



# Volunteer Newsletter

Issue 5

Spring / Summer 2021

*We hope this newsletter will keep you up to date with what volunteers are up to throughout Manx Wildlife Trust. If you'd like to find out more about wider volunteering opportunities, please contact [enquiries@mwt.im](mailto:enquiries@mwt.im). You can also keep in touch with what is happening with MWT by looking at our new Website ([mwt.im](http://mwt.im)), our Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram. The Spring/Summer edition of our member's magazine Manx Nature is also available online .*

## Intern - Hannah Midghall

I'm now just over six months into my internship with Manx Wildlife Trust, and I've had the opportunity to help out with a great variety of different jobs with the team; from measuring and mapping upland peat, to sea bird surveys, as well as writing various articles (and this newsletter!)



Along with the guidance of Andee Dubbleddam, our Forestry Conservation Officer, I will be launching the Wilder Communities project in the coming weeks. It will encompass projects such as Manx Microforests, Pick Your Own Meadows, Bee Towers, Parish Tree Maps, and Community road verges, with the overall goal of rewilding urban spaces. Though our nature reserves are important,

many of them are inaccessible for people living in towns or those without transport. We believe that access to nature is vital for everyone's wellbeing, so if all goes to plan, perhaps you will start to see some wilder spaces in your own communities. With only a couple of months left at MWT before I head to university, I'll miss working here, but will certainly be back to volunteer during school breaks. It's been an incredibly valuable experience for me and I've learnt more than I could have imagined.

## Celebrating Our Volunteers

MWT are re-launching our awards scheme to recognise excellence in our volunteers. All of our volunteers are fantastic and are extremely important in helping us to protect wildlife. Through these awards, however, we aim to recognise and celebrate volunteers who have delivered something of particular note for Manx Wildlife. This could be over a sustained period of time, or a specific act.

We would like to ask our volunteers, members and staff to nominate individuals (or perhaps specific groups of our volunteers) who you believe are worthy of such an award.

If you would like to make a nomination all you need to do is send the name(s) of the person you are nominating, plus a few lines stating why they deserve such an award. Please send this to Graham Makepeace-Warne, our Engagement Manager, at our Peel Office by post or email [Graham@mwt.im](mailto:Graham@mwt.im) by Friday 23rd July.



A panel will review the nominations and decide the recipients. These will then be presented at our AGM. (NB: all those chosen for an award will be contacted by MWT to ensure they would like to receive it, before any announcement is made.

## Midweek Muckers - Tricia Sayle

Since the ending of Lockdown 3, the Midweek Muckers have undertaken a variety of tasks across many of the reserves. Several tasks have involved the removal of Montbretia, a plant common in many gardens but highly invasive. It is a Schedule 8 species under the Wildlife Act, 1990 and as such it is an offence to release or allow it to escape into the wild.

Glen Dhoo has been the focus of Thursday tasks for a few weeks, with fence repairs required and several minor tasks around the site. The trees and shrubs planted around the reserve over the years have been tended and are generally doing very well. Glen Dhoo is looking at its best now with a terrific show of pignut – well worth a visit.



Manx Wildlife for the Future

Bea-Feie Vannin son y traay-heet



[www.mwt.im](http://www.mwt.im)

[enquiries@mwt.im](mailto:enquiries@mwt.im) | Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1AB | 01624 844432 | Registered Charity 225 IOM | Reg Company 5297 IOM

Following on from the coppicing of hazel at Aust, we have experimented with the coppicing of some neglected willow. There was sufficient material to make a couple of wattle which have been sold.



Last week, a small group helped me cut and clear the paths at Close Sartfield so visitors can enjoy the orchids. We held guided walks around the reserve Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. With birds nesting, and flowers coming into bloom, tasks will be intermittent throughout June.

### Calf of Man

As I'm sure many of you are aware, we were thrilled to announce that two real puffins were spotted at Kione my Halby, on the Calf, with the decoys!

Keirron Tastagh from Adventurous Experiences spotted them while out kayaking and managed to get a photograph, This is the first photographed puffin sighting (that we know of) on The Calf since the puffin project started.



Later in the week, photographed by MWT Assistant Estate Warden, Rob Fisher, a puffin was seen carrying nesting materials. If you are lucky enough to see the puffins please share photographs and details on the MWT or Calf of Man facebook pages. However keep in mind that like all birds, they are susceptible to disturbance during the early stages of breeding so we ask everyone to give them space, avoid areas where the puffin decoys are and stick to the marked paths. For the best chance of success, please help to keep them safe!



Other than Puffin monitoring, the Calf Bird Team have been surveying breeding seabirds, specifically Flumer and Auks, as well as Shag monitoring and colour ringing. The Estate

team have been busy as ever with bracken cutting, bait monitoring, horsetail control and ongoing track repairs, as well as filming content for wildlife week.

### Ballachurry Reserve - Sheila Norris

After a long winter of interruptions from bad weather, poor ground conditions, and lockdowns, it was wonderful to have our volunteers back at Ballachurry reserve for a Work Party in April. Their primary mission was to spread wood chip along the paths which had been quagmires throughout the winter. Thanks rootstoshoots.im for their generous donation.



Due to the fantastic number of volunteers who showed up (18 and counting!) They were also able to start work on the hide, coating it with wood preservative and repairing window shutters, as well as cutting back overgrown brambles from the path.



Three new volunteers were a huge help on site; we'd like to extend a warm welcome to Chris, Catherine and Jarod, our Duke of Edinburgh Award student, all of whom we hope to see more of in the future.

### Southern Group

The Southern Group had an extremely successful open gardens weekend this month and managed to raise £1137.44 for MWT! A huge thank you to everyone who gave their time to organise the event, and the garden owners who worked so hard to prepare their gardens for everyone to enjoy. There were many inspired and delighted visitors; a truly valuable event. Not only was it an enjoyable weekend for everyone involved, but the money raised will support our conservation work around the island.

### Northern Group - Kim Etherton

Brilliant news for both volunteers and visitors; the awful road leading to the Ayres Nature Discovery Centre is currently closed for resurfacing. The centre has also been closed whilst the work is underway and should re-open on 21 June. By then we should also have a card reader and hopefully will be able to boost sales of Wildlife Ltd stock. Working with DEFA staff, we now have a marked trail, taking in key areas of the Ayres. We'll start hiring out MWT Nature Discovery rucksacks for use along the Trail and hope that these will be popular during the summer holidays.

The Northern Group had a hugely successful Gardener's Fair on 20th June, (thanks to Ian and Viv Davies for hosting!) raising more than £5500!



Manx Wildlife for the Future

Bea-Feie Vannin son y traay-heet



[www.mwt.im](http://www.mwt.im)

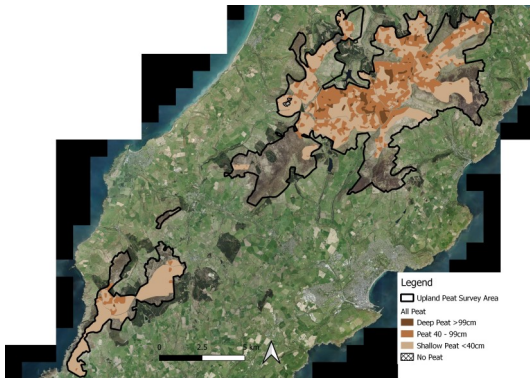
enquiries@mwt.im | Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1AB | 01624 844432 | Registered Charity 225 IOM | Reg Company 5297 IOM

## Wildlife Gift Shop

We are currently looking for more volunteers to work in our Wildlife Shop on the ground floor of the Manx Wildlife Trust offices in Peel. Money raised from selling the beautiful items in our shop all helps to fund our important work. Training and practice is given before going behind the counter. The shop is run entirely by volunteers so more support is always welcome!

## Citizen Science

We continue to have dedicated volunteers collecting citizen science data to help us protect wildlife. Projects include surveying a salt marsh, Hedgehog monitoring, butterfly transects, invertebrate identification and upland peat surveying. The map below shows the upland peat area already surveyed, which is a fantastic achievement by our volunteers,



but there is still plenty to do. If you'd like to get involved with these projects, or have a project of your own, please get in touch!

## Events

### Tynwald Day—5th July

Our Education Officer Dawn is running two bug hunts in the Arboretum—if you'd like to get involved have a look at our website for more info.

### Festival of the Sea - 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July.

With our biggest annual event on the horizon, we're calling out for volunteers to help out at the Festival of the Sea weekend, as it isn't possible without your support.

We are looking for volunteers to help man the marine tanks, talking to visitors/generating memberships and help with taking the gate money over the weekend. The shifts will be split between 10am-1pm and 1-4pm. However, I am also looking for volunteers to help on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday beforehand. Collecting the equipment will take place on the Monday and then setting up the tanks and the pump on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Help will also be required on the Monday after the event to de-kit and return the equipment to its storage locations. Some



help will be required on the Thursday and Friday for setting up displays etc for the remainder of the marquee.

If you can help please get in touch with Lara via her email [lara@mwt.im](mailto:lara@mwt.im)



## Volunteers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with a number of events. If you can spare any time and would like to get involved, please get in touch with our Engagement Manager Graham for more information at [Graham@mwt.im](mailto:Graham@mwt.im).

- Southern Agricultural Show 31st July—1st August in Ballasalla.
- Wilder Future Exhibition in Douglas 7th—14th August at the Strand Shopping Centre.
- Royal Agricultural Show 13th—14th August at Knockaloe.
- Douglas Flag Day Saturday 14th August in Strand Street.

## Finally...

As always, thank you for your on-going support, the work of volunteers is crucial for MWT to operate at our best. With many exciting events coming up this summer, we hope to see you all there.

If you know of any volunteers who haven't received this newsletter, please could you ask them to get in touch so we can send them one?

Thanks!



Manx Wildlife for the Future

Bea-Feie Vannin son y traay-heet



[www.mwt.im](http://www.mwt.im)

enquiries@mwt.im | Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1AB | 01624 844432 | Registered Charity 225 IOM | Reg Company 5297 IOM