

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2024

The 2023 programme consisted of **5 meetings** (4 ordinary including an all-day Regional Meeting & the AGM) and **7 field meetings** (6 single day, and one 6-day event). A fifth ordinary meeting was cancelled due to storms.

Ordinary Meetings

Saturday 17th February 2024: INDOOR MEETING with exhibits and lecture (NHM with Zoom link)

Guest speaker: Chris Fletcher. 'The Darwin Tree of Life Project: Sequencing Britain'.

Saturday 20th April 2024: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ADDRESS (NHM with Zoom link)

Guest speaker: Tom Walker. 'In search of aliens: hothouse molluscs in Britain and Ireland'

Saturday 6th July 2024: ZOOM MEETING with online exhibits and lecture

Guest speaker: Imogen Cavadino. 'What can citizen science tell us about slugs in British gardens?'

Saturday 19th October 2024: INDOOR MEETING with exhibits and lecture (NHM with Zoom link)

Guest speaker: John Hutchinson. 'A slug saga: historical confusions and new findings about *Ambigolimax parvipenis*'

Saturday 9th November 2024. REGIONAL MEETING in Cardiff.

Organisers: Ben Rowson, Anna Holmes and Martin Willing. The meeting was held in the National Museum Cardiff/ Amgueddfa Genedlaeuthol Caerdydd. The meeting consisted of a series of short talks:

1. · Mike Howe (NRW): Mollusc conservation in Wales
2. · Martin Willing (Conch Soc): 'A tale of three whorl snails' - The mixed fortunes of *Vertigo angustior*, *V. geyeri* and *V. moulinsiana* in Wales
3. · Ben Rowson & Anna Holmes (National Museum Cardiff/ Amgueddfa Genedlaeuthol Caerdydd): The Arctic-Alpine Pea Clam in Snowdonia
4. · Kim Marshall-Mills (Cardiff University): Insights into how nature builds minerals: exploring the structure and chemistry of Giant Clam shells
5. Tom Walker & Amanda Callaghan (Reading University): A Lancashire Conchological Mystery
6. · Graham Oliver (ACNMW): Recent work on bivalve taxonomy, at home and abroad
7. · Andrew Wright (Conch Soc): Marine shell sand from Ireland

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

Sunday 10th November 2024. CONSERVATION AND RECORDING FORUM MEETING in Cardiff.

Organiser: Ben Rowson.

Saturday 7th December 2024: INDOOR MEETING cancelled due to storms

Guest speaker: Louise Firth. 'Limpets: ecosystem engineers that provide ecosystem services' – to be rescheduled

Field Meetings

Saturday 13th April 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Hampstead Heath, London. Leader: Liz Andrew. Joint meeting with the London Natural History Society. Survey of a variety of habitats on the Heath. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 66*: 16-17)

Saturday 4th May 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Bookham Common, Surrey
Leader: June Chatfield. Survey to relocate species recorded in the 1940s by A.E. Ellis and *Limax cinereoniger* recorded by C.P. Castell (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 67*: 13-17)

Saturday 8th June 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Withymead Nature Reserve, Goring, Oxfordshire. Leader: Tom Walker. Survey on the banks of the Thames with woodland, reed fen and marsh, and some drier open land. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 66*: 24-26)

Monday 15th July 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Frognaal Gardens, London. Leader: Noel Brock. Joint meeting with the London Natural History Society and Frognaal Gardens. Survey of wildlife gardens, ponds and nursery. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 67*: 7-9)

Sunday 15th September – Sunday 22nd September 2024. FIELD MEETING (marine): Anglesey.

Leader: Simon Taylor. Survey of Red Wharf Bay, Abraham's Bosom, Moel-y-Doen, Traeth Lleinog, Porth Cwyfan, and several bays in north-west Anglesey. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 67*: 23-27)

Saturday 5th October 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Cheddar area, Somerset. Leader: Keith Alexander. Survey of woodland for *Ena montana*. (For meeting report see *Mollusc World 67*: 3-5)

Saturday 12th October 2024. FIELD MEETING (non-marine): Wyre Forest, Worcestershire.
Leaders: Rosemary Hill & Rosemary Winnall. Joint meeting with the Wyre Forest Study Group.

Matt Law, Hon. Programme Secretary
March 2025