

## **MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOWS GROUP (MMG)**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**4.4.22 at 7.30 pm, Bridges Centre, Monmouth**

1. PRESENT: see attached

2. Apologies:

3. MINUTES OF 2021: These had been placed on the website. Acceptance was proposed by Martin Welling, seconded by Jon Dunkelman. Members agreed these were a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT: In the absence of Rachel Morgan, David Llewellyn chaired the meeting.

4.1 He reminded members our three reserves were doing well. A lot of work had been done at Wet Meadow, especially fencing and installation of bird and owl boxes. With the help of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the group were battling Japanese Knotweed in Ida's Meadow. Kingcoed had been grazed by Welsh Mountain Sheep in the winter and hay cutting had taken place in summer.

4.2 Work parties, in association with the Gwent Wildlife Trust, had taken place in Wet Meadow and the group had helped with the Community Orchard in Monmouth.

4.3 Over 40 surveys had been carried out on new and revisited sites; this was twice the usual number because of Covid problems. A new site – Crosshands – had proved especially interesting as had The Fedw, near Devauden which has many Twayblades.

4.4 Open Meadows events had been very successful; all hosts were thanked for their input. Andy Karran was thanked for leading wildflower walks.

4.5 We had also had stalls at the Bee Festival and the Monmouth Climate Festival.

4.6 Scything training courses had been very popular.

4.7 Hay rakes at excellent prices had been made available to members.

4.8 We had also been involved in the Big Meadows Search, which had been started by the Carmarthenshire Group.

4.9 The Exmoor ponies had been working hard through the year and Alan and Steph Poulter were thanked for their work as custodians.

4.10 The newsletters and website had been very diverse and informative and Marilyn Dunkelman was thanked for her work on these.

4.11 Events for 2022 will include: Open Meadows at Crosshands and Talycoed; stalls at the Bee Festival, the Chepstow Show and Friends of the Wye Festival; there will be more scything training courses and hopefully, a fungi open day.

4.12 The Fungi Book had been very successful, with a second edition being published. Copies were selling steadily, raising funds for MMG. Elsa Woods and Jon Dunkelman were thanked for their work.

4.13 2023 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group and ideas are sought from all members of ways to celebrate. One idea has been to produce an Anniversary Calendar featuring photographs of historic events, people and wildlife associated with the group. Members are asked to send photographs etc to the Committee as soon as possible.

#### 5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Membership is increasing. Various grants have been gained as well as HMRC Gift Aid support. Rake sales had also brought in money. The bank balance was healthy and we need to look at investing in more meadow land. The Committee was looking for potential future sites. Members were asked to contact the Committee if they could suggest somewhere suitable. It was noted that we now pay all the rent on Wet Meadow as we receive grant money for work on this land. As always, an independent scrutineer will look at the accounts, following the AGM.

#### 6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:

All the existing committee were happy to stand again. Their re-election was unanimously accepted.

#### 7. QUESTIONS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were none.