The membership newsletter for Manx Wildlife Trust

Manx NATURE

Manx Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie Vannin

Dooghys Vannin

AUTUMN WINTER 2026

Nature *benefits*

How nature benefits, people, places and prosperity

Tiny treasures
Discover local invertebrates



£6 | Free to members



Welcome to Autumn/Winter 2026

Earlier this month, MWT Head of Engagement, Carmel, and I had the opportunity to brief Members of Tynwald on a simple but increasingly important idea: nature is not a luxury. It supports the Isle of Man's economy, infrastructure and healthcare system. From productive farmland and healthy seas to natural flood management, carbon storage, tourism, public wellbeing and health creation, the natural world underpins many of the things we often take for granted.

Throughout this issue of Manx Nature, you will find stories that explores these connections. Whether it is nature-friendly farming supporting food security, rainforests reducing flood risk, businesses investing in natural capital, marine ecosystems sustaining livelihoods, or Green Social Prescribing improving health and wellbeing, the message is consistent: when nature thrives, people prosper. As we begin a new political administration, there is an opportunity to think differently about nature's role in our national future. Too often, environmental policy is framed around what governments can do for nature. While that remains important, perhaps a better question is: what can nature do for our country?

The answer is a great deal. But nature can only deliver these benefits when it is healthy, abundant and functioning. A depleted ecosystem cannot protect communities, support wildlife, improve wellbeing or build resilience. If we want nature to work for the Isle of Man, we must first restore it and allow it to thrive.

Together, we can build a future where nature is recognised not as a constraint on prosperity, but as one of its foundations.

Warm regards,
Graham Makepeace-Warne
CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust



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200 CLUB

With thanks to John Howie for organising the 200 CLUB

Winners of the Spring/Summer 2026 draws:

Mar:	1st	Mrs F Cain (53) £48.96
	2nd	Mrs A McNair (52) £32.64
	3rd	Mrs D Jacobs (131) £16.32
Apr:	1st	Mrs G Curphey (119) £48.96
	2nd	Ms D Hughes (55) £32.64
	3rd	Mr R & Mrs J Quine (67) £16.32
May:	1st	Mrs A MacNair (52) £48.96
	2nd	Mrs C Henry (19) £32.64
	3rd	Mrs H Wilkinson (31) £16.32
Jun:	1st	Mrs H Paul (130) £45.31
	2nd	Mr I Burrell (5) £30.21
	3rd	Ms J Clague (139) £15.10
Jul:	1st	Mrs F Cain (53) £45.83
	2nd	Mrs J Corkish (70) £30.56
	3rd	Mrs S Farrell (77) £15.28
Aug:	1st	Mr D Farrell (78) £45.83
	2nd	Mr A Kelly (63) £30.56
	3rd	Mr J Aycock (103) £15.28

The 200 CLUB is a prize draw designed to help raise funds for our conservation work. Winners are individually notified and sent cheques by post. Members can join at any time, the more subscribers we have, the bigger the prizes!

Email john@mwt.im to join the 200 CLUB

Get in touch!

We'd love to hear from you, whether sharing your thoughts on the magazine, or of your adventures in nature on the Isle of Man.

Manx
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On the cover

Dor Beetle by Graham Makepeace-Warne

Finished reading this issue? Why not pass it onto a friend or take it to your local waiting room for others to enjoy? When the magazine is finished with, please recycle it.

Manx Nature is produced for the members and supporters of Manx Wildlife Trust. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of MWT.

Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) was founded in 1973 and is the Isle of Man's leading nature conservation charity. Its members, staff and volunteers support MWT to protect Manx wildlife for the future by:

- **Driving the development of a Nature Recovery Network across the IOM** to create more places for wildlife.
- **Deliver and expand Nature-Based Solutions** across the IOM.
- **Connecting people in the IOM strongly to nature** and the work of MWT.

MWT Council Members
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John Hunter (Treasurer)
Kim Alcantara (Secretary)
Magnus Grinneback
Greg Slater
Paul Thomas
Karen Ratzeburg
Rachel Coomer
Stephan King

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Ornithological Warden (Calf of Man) - Eleanor Grover
Estate Warden (Calf of Man) - Jasmine Smith
Biosphere Artist in Residence - Alice Dudley

NEW TEAM



Mathilda Whittle
Community Ranger supported by Lloyds International

Mathilda Whittle, also known as 'Til' joined MWT in May 2026 as our Community Ranger, supported by Lloyds International.

For the past few years, she has been living in South-West England, Scotland and Costa Rica, working and volunteering in conservation.

Til's role as our Community Ranger is focused on working with communities to develop nature-based projects.



MWT Douglas gift shop!

Karen Ratzeburg
MWT Trustee and Volunteer Douglas gift shop Coordinator

One of the many benefits of being a volunteer in our little Sea Terminal gift shop is being able to talk about nature with people from around the world.

The passengers from one American cruise ship this summer were fascinated by the Oystercatchers on Douglas beach and bought lots of Oystercatcher coasters and mugs and guides to Coastal Sea Birds to take home as souvenirs.

We are frequently asked about boat trips to see wildlife and are more than happy to share the contact information for the various boat companies that run tours.

In return the travellers tell us about their local wildlife: ospreys on Rutland Water, black bears in Canada, and native (rather than fugitive) wallabies in Australia.

And it is not only visitors who come in to share stories - Island residents do as well. If you happen to be passing pop in and have a seat and a chat. We love to hear about your experiences with nature. Thanks to an increase in our volunteer rota, we are now open at least six days per week, but not necessarily all day. We aim to be open longer in the run up to Christmas and will be doing another 8am - 8pm opening on Thursday 17 December for all those last-minute Christmas presents.



PHOTO: © DAVID BELLAMY: MWT

Pictured: MWT Cronk y Chule Nature Reserve

New MWT nature reserve near Laxey

MWT have achieved the long-held desire of one of our founders, the late William Cain CBE QC RBV TH, to have a nature reserve in each of the Island's 17 ancient parishes.

In May, MWT purchased a new 46 ha (114 ac) nature reserve in Laxey and Lonan, upslope of the Great Laxey Wheel. MWT Cronk y Chule already boasts peatland, hay meadows, a small coppice of ancient woodland pasture and cattle-grazed grassland. MWT will preserve the high quality habitats whilst also creating new habitats, including temperate rainforest to create a richer mix of quality wildlife habitats, all of which will be grazed by cattle. Over time, the reserve will support more wildlife while improving carbon storage and natural flood management. Crucially, it will achieve this while still protecting important archaeology and maintaining the site's role in food security. The reserve includes several abandoned homesteads and links to the valley's industrial past, including the Compressor House Cistern which once used water supplied by a lade to power machinery within the Great Laxey Mines. Because cattle - including cows with calves - will continue to graze the land for most of the year, there is currently no public access. Safe public access will be introduced in the future.



PHOTO: © MARGARET HOLLAND

Pictured: Common Pheasant *(Phasianus colchicus)*

LOCAL NEWS

Stories from across the Isle of Man

The Alpine Turf Ant newly discovered on Mann

Turf ants (also known as square-shouldered ants) are small brownish-black ants, that live in very populous colonies on hot coasts and heaths of the southern British Isles. Smaller than the familiar garden black ants, these uncommon ants have been recorded from Isle of Man on several occasions. Now it turns out that the Island has not one but two species of turf ant, according to a targeted survey in July by local entomologist Sue Harvey and Andrew Jarman, during a visit from the UK. The ants they found at two coastal dune locations, including MWT's Cronk y Bing National Nature Reserve, were confirmed as the expected species of Turf Ant (*Tetramorium caespitum*). These are the most northerly known locations of this warmth-seeking ant. Remarkably, in five other locations in the south and west of Mann, turf ants were found nesting in a different habitat, coastal cliffs. These proved to be a closely related species, the Alpine Turf Ant (*Tetramorium alpestre*). As its name implies, this ant was only known from the highest mountains of continental Europe, until recently, when an isolated population was found to exist at sea level in eastern Scotland. The new Isle of Man records of this alpine species represent a second relict population in the British Isles.



Pictured: *Tetramorium caespitum* queen (Turf ant)

UK Government announce final lead shot ban

The UK Government has confirmed that from 1st April 2029, the sale and use of lead shot for both clay shooting and live quarry will be banned to reduce the impact of this highly poisonous substance on our habitats and wildlife, particularly our water birds. This ban will apply across England, Wales and Scotland, following a phased three-year transition period which began on 1st April 2026.

The Isle of Man Government has indicated that it will follow suit and are considering the necessary legislative amendments required. MWT will continue to monitor developments and encourage a clear transition away from all forms of lead ammunition no later than the UK's deadline, to reduce environmental pollution and protect wildlife.

LOCAL NEWS

Stories from across the Isle of Man

STOP PRESS



David Bellamy
MWT Head of Conservation & Land

Nationally rare lichen found!

In September 2022, British consultant lichenologist Andy Acton found a previously undescribed species of lichen from the genus *Melaspilea* growing on a willow in the Ballaugh Curragh. We have just received a further record from Andy that he also found the species during a 2025 all-Island lichen survey organised by MWT. Andy found the second Manx specimen on 16th July 2025, again growing on willow, at MWT's Lough Cranstal Nature Reserve near to the Point of Ayre. Herbarium specimens are now at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh awaiting a formal species description to be published in the scientific literature.

Andy has also recently formally confirmed his July 2025 finding of a very rare temperate rainforest lichen growing on tree bark at both MWT's Creg y Cowin Nature Reserve and also MWT's new Glen Auldyn Nature Reserve to be *Graphis leptoclada.* Despite the species first being described to science back in 1882, this "Nationally Rare" lichen has only previously been recorded once in the whole United Kingdom, with a single record for Westerness in Scotland. This is a bark-dwelling species of oceanic-influenced temperate rainforests which will benefit from MWT's Manx rainforest restoration programme across our four project sites.



PHOTO: © ANDY ACTON

Pictured: MWT Creg y Cowin Nature Reserve

Island's second "National Nature Reserve" declared during King's visit

A new National Nature Reserve has been declared to mark the King's first official visit to the Island as Lord of Mann. MWT's Cronk y Bing National Nature Reserve, a 7ha (18ac) dune site in Andreas parish was formally declared by outgoing DEFA Minister, Clare Barber MHK. The designation under the Wildlife Act 1990 gives the site the highest level of legal protection available under Manx law. It also recognises this coastline's global importance for wildlife, with Cronk y Bing forming part of the 12 km long ecological unit known as the Ayres, stretching from the coast of Jurby all the way to the Point of Ayre itself. The MWT reserve is particularly important for birds, with 120 species recorded to date, including 36 of the Island's 48 red-listed species of conservation concern. Among its dune and strandline habitats, wider coastal biodiversity includes the Manx Robber Fly, the Isle of Man Cabbage and over 3,600 protected Pyramidal Orchids. Minister Barber said the declaration reflected the Island's commitment to protecting the wildlife and landscapes that make it special. MWT have pushed for this designation for several years, as although Cronk y Bing is one of the best places to experience Manx nature, it can at times suffer negative impacts from recreational use, such as dogs being off the lead on the beach. Formal byelaws to further protect the reserve will follow later this year.

The reserve was purchased by MWT in 1993 using a supporter's legacy gift and includes yellow dune, grey dune, scrub, freshwater, reedbed and foreshore habitats of sand and shingle. Some 187 different plant species have been recorded to date. The reserve is well known for birdwatching and supports beach-nesting birds such as the specially-protected Ringed Plover and the red-listed Oystercatcher. Hundreds of seabirds, gulls and waders use the site's high-tide roost at the mouth of the Lhen.

CALF OF MAN

In October TWO Great Spotted Woodpeckers were caught in the same day and this was the first time two have ever been caught in a single season. Both were first year birds that are likely to have been dispersing from natal sites in the Isle of Man. A common sight in woodlands around the British Isles, woodpeckers are quite scarce on remote islands.



PHOTO: © JASMINE SMITH

Pictured: Great Spotted Woodpecker on the Calf of Man



PHOTO: © DAVID BELLAMY: MWT

Pictured: MWT Cronk y Bing National Nature Reserve

Events

CHRISTMAS EVENT

Wreath making workshop

On Sunday 6 December at 2pm, join us at Ballaugh Village Hall, for a festive afternoon creating your very own Christmas wreath. Led by Jane Self you'll learn how to create a beautiful festive wreath to hang on your front door or use as a seasonal table decoration. Tickets £25. All ticket sales go towards protecting Manx nature. Booking essential, as tickets sell out fast!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coming soon

Follow @Manxwildlifetrust on socials for new and exciting events coming in 2027!

Tell us

Get involved. Got a Story? Send to **enquiries@mwt.im**

KIDS EVENT

A Wilder Christmas (for ages 4-12)

Join Tiph, our Education Officer for a Watch event on Saturday 5 December at 10am in Peel to create the most whimsical eco-friendly decorations. Keep an eye on our social media for more info. Members £2.50. Non-members £7.50 per child. Booking required. Not currently a Wildlife Watch Member > you can find out more and sign-up here: **https://www.mwt.im/what-we-do/wildlife-watch**

wildlife watch
For ages 4-12

Get involved!
To book onto these events and to browse others, visit **mwt.im/events**

Obituaries



Clare Bryan

MWT is sorry to report that Clare Bryan sadly passed away on the 24th June aged 87. Clare was an active member of MWT's Council of Trustees, acting as honorary secretary for 15 years up to 2010. Clare's funeral was at Malew Church on Wednesday 29th July. She was known for being an excellent record keeper and held many key roles in MWT including fundraising. She also helped set up the Scarlett Visitor Centre, as it was at the time, now the Scarlett Nature Discovery Centre. Clare loved travel, music and wildlife and was always keen to get family out into nature when visiting the Island. She was always involved in events planning and record keeping as she was very good at minutes. Clare was a highly skilled PA in her professional life, which was a great asset to MWT. She is sorely missed by all at MWT.



Joe Cant

MWT was deeply saddened by the loss of Joe Cant, a much-valued volunteer, supporter and friend. Joe gave his time, knowledge and energy generously, especially through our Northern Supporter Group, the Gardener's Fair, the Nature Discovery Centre at the Ayres, and the MWT Hairpin Woodland Park project with Milntown. Joe had a rare gift for bringing people and nature together. Whether helping children discover wildlife gardening, sharing practical advice, or encouraging others to "have a go", he made learning memorable, muddy and fun. His warmth, humour and can-do spirit left a lasting impression on everyone who worked alongside him. MWT plans to honour Joe with a commemorative seat and a Mountain Ash tree, chosen by Joe himself for its value to wildlife. His contribution will be remembered with gratitude, smiles and affection.



Dr Carmel Croukamp
Head of Engagement &
Deputy CEO

Nature on Prescription

What happens when we harness one of our oldest health resources?

PHOTO: © VAUGHN MATTHEWS: 2020VISION

For the most of human history, people understood that nature was good for them. Woodland walks, gardening, farming, fishing and the natural rhythms of the seasons were woven into everyday life.

Over the last decade, research has measured these benefits with increasing rigour. Nature is not simply pleasant or relaxing: it can influence several aspects of health and functioning at once. Green Social Prescribing turns this evidence into structured support for those who need it the most.

An Island-wide approach taking shape

In the Isle of Man, Green Social Prescribing is moving from evidence into practice. Manx Wildlife Trust is working in partnership with Public Health, Manx Care, local Health and Care Communities and other partners to test structured nature-based programmes for people with a range of health and wellbeing needs.

The first three pilots were based in Ramsey in partnership with and funded by Ramsey Group Practice, with founding participation from Amy Howse, a sound therapist and then Biosphere Artist in Residence, and Lucy Chapman, then MWT's Team Wilder Coordinator. The first took place at MWT Hairpin Woodland Park, the second, at Milntown Estate and Gardens, was designed to be accessible to wheelchair users and people with impaired mobility.

A further Milntown programme focused on people recovering from stroke. The work is now extending across the Island, with a Peel pilot beginning in October and a southern programme at MWT Ballachurry Nature Reserve in November.

Participants join a supported programme, attend regularly with the same group and are guided by people who understand wellbeing and nature. This makes nature more accessible to those lacking the confidence, mobility, health or opportunity to seek its benefits alone. As trust grows, solidarity, mutual support and shared problem solving can develop.

From patient to participant

These pilots are supported six-week journeys, with the same small group meeting weekly. Sessions combine a welcome, gently paced nature activity and reflection. Activities may include woodland walks, birdwatching, sensory exploration, planting, crafts and conservation tasks. No previous knowledge is needed, and participation can be adapted around mobility, health, confidence and energy.

At Milntown, people explored trees and seasonal change, made crafts and bird feeders, sowed acorns and potted young trees. Shared activity supports connection, manageable movement, learning and care for a place and its living things. The effects can be visible in small moments: someone settling beside a fire who would normally avoid the cold; a new conversation beginning; or a participant leaving with the confidence to volunteer. Together, these moments can restore curiosity, agency, purpose and hope.

> **"The course really helped me find headspace to organise my thoughts about the troublesome aspects of my life. I am a lot more positive and carefree than I previously was."**
> **Participant**

What the early results show

The Milntown evaluation provides the first Isle of Man data from Public Health's Green Social Prescribing pilots delivered by MWT. It used two recognised measures before and after the programme. The Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale assessed optimism, relaxation, confidence, clear thinking, relationships and interest in life. The Nature Relatedness Survey explored connection to nature, enjoyment of being outdoors and the natural world's place in identity and everyday behaviour.

Broadly, the results showed improved wellbeing, with the clearest changes in relaxation, cheerfulness and optimism. Participants also reported gains in feeling useful and confident, thinking clearly, making decisions and taking an interest in new things. Nature connection strengthened overall, particularly through greater enjoyment of being outdoors, practical engagement with nature and a stronger sense of connection to living things.

Together, the survey findings and personal accounts suggest that the programme creates a supportive setting in which people could feel better, participate on their own terms and begin to look ahead with greater confidence.

Why it works: the evidence base

Psychological benefits:

Contact with nature is associated with lower stress, anxiety and depression, and with improved mood, attention and mental restoration. Natural settings can offer respite from sustained demands, helping people concentrate, think clearly and cope.

Social benefits:

Walking, planting or making something together allows connection without making conversation the sole focus. It can build companionship, peer encouragement and belonging, particularly for people experiencing loneliness or low confidence.

Physical benefits:

Nature-based activity supports gentle movement. Exposure to green space has also been associated with lower cortisol, blood pressure and heart rate, and reduced risks of cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes. Activities can be adapted during recovery or for long-term conditions.

Purpose, agency and connection:

Caring for a seedling, completing a craft or contributing to a habitat creates a visible result and can restore usefulness and achievement. Feeling part of the natural world is also linked with greater life satisfaction, resilience, meaning and wellbeing. The strongest programmes combine these benefits through regular attendance, varied activities, skilled facilitation, accessible settings and a route into further community involvement. The six-week Island pilots are designed around these principles.

Find more

Interested in taking part? Contact your local Health and Care Community about referral, or visit **mwt.im/green-social-prescribing.**

More resources for wellbeing in nature are available at **mwt.im/wellbeing.**

A practical health resource

Green Social Prescribing complements rather than replaces clinical care. It can help where health is affected by stress, low mood, loneliness, reduced mobility, long-term conditions or recovery, offering continuity, supportive relationships and a reason to re-engage.

Greater confidence, clearer thinking, stronger routines and renewed social contact can support recovery and participation. For health and care services, this offers a preventive pathway that can provide help earlier and reduce pressure later. There is more to learn, but the early signs are promising: participants report feeling calmer, more positive, confident and connected.



Steve Wright is MWT's Office Administrator

Wildlife, wellbeing & the Manx outdoors!



PHOTO: © STEVE WRIGHT; MWT

Steve with a Highland Cow

I've always felt that supporting nature is as obvious as supporting clean air or drinking water. When nature and ecosystems thrive, people are happier too. If I spend too long in man-made environments, things start to go awry.

Some mental health problems are linked to a lack of daily outdoor time. From experience, a whole day indoors leaves me irritable and stressed, sometimes with headaches and lethargy. Many local people work indoors, including in Douglas offices. Others face demanding environments in the emergency services, hospitality or teaching. These pressures can trigger existing mental health issues or contribute to problems later in life, affecting a considerable part of the Manx workforce.

I've spent decades as a full-time office worker, often in crowded open-plan rooms, staring at a screen while the phone blared for attention. Those roles consumed most weekday daylight, especially in winter when I travelled both ways in the dark. Outdoor work can be even tougher in a Manx winter. While some sit warm in an office, others face icy waves on trawlers or windblown hillsides with damp livestock. I don't want either extreme, just a healthier balance between indoor and outdoor life.

All my life, I've tested ways to improve my mental wellbeing. Growing up in Cheshire, I could escape the troubles rattling around my head by packing a rucksack, usually with fizzy drink and chocolate, and rambling beside the Shropshire Union Canal or across local farmland. Nature didn't cure me, but it helped me through difficult times.

Outdoor exercise can support people with anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder. As an introvert, crowds drain me quickly. I prefer one or two companions outdoors to a packed café, pub or airport lounge. My idea of heaven is time in my own company, exercising my mind and my legs.

A mixture of remedies works best for me, without prescriptions or medicine. I visit my Douglas allotment above the cemetery on Johnny Watterson's Lane every other day, sometimes simply to absorb the surrounding nature and enjoy quiet contemplation. The rhythm and purpose of weeding and digging clears my mind. Others find the same release in DIY or mechanics. If your partner disappears into the garden shed, they may be recharging their internal battery rather than avoiding your company.

Walking helps too. I love Marine Drive: it is close to home, changes with the seasons and offers encounters with the resident Ravens. I'm not one of the runners. I'm the person halfway into a hedge because I thought I spotted a Common Lizard. For a change of scenery, I head to Langness, The Sound or Peel.

That is why every resident should have the chance to experience the Manx coast and countryside. MWT offers activities and places where people can escape some of the noise and pressure of modern life.

Remember: Manx Wildlife Trust has WILDLIFE in its name, but also MANX. Its work helps nature while giving Manx residents places, purpose and opportunities to feel better. MWT supports wildlife, and it supports people too.

Connect with nature & make a difference

Take *action* for nature

Current and developing opportunities include community gardening at Milntown in Ramsey; tree planting with the Isle of Man Woodland Trust; and practical management at MWT Ballachurry Nature Reserve in Port Erin, Onchan Wetlands and reserves around Ballaugh with the Midweek Muckers. As MWT's work grows, further opportunities are expected at places including MWT Hairpin Woodland Park and Glen Auldyn in Ramsey. Roles vary through the year, from one-off activities to regular volunteering, so check the volunteering page for the latest openings > mwt.im/volunteering

Citizen Science *matters*

Wildlife records show where species live, how populations are changing and where conservation effort is most needed. MWT's Invertebrate Group welcomes people at every level and builds valuable records through fieldwork and identification sessions across the Island. MWT also offers terrestrial projects such as the Butterfly Count and Hedgehog Survey, alongside marine opportunities including shark tagging, marine invasive-species work and strandings. Each observation adds to the evidence used to understand and protect Manx wildlife.

Independent organisations are essential partners in this shared effort. The Manx Bat Group brings volunteers together for bat walks, surveys, rescue work and a database of bat and roost records. The Isle of Man Fungus Group has transformed knowledge of local fungi through identification, recording and a checklist documenting nearly 1,500 species. These groups show how specialist curiosity, carefully recorded, can become vital conservation evidence.

Nature in your *community*

You do not have to join an established programme to make a difference. If your neighbourhood or community needs more space for wildlife, consider bringing people together around a local patch, project or idea. A small group can improve habitats, connect neighbours and create lasting benefits for wellbeing. To discuss starting or developing a community nature group, contact **mathilda@mwt.im.**

Find more

Find more information
mwt.im/wellbeing
mwt.im/volunteering



Orchid at MWT Moaney and Crawyns Meadows



Fixing the boardwalk at MWT Onchan Wetlands



Checking out the view at the Sound

The power of connection



Mathilda Whittle is our Community Ranger supported by Lloyds International

LLOYDS INTERNATIONAL

> What is a day without access to nature like?

For me, it manifests itself as a brain I can't switch off, I might not sleep as well and feel generally restless, like my day has been both too busy and completely empty at the same time. It can be hard to pinpoint the changes, after all, there are so many things that can affect how we feel day to day. But if you make getting outside and connecting with the natural world an integral part of your routine that difference can become very noticeable.

People with good connections to nature tend to report feeling happier, calmer and more able to cope with difficulties. Stress is one of the biggest threats to our health in today's society, and is linked to a number of health issues both mental and physical, including heart disease and diabetes. Research has consistently shown time spent in nature reduces cortisol (stress hormone) levels, as well as lowering heart rate, blood pressure and calming the bodies' nervous system. Even pictures of the natural world placed in hospital environments have been shown to speed recovery. Just five minutes outside acts as a sort of reset for your brain, this is one way I use nature to relieve stress and is a quick and easy way to implement these benefits into daily life.

Meaningful time outside doesn't need to involve an expedition and can be accessed in all sorts of ways. It can be very simple and accessible such as taking a lunch break in an outdoor space, a short walk after work, spending time in the garden or choosing somewhere new to walk the dog. It can be green spaces such as parks and woodlands, blue spaces such as rivers, lakes and the sea, trees in urban landscapes, our gardens, allotments, and even window boxes and houseplants!

I recognise that I am lucky enough to have lots of access to outdoor spaces as part of my work, but it is important to understand that there are many smaller ways in which we can experience nature, and how you interact with it can be much more important than where you do. I often think the best form of connection is just getting to know and recognise what's around you, by looking more and being curious - What kind of tree is that? What does the bark feel like? What colour are its leaves? How does it move in the breeze? Are there any animals on or around it? What kind of animal? - It doesn't take much but can expand your world in incredible ways.

This is illustrated nicely in the incredible book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, where she highlights why this disconnection that many of us have is so strange and damaging.

"Names are the way we humans build relationship, not only with each other but with the living world. I'm trying to imagine what it would be like going through life not knowing the names of the plants and animals around you... I think it would be a little scary and disorientating - like being lost in a foreign city where you can't read the signs. Philosophers call this state of isolation and disconnection "species loneliness" – a deep, unnamed sadness stemming from estrangement from the rest of creation, from the loss of relationship."

Today's societies are also suffering with the loss of community, and this is another way we can use connection with our environment to combat this issue. My work as Community Ranger, supported by Lloyds International, focuses on working with people to help them achieve their visions and goals in anything related to the natural world. We have many examples of local community groups doing incredible work to build our relationship with our surroundings. A group I work closely with that captures this is Onchan Wetlands Community group, started when an individual who lived in the area asked if there was more that could be done to look after this small reserve. With limited resources it was a site that we could no longer fully afford to look after, and from a conservation perspective it wasn't a priority. However, from a community perspective, this one act of care has grown, into a thriving and diverse group that brings together people in the community, dedicated and united in looking after this important local space, that otherwise would likely have been neglected.

In the Isle of Man we are surrounded by nature just by virtue of living where we do, but how often do we make the effort to meaningfully engage? What type of natural space are we in? Is it a healthy natural space, is it somewhere we can engage with others in the community, is there something undiscovered? We are lucky to live in such wonderful surroundings, are we making the most of it for our own benefit, that of others, and the environment itself? I hope that we can all become more tuned in to improve these aspects of our lives and build healthier and happier communities which are connected to, and part of, our fascinating natural world.

Get involved!

Check out our volunteering opportunities at **mwt.teamkinetic.co.uk/**



One of the resident ducks at Milntown Gardens in Ramsey

3 to SEE

MWT Cooildarry
Nature Reserve

A peaceful woodland nestled in a deep valley between two streams, with a rich variety of trees, ferns, mosses and fungi. In spring, enjoy the woodland floor carpeted with primroses, wood anemones, lesser celandines and bluebells.
Location:
Opposite entrance to Glen Wyllin campsite

MWT Glen Dhoo
Nature Reserve

Lying in a remote valley with reminders of a historic past and outstanding displays of orchids and other meadow wildflowers.
Location:
Glen Dhoo valley, Ballaugh

MWT Creggans
Nature Reserve

With an atmospheric upland landscape with stunning views, rich cultural history and internationally important grassland fungi. Visit in October and November to discover its colourful waxcaps, coral fungi and other rare species thriving in these globally threatened habitats.
Location:
Tholt y Will
Upper Sulby Valley
Lezayre,

At MWT, our vision. is an Island with more people connected to nature, more wild places and more wildlife

Why business and nature need each other

Before joining Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), I spent much of my career working in the finance sector and this experience has shaped how I view the relationship between business and conservation. My move into the environmental charity sector was driven by a desire to help protect the places and wildlife that make the Isle of Man so special, while continuing to work closely with organisations that want to make a positive difference. Having worked on both sides of the partnership, I understand the pressures businesses face and the need to demonstrate value, purpose and impact. What has struck me most is that many businesses genuinely want to contribute to something bigger than themselves. When done well, support for conservation is not simply philanthropy; it can strengthen employee engagement, enhance wellbeing, build community connections and help organisations demonstrate their values in a meaningful and authentic way. My experience has shown me that businesses can be powerful partners in nature recovery, creating benefits not only for wildlife but also for their employees, customers and the wider community.



Lucy Felton is MWT's Partnerships Officer

For more than 50 years, we have worked to help people experience, understand and value the natural world around them, while protecting and restoring the habitats and species that make the Isle of Man unique.

The Isle of Man is home to an extraordinary natural heritage, from temperate rainforests, to wetlands, heathlands, coastlines and orchid-rich meadows. The Island supports a remarkable diversity of terrestrial and marine species, helping to make it such a special place to live, work and visit. These habitats not only sustain wildlife but also contribute to our wellbeing, strengthen our sense of place and support the resilience of our communities. However, many locations face increasing pressures from climate disruption, habitat loss, pollution and invasive species, making their protection and restoration more important than ever.

What many people do not realise is that MWT is an independent, self-governing charity. We do not receive core government funding for our day-to-day conservation work. Instead, we rely on the support of members, donors, volunteers, charitable trusts, grant funders and business partners to make our work possible.

That independence gives us the freedom to remain focused on the long-term needs of nature, but it also means that every partnership matters. Business support helps us restore habitats, manage nature reserves, engage communities, educate young people and create opportunities for people to connect with nature.

One of the most valuable forms of support a business can provide is unrestricted funding. While project-specific funding is important, unrestricted funding gives charities the flexibility to respond where the need is greatest. It enables MWT to invest in expert staff, volunteer programmes, reserve management, education and innovation. Put simply, unrestricted funding provides the foundation that allows everything else to happen.

An influential voice shaping this conversation is Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, whose landmark review on the economics of biodiversity challenged conventional thinking about the relationship between nature and prosperity.

Sir David Attenborough

"The future of nature is under threat and we must work together; governments, conservationists, businesses and individuals, to help it."



PHOTO: CORPORATE WORK DAY WITH LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL © MWT



The challenge now is to ensure that the Isle of Man remains rich in wildlife, resilient to environmental change and deeply connected to nature. Achieving that will require collaboration between charities, communities, individuals and businesses alike. ***Lucy Felton, MWT***



The Lloyds International team buliding bird boxes

The Dasgupta Review argues that long-term economic prosperity depends on healthy natural systems and that nature can no longer be viewed as separate from the economy. Increasingly, businesses and economists are reaching the same conclusion: From clean water and healthy soils to climate regulation and pollination, nature underpins the systems upon which economies depend. The World Economic Forum estimates that more than half of global economic output depends on nature and the services it provides. Put simply, healthy ecosystems support healthy economies. When nature thrives, businesses benefit from more resilient supply chains, healthier communities, a more stable climate and a workforce that is healthier and more productive. Protecting nature is therefore not separate from economic success; it is increasingly recognised as one of the foundations upon which long-term prosperity depends.

An increasingly important conversation around nature concerns its role in health and wellbeing.

A growing body of research demonstrates strong links between access to nature and improved physical health, mental wellbeing and social connection. Researchers reviewing hundreds of studies found extensive evidence that interaction with nature positively influences wellbeing through recreation, emotional connection and community engagement.

Researchers recently reviewed the findings of many studies from around the world and concluded: "We found evidence for associations between nature exposure and improved cognitive function, brain activity, blood pressure, mental health, physical activity, and sleep." *Jimenez et al. (2021).*

This has important implications for businesses. Employers are increasingly focused on supporting employee wellbeing, recognising that healthy and engaged teams are fundamental to organisational success. Nature can help reduce stress, improve mood, increase concentration and strengthen social connections.

This is one reason why opportunities such as Wild Work Days are proving so popular with our business partners. Employees can step away from their desks, spend time outdoors and contribute directly to conservation projects. Many partners tell us these experiences improve morale, strengthen teams and provide a stronger sense of purpose.

When businesses invest in nature, they help create benefits that extend far beyond conservation alone. They are supporting healthier communities, improving wellbeing and contributing to a more resilient Island. Customers, employees and investors increasingly expect organisations to demonstrate genuine environmental responsibility. A partnership with MWT provides a credible and meaningful way to demonstrate those values while creating positive local impact. Whether through funding, volunteering, sponsorship or collaboration, businesses can strengthen sustainability goals, engage employees and contribute directly to protecting the Isle of Man's natural environment.

These opportunities are not limited to large corporations. One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been meeting businesses of every size that want to be involved. What they share is an understanding that thriving communities, healthy employees, strong local environments and successful economies are interconnected. At the heart of these partnerships is a simple but increasingly accepted idea: nature and prosperity are not competing interests, when businesses invest in conservation, they help create a healthier, more resilient Isle of Man while strengthening the foundations upon which communities and economies depend.

Find more Interested in partnering with us? Visit **mwt.im/partnerships**



Nigel Cheesley is Country Head, Isle of Man & Director, Sustainability at Lloyds International

LLOYDS INTERNATIONAL

GUEST WRITER

As we move closer to 2030, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework comes increasingly into focus, there has been significant discussion this year about the value of nature and the role it plays in supporting our economy, communities and way of life.

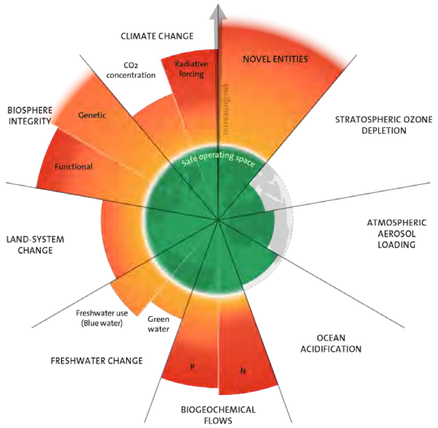
That discussion is taking place against a sobering backdrop. In 2026, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 30 July, marking the point at which humanity's demand for ecological resources exceeded what the Earth can regenerate in a year. According to the Global Footprint Network, we are currently using nature 73% faster than ecosystems can regenerate, the equivalent of using 1.73 Earths.

In financial terms, it is a little like operating beyond an agreed overdraft limit. It may be possible for a period of time, but it creates risk, increases future cost and cannot be sustained indefinitely. In environmental terms, this is often described through the concept of planetary boundaries, the safe operating space within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive. The framework illustrated below indicates that seven of the nine planetary boundaries have now been breached.

This year has also underlined how closely nature is linked to resilience and security. In January, the UK Government published its National Security Assessment on Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Collapse, providing a reminder of the extent to which our prosperity and stability depend on the natural world.

In February, the UK hosted 150 nations at IPBES12, the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in Manchester. One of the most significant outcomes was the publication of the Business and Biodiversity Assessment, the first major global assessment of how businesses both depend on and impact biodiversity.

The Evolution Of The Planetary Boundaries Framework.



LICENSED UNDER CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 (CREDIT: AZOTE FOR STOCKHOLM RESILIENCE CENTRE, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY. BASED ON SAKSCHEWSKI AND CAESAR ET AL. 2025, RICHARDSON ET AL. 2023, STEFFEN ET AL. 2015 AND ROCKSTRÖM ET AL. 2009).

These themes were also central to the Dasgupta Review, led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta and commissioned by HM Treasury in 2021. The review made clear that the economy is not separate from nature. Our societies and economies depend on natural systems for food, water, climate regulation, raw materials and wellbeing. If we recognise nature as a form of capital, then biodiversity is what underpins its productivity, resilience and adaptability.

Healthy ecosystems support a resilient economy by contributing to food security, thriving communities and long-term regional growth. Protecting and restoring nature should therefore be seen not only as an environmental priority, but as an investment in resilience. Done well, it can support livelihoods, improve wellbeing, help protect communities from environmental risks and contribute to nature's recovery.

More businesses are beginning to reflect nature in their strategies. In some cases, insurers are recognising the role that natural systems can play in helping to reduce risks such as flooding and subsidence. Water companies are also looking at the role of green infrastructure, such as forests and wetlands, which can help absorb and filter water, particularly as drought risk and demand for water place greater pressure on existing systems.



PHOTO: IOD BRANCH EVENT LLOYDS GROUP. © LINA KOVACHEVA
PICTURED: FROM LEFT STEVE BILLINGHURST, CHAIR IOD; GRAHAM MAKEPEACE-WARNE, CEO MWT; SARAH MERCER, HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY, SHUTTLEWORTH BOTANIC GARDENS; GAIL CORRIN, HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGER AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ISLE OF MAN; JASON BISSELL, CHAIR OF UNESCO BIOSPHERE IOM.

Investing in Nature: Building A Resilient Economy And A Sustainable Future

Locally, the partnership between Manx Wildlife Trust and Lloyds International has delivered meaningful results. From funding the Community Ranger, helping communities connect with nature through initiatives such as the Milntown Gardening Club and the Onchan Community Wetlands project, to pioneering the development of the Isle of Man's Voluntary Carbon Market at Crossag, these achievements demonstrate the positive impact that can be realised through strong collaboration and a shared commitment to sustainability.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that long-term prosperity will require governments, businesses and financial institutions to better understand nature-related risks and dependencies, and to support investment in the protection and restoration of the natural systems on which our economy and communities rely. That is not just good for nature. It is fundamental to building a more resilient future.



The Lloyds International team repairing the boardwalk at MWT Onchan Wetlands



Hannah Phillips our previous Community Ranger, supporting the Milntown Gardening Club in Ramsey



MWT volunteers working in the polytunnel at MWT Milntown Tree Nursery

Ramsey Crookall
Established 1946
Members of the London Stock Exchange

THE BUSINESS VALUE *OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR NATURE*

GUEST WRITER

Joanna Crookall
CEO Ramsey Crookall

There are, in our view, clear benefits for Isle of Man businesses partnering with organisations that deliver positive outcomes for nature. The value of these relationships goes beyond financial support. The strongest partnerships can benefit the organisation being supported, the wider Island community and the businesses involved.

In 2026, Ramsey Crookall celebrates 80 years in business. Ramsey Crookall is the Island's longest-established independent firm of stockbrokers and investment managers. As a family business with roots on the Isle of Man dating back generations, we have always taken a long-term view of both our business and our responsibilities within the community. That commitment sits alongside the investment and stockbroking services we provide to private and corporate clients, trusts, charities and other organisations. For our family, supporting the Island and helping to preserve its natural beauty and wildlife is part of that same long-term outlook.

Ramsey Crookall is proud to be a corporate sponsor of Manx Wildlife Trust, the Island's leading nature conservation charity. The attractions of collaborating with them were clear. We are extremely fortunate to work and live on an Island recognised for the quality of its natural environment, and maintaining what makes the Isle of Man special requires both effort and resources.

Our partnership demonstrates how businesses can contribute in different ways. Ramsey Crookall has provided financial support for the Manx shearwater webcam project, helping to fund specialist camera and associated equipment on the Calf of Man. With 4G connectivity provided by Manx Telecom, the project allows people to watch the Island's wildlife in real time and brings them closer to nature without disturbing the birds.

Our staff have also been able to contribute directly through Manx Wildlife Trust Wild Work Days. Most recently, members of our team planted 275 native trees at Creg y Cowin. Practical involvement such as this allows employees to step away from their usual working environment, contribute to something tangible and work together towards a shared objective. It is also a valuable team-building opportunity and can have a positive effect on staff morale.

There is also a wider business value. The people who live and work on the Isle of Man are rightly proud of what the Island has to offer. Businesses that demonstrate a genuine, long-term commitment to the community can strengthen relationships with employees, clients and professional contacts.

Like many Island businesses, Ramsey Crookall has a significant local client base and close relationships with financial intermediaries, trusts and organisations. Being associated with initiatives that provide a positive and lasting benefit to the Island can therefore strengthen those relationships. That is not the primary reason for supporting them, but it is a valuable consequence of doing something worthwhile.

For us, the key is that partnerships should be genuine and long-term. Businesses should understand what an organisation is trying to achieve and consider where their financial support, people or resources can make a meaningful contribution.

When that alignment exists, the return can be considerable. It can strengthen teams, deepen relationships, demonstrate commitment to the Island and, most importantly, help organisations such as Manx Wildlife Trust continue work that benefits the place we are fortunate to call home.



PHOTO: CHLOE HURST MWT'S OUTGOING LAND AND NATURE ADVISOR ON THE CALF OF MAN, HOLDING A MANXIE CHICK © MWT

Partner with us

Partnering with us offers a range of benefits that can support your environmental objectives, enhance staff and stakeholder engagement, and demonstrate a commitment to creating a wilder Isle of Man.

We offer three levels of ready-made Corporate Partnership: Supporter (£500 + VAT), Investor (£1,000 + VAT) and Partner (£2,500 + VAT). Each level provides a different package of benefits and opportunities, allowing you to choose the level of support that best reflects your commitment to the local environment and your business goals.

These partnership levels are designed as flexible starting points, providing a clear pathway for the relationship to grow and evolve over time. Many of our corporate partnerships develop into bespoke arrangements, tailored to each partner's objectives, interests and ambitions.

Talk to us about Corporate Partnerships by contacting Lucy Felton via email at **lucy.felton@mwt.im**

Our Partners:

- **AON**
- **Appleby**
- **Astin Accounts Solutions**
- **Aviva**
- **Capital International**
- **Flutter**
- **Heron and Brearley**
- **IFGL**
- **Island Escapes**
- **Intact Insurance**
- **KPMG**
- **Lloyds International**
- **MAC Group**
- **Manx Telecom**
- **Ocorian**
- **Ramsey Crookall**
- **Zurich**

RESILIENCE

Why protecting and restoring nature is both important and urgent for investors



PHOTO: MWT HEAD OF CONSERVATION & LAND DAVID BELLAMY, WITH GREG EASTON, JAMES FITZPATRICK AND KIM QUIRK FROM RESILIENCE ASSET MANAGEMENT, SHOWING INVESTORS AROUND THE EXTENDED MWT DALBY MOUNTAIN NATURE RESERVE © GRAHAM MAKEPEACE-WARNE

RESILIENCE
ASSET MANAGEMENT

GUEST WRITER

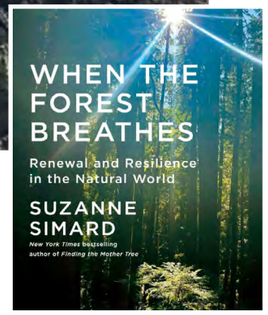


Greg Easton
is Founder & Managing Director of Resilience Asset Management

As an investment manager focused on sustainability our decision making is challenged every day. The concept of sustainability is constantly evolving and has become increasingly politicised, taking a firm position on the climate and biodiversity crisis takes courage and conviction.

It would be easy to shut our eyes, follow the short-term return focused investment crowd and continue to invest blindly in companies that blatantly damage the environment, whether that's Shell, BP, Exxon and Chevron or AI companies that are putting an ever-increasing strain on land, water and energy resources.

The biodiversity crisis and climate crisis are inseparable, by not protecting nature we are turning carbon sinks into carbon bombs and losing irreplaceable habitats with complex symbiotic relationships and subterranean mycorrhizal systems, disrupting hydrology and increasing risks of forest (and peatland) fires, landslides and ultimately damage to human habitation and loss of life.



"...the loss was also irreplaceable. It had taken several millennia of carbon cycling – the food web of creatures working together to decompose, transform, and concentrate the organic compounds – to store this ancient detritus under the ground. In the week it took the machines to scrape a stand of trees off the surface of the Earth, thousands of years of sequestered carbon was pushed with logs into piles and burned, combusted, vaporized, or eroded away. At the rate climate was changing, and in the time the world has to increase carbon sinks – instead of releasing more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere – the forest would not be able to recover these stocks."

"There are two sides to nature for the Isle of Man to consider and prioritise."

This is the urgency - we need to both protect and restore nature if we are to limit and reverse global warming. Ultimately nature will win, whether humanity is here to see it depends on whether we can live in harmony with nature or whether we continue to destroy it.

I am not an ecologist by training, I'm an investment manager. But the deep sense of connection with nature is in all of us. I've yet to meet anyone, even the most ardent climate change denier, that doesn't think protecting nature is a good idea, however that hasn't stopped humanity continuing to extract resources and change land use.

I've been reading 'When the forest breathes – Renewal and Resilience in the Natural World' by Suzanne Simard and have included an extract that captures where humanity finds itself aptly.

We are a UNESCO Biosphere, and we can become a centre of excellence for Nature Markets with the establishment of a registry for high-integrity carbon credits. This has been a focus of the Isle of Man Sustainable Finance Initiative and will enable the Island to make a meaningful contribution to restoring nature – this could be incredibly positive for both nature and our Island community.

The second aspect is addressing our financial services sector, which accounts for approximately 48% of our GDP, we can't continue to turn a blind eye to the financed emissions (and damage to nature) within our banks, investment firms, life companies and trust structures.

The most significant positive impact that investors can have on Nature is ensuring that the investments they hold in their pensions and investment portfolios (or in the trusts they administer) are not causing significant harm to nature through their business activities. At Resilience we review and monitor the impact of investments on Nature and can provide these services to both individuals and businesses.

As the climate inevitably warms, the Isle of Man is not immune to the impacts, we are however in a very fortunate position of living in an environment that is likely to remain more inhabitable than many places in the world. We need to ensure that we protect and restore our natural resources to ensure that our island remains inhabitable for future generations.

As an owner of an investment business, I am determined to increase our long-term commitment to protect and restore nature both practically on the island through our partnership with Manx Wildlife Trust and within our investment portfolios.

Why is protecting and restoring nature both important and urgent for investors?

To protect and grow the wealth of current and future generations. Our decision-making is based on a simple premise – what will clients in 2050 think of the investment decisions we make today based on the knowledge we have now?



Liz Charter
is MWT's Wildlife Officer and Chair of the Isle of Man Fungus Group.

NATURE BENEFITS
How nature nurtures our wellbeing

I grew up in a family with a strong interest in natural history. We were out and about most weekends looking at birds, plants, fungi, insects and pond life. It wasn't until I went to university that I appreciated how important the natural world was to my wellbeing.

I had deliberately chosen courses at small universities as I didn't want to be surrounded by a thousand students! However, at the last minute, after a chance meeting at a Field Centre in Suffolk, I decided to study environmental science, a new subject in the 1970s. One of the very few courses was at the University of East Anglia, a comparatively large university with 100 plus students in year 1 of this course.

It was something of a culture shock to live in a hall on campus, a stark modern concrete construction. I found it tough.

By the end of the second term, with the lighter evenings I had developed a routine of taking a walk after supper along the river Yare (before the "Broad" was dug), in the large and, at that time, very wild campus. I saw birds, most memorably a water rail and discovered a communal starling roost. I noticed that I came back feeling calmer and happier, better able to cope with the late-night music and sounds of anguish from fellow students. "Without you" by Harry Nilsson was a hit in 1973 and tended to be played at full volume!

I moved out of hall to a terraced house in Norwich for my second and third years but retained that connection with nature, listening to the swifts in summer screaming up and down the narrow street, growing vegetables in a tiny garden and walking along the river on campus whenever I could.

I continued my connection with wonderful Norfolk freshwater habitats by undertaking my undergraduate project on the Norfolk Broads.

Looking back, I realised that through my stressful teenage years when relationships with parents were decidedly uncomfortable, we had a solution. We found family walks in woods and on commons around where I grew up were the best times and the easiest places to talk or just have a peaceful time together.

Walking around Clypse and Kerrowdhoo reservoirs today was a reminder that the Island has many beautiful places where we can experience the peace which comes from being surrounded by wildlife and semi-natural habitats. The significance of these places for our wellbeing must feature in decisions about their conservation.



PHOTOS: © GUY EDWARDS: 2020VISION: CHRIS LAWRENCE: MARCUS WEHRLE: MALCOLM_STOREY: VAUGHN MATTHEW: 2020VISION

Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

REVIEW OF THE YEAR
1 February - 31 January 2025/26



It is a pleasure to present this review of another remarkable year for Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT). The year was one of growth, ambition and investment in nature's future. It was also a year of transition, as I took on the role of Chief Executive Officer in June 2025 following Leigh Morris's departure to become Director International for the Wildlife Trusts. Having worked for MWT for more than eight years, I was honoured to step into this role and continue buliding on the strong foundations created by Leigh, our staff, volunteers, Members and supporters.

Nature recovery remains at the heart of everything we do and 2025/26 saw MWT make the largest investment in conservation land in our history. Through the support of partners including Aviva and The Wildlife Trusts, we secured MWT Glen Auldyn Nature Reserve as part of the Manx Rainforest Project, moving MWT into landscape-scale nature restoration and helping to create a more resilient Nature Recovery Network across the Isle of Man.

Alongside this, we continued to strengthen our organisation. We completed our transition to modern cloud-based IT systems enabling easier home working, welcomed new staff and Trustees, expanded our volunteer programme, opened our Douglas Sea Terminal shop for a full trading year, and progressed the refurbishment of Thie Vunn in Peel, which will provide accommodation for our conservation internships.

Partnerships continue to be central to our success. We worked alongside Government, businesses, community groups, schools, charities and volunteers to deliver conservation projects on land and at sea, develop innovative approaches to nature finance, and demonstrate the value of nature to both society and the economy.

Above all, I would like to thank you, the Members. Your continued support gives us the confidence and independence to take bold action for wildlife. Together, we are creating more space for nature and ensuring future generations can enjoy a wilder Isle of Man.

Warm regards,
Graham Makepeace-Warne
CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust



GLEN AULDYN SECURED FOR NATURE

Through funding from Aviva and The Wildlife Trusts, Manx Wildlife Trust acquired MWT Glen Auldyn Nature Reserve, the most significant land purchase in the charity's history and a major milestone for the Manx Rainforest Project.



THIE VUNN TAKES SHAPE

Work continued the refurbishment of the donated Thie Vunn property in Peel, creating a future home for internships, learning, meetings and conservation collaboration.



A NEW CHAPTER IN LEADERSHIP

In June 2025, Graham Makepeace-Warne became Chief Executive Officer after more than eight years with Manx Wildlife Trust, ensuring continuity while leading the organisation into its next phase of development.



MORE LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Additional acquisitions at Manx Wildlife Trust's Hairpin Woodland Park, Close Thompson, Creggans and Ballanoa Meadow Nature Reserves expanded the area managed for nature and strengthened the Island's Nature Recovery Network.



BUILDING A WILDER MOVEMENT

#TeamWilder activities expanded, community organising training was delivered with The Wildlife Trusts, and MWT helped launch the Manx Nature Alliance to strengthen collective action for nature.

10 MAJOR MILESTONES

INVESTING IN FUTURE CONSERVATION

New staff joined across conservation, engagement, fundraising and nature finance, increasing our capacity to deliver projects and support partners.



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Manx Wildlife Trust volunteers were formally recognised with the King's Award for Voluntary Service, a fitting tribute to the thousands of hours contributed by dedicated supporters across the Island.



RECOGNITION FOR CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

MWT and Manx National Heritage received the Awards for Excellence Sustainability Award for working together to restore Manx Shearwater numbers on the Calf of Man, demonstrating how partnerships can deliver measurable outcomes for species recovery.



NATURE FINANCE MOVES FORWARD

More Trees were planted at the Crossags Carbon Project while MWT recruited our first Nature Finance Officer to help establish high-integrity local standards for carbon and biodiversity projects.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Highlights included Let's Get Wild, Go Wild!, Festival of the Sea, the wildlife holiday, public talks, school programmes and the continued success of Manx Wildlife Trust's Hairpin Woodland Park.



HOW WE RAISED OUR FUNDS

Donations & Legacies £2.99m

This year included a transformational corporate donation of £2.93 million towards strategic land acquisition and habitat restoration, alongside public donations and legacy gifts that continue to support our conservation work.

Membership £62k

More than 1,100 members helped provide a stable foundation for MWT. Membership remains one of our most important sources of unrestricted income and support.

Grants & Sponsorship £585k

Support from organisations, charitable foundations and many local businesses enabled us to deliver ambitious projects across the Island.

Contracts & Consultancy £88k

Through delivery of Government contracts, environmental advice and ecological services, we continued to generate income while supporting nature recovery across the Isle of Man.

Retail £44k

Income from Wildlife Limited, our shops and visitor centres, together with retail activity at Peel, Ayres, Scarlett and Douglas Sea Terminal, contributed valuable funds for conservation.

Other Income £95k

Fundraising events, interest income and a range of other activities helped diversify our income and strengthen MWT's long-term sustainability.

HOW WE USED OUR FUNDS

Staff & Volunteers £603k

Our staff and volunteers make conservation happen. Investment in people remains vital to delivering high-quality conservation, engagement and education work.

Engagement, Education & Events £61k

Restricted funding allows us to deliver specific projects, though we continue to seek more flexible income to give greater stability.

Nature Reserve Acquisition £2.75m

The acquisition of MWT Glen Auldyn Nature Reserve represented the largest conservation investment in MWT's history, safeguarding an important landscape for nature recovery.

Conservation Projects £602k

From rainforest restoration and native tree production to marine conservation and species recovery, project expenditure delivered tangible benefits for wildlife across the Island.

Organisational Support £380k

Investment in technology, governance, insurance, administration and infrastructure ensures we remain resilient and ready for future opportunities.

Thank You!
To all our Members, volunteers, donors, corporate partners, funders and supporters.
Everything achieved last year has been possible because of your commitment to nature.
Together, we are creating a wilder Isle of Man.

LOOKING AHEAD 2026/27

Delivering the Manx Rainforest
Tree planting and habitat restoration will continue across our rainforest sites, creating wildlife-rich landscapes that lock up carbon, reduce flood and wildfire risk, improve water quality and benefit communities.

Expanding Nature Finance
We will continue to develop the Island's opportunity for high-integrity local carbon and biodiversity initiatives, helping generate sustainable income for conservation while delivering measurable benefits for people and nature.

Supporting Communities
Building on #TeamWilder, Green Social Prescribing and our education programme, we will help more people experience the wellbeing benefits of nature and become active in conservation.

Growing Protected Areas
We will continue seeking opportunities to acquire and restore land and support the creation of new protected areas on land and at sea.

Investing in Future Conservationists
The completion of Thie Vunn will allow us to launch new internship opportunities and inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

Manx Wildlife Trust | **mwt.im** | **Tel:** (01624) 844432 **Web:** mwt.im **Email:** enquiries@mwt.im
7-8, Market Place, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1AB. Manx Wildlife Trust is a charity registered in the Isle of Man no.225 IOM. Company no. 5297 IOM



Red kite
Milvus milvus

Length around 60 centimetres

Wingspan around 180 centimetres

General impression a large, graceful bird with long wings and tail

Flight buoyant flight with deep, elastic wingbeats. When circling, tends to bank and change direction more than a buzzard. Constantly twists its tail from side to side

Red kites are occasional visitors to the Isle of Man, but we hope they may one day find their way here to breed

RED KITE BUZZARD

How to separate these aerial acrobats



Buzzard
Buteo buteo

Length around 54 centimetres

Wingspan around 120 centimetres

General impression compact, stocky and broad-winged

Flight stiff, shallow wingbeats. Flies in slow, steady circles with its tail fanned



What is a NATURE CREDIT *worth?*

Stefan Renton is MWT's Nature Finance Officer

What is a tree worth?

A tree can store carbon, provide habitat, hold soil, slow water, filter air, create shade, or be transformed into warmth and shelter. It can contribute to a farm's resilience, a valley's flood protection, a community's sense of place and the character of an island.

So what is its value?

It's hard to put a price on a functioning ecosystem and easier to price what we can take from it: wood, food, minerals, land, medicinal plants. But when we separate these things, we can overlook how dependent each is on the others. The abundance we have come to rely on is the product of those relationships.

Carbon offered a way to turn an environmental outcome into a measurable economic unit. An environmental benefit could suddenly be quantified, compared and traded. Those of us trying to protect forests, reefs and other ecosystems finally had a shared language with the financial system they had often struggled to reach.

Common language came at a cost. It reduced complexity and defined progress through a single metric, carbon. Profiteers we now call Carbon Cowboys saw a new opportunity. Meanwhile, nature supporters were desperate to scale protection and restoration. Both drove a market that made nature fit the metric and leaned away asking what a healthy ecosystem looked like beyond carbon.

Once carbon became the easiest part of an ecosystem to assign a value, consequences followed. Some projects failed to deliver what they promised. Others created environmental or social harms that were difficult to see in the carbon accounting. That created a serious problem for private funding. Money companies had invested into nature wasn't funding what was claimed and in some cases, was doing more harm than good–displacing local communities or worse. When voluntary action could damage a company's reputation, why take the risk?[1]

The difficulty is that nature's value often sits in the relationships between things. The tree is part of a forest, the forest is part of a watershed and both are part of the lives and livelihoods around them. Even our current climate stability depends on the functioning of these living systems and the feedbacks between them.[2]

Once we separate them into individual assets, we start to lose the value created by the system itself. Some of that can be quantified. Other elements are not so easy with the current knowledge and tools we have.

What is beauty worth?

What is the value of a landscape that people feel belongs to them? Is a productive farm worth only its output, or does the farmer's sense of purpose count for something too? What remains intangible should still count in how we judge a project's progress and value. A project should be judged on more than the credit it generates. That humans are a part of nature is often forgotten.

A project should be judged on more than the credit it generates. That humans are a part of nature is often forgotten. The people who have a relationship with a place must be involved in interventions that may impact it. Tending to those relationships can matter long after the original finance has been spent. As an Island, the sea has shaped our history, culture and livelihoods for generations and the response to proposals such as Mooir Vannin shows how people mobilise to protect places they care for.

That is the thinking behind the work now underway to develop a code for ecological interventions here in the Isle of Man.

As a whole-nation UNESCO Biosphere, we already recognise that people, nature and culture are interconnected. That gives us an opportunity to build a market around the health of an entire place, rather than around a single outcome.

Final TREE PLANTING session of the year with MWT & IOM Woodland Trust at ***MWT Creg y Cowin NATURE RESERVE***

IMAGE: © MWT



The Manx Nature Standard is being developed around three inseparable pillars: carbon, ecological condition, and human-nature relationships and livelihoods.

A project cannot improve one while causing significant harm to another. Carbon cannot be used to compensate for ecological degradation or social harm.

The code is being built on the foundations of existing high-integrity standards, such as the ICVCM's Core Carbon Principles. But the opportunity here is to apply those principles within a whole-nation Biosphere, where ecological health, local livelihoods and our relationship with place define what success looks like.

Keeping carbon stored for decades is critical to a high-integrity project, but so are the conditions that make a project worth protecting: healthy ecology, viable land management and people who remain connected to the place.

For farmers, nature finance can make good land management more economically viable. The opportunity is broader than payment for protecting a particular patch of habitat: it can finance changes that make the underlying farm more resilient. Better soil can retain more water and nutrients, reducing reliance on imported inputs whose costs can fluctuate. Changes in grazing, cropping or other management practices can improve productivity, biodiversity and resilience together.

On some land, woodland or peatland restoration may be right. On other land, the best intervention may look very different. The point is to give farmers and landowners more tools to improve their land, crop, and livelihood just as it is about building habitat for native species. This isn't a campaign for forests at all costs.

A Manx nature credit will recognise and support an environmental outcome without diminishing the livelihoods of the people who live alongside it. In terms of progress, we have a preliminary draft of the framework for nature projects on the Isle of Man. In the coming weeks, we will be hosting a public consultation to shape the code and let it evolve as we learn.

References

1. Morgan Stanley Institute for Sustainable Investing, Voluntary Carbon Markets: Surveying Current and Future Corporate Participants (2026). Survey of 225 global companies with revenues above $1bn; 75 current buyers, 75 future buyers and 75 non-buyers.

2. Steffen, W., Rockström, J. et al. (2018), Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 115(33), 8252–8259. The paper describes biosphere degradation and biogeophysical feedbacks as important drivers of Earth-system trajectories.

Growing a better future for the Isle of Man



Robert Fisher is our Farmland Birds Officer

CONSERVATION

How nature friendly farming can help both people and places

Farming in the Isle of Man is about far more than producing food. It shapes the landscape, sustains rural communities and affects soils, water, wildlife and people. Nature-friendly farming brings these roles together. Rather than setting production against conservation, it helps farms remain productive while making room for hedges, wetlands, flower-rich margins, fungi-rich grasslands and the wildlife that depends upon such habitats.

Agriculture covers around 70% of the Isle of Man, so nature's recovery must happen across working farmland not just the tiny amount of the Manx landscape which has full legal protection (only 4%). The Island's small fields, hedgerows, pastures, moors and arable ground can form a connected landscape that feeds people, stores carbon, holds water and gives wildlife space to thrive.

Helping people

Nature-friendly farms produce nutritious local food while protecting soil structure, maintaining ground cover, using nutrients carefully and provide for wildlife, both above and below ground. Such practices reduce soil loss or soil compaction, help land cope with extreme weather (such as reducing flood risk) and support pollinators and other natural processes. This strengthens food security and reduces long-term risks for farm businesses.

There are wider benefits too. A countryside rich in birdsong, wildflowers and green space encourages walking, learning and time outdoors, leading to healthier, more stress-free lives. Farms can host school visits, volunteering, citizen science and conversations about where food comes from and who provides it. When communities understand farming and when farmers feel valued, the relationship between town and countryside becomes stronger.

Buying from farm shops, farmers markets and choosing Manx produce in supermarkets is key to supporting local producers (and the wildlife that they sustain).

Protecting places

Manx character is written into sod banks, stone walls, old hay meadows, wet pastures and open uplands. Hedgerows offer nesting sites, shelter and food for birds such as Tree Sparrow; dubs and wet field corners slow flood water and support abundant wildlife like damselflies.

Late-cut meadows allow wildflowers such as Knapweed to seed, winter stubbles provide food and shelter for Skylarks, and streamside buffer strips trap sediment and damaging agricultural nutrients, much to the relief of Atlantic Salmon.

The Isle of Man's small-field pattern and extensive hedgerow network help wildlife move through the countryside. Protecting these linear habitats preserves the distinctive scenery valued by many residents and visitors. Nature-friendly farming therefore safeguards the everyday places that give our beautiful Island its identity.



PHOTO: MWT DALBY MOUNTAIN: © CARMEL CROUKAMP: MWT

Red-listed Manx farmland-bird species in serious jeopardy.



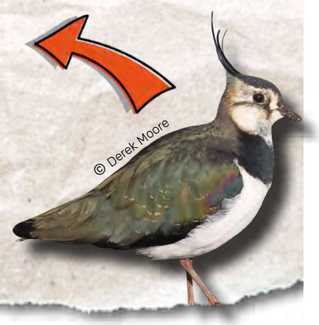
© Manuela Swiatek

Many lament the recent loss of the Yellowhammer. This one was spotted in the Isle of Man last winter.



© Peter Christian

Tree Sparrow numbers now number only 2-3 known breeding pairs.



© Derek Moore

The last confirmed record of breeding Lapwing in 2022 failed to successfully raise any chicks.

Farmland birds are signs of a healthy countryside

Farmland birds make the case visible and audible. Curlew calling over rough grassland, Chough feeding on short, chemical-free coastal turf and Hen Harrier quartering the low-stocked uplands are part of the Manx experience. These birds need functioning habitats: suitable vegetation, abundant invertebrates, safe nesting areas and well-timed, well-thought-through management. The presence of otherwise declining species indicate that wider ecological systems are working.

Yet there is no room for complacency. Records dating back to 1997 identify ten red-listed Manx farmland-bird species in serious jeopardy. Protecting nests, retaining winter food sources, managing grassland sensitively and restoring damp ground can help. Success depends on advice suited to each farm, cooperation between neighbours and monitoring that shows what methods works. Above all we need strong relationships between those who produce our food and conservationists. Ultimately, we all want the same thing, for Manx agriculture and Manx farmland wildlife to thrive.

Building prosperity

A healthy environment is part of our economic and social infrastructure. Fertile soils, abundant pollinators, clean water and an ability for agricultural land to store flood water before it reaches our homes all have clear, unquestionable practical value. Nature-friendly farming can improve resilience (both for businesses and the land) while creating new income through environmental payments, local food sales, educational visits and eco-tourism.

Practical action can include recreating lost hedgerows and sod banks (perhaps half of the hedgerows shown on the 1869 map have now been lost), restoring drained wetlands, protecting existing watercourses and repairing soils, retaining winter stubbles and using spring (not winter) cropping where suitable.

The strongest approach rewards farmers for effectively producing food and public goods simultaneously. This needs reliable funding, trusted advice, farmer-to-farmer learning and recognition that environmental recovery takes skill and time. Celebrating Manx produce whose story includes care for wildlife can strengthen the Island's UNESCO Biosphere reputation and make rural careers more attractive and rewarding.

A shared Manx future

Nature-friendly farming is an investment in productive, local agriculture. By protecting soils and water, connecting habitats and helping farmland wildlife recover, the Isle of Man can deliver benefits for every household and every field. People desperately want local food and the healthier, more wildlife-rich surroundings of yesteryear; places full of beauty and buzzing with insects.

Our future prosperity rests on our well-managed natural assets, and a thriving agricultural sector. The Curlew's call, the cry of the Chough over a coastal field and the life within a Manx hedge are signs of a landscape capable of sustaining community, culture and enterprise for generations. Farmers can be the custodians of our landscape; however, such a status comes with great responsibility. Sadly, our current agricultural and agricultural support system is failing both farmers and farmland wildlife. It is the job of our new Government to bring the two together.



PHOTOS: © TIPHAINE CLAVEAU; MWT

Why *Children's Education* should be rooted in *Nature*



Tiphaine Claveau
is MWT's Education Officer (Maternity cover)

Spending time in nature and understanding the environment around us helps shape the way we learn, think and interact with the world, especially in young formative years. It influences physical health, mental wellbeing, cognitive development, social skills and our sense of belonging.
Our world today faces unprecedented global changes, and young people, particularly, are prone to high levels of loneliness and anxiety, attention disorders and mental health issues. We know that nature is part of the solution.

Manx Wildlife Trust's education officers deliver environmental education programmes supported by DESC and DEFA, giving us an amazing opportunity to work with all Island schools. Through school sessions, community projects, teacher training and outdoor learning opportunities, we help children connect with nature in ways that strengthen individuals, communities and the places they call home.

The benefits of connecting with nature are well researched and widely recognised. These benefits are not simply a vague sense of wellbeing, but are linked to measurable physical and psychological changes in the body and mind. Spending time in nature can positively influence mental health, brain structure and function, cognitive abilities, behavioural patterns, blood pressure, and much more. Losing this connection with the natural world has tangible impacts on human development, especially in formative years. Research is clear that a dislocation between ourselves and nature affects our wellbeing, and young people are more likely to struggle with their mental health than any previous generation.



STATISTICS
2025-2026 recap

173
Sessions



+3500
People reached



29
Community groups



118
School sessions



234
Hours spent with schools

1 In the classroom

Indoor or outdoor, teachers can choose between seven sessions with a focus on rainforest, marine life, land invertebrates, habitats, rockpooling, freshwater invertebrates and woodlands. It might seem paradoxical, but nature connection can start indoors, in the classroom. One of our most popular sessions lately has been Under the Sea, an hour and a half discovery of marine life and its human interactions. It's wonderful seeing children so engaged when handling various seashells and items collected on the Island's beaches in the classroom.

In one session, teachers said they were surprised to see this particular student get involved and ask questions, as he usually is quite difficult. There is evidence that nature helps focus and attention, and nature connection can also happen in the classroom, with sensory items, sounds and smells. It can have a massive impact, especially with children who are usually disengaged in school.







2 In nature

Over the past reporting year (2025-2026), we have delivered 118 school sessions, totalling 234 hours spent with schools. This is most often outdoors, in MWT nature reserves, national glens and beaches. It creates opportunities to connect not only with nature, but also with Manx culture and the history of the land and the people who shape it. MWT education officers have a role of facilitators between schoolchildren and the outdoors, learning appropriate behaviour with wildlife and in nature. Each session is an opportunity to see the signs of changing seasons and build an understanding of other species, their behaviour and how we share the space with them.

With this awareness of nature comes a natural desire to protect it. It fosters a sense of belonging and a relatedness to nature and wildlife. There is research supporting that early nature experiences impact children's social skills, social and emotional development, self-regulation, but also creative play and imagination. And having these experiences early in life is crucial to keeping this connection into adulthood. However, most early experiences in nature rely on family settings, and wealthier families tend to have better access to nature.

3 Access to nature

We work with all 32 primary schools on the Island every year, and we hear children all the time saying this is their first time on the beach or holding a woodlouse. Thanks to a beautiful partnership with the Outdoor Learning Centre, we deliver a nature and outdoor programme for all year 5 students, the Laa Feie Manninagh, or Manx Wild Days. We can see, through children's behaviour during the sessions, that all schools don't have the same access to nature. And when they begin a session being squeamish with bugs, it is wonderful to see curiosity take over, sometimes to the point of letting a woodlouse tickle their skin.

This collaboration widened into training school staff and other relevant professions. Giving them the confidence and skills to bring the children they are responsible for out in nature is another aspect in which we can try to develop more outdoor opportunities. It is also a chance to show what can be done on the school grounds to make them more wildlife-friendly, which impacts both physical and mental wellbeing for students and teachers. Advising schools on action for nature is also part of the role and we regularly visit schools to support staff and project leaders.

Find more Find more information **mwt.im/education**

Favourite quote "rockpooling is MEGA"

4 Thriving communities

We started the Wilder School Awards to give teachers ideas of actions they can do with their students, from bug hotels to installing bird boxes. To celebrate Onchan's school 150th anniversary, we helped a class build a bug mansion on their outdoor learning grounds. Some schools have taken it further, involving the community and getting children engaged in projects that will reshape their school grounds. With the support of the IOM Woodland Trust and MWT, Arbory school planted a woodland that students will see grow over the years.

We met them for an assembly talk, detailing the advantages of native trees, and ended up talking about how it feels that one day, their own children would be playing in the woodland they planted. There is something extremely powerful in showing children they can make a difference on their surroundings and giving them the means to act on it.



PHOTOS: © BRUV SURVEYING: DAVID BELLAMY; MWT; MAP: DEFA

The Western Irish Sea Mud Belt. A future Manx Marine Nature Reserve?

To the east of the Isle of Man, the sea is rather shallow (generally around 20-30 metres in depth and no deeper than 40m). Some may be surprised to hear that at their shallowest, Manx offshore waters to the east are only around 2m deep on the sandbanks between the Point of Ayre and Cumbria even up to 10 nautical miles offshore. Here the seabed is mainly sand and/or gravel.

However, off the Manx west coast our seabed is a totally different story. Between Mann and Ireland the sea is about four times as deep in a wide, bowl-like depression. Here, Manx waters reach their deepest depths of up to 125 metres. Whilst this is still rather shallow when compared to the great oceans, these deeper parts of the Manx seas are beyond reach to all but the most specialised and technologically advanced scuba divers. This great bowl acts as a sink where fine mud derived from living matter (mainly originating from phytoplankton) slowly and ceaselessly drifts to the seafloor. This bowl is known as the Western Irish Sea Mud Belt, or WISMB.

Not many people get excited by mud, but marine biologists do, and because biologists do, so do those who make a living from the area's bounty. This unsung mud is of outstanding ecological, economic and climatological importance and over the last year MWT have set about trying to better understand and record the area's ecology, primarily via the use of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) devices placed on the seafloor.

Ecology

Muddy habitats in Manx waters are highly biodiverse, with rare species such as the Slender Sea Pen (Virgularia mirabilis) found here. This fascinating species forms beautiful upright, leaf-like structures from colonial polyps (lots of individual animals) which can grow 60cm tall. Incredibly, the whole colony can withdraw into a mucus-lined burrow in the mud when threatened. The Manx biological database only contains three previously records for this rare species, from 1896, 1978 and 2014 and we are pleased to report that MWT has now photographed them thriving in areas of the WISMB currently closed to destructive fishing.

Isle of Man Government
DEFA



David Bellamy is Manx Wildlife Trust's Head of Conservation and Land.

In 2025, the WISMB was declared to be an "Important Shark and Ray Area" of global significance by the IUCN's Shark Specialist Group because of its importance to breeding Spurdog *(Squalus acanthias)* and Tope *(Galeorhinus galeus)*, species which are "Vulnerable" to global extinction and "Critically Endangered" respectively. Unsurprisingly, building upon many years of shark tagging data, we are now recording significant numbers of these special sharks on our footage. When we send our BRUVs to the bottom of the sea, we record video for at least an hour. During this "soak time" and whilst transiting to and from our various survey locations, a team of MWT staff and volunteers have been recording all of the seabirds and marine mammals which are also using this area. Incredible transect counts to date have included over a thousand Manx Shearwaters and a maximum of 83 European Storm Petrel, a bird rarely seen from land. To date, we have also recorded widespread Grey Seal and Harbour Porpoise, along with occasional pods of Common and Risso's Dolphins. Recovering numbers of seals and cetaceans in this area explains why so much of the Irish Sea also forms part of an IUCN-recognised "Important Marine Mammal Area" too.

Fisheries & climate

DEFA's recent Blue Carbon Report found that marine sediments, especially muds, are a critical sink for marine carbon, capable of storing it for thousands of years. The WISMB is the largest single carbon store found within Manx waters with the amount of carbon captured and stored annually in the mud equating to around 7% of Manx carbon emissions. Equally, muddy marine habitats in Manx waters support a thriving fishing industry. In the mud, scallops do not thrive, therefore Manx boats do not fish in this area. The commercial species that thrives is the langoustine or prawn *(Nephrops norvegicus)*. To date, Manx langoustine has been fished exclusively by vessels based in Northern Ireland using highly destructive fishing methods. Such seabed-dragged gear significantly reduces both biodiversity and bio-abundance whilst also disturbing sediments, disrupting carbon storage. Sadly, Manx waters are one of the most physically disturbed in the entire North-East Atlantic. In recent years DEFA have therefore instigated temporary fishing closures in three large areas, together covering a whopping 211.5km2 of seabed. This very welcome trial is to determine to what extent mobile fishing activity is negatively impacting organic carbon stocks and burial rates within the sediment. At the same time, DEFA have cleared the way for a far more sustainable pot-fishery for langoustine, which our Manx-based industry is now able to benefit from for the first time, delivering a multitude of benefits: climate, nature, economy and food security. To date, DEFA are reporting a rapid and significant increase in the size class of langoustines being landed, highlighting the near-immediate economic and ecological benefits of targeted fisheries management measures. In June 2026 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) of Northern Ireland followed suit with similar (but permanent) proposals to prohibit seafloor-dragged fishing equipment in two large areas of this muddy basin adjacent to Manx waters (Queenie Corner and South Rigg) along with a small, towering reef complex in the middle of the basin. Last year DAERA reported that this extensive muddy plain is currently in "unfavourable" ecological condition and that many key ecological features are at high risk of damage from mobile gear, which is preventing the area's ecological and economic recovery. DAERA report that closing these three areas to destructive fishing techniques will deliver increased "natural capital" economic benefits of £16.29 million over the next 20 years. MWT have written in support of the proposed measured which compliment similar plans in Manx waters.

Going forward, we look forward to working closely with the new Manx Government to explore the best ways to ensure the area's full ecological recovery whilst continuing to deliver ever-more sustainable and higher quality local food.

From the gift shop floor

How retail helps people connect with nature



Kerry Joynes
is MWT's
Retail Coordinator

Working in a gift shop gives us a unique view of how people connect with nature. Every day, customers come in looking for a meaningful gift, a keepsake from the Isle of Man, an FSC guide to help them identify wildlife, or simply a friendly conversation about something they have seen outdoors. These small retail moments can become important points of contact between people, wildlife and the conservation work happening across the Island.

For our Manx Wildlife Trust shop volunteers, retail is about far more than sales. Our shops sit within the local community in Peel and at the gateway to the Island at the Sea Terminal in Douglas, meaning we are often one of the most accessible ways for people to engage with the organisation. Our smaller retail offerings at the Nature Discovery Centres at the Point of Ayre and Scarlett, create further opportunities for visitors to connect with nature and support our work. However, a customer may not have visited a nature reserve recently or attended an event, but they may step into the shop while passing by, buying a card, choosing a gift or asking about local wildlife. That first contact matters and can often be the beginning of a stronger connection with nature.

From the shop floor, we see how retail can support conservation in practical and personal ways. Every purchase helps raise funds directly to support our work, but the impact goes far beyond income. Products inspired by local wildlife, landscapes and sustainable living give customers a tangible connection to nature. A bird feeder can encourage someone to notice the species visiting their garden. A locally made item can remind a visitor of the landscapes and wildlife that make the Isle of Man special.



Our team of gift shop volunteers also play an important role as everyday ambassadors for nature. We are often asked to identify a bird from a photograph on a mobile phone, where to see certain birds or marine creatures, how to support wildlife at home, or what current projects MWT are working on. Often staff will be called down from the office above into the Peel shop to chat to a customer or to provide additional information. These conversations help turn interest into action. They make conservation feel local, welcoming and achievable rather than distant or specialist.

As retail staff and volunteers, we are in a strong position to listen as well as share. Customers often tell us about birds in their gardens, seals seen from the coast, wildflowers on a walk, or concerns about changes they have noticed in nature. These conversations help keep us connected to the communities we serve. They remind us that people care deeply about wildlife and often welcome practical, simple and friendly ways to get involved.

Retail spaces can also strengthen the relationship between high streets and the natural world. A shop window featuring wildlife, seasonal and natural displays or nature-themed gifts can catch someone's attention and invite them to think differently about the place around them. In this way, the shop becomes a visible reminder that nature is part of daily life, even in town centres.



"Nature supports people. Retail can support nature. And from behind the counter, through every conversation, recommendation and purchase, our incredible team of volunteers can help strengthen that connection.



Our product choices can help reinforce that message. wildlife-themed gifts, books, homeware, cards, clothing and children's items all create opportunities to tell a story. When customers understand that purchasing an item helps fund conservation, their purchase becomes more meaningful. It is not just something bought from a shelf; it becomes part of a wider connection with the Island's natural and wild spaces. Beyond this, the items we sell do more than serve a practical purpose. A woolly hat for a winter walk, an FSC identification guide for learning about local species, or a pair of binoculars for wildlife watching can all help people take that first step into nature. That first contact in our shop can spark the beginning of a stronger connection with nature, inspiring people to take a greater interest in local wildlife and conservation. In turn, on a personal level this connection can support wellbeing, helping to reduce stress, improve mental health and encourage people to spend more time enjoying the outdoors. This is where retail can make a real difference. Customers can leave our shops with a quality, sustainable gift, but also with a renewed motivation to get out into nature and improve their mental health and wellbeing, with a better understanding of what Manx Wildlife Trust does, where shop profits go, and how they can help. That one simple conversation at the till can lead to volunteering, membership, wildlife-friendly gardening, event attendance, and a real connection with nature and the local community.

PHOTOS: © EMILY ASTON; MWT

Thank you!

To all our amazing volunteers, supporters and members. Your support is crucial.

By bringing wildlife, conservation and green themes into our retail spaces, we help make the high street a more engaging and enjoyable place, while encouraging people to think about the natural world as part of their everyday lives. Attractive, welcoming high streets encourage people to spend time locally, stay longer and explore nearby shops, cafés and services. Shops with a clear purpose can help build stronger connections between residents, visitors, businesses and charities. This in turn benefits the local economy through increased footfall, while also improving the experience for visitors and creating shared places where the wider community can meet, pause and feel connected to the Island. When people see that shopping locally can support wildlife and wild places, the high street becomes part of the conservation story.

Retail should be recognised as playing a dual role in conservation; generating financial support and creating meaningful connections that strengthen conservation efforts. Shop income helps fund vital work, but our day-to-day contact with customers also builds awareness, trust and participation. By creating welcoming spaces, offering products with purpose and making time for meaningful conversations, our gift shop volunteers help people feel closer to nature and reassured that their support is making a real difference.

So, the next time you visit one of our shops or Nature Discovery Centres, look for something that will help you enjoy the outdoors, whether that's an identification guide, binoculars, a bird feeder, an item that will remind you of your connection with nature or simply inspiration for your next adventure. Every purchase in our shops supports Manx Wildlife Trust's work and helps protect the wildlife and wild places we all value.

Come and visit us at:
Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1AB

Opening Hours:
Monday to Saturday 10:30am to 5:00pm, Sunday 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Did you know? We have a mini-shop in Douglas?! Come and visit us at the Sea Terminal.

OUR GIFT SHOP TOP PICKS

Looking for some beautiful gifting ideas? We have a whole range of sustainable, eco friendly gifts for the whole family!



Gingko

Gingko Design creates elegant, sustainable, and award-winning products that blend modern technology with timeless craftsmanship.



St Eval

Drift into the magic of Christmas with St Eval. Discover the Tealight Advent Calendar. Behind every numbered door, is a selection of 24 scented tealights and a gold-dusted tealight holder.

INVERTEBRATE GROUP

How do invertebrates fit into our understanding of nature and wellbeing? Over the past year the invertebrate group has been continuing to find, record and promote the Island's smallest inhabitants. We like to think that, along the way, we have encouraged more appreciation of the role these creatures play in keeping the Island's ecosystems healthy, to the benefit of wildlife and people.

2026 has been a great summer for glamorous insects visiting our shores, particularly Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow butterflies and Hummingbird Hawk-moths. These and many other insects, including bees, beetles and many flies perform a vital service – pollination – for farmers and growers, helping production of our food supply.

Most of our group field meetings involve some rummaging in detritus, soil or under stones, so we discover plenty of invertebrate waste disposers in grassland, woodland, old farmsteads, even in harsh habitats like shingle beaches. Detritus feeders, dung munchers, corpse removers, all work away to recycle nutrients into the soil for plant growth, helping to prevent the build-up of unwanted waste and pathogens. In May 2025, we found six species of dung beetles in cow pats at Ballagawne Farm, learning from the farmer, David Cooil, how encouraging dung beetles was integral to nature-based solutions for managing pasture cost-effectively.

Healthy ecosystems need predators to keep biodiversity on an even keel and the invertebrate group looks for and records those as well. Over the year we have recorded a range of invertebrates such as ladybirds, dragonflies, spiders, wasps, centipedes and ants. One highlight was the predatory Manx Robber Fly *(Machimus cowini)* found in June at a previously unrecorded location by Steve Crellin.

Finding and identifying invertebrates can be tricky and sometimes frustrating, but there are rewarding and exciting encounters. In July, ant expert Andrew Jarman came to the Island from the UK to help Sue Harvey find colonies of *Tetramorium* ants, little known in the Isle of Man. Two species were recorded after searching seven coastal sites, thereby extending knowledge of the range and distribution of these warmth-loving insects. At Glen Maye we were delighted to spot Dark and Speckled Bush Crickets basking amongst low vegetation at the head of the beach.

Getting out into the countryside and learning about our wildlife is revitalising and there is always something new to learn and appreciate about invertebrates. Here's to another year of discovery.



Common Field Grasshopper



Manx Robber Fly
Machimus cowini



Isopod



Visit to Ballagawne Farm to look for **Dung Beetles**



At Glen Maye we found **Dark Bush Crickets**

IMAGE CREDITS: © STEVE CRELLIN: INVERTBRATE GROUP

Meet our Summer *Interns*



Isabel Critchton is our Communications intern, who joined our internship programme.

Pictured to the left, out on a boat, ready for a day of BRUV surveying in the Irish Sea.



Cecile Woods joined us for a 3-month placement over the Summer to gain work experience within the MWT Engagement Team.

Pictured to the right, working at the Swift event in Port Erin.





Sam Jones joined MWT for a short 2-week placement during the Summer. He assisted our Marine Officer Lara.

Pictured to the left Rockpooling at Niarbyl in the Isle of Man.

Last year I graduated from the University of South Wales with a degree in Game Art, specialising in concept art and visual development for video games. Moving to Cardiff was a fantastic experience that helped me grow both personally and professionally. However, after struggling to find creative work, I returned to the Isle of Man and initially found it difficult to secure meaningful employment.

That changed in January when I began work experience with Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT). Before joining, I knew little about the organisation, but learning more about MWT's work opened my eyes to new possibilities. During my work experience, I supported data collection and analysis, contributed ideas for social media campaigns, and assisted with practical conservation work alongside MWT's Midweek Muckers volunteers.

I enjoyed my placement so much that I decided to extend it and take on a full-time internship within MWT's Engagement Team. Since then, I have gained invaluable experience across a wide range of projects, from contributing to the Manx Nature magazine to designing leaflets, posters, games and social media content. Working alongside Marnie, MWT's Marketing & Communications Lead, has enabled me to apply my creative and digital skills while continuing to develop new ones and grow in confidence. It has enabled me to build lasting friendships and gain a deeper appreciation of the Island's wildlife and heritage.

My experience at MWT has shown me that there are many rewarding opportunities in the Isle of Man. It has also enabled me to take on other creative roles, including my position as an Art & Design Technician at the University College Isle of Man. MWT has given me the opportunity to work in a field I'm passionate about, connect with like-minded people, and build the confidence and experience needed to start my career.

Although I grew up away from the sea, the Isle of Man always felt like a second home. My grandparents lived in the Isle of Man, so summers were spent exploring the coastline. Sailing, discovering marine life, and spending hours rock pooling. Those early experiences sparked a lifelong fascination with the coast that carried through into my education with A-levels in Biology, Maths, and Physics, ultimately leading me to study Marine Biology and Oceanography at the University of Southampton.

It was during my degree that my specific passion for ecology really took off through some of my modules. Surrounded by the Island's stunning natural environment whenever I visited, I knew I wanted to gain hands-on experience in local marine conservation. Over the summer, I reached out to several local environmental organisations, and when the timing aligned, I was thrilled to join Manx Wildlife Trust for two weeks.

My time with MWT has been an incredibly rewarding dive into practical conservation. I gained exposure to a wide array of active projects across the Island. My first task was a Marine Stranding, where I participated directly in a beached whale assessment - it was interesting to scale up the practicalities of marine mammal data collection.

Throughout my time on the Island, I have been part of the continuous project Invasive Species Management where I conducted independent fieldwork assessing invasive species like Pacific oysters and evaluating their impact on local ecosystems. Finally, I planned updated surveys over the Marine Nature Reserves, gaining vital experience designing and planning surveys tailored specifically for the Island. While every moment working with MWT was incredible, the highlight for me was leading the rock pooling session. Being able to share my enthusiasm for marine life and pass that passion along to the next generation felt incredibly rewarding.

If I could give any advice to my younger self or anyone else looking to peruse something similar, I would have to say not to wait to try something like this, translating classroom ecological theory into hands-on work completely cemented my idea of perusing ecology work in a professional sense. I would encourage anyone to reach out to trusts and conservation bodies you have an interest in. Keep coming back and maintaining those connections. The experiences and professional network you build early could open unexpected doors, introduce you to valuable mentors, and set a strong foundation for a career in conservation, as well as being a lot of fun.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to work as an Engagement Intern for Manx Wildlife Trust. Alongside studying Music and English Literature at Liverpool Hope University, I am hoping to pursue a career in communications, and this internship has provided me with a range of valuable skills and experiences that I can carry forward into my future career. I began my internship by working on a research project about MWT's Creggans, Nature Reserve. I researched the social and historical significance of the area, with the information being used to develop future interpretation and information boards.

Throughout the summer, I also helped plan and deliver a number of community events, including Tynwald Day, the Celebration of the Swifts and the Festival of the Sea. Being involved in these events gave me practical experience in planning, organising and delivering community projects, while also allowing me to see how engagement activities can connect people with conservation.

Another important part of my role was creating content for Manx Wildlife Trust's blog. This included writing about my experience working alongside the woodland team, as well as joining Lara, MWT's Marine Officer, out on the boat to gather content about BRUV surveys. I particularly enjoyed developing my social media and content creation skills. Learning how to create engaging posts gave me a better understanding of how organisations can use digital platforms to connect with their audiences. My time with Manx Wildlife Trust has been an incredibly rewarding experience and has not only given me a greater passion for conservation but has also allowed me to develop valuable skills in research, communication, event planning and community engagement. I am so excited to take these skills forward as I continue my studies and move forward in my career.



As both a visual artist and as a songwriter, the Manx landscape has been a huge inspiration to my creative practice over the years. Growing up on an Island teaches you to appreciate the beauty of your surroundings, and as artists we tend to carry that appreciation wherever we go. **Alice Dudley** is our **Unesco Biosphere Artist in Residence 2025/26**

I THINK WE HAVE a unique perspective living in the Isle of Man. We are surrounded by nature, culture, and custom, and we are blessed with a thriving creative scene which is often directly inspired by our surroundings. There is so much to be celebrated, and this year in particular sees two milestones happening simultaneously - the Year of the Manx language and the 10th anniversary of the Isle of Man becoming a UNESCO Biosphere. It's an exciting time to be a creative, and I'm so grateful to have been able to both further my own practice and contribute to our Island's creative scene this year.

My creative practice has always been shaped by our Island and its stories, but this residency has sparked a renewed interest in Manx folklore and Manx language. A large part of this year has been spent writing and recording an album based around the concept of 'the enchanted forest', featuring the voices of some familiar figures from Manx folklore. With each song inspired by a different folk tale and set in an enchanted version of our landscape, I wanted to align the magic of folklore with the magic of the natural world.

With the album now almost finished, I can reflect on how valuable an experience writing it has been for me. From finding new sources of inspiration to writing using new styles and techniques, this project has given me the opportunity to work outside of my comfort zone and grow as a songwriter. Manx folklore offers endless inspiration, and reimagining these classic tales has resulted in some of my favourite lyrics I have written to date.
A particularly valuable moment for me was the opportunity to experiment with writing in Manx for the first time.

Personally, my favourite song from the upcoming album is the Tree Planting Song. Inspired by traditional working songs and spell songs, this song was written as a blessing to be sung to seeds and saplings to encourage them to grow. Originally meant to be reminiscent of an ancient spell song, it ended up feeling much more familiar than that - a song which could be taught in the classroom or sung together in the garden, perhaps. I wanted to write something during my residency that really encapsulated the need to connect with nature, both as individuals and as a community, and if anything I've created during my residency were to last beyond this year I would be proud if it was this song.

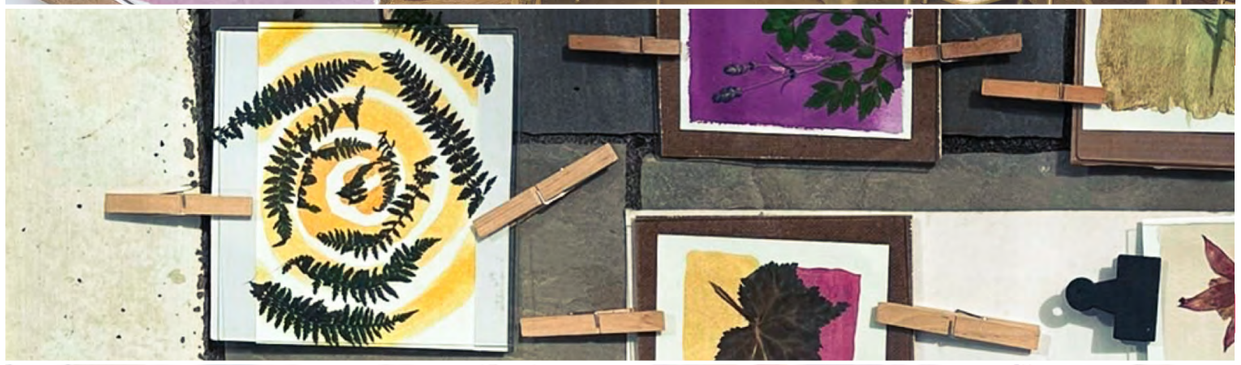
I also had the opportunity to be involved in various community events around the Island this year, including the organising of two outdoor workshops - one based around creating sustainable art using plant-based paints, and the other on finding inspiration in nature when writing poetry and lyrics.

We all know there are endless benefits to spending time in nature, but being creative can benefit us just as much. Spending time in nature and engaging in creativity are both proven ways to support wellbeing, and combining the two offers a powerful opportunity to reconnect and explore new ways of seeing the world around you, which is invaluable for any creative. Bringing together art, nature, and community has been at the heart of my residency, and these outdoor workshops offered the perfect opportunity to encourage creatives to connect not just with the landscape, but with each other. So much collaborative work came out of these events, including a series of community postcards and a group poem inspired by the MWT Ayres National Nature Reserve.

Find more

Find more information
mwt.im/artistinresidence2026







© PHOTOS: PORTRAIT OF ALICE: © EMMA WEBB: COLLAGE: © ALICE DUDLEY

ARTS COUNCIL ISLE OF MAN

Culture VANNIN



'O VanninVeg Veen' **Community Postcard Project**

One community project that was running was 'O Vannin Veg Veen', meaning 'Dear Little Island' in Manx. It was a community postcard project which encouraged creative exchanges between pairs of artists working together on the same postcard. The aim of this project was to celebrate the wealth of talent we had on the Island, encouraging collaboration between disciplines and bringing people together in appreciation of our Island.

Open to artists, writers, poets, photographers, illustrators, songwriters and creatives of all ages and abilities, I hoped to encourage people to work together to create work which celebrated our landscape, our language, our stories, and the shared sense of belonging they could offer us. With one person designing the front of the postcard, and the other leaving the 'message', the postcard project brought together two creative voices on a single piece of paper. As the first Entire Nation Biosphere, connecting people with our Island and with each other was at the heart of this project.

Ecology Vannin Consultancy Services

Mike Haigh is our Business Manager &
Adam Denard is a Senior Ecologist
who both work for our Consultancy
Service, Ecology Vannin

How **nature benefits** from Ecology Vannin Ecological Consultancy

Nature is all around us, not just in nature reserves and the countryside but also in developed areas, building sites and our homes.

Most of the wildlife that colonises our towns and gardens brings a range of benefits to people (as covered elsewhere in this magazine). Some level of on-going development is inevitable and not without human benefits; when done correctly, ecologically informed projects can bring nature-based solutions to new communities such as new wetlands and flood prevention from Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). Creation of new hedgerows, micro-forests and native scrub can also be provided in sub-urban settings that bring nature closer to people.

It is the role of Ecology Vannin Ecological Consultancy to ensure that development and building works are able to take place in a pragmatic way to meet the objective of the developer whilst satisfying the planning department and government ecologists. This is done in line with planning 'Environment polices' alongside the legal requirements of the Manx Wildlife Act 1990 (laws to protect species and habitats). Where practically possible the project should be able to demonstrate 'no net loss' of biodiversity.





PHOTO: © ISABEL CRITCHTON

Ecology Vannin's professional CIEEM certified ecologists bring decades of experience and knowledge of the Island to development proposals big and small. In the past year we have worked on 9 large amenity projects, 4 agricultural developments, 25 housing initiatives (ranging from large estates to single homes), 15 infrastructure works (e.g. reservoirs, sewage works, power stations, quarries) and undertaken 10 biodiversity/conservation surveys (yes, we do get out into the countryside occasionally)!

Our approach to all projects is to understand a client's objective and then to determine the potential benefits and adverse impacts to biodiversity from the proposed development. We will recommend the appropriate scale of ecological survey and report that will be required by the planning authorities.

This is usually achieved by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) to determine the baseline wildlife value that is present on site aand then recommendations (including further specialist surveys e.g. for bats, birds, lizards, frogs, invertebrates and fungi) are made to assess likely effects and how these can be mitigated.

We demonstrate 'no net loss' to biodiversity by using the industry standard Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA, 2024) that is now a statutory requirement in England. Recommendations follow the mitigation hierarchy of 'Avoid, Minimise, Restore' or (as a last resort) Compensate' (CIEEM, 2018). Our proposals are always made by balancing the client's interests with ecological compliance and best practice for the benefit of nature and people.

Find more Find more information **mwt.im/ecologyvannin**

Contact us

Need expert ecological advice for your project?

Get in touch

consultancy@mwt.im

or call 07624 261233.







Gannet

IMAGE CREDITS: © GRAHAM MAKEPEACE-WARNE: SEAL: GANNET: PETER CAIRNS 2020VISION: ARCTIC TERN: GILLIAN DAY

Wild connections at the Ayres!

Looking after MWT Ayres Nature Discovery Centre at the Ayres National Nature Reserve is one of several tasks fulfilled by the MWT Northern Supporters Group. Knowing that many Island residents have yet to discover the Ayres and its wildlife, we worked with Manx BirdLife at MBL Point of Ayre National Reserve to run an event in August to change that. Wild in the North was aimed at families, with activities at both sites designed to inspire them to discover nature. At the Ayres, volunteers from MWT's Invertebrate group led Bug Hunts and used microscopes to reveal some of the sites' smaller inhabitants. MWT Education Officer, Tiphaine Claveau, took children on an interactive Let's Get Wild Show. On open days, visitors from many places add comments to our Visitors Book – noting peace and calm, the sound of Curlews and Skylarks, the excitement of seeing a Common Lizard, diving Gannets and curious seals. Their comments indicate the value of a place and its wildlife to health and well-being. A landscape once busy with farming and wartime training now yields a quieter kind of prosperity – and our volunteers certainly enjoy their break from busy lives.

The site was also the setting for a very different activity this summer. Led by MWT Artist in Residence, Alice Dudley, and poet and writer Annie Kissack, Skeealyn Feie (Wild Tales) was a workshop designed to find inspiration and connection with nature and between participants through creative writing and sharing work. MWT volunteer Kim Etherton provided some ecological information about the different habitats experienced on the walk whilst participants wrote down their observations and feelings. These were developed into individual poems shared at the end of the event – and then worked into a brilliant collective poem by Alice Dudley, Annie Kissack, Cath Dudley, Gyp Buggane, Jacqueline Shirtliff, John Dudley, Kim Etherton, and Ryan Morrison.



Seal



Arctic Tern

Manx Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie Vannin
Northern Group

A Beacon at the Edge of Our Isle

Gannets close to the shore
skimming, diving, plunging.
A distant kestrel nailed to the air
stonechat, little terns.
Landscape holding a wide, wide sky
punctuated by birds.

Stones warm as stove-tops
on the long winding path.
Gorse bushes, brambles
endless blades of grass.
A dense tangled mass of tiny
branches,
and pale yellow marram, half alive,
half dead.

There's life here but you must
discover it.
Burnet rose with her golden flowers
and black hips.
Lost amid the marram
a distant fluttering of wings.
Footsteps, traces
bone-brittle buried things.

Industrious insects, grey
stony paths.
Grass shaking in the soft
wind's breath.

Boundary stones, lime kiln.
Strange bedfellows of lichen and
heather.
A landscape forged by ice and
sea water,
Earth-wide tremors and
human endeavour.

I'm in awe of your patterns.
Soothed by your rhythms.
The salty sea air tangles in my hair.
And for a moment we are one.
Sea to sky,
Land, home.

I implore you, mighty spillage
of water,
You undulating engine.
Strong man of the tides
share your secrets with me,
you old grey legend
and I will share in kind.



ROTHBURY LANDSCAPE © THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS. UN FLAGS © SAJ SHAFIQUE ON UNSPLASH. CRAYFISH © STEPHANIE PEAY.

Mapping nature's recovery

For the first time ever, England has a set of locally agreed priorities for nature's recovery across the country. This means that the priorities for nature restoration in a given area have been shaped by local people and tailored to the region's unique cultural and physical landscape. These priorities take the form of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).

At their core, LNRS are basically maps of the habitats in the local area, with an accompanying statement about how nature can be restored. They are designed to identify where habitats can be improved or created to bring the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. They help highlight the key priorities for nature restoration in the area, such as the creation of wetlands, planting of hedgerows or restoration of peatlands.

LNRS were introduced by the Environment Act 2021, which made it a requirement for one to be published for each area of England. This November marks the five-year anniversary of the act, which followed years of advocacy work from The Wildlife Trusts, calling for and suggesting new legislation for nature's recovery. The Wildlife Trusts have been involved in this kind of nature mapping for nearly two decades.

Most Wildlife Trusts in England have since contributed to the development and preparation of LNRS in their area. Many Wildlife Trusts will also use LNRS to help guide their own nature recovery projects.

Although each of the LNRS is focused on a specific area, together they can combine to deliver on nature restoration targets across England. This isn't just good news for nature, it's good news for people, too. Nature is an essential part of our lives, contributing greatly to our health, well-being and economy. It can help cool our homes in a warming world, reduce the risk of flooding and save the NHS millions. By fixing nature, you can also fix so much more.

The UK prime minister, Andy Burnham, has spoken publicly about wanting greater devolution of power away from Westminster. In a speech in June, Burnham promised the 'biggest bottom-up rebalancing of power our country has seen' with all places 'supported to make the best of their assets' to 'see the positives' and 'reimagine themselves for the twenty first century'. If properly implemented, LNRS led by local people can also serve as a great example of how devolution could be delivered to achieve national objectives.

UNDERSTORY

Climate on the global stage

Every year, delegates gather at the UN Climate conference, known as COP (Conference of the Parties). They negotiate commitments and actions to tackle the climate crisis. This November, COP31 is taking place in Turkey and The Wildlife Trusts want to see commitment to doubling down on nature and accelerating nature-based action for both alleviating and adapting to climate change.



Clawing back from the brink

This year, a major new programme was launched to reverse the dramatic loss of the UK's only native freshwater crayfish. The white-clawed crayfish has declined by a staggering 70-80% in recent decades, becoming globally endangered. Led by The Wildlife Trusts, this project will unite around 40 partner organisations from across England to scale up efforts to save the species.



SAND MARTIN © MARGARET HOLLAND, PUFFIN © AMY LEWIS

Q&A

Naftal Zinyemba, equality, diversity and inclusion officer at The Wildlife Trusts, reveals the links between nature and community.

Fix nature. Fix community.

What do The Wildlife Trusts mean when they talk about community?
Community is what brings people together. It is a safe and welcoming space where individuals with shared values, interests and experiences can connect, belong and thrive.

Why is community important?
Community is important because it gives people a sense of belonging and shared experiences. In a world that can sometimes feel lonely and increasingly individualistic, community creates opportunities for people to come together, support one another, share resources, build collective power and spread hope.

What does community have to do with nature?
Nature and community are one—this may sound unusual, but it is true. Communities benefit greatly from nature, and communities can come together to protect, preserve and restore it. By connecting with the natural world, communities can build stronger relationships, foster a sense of belonging and create healthier, more resilient environments for everyone.

Why is fixing nature necessary for community?
Nature is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Spending time in nature supports well-being, improves mental health and brings people together. Fixing nature is not just about protecting the environment; it is about creating a better future for people and communities too. As people who benefit so much from the natural world, we all have a role to play in protecting and restoring it.

Isolation and loneliness are growing issues for young people. Can nature help?
Nature is not the only solution, but it can certainly help. Research shows that spending time outdoors can improve mental health and well-being. Young people should feel safe spending time outside and have access to spaces where they can connect with nature, feel a sense of belonging and simply be themselves. This provides a valuable opportunity to build stronger connections with both the natural world and their communities.

What if people can't get out into nature?
We often limit nature to something that exists only outdoors. However, nature is everywhere. It can be as simple as sitting down with family to watch a nature documentary, or exploring a nature-based game with friends. It's about experiencing and connecting with the natural world in a way that is accessible to you. By recognising that nature can be experienced in many ways, not just outside, we can make it more accessible, inclusive and meaningful for all.



Find more

Get tips or fixing nature with your community at **wtru.st/community-hub**

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust provided

96 nesting chambers

for sand martins, with the creation of two new nesting banks at Amwell Nature Reserve.



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has signed a long-term lease to manage

276 acres

of land at Bleak House, restoring heathland on the former opencast coal mine.

4 ways your support is making a difference

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust were local coordinators for a global bioblitz that logged

4,169 records of 681 species

across Sheffield.



The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales counted a record-breaking

52,019 puffins

on Skomer Island.



Supporting Manx **Wildlife**. **Investing** in the **Future**. Celebrating **80** Years.

Ramsey Crookall is proud to support Manx Wildlife Trust and its important work in protecting the Island's landscapes and wildlife, as we celebrate 80 years of serving generations of clients and families across the Isle of Man.

Our partnership with Manx Wildlife Trust reflects our longstanding commitment to the Island and its natural heritage. From supporting the Manx Shearwater webcam on the Calf of Man to our team's involvement in Wild Work Days, we are delighted to play our part in helping preserve the Island's unique wildlife for future generations.

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