

MARCHES MEADOWS GROUP – part of Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme's Wildflowers Meadows and Pastures Project

The Marches Meadow Group was established and supported by the LPS as a means to bring together local people who have an interest in conserving meadows and other species-rich grassland in the scheme area. Members have been able to access a number of benefits: a botanical survey of their meadow, advice on meadow management, access to small-scale hay-making machinery owned by the group, co-ordination of green hay donor and recipient sites, and sharing learning and socialising with other meadow managers. There are now 40 members. Members have also been able to apply for a grant from the LPS towards improvements for their meadows, e.g. for fencing to enable grazing.



It's the service that causes people to join because they can get work done they couldn't otherwise do.

JP [Scheme Project Officer] has been particularly useful because of his experience as an agricultural contractor, he's shepherded us through really well. And we have some very good people on the committee who are used to developing and managing community groups.

As a result...

.... The group has the machinery and equipment they need to carry on their work after the end of the Scheme, and they have a means of generating income for the future through cutting and delivering green hay.

.... Members are becoming much more aware of how to manage and enhance their meadows.

.... Meadow owners are seeing enhancements to their meadows.



Small scale haymaking equipment purchased through the Scheme to help manage the meadows

The project has brought meadow owners together and galvanised them into working together.

JP arranged for a contractor to spread green hay, at no cost to myself. I wasn't expecting a huge amount, but had yellow rattle, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, which I hadn't had before. It's absolutely terrific. And I'm enormously grateful that the fields have been fenced, as I wanted to be able to get them grazed down properly.

It's helped me to start proper management of my own fields. I've gained a lot of knowledge, for example proper management techniques, the diversity of species you can get. It helps you realise that you're not on your own.