

First General Meeting of MANT trustees and Members

7:30pm 3rd February 2022 via ZOOM

Minutes

Present: Alison Davies, Francesca Bridgewater, Emma Dalton, Catherine Meakin, Hazel Goulden, Jeanne Claire Stanley-Hyde, Karen Vaughan, Kate Graham, Sarah Ward, David Bridgewater

Apologies: Andrew Kelly, Chris Steele

- 1 FB welcomed the members who attended. She described our aims and the background to MANT's formation. She explained how we set up having been inspired by EKWT; that we have links with several local environmental groups who are all supportive; that we also have links with village groups including MPS and the Scouts whom we intend to work with in the future.
- 2 The other two trustees present, Alison Davies and Emma Dalton, introduced themselves and explained their particular interests.
- 3 ED gave a presentation on meadow formation which was full of interesting information. She also said how inspiring and helpful our friends at EKWT have been. Following their example we have started to gather seed locally and pot it on. We have 25 species so far. Members are keen to know more about the process. Trustees are happy to share their expertise with any members who ask for help with their gardens.
- 4 FB issued a plea for volunteers to help with various tasks. At present Sunday afternoons are favoured, on a monthly basis. Jobs will include balsam bashing and plug planting. Members asked for help in identifying other invasive species. **FB will put details of invasive species onto the website. KV, KG, JCSH and SW offered practical help in working parties. KG suggested contacting the YRN website for volunteers & other relevant info.**
- 5 It was suggested that we explore an area on the edge of High Royds going away from the wood, by the stream and bridge leading toward Tranmere Park where greatest density of interesting plants in this area has been found. **We will speak to Bruce Brown who is the botany recorder for Wharfedale Naturalists.**
- 6 We asked our attendees if they would like to say a bit about themselves and what they hoped to gain by being members of MANT. **All the members who attended are able to provide MANT with useful links to the other organisations of which they are members.**
 - Catherine is head of outdoor learning at MPS. The School is keen to make links with groups like ours and to have visits from knowledgeable outsiders. She would like the children to help us as appropriate. **MPS have asked for help with their wildflower area.**
 - Hazel is a member of many local environmental groups and has useful contacts. She

was in the original expedition to EKWT.

- Sarah has done a survey of land along Moor Lane which found 70 species. She is a “hobby botanist”, actively learning all the time, works for Wharfedale Nats alongside Bruce Brown. She is keen to see how Menston can develop its flora.
- Jeanne Claire is new to the village but already in the High Royds Residents’ Association.
- Karen is interested in how to garden better and to help the group.
- Kate is a member of the Yorkshire Rewilding Network. She said the YRN will be a useful source of volunteers. She also wants help with gardening.
- David was initially inspired by a visit to Knepp which was an eye-opener on the interconnectedness of all natural systems.

7 It was suggested that we contact the developers of the newest sites in Menston to ask where their “open space” is and if we could be involved. *New developments for more than 10 houses, or 1,000m² of floor space, must make provision for new open space. (New open space can be provided on-site, or in certain circumstances, a contribution ('commuted sum') will be sought from the applicant).* **To be decided – who will make contact.**

8 FB outlined our plans for the year including

- Open Wilder Gardens on May 22nd. She asked for help with organising this. **Anyone willing to host a wilder garden themselves, please contact MANT.**
- Possible visits to the site near Wetherby and to EKWT.
- Doing baseline surveys of flowers, birds and insects in parts of Menston.

All of this will increase our knowledge which it is now clear is something the trustees and members feel is paramount.

Details of visits or group activities will be put on social media and the website, as well as sent out to members.