

Monmouthshire Meadows

Issue 22

Registered Charity No. 1111345

Spring 2015

Our aims are to conserve and enhance the landscape by enabling members to maintain, manage and restore their semi-natural grasslands and associated features

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To Join Us

*If you are not a member and would like to join, please contact Martin Suter on **01600 714577** or martinsuter@fmail.co.uk or use our [online membership form](#)*

*For general information please contact Maggie Biss on **01989 750740** or monmouthmeadows@aol.co.uk*

For contact details of our Committee, as well as news, events and members' notices, go to our web site

www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk and follow us on Twitter [@MonMeadows](#)



From the Chair Stephanie Tyler

The Meadow Group's Committee members have been extremely busy over the last six months. There was an opportunity to buy the two meadows at Kingcoed that we visited for an open day and bioblitz last June (when the picture below was taken). The meadows were then for sale and we did not want them to be sold to anyone who would not manage them for their wonderful plants, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Agricultural improvement or the application of fertiliser would soon put paid to the conservation interest.

Kingcoed Meadows



After lengthy discussions amongst ourselves, a valuation by Dave Parry of Parry Associates and negotiations with the sympathetic owners, we are delighted that a price is agreed. Now we are trying to raise the funds needed to buy them. Marilyn Dunkelman, Sheelagh Kerry and I have been filling in applications to a variety of Trust funds and an appeal has been launched to you all and to members of the public. So far we have raised about £10,000 from donations with a further £6,000 promised from New Grove Trust and the Foyle Foundation, and we are waiting to hear from several other funding bodies. We still have a long way to go so any contribution towards the purchase price will be very gratefully received.

See [page 8](#) for details of how to donate.

Sheep and ponies for grazing

With the sad death of Ron Shears, some of our members were finding it difficult to find sheep to graze their fields in the autumn.

We are pleased to be able to let members know that there are now two other possible sources of sheep:

James Edwards: email jai.ed@hotmail.co.uk. James has a small flock of sheep which are run on an extensive, minimal input system. He is interested in conservation grazing and says his sheep are a hardy, calm group. He can provide the transport and will keep an eye on them, and is willing to travel if the ground is suitable.

We also have a farmer near Ross who has sheep available for grazing. Please get in touch with Glynis Laws if you would like him to contact you: glynislaws@hotmail.co.uk

Our Exmoor ponies continue to graze a series of fields and last autumn and winter members who have benefitted from their conservation grazing have

Thanks to Steph and Alan Poulter as usual for transporting the ponies to wherever they are needed and to Jane and Tony Pannett near Tintern for providing an excellent home for Jacinth and Jemima when they are not needed elsewhere.

Surveys

Winter is a quiet time for fieldwork but with spring well under way we have started carrying out plant surveys again. We have a backlog of new members to visit but hope to be able to re-visit any established site where requested to do so. Maybe you had a survey three or four years ago and now would like to know if any new plants have colonised or if your management is appropriate. If so do please contact us and we will do our best to get to everywhere where needed.

Work task

On Sunday 21 March we helped out the Shirenewton & Mynddbach Field Association Limited (SAMFAL) by taking our Tracmaster to cut encroaching brambles in one pasture. Lindsay operated the machine and Alison Broughton, Jane Smith-Haddon and Marian McAdam raked up the cut material and took it away to a large pile at a corner. Jane's husband William was called in when two bolts fell out of the cutting bar of the Tracmaster and miraculously he had two the right size to replace them. A welcome cup of coffee and Welsh cakes were enjoyed by all at a break in the work.

Steph Tyler



included David & Mair Lloyd at Barbadoes Hill, Ann and Jerry Kavanagh on the Kymin.



MMG Spring Meeting and AGM

Thursday 23rd April at 7pm

Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth

This year we shall be talking about our exciting project to purchase Kingcoed Meadows, and have a report on fund raising progress so far.

We shall also feature some of our members talking about their experiences, and sharing their successes and lessons learnt.

Ruth Allen & Ian Draycott from the The Doward, who look after an area of limestone grassland and woodland, where there are many exciting plants including Wild Clary, its only site in Herefordshire.

Andrew Cormack, from Abergavenny, who is enhancing a small bank in his garden, trying to prove that neither size, slope nor aspect need prevent you having your own meadow.

Jon Dunkelman from The Narth, who owns three fields where new species turn up each year.

The AGM will be held first, and will not take too much time. There will be plenty of opportunities to chat with other meadows people and, as usual, there will be a buffet supper.

Members: £12.50 per person including a glass of wine

Non-members are welcome at £15 each

You are also welcome to come just to the talks: members for free, non-members at £3.00.

Please book in advance as we need to know how many people to cater for.

You can book by contacting Maggie, telephone 01989 750740, or by email using monmouthmeadows@aol.co.uk

You can also book online on our web site, where you will find directions and other information.



Some of Ruth & Ian's orchids at The Doward

Small or Steep Land and Looking for Help with Mowing?

Owain Rees is on our list of contractors on the website. Owain is excited about his recent acquisition of an alpine-style tractor and flail cutter. As well a range of land management services, the new tractor means that he can now offer to work on steep banks, up to 30°, 40° in some instances. The cutter is 1.5 metres (5ft) wide so the tractor can get into tight corners and into orchards and other small or large paddocks where it is difficult for larger tractors to work. Owain's services include grass/scrub cutting, fencing (all types), building repair, all aspects of landscaping, groundworks and mobile welding. The tractor may also be able to be hired, with Owain, for other uses, such as woodland work. Owain is fully insured for all of the above.

When making hay is impractical for one reason or another, one option would be to cut and collect the grass. This is not possible at the moment but Owain would be interested to hear from anyone who would be interested in such a service, as in the future, he may be able to provide flail and collection service.

If you would like Owain to quote for work, please contact him on 07838 492 933.

Bee Friendly Monmouthshire

Year One Report: Doing Well but Could Do Much Better



Bee Friendly Monmouthshire formed in 2013 in response to the serious plight of pollinators, to take action to address the dramatic decline in the numbers of bees, and other pollinating insects such as butterflies, moths and hoverflies. Their aim is to support the Welsh Government's Action Plan for Pollinators, and have supported and given advice to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) in formulating and carrying out their Pollinator Policy. The MCC policy resulted in swathes of colourful wild flowers in our towns, and received much praise. It was a very welcome first step.

Last October, Bee Friendly Monmouthshire launched their Pledge scheme at Kate Humble's farm near Penallt (pictured below). Individuals, businesses and public bodies are encouraged to pledge to do their bit by planting bee-friendly flowers, leaving nesting places for bees, and avoiding pesticides that kill insects and destroy their habitat.



Launching the pledge at Humble by Nature

Although we had some concerns that people might be confusing the colourful planted displays for real meadow flowers (see our Autumn 2014 newsletter 'When is a Meadow Not a Meadow'), this was a good, positive start to raising awareness and promoting good practice.

So how are MCC doing with their Pollinator Policy? Well the planting was a great success, but the other part of their plan was to change their cutting regime so verges were cut just twice a year at the appropriate time, in order to allow wild flowers to establish and seed (with the obvious exceptions where safety is a concern).

Bee Friendly Monmouthshire has been monitoring this and, as far as they can tell, one year on from the implementation of the policy there has been only a 4% reduction in such verge cutting, and in many places the old regime has just continued as before.

To comply fully with their own Pollinator Policy, the Council needs to –

- Aim for a reduction of at least 20% in verge cutting
- Make all verges a protected area
- Abolish all use of herbicides/pesticides on verges

Then we really will be on our way to a more bee-friendly county.

MMG supporters can help by getting in touch with your County Councillor and asking them to ensure the verge cutting element of their Pollinator Policy is properly carried out. You can mention the three points above and explain that cutting verges at the appropriate times, allowing the wildflowers to flourish and seed first, is an important part of protecting the biodiversity of our countryside and improving bee populations.

You can find your councillor's contact details on the MCC web site, or use the link from MMG's web site where you will also find a template letter to use if you wish, in the article entitled *Bee Friendly Verges: Improving But Could Still Do Better*.



Grassland Fungi of the Lower Wye Valley



This is a new project to produce a useful guide for meadow-owners, walkers and anyone trying to identify the fungi found in grassland around our area. The intention is to use our local expertise and the resources of Monmouthshire Meadows Group and The Parish Grassland Project to publish a field guide, aimed at the interested layman.

Fungi are a vital part of the traditional grassland ecology but receive a lot less attention than the flowering grassland plants. One reason is that they are more difficult to identify. There are thousands of fungi species in the UK but field guides tend to cover all the species rather than being specific to certain ecological niches. With this in mind one of our members, Jon Dunkelman, intends to compile a field guide focusing on the very specific area of fungi of traditional grasslands in the lower Wye valley. As he has only limited knowledge of fungi himself, he will be relying on the expertise of Elsa Wood to provide the identification skills.

The other main element in compiling the guide is surveying fungi when they fruit. This is where MMG members can help. If you have significant numbers of fungi we would love to hear from you, and we can visit to identify and photograph your fungi later in the year. Please get in touch with Jon or Elsa if you can help. Jon: jon.dunkelman@btinternet.com, 01600 860031. Elsa: info@thenurtons.co.uk, 01291 689253

The aim is to complete the surveys and photography in 2015 so we can publish the guide in time for the 2016 fungi season.

Carmarthenshire Meadows Project

Following discussions last Autumn, when MMG visited Carmarthenshire to discuss how we operate our group, Carmarthenshire have now launched their own Meadows project, led by the Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership, with an inaugural meeting at the National Botanic Gardens on 28th March (pictured below). They are following this up with a series of walks in the summer and they are recruiting local ecologists for site visits. They have already recruited meadow owners to join, and have similar aims to our own – to inspire the creation of a county-wide community that supports each other to improve the diversity of plants, fungi and animals on meadows, large or small, across Carmarthenshire. We wish them the best of luck!

Contact Carmarthenshire Meadows Group via Isabel Macho: IMacho@carmarthenshire.gov.uk; 01558 825390.



Carmarthenshire Meadows group's inaugural meeting

Beware the Welsh Government's new Planning Bill

The new planning Bill being developed by the Welsh Government will alter the whole approach to planning and have a negative impact on the role of statutory consultation bodies. The bias of the new Bill is in favour of development and removing obstacles to it. Wildlife habitats will undoubtedly suffer as a result.

Local authorities have been set a target by the Welsh Assembly to determine at least 80% of its applications within eight weeks, which therefore necessitates a strict adherence to a timetable.

GreenWeb: Your network for the local environment

We'd like to remind you about Monmouthshire GreenWeb, the county's own network of environmentally concerned organisations. Monmouthshire Meadows Group is a member of this network and has been on the Executive Committee that guides it for a number of years.

GreenWeb's website is a mine of information about what is happening across the county, and as far as we know is the only such network in the whole of Wales. www.monmouthshiregreenweb.co.uk

The Events diary lists forthcoming talks, walks, open days, meetings, festivals, workshops, etc. The Green News page is updated several times a week and covers local and national issues, consultations, campaigns, etc, together with grants news. Every member organisation has a page with information about themselves, often with links to greater detail.

GreenWeb is now into its 14th year, and during that time much has changed technologically. When the network was launched, very few local groups had their own websites, so GreenWeb provided a very useful platform for local environmental groups to let the world know what they were doing and encourage

volunteers to join them. Now only a small proportion of GreenWeb member groups use the network website in the way that was originally intended, and GreenWeb itself has branched out into Facebook and Twitter.



The network has spent the last year or so having a long, hard look at itself, and working out how to continue with reduced resources. Marcus Perrin from Transition Chepstow has taken over as Chairman and brought some new ideas. GreenWeb is considering organising a conference-cum-networking event later in the year, returning to old fashioned face to face conversations and discussions, but they need to know if the kind of themes they are thinking about will appeal to people.

- Possible date Sunday 27th September
- Location: to be decided
- Audience: members of environmental/sustainability groups and interested members of the public
- Possible themes: Working together and sharing resources; Attracting and engaging young people in the green agenda
- Purpose: to share, network and discuss ideas.

Meadows Open Day: Sunday 14th June

This year we are having one day of Open Meadows, with three sites opening their gates to the public:

- The beautiful meadows and orchard in the grounds of Ty Mawr Convent near Penallt, NP25 4RN, where we shall be joined by Gwent Wildlife Trust (pictured below)
- Four Acres in Maryland, The Narth NP25 4QJ, which boasts the largest population of Greater Butterfly Orchids in the county
- Land belonging to Nigel and Jane Seabourne at The Springs, Wern Lane, Mitchel Troy Common NP25 4JQ: three meadows with a good array of meadow species including Broad-leaved Helleborines, a small spring and wet area with a stream and woodland edge

There will be more information nearer the time, including directions, on our web site. We are very grateful to our hosts for allowing us access and making us welcome on their land.



National Plant Monitoring Scheme

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is a new habitat-based plant monitoring scheme which is government backed and is being delivered by a partnership comprising Plantlife, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

The NPMS was launched by Plantlife in March and is the first of its kind. It asks for volunteers across the United Kingdom to visit a kilometre square local to them twice a year and record the plants they find there in several different plots. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity. The scheme will enable conservationists to explore how plants in different habitats are responding to changes in the environment.

Why is it needed?

Thanks to volunteers, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundation of habitats and ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations across the country.

How will it work?

This is a scientific survey, so you will be randomly allocated a convenient 1km square to visit. The visit involves recording plant 'indicator species' in plots. Within your 1km square you will record around 5 plots in semi-natural habitats.

Who can take part?

Anyone interested in nature who can identify plants, or who is keen to learn. Different levels of participation ensure that all who are keen can participate: you do not have to be an experienced botanist. You will only need to identify between 25-30 'indicator species' per habitat. These are distinctive species specially selected to allow us to monitor changes in the countryside.

How do I get involved?

All volunteers must first register for a square on www.npms.org.uk. You will then receive a survey pack (survey guidance; species list; species guidebook)

and will be able to access telephone and email support provided by the volunteer coordinator

Free Training Days

All volunteers will be able to attend free training courses being held at sites across the UK (see the web site for details), including this one in the Brecon Beacons National Park:

Introduction to the National Plant Monitoring Scheme

Craig y nos Country Park, Thursday 11th June 2015
10.00 – 15.30

Spaces are limited so booking is essential and you must register with the National Plant Monitoring Scheme first.

Welcome to our New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Margaret Allan, Penarth
Julia Alexander, Itton
Caerwent Community Council, Caldicot
Veneta Cooney, Abergavenny
Marie Everett, St Maughans
Elvin & Jenny Hart, Chepstow
Sabina Holmes, Wonastow
Elisabeth Kirby, Llangattock Lingoed
Linda Smout, Kingcoed
Christine Steuer, Penallt
Elissa Swinglehurst, Welsh Newton
David Williams, Govilon
Fiona Williams, Netherwent
Michael Wrigglesworth, Pontrilas

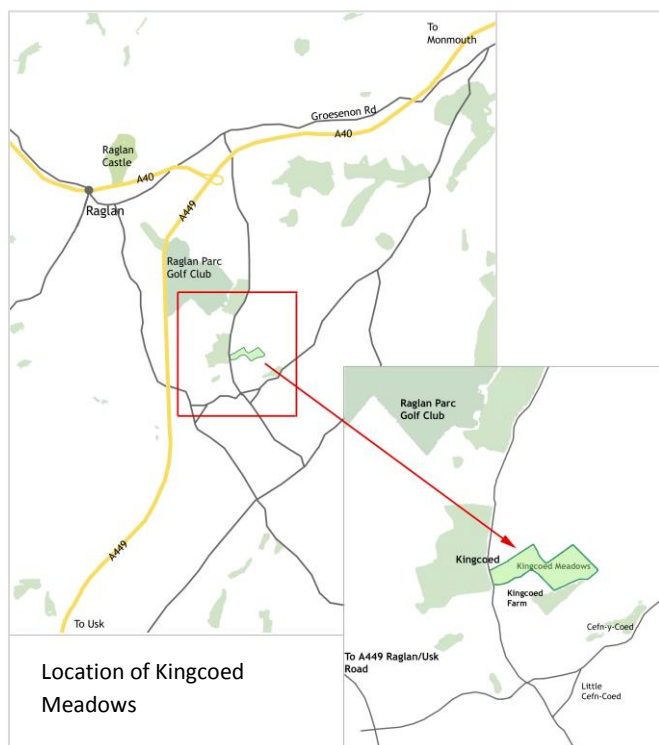
New members should receive a free copy of our book *Wildflower Meadows in Monmouthshire*. Let us know if you have not received yours.

Memberships are due this April – you will receive a reminder if your subscription is due.

Martin Suter, Membership secretary
martinsuter@fmail.co.uk

Kingcoed Meadows Appeal

Donations are now coming in from members and supporters, as well as many people who have read about the appeal in the local press. Many thanks to all of you who have made a contribution so far.



We shall keep up our efforts throughout the summer. Please spread the word and if you know anyone who might be persuaded to make a donation, however small, please encourage them!

Donations can be made by cheque or bank transfer (details below) and if you are a tax payer please complete the [Gift Aid form on our web site](#) as well so we can add an extra 25% to your amount.

To pay by online banking please use the reference 'Kingcoed' and these account details:

Sort code 77-29-18

Account No. 39854960

Cheques should be made payable to **Monmouthshire Meadows Group Savings Account** and sent to our treasurer:

Martin Fenn-Smith, Farrier's Barn,
Mathern, Chepstow NP16 6JH

If we fail to meet our target, or if an excess amount is raised, we will offer donors a choice of a refund, giving the money to MMG general funds or another related charity.

Veddw Garden Open Afternoon

There will be fund raising activities throughout spring and summer, including an Open Afternoon at Veddw House Garden near Devauden on **Saturday 8th August**. This special garden has been created by garden writer and MMG member Anne Wareham together with her husband, photographer Charles Hawes, and has featured in garden magazines including the RHS's *The Garden*, in several books, and on television programmes like *Escape to the Country* and *Love Your Garden*.

The garden will be open from 2pm and we shall have refreshments, a plant sale and other attractions. Entrance is £7 and all proceeds will go to the Kingcoed appeal.

We are very grateful to Anne for offering to help with our appeal in this way. It's a great opportunity to see round these lovely grounds, which include a wildflower meadow and orchard as well as more formal areas and their much admired Reflecting Pool which captures in the reflections the sculptured Hedge Garden and Hazel Coppice beyond.

There is more information and location maps on the Veddw House Garden web site www.veddw.com



The Reflecting Pool at Veddw House Garden © Charles Hawes

Monmouthshire Plant Group Walks 2015

This year Monmouthshire Plant Group is running another series of Plant Walks led by Steph Tyler and Elsa Wood. MMG members are welcome, as well as any other interested botanist or anyone wanting to improve their identification skills. This is the provisional programme but please note the venues may change.

It is essential that you book in advance on these walks: contact Steph on 01600 719890 or preferably email steph_tyler2001@hotmail.com

Walks are from 10 am to 3 pm and details of meeting places will be sent on booking.

- Saturday 18th April: St Pierre or Great Barnets Wood woodland spring flowers – teaching identification
- Wednesday 20th May: Llanthony area – recording and identification
- Saturday 27th June: Cwm Lickey and/or Cwmynyscoy quarries area -recording and identification
- Wednesday 22nd July: Mynydd y Grug Common – recording and identification
- Saturday 15th August: Aquatic and floating reed plants at or near Magor – teaching identification
- Wednesday 16th September: To be determined

Advice and Help from Plantlife

Vote for your favourite flower

Plantlife, the national charity speaking up for wildflowers, plants and fungi, is 25 years old and as part of their celebrations they have launched a poll to find the nation's favourite wildflower. Vote for your choice here on their web site www.plantlife.org.uk.

Campaigns and information

Plantlife run **Say No to the Mow** which we featured in our last newsletter, and the **Road Verges** campaign has been influential in encouraging authorities to adopt pollinator policies.

Their web site has a wealth of useful information too. They produce a series of month by month identification sheets to download: www.plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/id_sheets.

This is a useful piece on growing wildflowers on [growing wildflowers on community sites](#).

Garden mini-meadows

This is a summary of Plantlife's article on the best way to create a garden mini-meadow, which we think is worth repeating:

First, choose your patch. If you have an average lawn with a few weeds, simply leave it unmown and see what comes up. Unless it is very well tended and completely weed-free you could be amazed at what will appear. Purists would disagree, but you can

speed things up by planting plug-plants in autumn. Do make sure they are appropriate flowers from local seeds and make sure they'll grow in your soil type.

If your lawn is weed-free you could try mowing it regularly and removing the clippings to reduce the fertility, but it might be some years before wildflowers appear. Again you could speed things up by planting plug-plants or by sowing seed in small bare patches.

If it's a dull lawn, or just a patch of soil, then it is best to start from scratch. Remove the top few inches of very fertile topsoil in late summer, which is hard work but essential as wildflowers need poor soil. Rake over the area and sow a mix of flowers that are suitable for your soil.

Buying seed

If you do buy seed, please only go to suppliers that source native British plants. MMG recommends [PlantWild](#) in Herefordshire who collect seeds from some of our members' land. Gwent Wildlife Trust also collect seed from their reserves and we often have some for sale during the summer. **Please avoid using cheap wild-flower seed-mixes from garden centres**, as these usually contain cornfield flowers like poppies, cornflowers and corn marigolds. These are not meadow flowers and, although they'll look great to begin with, they will just vanish in future years (see our article on *When is a Meadow not a Meadow* in our last newsletter).

It's probably a good idea to sow Yellow rattle seed in autumn. This lovely annual has roots which tap into grasses, stealing their nutrients and suppressing their growth, which keeps the grass in check and allows other meadow flowers to thrive.

Light and soil

Meadow plants prefer open, sunny places so avoid sites under trees which will be too dark and dry. Small, scattered native trees and shrubs or fruit trees are good for other wildlife, but can make mowing more difficult.



Soil type will determine which flowers will grow. Drier sites with poorer soils are easier to manage, and avoid extremely wet sites. This is PlantLife's list of some of the flowers to try on different soils:

- Limey soil: Oxeye daisy; Clustered bellflower; Cowslip; Agrimony; Common spotted orchid; Bird's-foot trefoil
- Neutral soil: Oxeye daisy; Common knapweed; Meadow saffron; Bird's-foot trefoil; Meadow buttercup; Selfheal; Cuckooflower; Fritillary
- Acid soil: Harebell; Common knapweed; Chamomile; Common sorrel

Whatever type you have, it is absolutely essential to maintain your meadow by mowing, mimicking the traditional cycle of hay-cutting and grazing to which meadow flowers are adapted. Cut the grass hard in summer, any time between July and September but the earlier the better to control competitive species. Remove all the cuttings then keep the grass mown down hard, removing the clippings each time, until it stops growing around December. Then sit back and wait for the flowers to appear again.

Monmouthshire Meadows Group: The View Ahead

When we produced our tenth anniversary book *Wildflower Meadows in Monmouthshire* we included a review of our objectives for the coming ten years. Our Kingcoed Meadows project has prompted us to revisit these, and we feel we are progressing most of them. Here's the list from 2013 as a reminder of what we are still aiming to achieve:

- ◆ Learn from and build on our experiences over the last 10 years
- ◆ Provide regular attractive and informative newsletters and a good quality website
- ◆ Continue to hold Open Days so that people can enjoy good quality species-rich grasslands
- ◆ Continue carrying out surveys and giving advice where desired
- ◆ Re-survey some sites at a different time of year from when first surveyed to identify more species but also to assess the effectiveness of their management
- ◆ Help members find local contractors to cut hay and to control Bramble, Bracken etc, and also to use the MMG Tracmaster where appropriate
- ◆ Help members find graziers to provide stock to graze pastures or for aftermath grazing in hay fields
- ◆ Continue to organise work parties to help members with a problem
- ◆ Ensure all good species-rich sites are confirmed as Local Wildlife Sites so that owners can benefit from available grants

Continued...

- ◆ Help eligible members to obtain grants for capital works
- ◆ Spread the word about the importance of species-rich grassland and the need to manage it to avoid coarse grasses, brambles and scrub developing
- ◆ Help schools, church groups, local communities and councils develop wildflower meadows in churchyards, school grounds, road verges and other public spaces
- ◆ Encourage gardeners to find a place for mini meadows
- ◆ Attract more members especially in the central, northern and western areas of the county
- ◆ Inspire people in other areas to create meadow groups
- ◆ Help people to develop their plant identification skills
- ◆ Continue to co-operate with and support partners working to conserve wildlife and protect biodiversity

Holly Ayling, winner of the under-10 category of our Photo Competition last year, was presented with a framed print of her winning photograph at our Autumn meeting. Holly was seven when she took her picture of orchids at our Meadows Open Day at Crws in June 2014.



Monmouthshire Meadows Group is grateful for all the help both financial and physical given by our members. We are also indebted to the following for their sponsorship and help -

Tom Ward-Jackson of Tidy Towns has been very helpful to MMG in obtaining funding for our insurance costs.

The former **Countryside Council of Wales (CCW)** has been immensely supportive and we are particularly grateful to **Rob Bacon** and also to **Miki Miyata-Lee** for all their help with our applications for funding.

PONT – the former Welsh Grazing Project provided useful advice to MMG on local graziers

Our book *Wildflower Meadows in Monmouthshire* has been supported by the **Sustainable Development Fund**, a **Natural Resources Wales** initiative in the **Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

Our leaflet *Management of Grasslands for Wildlife* was funded by **Gwent Wildlife Trust** with a grant from **Monmouthshire Natural Assets Project**



Dates for your Diary

Check our web site www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk for details, location maps and updates

- Saturday 18th April:** *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk* at St Pierre or Great Barnets Wood woodland spring flowers. See page 9 for details
- Thursday 23rd April:** *MMG Spring Meeting and AGM*, at Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth. See page 3 for details or [book via our web site](#)
- Wednesday 20th May:** *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk* in the Llanthony area. See page 9 for details
- Saturday 23rd May:** *Flower Power Fun Day* for families at Magor Marsh, organised by Gwent Wildlife Trust, 1pm to 4pm. Details on the [Trust's web site](#)
- Wednesday 3rd June:** *From Wasteland to Wildlife*, a guided walk around habitats formed from wet woodlands, ponds, grasslands and heath on a post-industrial site at Cefn Fforest Ecopark near Blackwood, with Andy Karran of GWT. 10 am to 12.30 pm. Details on the [Trust's web site](#) – free of charge but booking is essential
- Saturday 6th June:** *Photographing Orchids and Other Wild Flowers*, a course organised by Gwent Wildlife Trust with tutor Chris Hatch, taking place 10 am to 2 pm at Pentwyn Farm. Members £20, non-members £25. Details on booking a place are on the [Trust's web site](#)
- Wednesday 10th June:** *Meadow Plant Identification for Beginners*, a course organised by Gwent Wildlife Trust led by Gemma Bodé, 10 am to 12.30 pm at Pentwyn Farm. Members £6, non-members £9. Details and how to book on the [Trust's web site](#)
- Sunday 14th June:** Our *Open Meadows Day* in the Trellech area, including the beautiful meadows and orchard in the grounds of Ty Mawr Convent, Four Acres meadow at Maryland, The Narth, and land at Mitchel Troy Common belonging to Nigel and Jane Seabourne. See page 6 and [our web site](#) for details
- Wednesday 17th June:** *Meadow Plant Identification - Intermediate*, a course organised by Gwent Wildlife Trust led by Andy Karran, 10 am to 12.30 pm at Pentwyn Farm. Details and how to book on the [Trust's web site](#)
- Sunday 21st June:** *National Gardens Scheme Open Day at Pentwyn Farm*, hosted by Gwent Wildlife Trust. 10am to 4pm. As well as Pentwyn meadows, visitors can also visit Wysewood Common. Guided walks at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. More details on the [Trust's web site](#)
- Saturday 27th June:** *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk* at Cwm Lickey and/or Cwmynyscoy quarries area. See page 9 for details
- Saturday 4th July:** *The Humble by Nature Big Day Out* at Kate Humble's farm near Penallt. A day focusing on outdoor food and fun, with music, crafts and kids' stuff. Midday to midnight. Various ticket prices: [check out the web site for details](#)
- Wednesday 22nd July:** *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk* on Mynydd y Grug Common. See page 9 for details
- Saturday 8th August:** *Veddw House Gardens* are opening their garden to the public in aid of MMG's Kingcoed meadows appeal, from 2pm. Refreshments, plant sale and activities. Entrance £7. (See page 8)
- Saturday 15th August:** *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk* to view aquatic and floating reed plants at or near Mago. See page 9 for details
- Thursday 27th August:** *Monmouthshire Show* at the Show Ground, Monmouth. MMG will have a stand. [Show details](#)
- Saturday 12th September:** *Usk Show* at Usk Showground, NP15 1DD. MMG will have a stand. [Show details](#)
- Wednesday 16th September:** Final *Monmouthshire Plant Group walk*, venue to be determined. See page 9 for details