

Dates for the Invertebrate Group Meetings 2024

Myrapods Mission

Saturday 21st January

1.30pm

Laxey Glen, meet at the lower car park

On the A2 from Douglas go over the bridge next to Laxey Flour mills and take the first left alongside the building. If you carry on through this first small car park there is a single roadway leading to a lower car park.

what 3 words native/light/waitress

Walking on flat mainly but if you wish to look alongside the edges of the Glen there are some quite steep slopes.

Please wear warm clothing and wellies as this Glen can be very muddy.

Bring along hand lenses. Bug pots and trays will be provided.

There are toilets at the cafe here and also public toilets in the glen too.

We will be sifting through the leaf litter and exploring fallen timber in search of woodlice, centipedes, and millipedes. Kate and Sue will be there to help us identify the species and the key features of them.

Butterfly Bonanza

Saturday 16th March

2.00pm

Braddan Church hall

What3words cases.fence.foster

There is a car park on site and toilet facilities.

This is an indoor based session, Gail Jeffcoate will be leading the session and will cover the butterflies of the Isle of Man and key identification features as well as basic ecology of species. There will also be coverage of how to record butterflies, the importance of this data, and the difference between recording and monitoring.

Wildlife Week Workshop

Manx Wildlife week runs from 26th April to 5th May, watch out for various wildlife themed events advertised by MWT and MNH

Saturday 4th May

Bug hunt in Summerhill Glen

11.00 at the top of Summerhill glen, entrance nearest to roundabout on Glencrutchery Road, with wooden shed and wizard carved into a tree stump.

What3words grit.umbrella.productivity

Note that there is only parking on road here, please park carefully and leave gaps for the traffic to pull into.

Wear wellies and clothing for grubbing around in! There is a steep incline onsite, and the paths can be uneven. No facilities on site.

This is a general bug hunt and stream dip to collect samples to take into the Manx Museum to present to the public in the afternoon.

1.30-4pm Public open afternoon at the iMuseum

We hope at this session to introduce people to the delights of the invertebrate world, we will have the microscopes out and need people stationed at them to talk about the specimens.

Solitary bees at Poyll Dooley, Ramsey

Saturday 15th June

2.00pm

Meet at the car park to Poyll Dooley off Gardeners Lane. From the A3 Lezayre Road in Ramsey turn into Gardeners Lane, continue along the lane until you get to a roundabout. Go over the roundabout and follow the brown sign for Poyll Dooley. This is a single-track road when you get to the river there is a turning on the right into a small car park.

What3words putts.barricade.glassware

Reserve can be muddy in wet weather, wear sturdy footwear. We may spend sometime kneeling next to the nesting areas so bring something comfortable to kneel on if you wish,

There are no facilities at this site.

Area is flat walking on uneven footpaths.

Steve Crellin will be leading this session, looking for the beautiful and busy solitary bees and wasps which favour the sandy banks by the Salt Marshes. There are over 200 species of solitary bees and a similar number of solitary wasp species in the UK, they do not produce honey, do not have a queen and do not live in hives. But often you will find them nesting close together. Here we will be looking for mining bees, which dig holes for nests. The solitary wasps also burrow into the ground and provision their nests with paralysed insects which are then eaten by the wasp larvae.

Dragonfly Discovery

Saturday 20th July

2.00pm

Ballaugh Plantation, In Ballaugh just after the bridge turn right (Travelling Northwards) or just before the bridge travelling Southwards turn left onto Ballaugh Glen road. Continue on this road past the Druidale turning heading up hill. At the end of this road, it turns into a gravel carpark. Meet here.

Wear wellies as we will be pond dipping.

Walk is on flat terrain but paths maybe uneven, no facilities on site.

What3words enablers.kudos.rust

We will be using pond nets and looking for dragonfly and damselfly nymphs in the ponds here.

Looking at the tail gills is an easy way to tell them apart. We also hope to find adult dragonflies and damselflies too.

Gravel pits, shield bugs and dragonflies

SUNDAY 18th August

2.00pm

At Bride take the road leading to the Point of Ayre light house (From the N right at the roundabout from the South left at the roundabout. Follow this road past the new gravel pits and take the track on

the left before you reach the turning at the end of the road to the lighthouse. You will see a high chainlink fence on the left. Follow this track and you will see a caravan on your left, we will be parked up here. Plenty of parking available.

Walking is on the flat but on uneven ground. There are no facilities on site.

What3words veto.caskets.bogs

Gravel pits are excellent for invertebrates, the bare ground associated with these sites heats up quickly in the sun to provide ideal conditions for warmth-loving invertebrates. It also provides nesting sites for burrowing species. With its undisturbed ground it has led to a rich biodiversity of wildflowers for pollinators too. With the warmth of the ground there should be plenty of shield bugs on site especially gorse shield bugs. David Andrews the warden for the site will be accompanying us.

Shieldbug Searching

Saturday 21st September

2.00pm

The Raggett at Peel. When in Peel take the A27 Glenfaba road towards Glen Maye. Take care as there are some sharp bends in the road for the bridge over the river. Just beyond this bridge on the left is a layby. From Glen Maye. Come through Kirk Patrick and look for the layby on your right. There is a sign with the Raggett on.

What3words doll.blizzard.pounce

This area can be very muddy so please wear wellies. The walking is on the flat. There are no facilities on site.

There are a number of shieldbug species in the UK, easily recognised by their flat, often triangular bodies and distinctive, shield-like shapes on their backs. You might have heard shieldbugs also being called 'stinkbugs' due to the smelly liquid they excrete to put off hungry predators. Shieldbugs are in the Hemiptera order or 'true' bugs as they have mouthparts that can pierce into plants. We will be searching the bushes and vegetation to find and identify these insects and which nymph stage they are at.

Invertebrate Exploration at Government House

Saturday 19th October

1.30pm

Meet at the courtyard car park area at Government house.

Walk is on flat ground but uneven underfoot in areas.

His excellency has kindly given us permission to search the grounds of government house for invertebrates, there are shrubberies, wooded areas and compost heaps to explore. Plus, with the abundance of fungus we should find some fungus gnats too!

Gardening for Invertebrates

Saturday 16th November

2pm

Braddan Church hall

What3words cases.fence.foster

There is a car park on site and toilet facilities.

This is an indoor meeting, we will be discussing how you can help invertebrates in your garden, nectar sources, shelter you can offer and creating bee homes for solitary bees. Why not have a try at turning your garden into a haven for insects.