



Monmouthshire
Meadows Group
Annual General
Meeting 2026

Agenda

1. Minutes of last AGM for approval
2. Chair's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. Election of Trustees
6. AOB
7. Presentation

Charitable objectives

- To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of haymeadows, grasslands and unimproved pastures in the Wye valley and elsewhere in Monmouthshire
- so as to conserve and restore the diversity of plant and animal species native to that environment
- in particular but not exclusively, by facilitating and prompting the management of those lands consistent with that purpose.



Meadow surveys and advice

- Botany team:
 - Steph Tyler
 - Sheelagh Kerry
 - Wendy Tyler-Batt
 - Tim Oliver
- Surveyed over 20 new sites
- 7 qualified as Local Wildlife Sites
- Advice given on meadow management
- Contractors list



Meadows Open Day

- Box Bush farm at Capel y fin
- Upland pastures near Bettws
- Garden and adjacent meadow at Nant y Bedd in the Grwyne Fawr valley
- Thanks to:
 - Marilyn & Jon Dunkelman for organisation
 - Harry Marshall, Peter and Sheelagh Kerry and to Sue and Ian Mabberly for opening their land and providing refreshments
 - Wendy Tyler Batt, Andy Karran and Lowri Watkins for leading the guided walks with Steph Tyler and Sheelagh Kerry



Training

- Plant identification course at Kingcoed Meadow
- Bumble Bee training at Wet Meadow organized by Wye Valley National Landscape Area (formerly the AONB)
- Hedge-laying course at Wet Meadow funded by WVNLA
- Fungi Walk at New Grove Meadows jointly with Gwent Wildlife Trust



Invertebrate surveys WVNL

- Climate Day of Action on the 6th of September 2025,
 - WVNL field day to collect eDNA from hedges at Wet Meadow to identify the invertebrates present
 - 126 OTUs (genetically distinct organisms) in older hedgerow
 - 9 OTUs in new hedge



Invertebrate surveys

Christian Owen

- Wet Meadow:
 - 485 invertebrate species,
 - 60 of conservation interest
- Kingcoed:
 - 444 invertebrate species
 - 52 of conservation interest
- Our reserves serve as a vital refuge for declining, rare, and scarce invertebrates, including numerous habitat specialists of regional, national, and Welsh/British significance
- A large proportion prefer tall grass and scrub
- Important to leave 5-20% meadows uncut as an invertebrate refuge



Wildlife clusters

- Autumn meeting at Gwehelog Village Hall
- Focused on developing wildlife corridors by linking up with neighbours
- Gwehelog 'cluster' still active, attracting new members
- Plans for developing a small meadow monitoring project around this cluster with potential for using the same model in other areas of the county where the interest exists



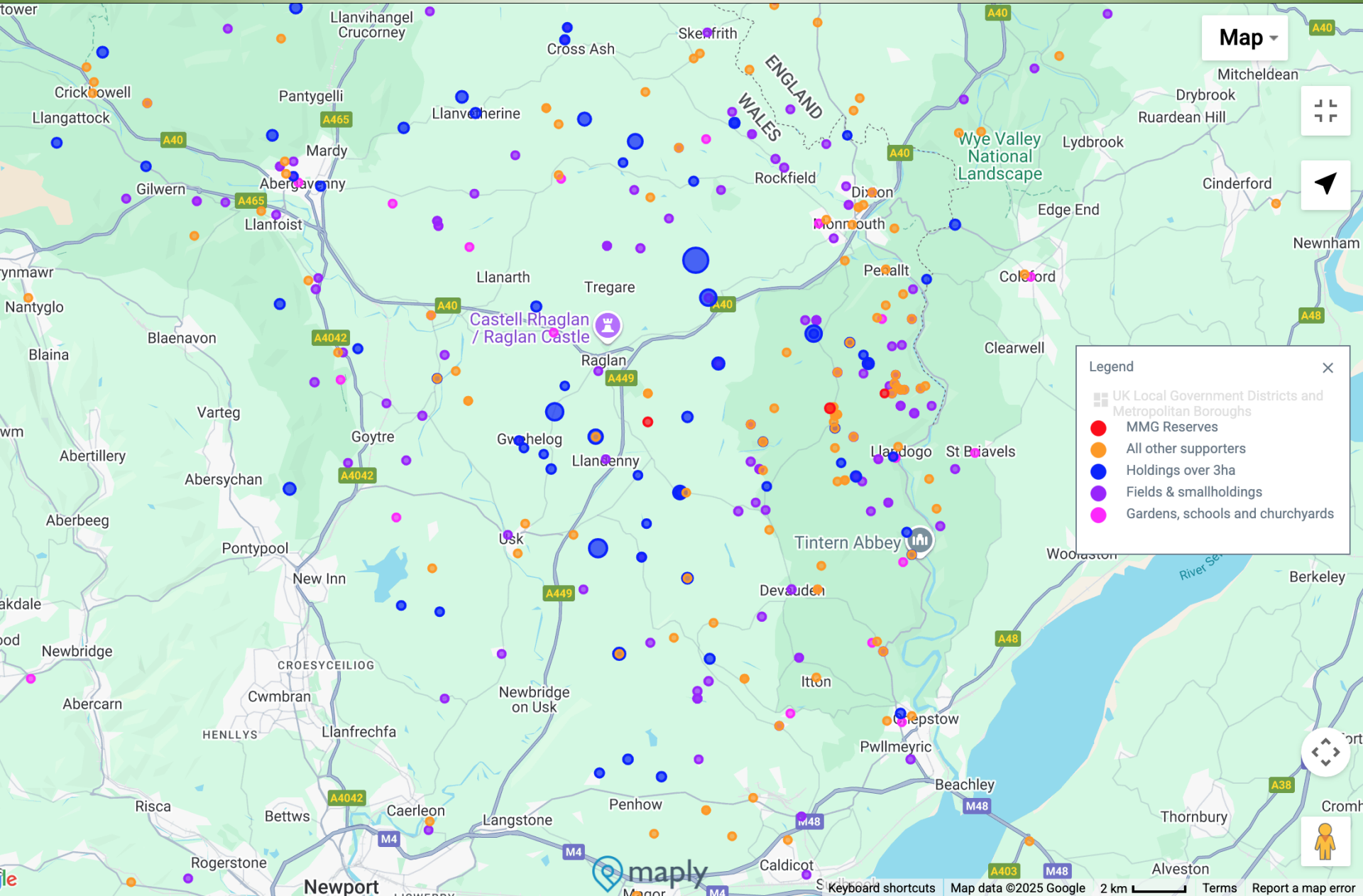
Outreach

Events organized by Marilyn
with support from
volunteers:

- Monmouth Bee Fest
- Monmouth Seed Swap

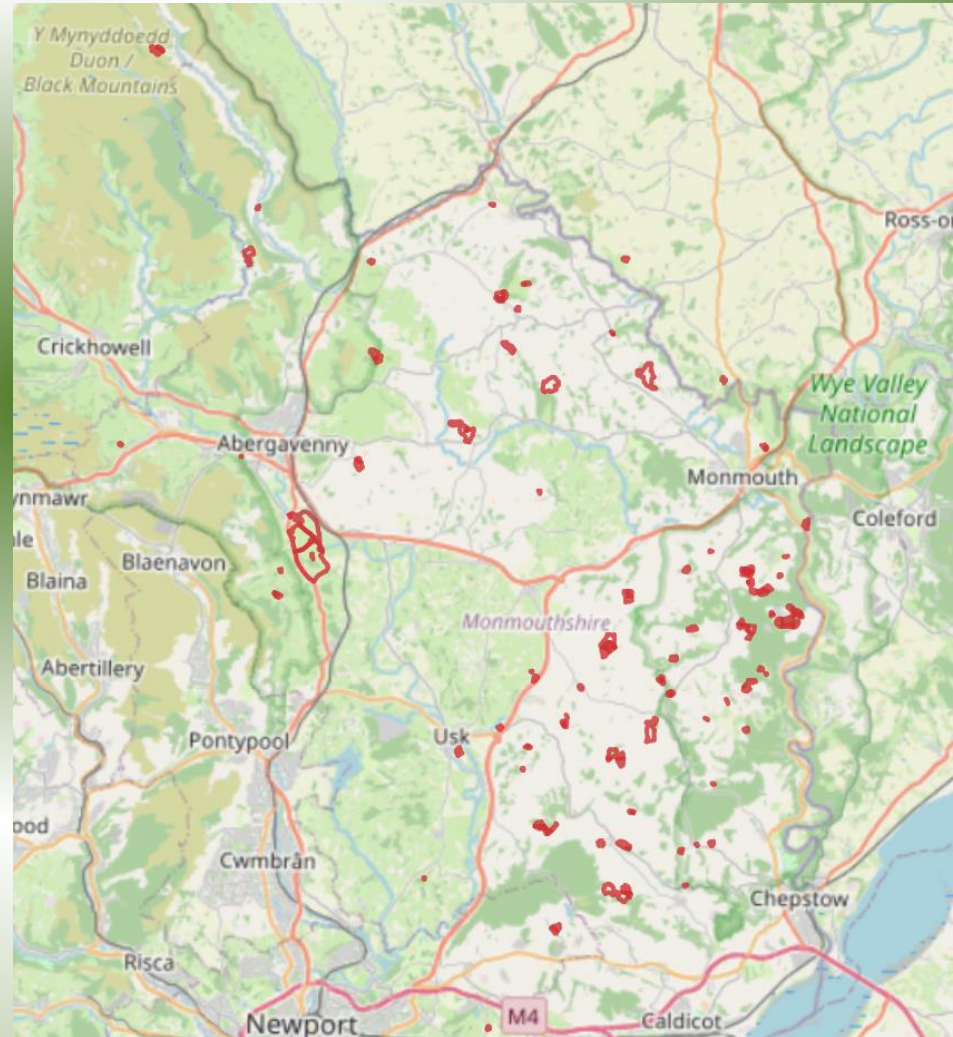


Momouthshire Meadows Group April 25



Meadow mapping project

- Purpose:
 - Evidence of effectiveness of MMG & change over time
 - Support connectivity
- Work in progress
 - Survey data
 - 88 members' holdings mapped so far onto LandApp



Strategic direction

Achievements 25-26

Connectivity & Community engagement :

- 1st cluster meeting at Gwehelog
 - Volunteer committee organized by Saran
 - Steph feeding into work on Resilient Ecological Networks
 - Mapping of survey data started
-
- Aims for 26-27
 - Continue to develop clusters to enhance connectivity and community engagement
 - Meadow monitoring programme to evidence effectiveness of management advice

Key risks mitigated

- Over-reliance on 1 or 2 key individuals
 - Surveys:
 - Additional botanists joined committee as Honorary members
 - IT and admin:
 - Clare now edits newsletter
 - New trustee appointment
 - New membership software to automate payments, reminders, etc.
 - Reserves management
 - Reserves Management Committee with support from Gwent Wildlife Trust
 - Regular assessment of risks on reserves
 - Events
 - Group of volunteers co-ordinated by Saran

Membership

25-26

Memo 24-25

Paid-up members

Individuals

365

361

Groups

7

7

Sites

281

311

New members 2024-25

Individuals

31

35

Organisations

1

0

Sites

30

29

Members not paid up (delay in
sending out reminders due to
transition)

117

83

Election of Trustees

Continuing Trustees

Steph Tyler Honorary President
Sally Jones - Chair
Clare Adamson
Teona Dorien-Smith
Saran Allott-Davey

Co-opted member of committee

Andy Karran GWT

Honorary committee members

Sheelagh Kerry
Tim Oliver
Wendy Tyler-Batt

New trustee standing for election

Siân Jones

Proposed by: Sally Jones

Seconded by: Steph Tyler

Retiring

Judith Carruthers

Rachel Duncan

Marilyn Dunkelman

David Llewellyn

As per our constitution clause 13: each of the 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!
Any questions?