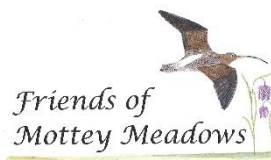




Case Study 3.2- The Friends of Motte Meadows, Staffordshire



The Friends of Motte Meadows was set up in 2009 as a support group for Motte Meadows National Nature Reserve, which is managed by Natural England. Following a public meeting, a committee of three was elected; today the group has 83 members, many of whom are actively involved.

The aim of the Friends of Motte Meadows is to support the staff employed by Natural England in promoting and developing Motte Meadows National Nature Reserve. Since 2009, it has been involved in a huge variety of fundraising events, practical volunteer days, butterfly surveys and public events on the meadows themselves. Every year on the third weekend of June, Natural England and the Friends of Motte Meadows together run an annual Hay Making Festival. This public open day is free to all and involves wildflower walks, tractor rides, kids' activities, wildlife displays, arts and crafts, hot food and much more. Members of the Friends group help with stalls, refreshments, photography and organisation.

The Friends of Motte Meadows have raised over £5,000 by hosting fundraising events including quizzes, race nights, treasure hunts, antiques road shows, and applying for small grants. These funds are spent on helping Natural England manage Motte Meadows. To date the Friends have provided notice boards, signs, banners, gates and bridges and are still raising funds to pay for new hedges, fencing and machinery.





There are many other 'Friends' groups associated with floodplain meadows who are actively involved in site management, organising events and fundraising, including: The Bishops Meadow Trust⁹ (Bishops Meadow, Farnham, Surrey), The Cricklade Manorial Court¹⁰ (North Meadow, Wiltshire), The Friends of Avon Meadows¹¹ (Avon Meadows, Pershore, Worcestershire), and the Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows¹² (Rawcliffe Meadows, York, Yorkshire).

<http://bishopsmeadowtrust.org/>

http://www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk/fritillary_watch.html

<http://foam.btck.co.uk/>

<https://rawcliffemeadows.wordpress.com/>

The Motte Meadows Hay Festival is particularly targeted at the community of the nearby village of Wheaton Aston, and the numbers of people attending have risen over the years from 150 to 600. www.friendsofmotteymeadows.org.uk

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