

The Meadow Makers' Conference 2017

Saturday 1st July, Brimpts Farm, Dartmoor

A Celebration of Wildflower Meadows

PROGRAMME

The talk timings may change slightly before the day. Closer to the event we will send an updated version.

9.15 Registration and coffee

10am Welcome by Tom Stratton, Duchy of Cornwall and Andy Bradford, Brimpts Farm.

Introduction to Wildflower Meadows, their history, their importance for wildlife, a talk by **Stephen Moss**, natural history author, broadcaster and wildlife television producer. Stephen is passionate about communicating the wonders of the natural world and has written more than 30 books on wildlife including his latest Wild Kingdom: Bringing Back Britain's Wildlife.

Bee conservation, a talk by **Professor Dave Goulson** from Sussex University, world-leading researcher and best-selling author of A Buzz in the Meadow, A Sting in the Tail and Bee Quest. Dave is a founder of The Bumblebee Conservation Trust and is a leading expert on the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on our pollinators. He's also a natural storyteller and his talk on how we can help our pollinators thrive will leave you inspired.

Breakout sessions – time for **two** of the following before lunch:

Wildflower Identification workshop for beginners – Learn the basic skills of wild flower identification on our workshop. You'll leave being able to identify a selection of key species from the Brimpts Farm meadow.

The Birds of Meadows, a talk by naturalist **John Walters**, consultant on many television and radio programmes, and illustrator of The Wildlife of Dartmoor. Many insect-eating birds, including house martins, swifts and swallows are reliant on meadows as their main food source. John will reveal the secrets of these fascinating birds on our doorstep in a talk illustrated with some of his amazing photographs.

A Community Meadow, a talk by **Nicky Scott** on Chagford's community meadow – the joys, the pitfalls, in conversation with **Andrew Whitehouse** from Buglife who'll be providing tips on where to find support for creating your own community meadow and other ways to enhance public spaces for pollinators.

OR spend the hour on a guided walk in the award winning Brimpts Farm hay meadow with an ecologist and Megan Lowe from Butterfly Conservation.

1pm Lunch – buffet lunch included

2pm How to Create a Meadow – from a plot in the garden or several acres, a talk by **Charles Flower**, author of *Where Have All The Flowers Gone?* Charles is a very experienced meadow maker and will guide you through the steps of meadow creation, whether you want to convert a grassy paddock into a wildflower meadow or you'd like to know how to turn your lawn into one.

Breakout sessions – time for **two** of the following:

Natural Beekeeping, a talk by Dartmoor's champion of the native black honeybee, **Phil Chandler**. Phil will introduce you to the style of keeping honeybees that is low-impact, low-cost, chemical-free, natural and balanced, using simple equipment that you can make at home.

Dartmoor's Threatened Butterflies – practical steps to help reverse their decline, a talk by **Megan Lowe** of Butterfly Conservation. Megan will guide you through the ways you can manage your patch, on whatever scale, to create a breeding habitat for butterflies.

Burial Grounds; The Oldest Meadow? A talk by **Harriet Carty**, Director of the charity Caring for God's Acre. Many old churchyards have the potential to be fantastic oases for nature as well as for people. Harriet's illustrated talk will provide practical advice and tips on where and how to find support for transforming your own local churchyard.

OR spend the hour on a guided walk in the beautiful Brimpts Farm hay meadow with Professor Dave Goulson and naturalist John Walters.

4.30pm How to Manage a Meadow - The Essential Steps, a talk by renowned ecologist **Sue Everett**, advisor to Flora Locale and writer for *British Wildlife*. Sue has many years experience in advising on wildlife habitat restoration, especially creating wild flower grasslands at all scales.

5pm Questions and Answers session with all speakers, chaired by Kevin Cox, Chair of Devon Birds

5.30pm Conference ends.

5.30pm-8pm The final celebration is an opportunity to unwind after the event for a few hours – musicians from the Moor Meadows Group who are going to the conference are invited to bring their instruments. Dartmoor Brewery beer and homemade pasties will be available to buy. If you didn't get a chance during the day, now could be the time to wander in the ancient haymeadow at Brimpts Farm to admire the orchids.