumn social but do please come to our Spring meet and AGM in Monmouth (details on page 2). We are pleased to welcome Caroline Hanks who is the Facilitator of Herefordshire Meadows; a very different organisation as you will see.

Our scything courses proved so popular we are arranging some more, and we have other workshops and training opportunities to tempt you, some of which are being run for MMG members by Plantlife Cymru. Please see page 3 for more details.

The second edition of our Grassland Fungi field guide was launched in 2020, and during the 2021 season received some excellent reviews, resulting in very good sales. Many of the photographs taken for the book are now available to view online.

Jacinth and Jemima, our two Exmoor Ponies have spent the winter at Brook Barn near Tintern and are looking forward to going to their summer residences. As usual, very many thanks to Steph and Alan Poulter for all their work managing and caring for them.

After featuring garden meadows in our last newsletter, we now have a short discussion on rewilding. Whether it be Yellowstone National Park or one metre square patch then we can all do our bit.



Spring display – Green-winged Orchids and Cowslips (Keith Moseley)

2022 Coming Events

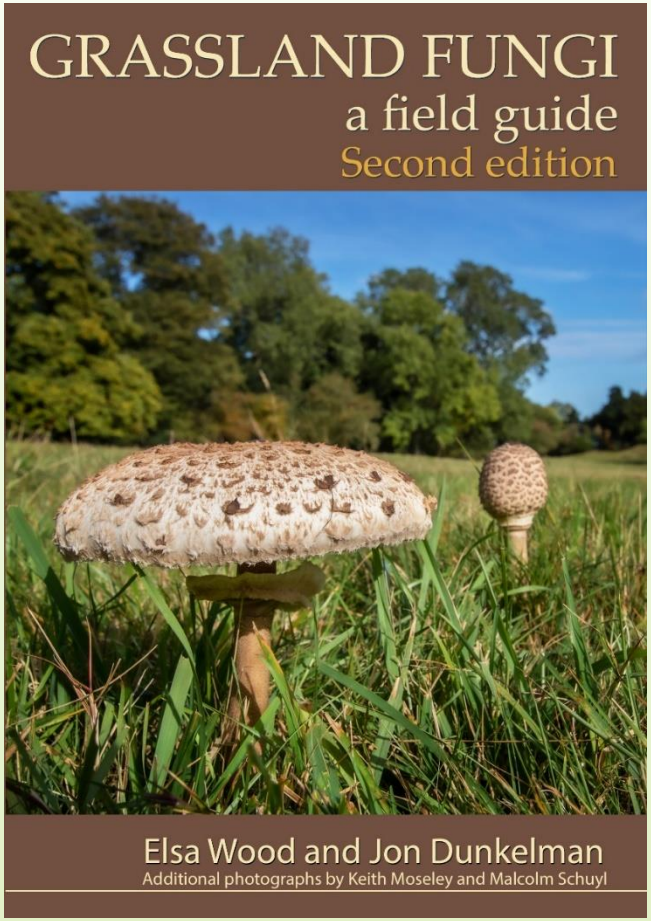
- Open Meadows
  - 19th June at Cross Hands, Raglan
  - 2nd July at Talycoed
- Stalls
  - Bee Festival
  - Friends of the Wye River Festival
  - Chepstow Show
- Training days
  - Plantlife - Meadows for Amphibians & Reptiles, and Meadow Monitoring
  - Our own: Meadow Making by Hand with Ian Rabjohns
  - Scything with Andrea Gilpin
  - Plant ID??



Socially Distanced Bee Festival 2021

Fungi Activities

- Sales of Grassland Fungi: Second Edition very strong after great reviews
- Published Oct 2020
- Distributors NHBS sold 493 of their 876 copies since Oct 2020
- Photo resource now online
- Fungi Meadows Open Day planned for Autumn 2022



Membership

- Last year possibly a record number of new members
  (April 2021 to March 2022)
  - 59 new members
  - 245 membership records at year end
  - Some of these are couples – 315 total members
  - Additional 94 on mailing list behind with subscriptions

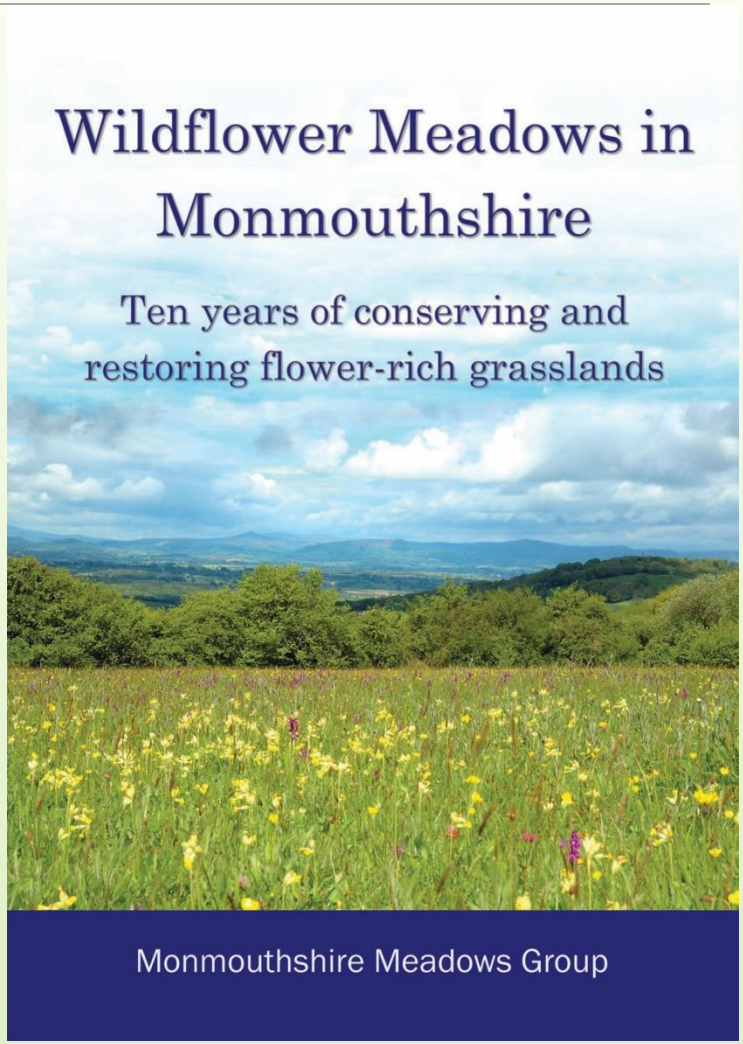
- Reminders are sent twice a year



Butterfly Orchid at Steve Swell's meadow in Maryland, near Ida's Meadow

Our 20th Anniversary!

- 2023 is MMG's 20th birthday
- For our 10th we produced this book about members' experience
- In 2023 we will be celebrating and we have some ideas for an anniversary project



Finance Report 2021-22

Receipts

Receipts					
	2021-22		Memo: 2020-21		
Membership Subscriptions	£4,122.20		£3,789.00		
Donations	£ 300.00		£ 960.00		
HMRC Gift Aid	£ 809.83		£1,332.66		
Wales Rural Payment	£3,225.95		£3,313.98		
Grazing payments	£ 770.00		£ 500.00		
Events	£ 360.00		£ -		
Sales	£ 848.75		£ 5.00		
Grants	£1,519.30		£1,300.00		
Wayleave payments	£ 10.23		£ 10.31		
Interest	£ 1.74		£ 19.05		
Restricted funds:					
Grassland Fungi Book Sales	£2,419.04		£2,653.68		
Total Receipts		**£14,387.04**			**£13,883.68**

(Membership figure includes additional amounts donated)

Expenditure

Expenditures			
	2021-22		Memo: 2020-21
Meeting Venue hire	£ -		£ -
Insurance	£ 417.69		£ 246.78
Pony costs	£ 188.41		£ 107.05
Meadow Survey costs	£ 238.00		£ -
Meadow Maintenance work	£ 954.17		£ 135.00
Meadow Equipment	£ 784.50		£1,687.97
Mowing Equipment & Maintenance	£ 14.88		£ 152.93
Wet Meadow rent	£1,520.00		£ 760.00
Education (Wet Meadow signage)	£ -		£1,103.00
Events	£1,660.00		£ -
IT/Website & Admin	£ 221.92		£ 86.27
Printing	£ 58.00		£ -
Grassland Fungi Book 2nd Edition	£ 540.00		£6,283.00
Total Expenditures		**£ 6,597.57**	**£10,562.00**

Balance

Statement of Financial Accounts: 2021-22			
Cash accounting basis			
	2021-22		**Memo: 2020-21**
Opening bank balance (at 1 April 2021)	**£51,188.85**	**1 April 2020:**	**£47,867.17**
Total Receipts	**£14,387.04**		**£13,883.68**
Total Expenditures	**£ 6,597.57**		**£ 10,562.00**
Net Surplus	**£ 7,789.47**		**£ 3,321.68**
Closing bank balance (at 31 Mar 2022)	**£58,978.32**	**31 Mar 2021:**	**£51,188.85**

Election of the Committee

- Steph Tyler – honorary president
- Rachel Morgan – chair
- David Llewellyn – treasurer
- Clare Adamson
- Judith Carruthers
- Clare Catto
- Sarah Cheese
- Dick Coates – warden, Wet Meadow
- Marilyn Dunkelman – membership secretary
- Pam Manfield – minutes secretary
- Steph Poulter – ponies

As per our constitution clause 13

each of the charity trustees shall retire from office with effect from the conclusion of the AGM next after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.



Thank You!!

WE'LL TAKE QUESTIONS THEN HAVE A SHORT BREAK FOLLOWED BY CAROLINE HANKS