

## PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2023

The 2023 programme consisted of **6 meetings** (5 ordinary including an all-day Regional Meeting & the AGM) and **9 field meetings** (8 single day, and one 6-day event).

### Ordinary Meetings

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023: INDOOR MEETING with exhibits and lecture (NHM with Zoom link)**

**Guest speaker:** Paul Chambers. 'The life and times of Norma the Ormer'.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ADDRESS (NHM with Zoom link)**

**Guest speaker:** Martin Willing. 'The Narrow-mouthed (but broad-minded') Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior* in Wales – What's happened in the last 40 years?'

**Saturday 23rd July 2023: ZOOM MEETING with online exhibits and lecture**

**Guest speaker:** Dave Mackay. 'The role of serendipity in shell collecting.'

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023: INDOOR MEETING with exhibits and lecture (NHM with Zoom link)**

**Guest speaker:** Robert Cameron. 'Snails in the mind: symbolism, superstition and imagery'.

**Saturday 11th November 2023. REGIONAL MEETING in Reading.**

**Organiser:** Tom Walker ([tom@tmwalker.co.uk](mailto:tom@tmwalker.co.uk)). The meeting will be held in the Department of Zoology, University of Reading, Berkshire. The meeting consisted of a series of short talks:

1. Amanda Callaghan: 'Molluscs in the Cole Museum'.
2. June Chatfield: 'The tradition of malacology in the University of Reading'.
3. Tom Walker: 'Molluscs on the Whieknights Campus, University of Reading'.
4. Mike Allen: 'Snails and the sleeping giant (Cerne Abbas Giant)'.
5. Martin Bell: 'Molluscs and the environmental history of the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire'.
6. Imogen Cavadino: 'Investigating slug diversity in gardens using Citizen Science'.
7. Simon Taylor: 'Digitisation of paper records'.

A tour of the mollusc collections within the department also took place.

**Sunday 12th November 2023. CONSERVATION AND RECORDING FORUM MEETING in Reading.**

**Organiser:** Ben Rowson.

**Saturday 9th December 2023: INDOOR MEETING with exhibits and lecture (NHM with Zoom link)**

**Guest speaker:** Richard Preece. 'William Benson and the Golden Age of Malacology in British India'.

## Field Meetings

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023: FIELD MEETING (marine): Bude Area (North Devon).**

**Leader:** Rosemary Hill. Surveys of inter-tidal habitats. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 64: 16 - 17)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Semley Woods and Oysters Coppice Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserves, near Shaftesbury, Salisbury.**

**Leader:** Mags Cousins

Surveys of damp flower rich ancient coppice woodlands, with streams and pond

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine) Warburg Nature Reserve, Oxfordshire.**

**Leader:** Tom Walker

A nature reserve owned by Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust with areas of ancient woodland supporting *Ena montana*. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 63: 6 - 7)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting Green, near Bedford, Bedfordshire.**

**Leader:** Peter Topley ([molluscworld@ntlworld.com](mailto:molluscworld@ntlworld.com); 01462 615499)

The Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group are joining a Bioblitz at Strawberry Hill Farm, a rewilding project north of Bedford. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 63: 18)

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Hill Wood, Erlestoke, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.**

**Leader:** Keith Alexander ([keith.n.a.alexander@outlook.com](mailto:keith.n.a.alexander@outlook.com); 01872 271186)

A meeting focussing on survey for *Ena montana*. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 63: 3)

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Whiteknights, University of Reading, Berkshire.**

**Leader:** Tom Walker ([tom@tmwalker.co.uk](mailto:tom@tmwalker.co.uk); 07488-231574;)

A wide-ranging general molluscan survey of the University grounds. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 64: 10 - 11)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Hook-a-Gate woods, near Shrewsbury**

**Leader:** Mags Cousins ([shropshiremolluscs@gmail.com](mailto:shropshiremolluscs@gmail.com); 07873 532681).

Molluscan surveys in a small woodland with tufa-depositing streams.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023: FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Bookham Common, north Surrey.** Joint with the London Natural History Society and the Alton Natural History Society.  
**Leader:** June Chatfield.

A general molluscan survey of the area which consists of about 400 acres of ancient woodland, glades, semi-acid to acid grassland, ponds and wetland on London Clay.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Wyre Forest, Worcestershire.**

**Leaders:** Rosemary Hill\* & Rosemary Winnall ([\\*rosemaryhi@lineone.net](mailto:*rosemaryhi@lineone.net); 0121 4431459).

A joint meeting with the Wyre Forest Study Group (WFSG). (For meeting report see *Mollusc World* 64: 29 - 30).

Additionally, a report of the Marine meeting held in Northumberland 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 appeared in *Mollusc World* 64: 4 – 5. This meeting report was not included in the Programme Secretary's report for 2022.

Martin Willing  
Hon. Programme Secretary  
February 2024