

## **The Canterbury Society launches Photographic Competition to celebrate our City's Meadows**

In celebration of National Meadows Day, an annual event which takes place on the first Saturday in July, the Canterbury Society is launching today a Photographic Competition on the theme of 'Meadows and pollinators'. The event is a reminder of the fact that meadow and species-rich grassland are an intrinsic part of the UK's natural and cultural heritage, but over 90% have been lost since the 1930s due to development, urbanisation and agricultural intensification.

The Canterbury Society is urging members of the public to visit local meadows and take photos of the landscape, the wildflowers and the pollinators. In the words of Richard Scase, the Society's chair, *'Canterbury has several lovely meadows including those on Tannery Meadow in the Westgate Parks, Hambrook Marshes, Wincheap Water Meadow, Chaucer Fields and the Franciscan garden, as well as those on the outskirts of the city. We would love you to share your pictures of the landscape, the flowers and the pollinators, using the hashtag #NationalMeadowsDayCanterbury.'*

The competition is open to people of all ages living in the district. There will be two prizes of £30, one for children and young people under the age of 16 and the other for adults. Entries to the competition should be submitted by email to [beverleypaton@canterburysociety.co.uk](mailto:beverleypaton@canterburysociety.co.uk). The deadline for entries is Saturday 15 August. For more information, go to The Canterbury Society Facebook page.

The Canterbury Society has a long history of supporting the city's open spaces and green heritage. It was a founding member of the campaign to save Wincheap Water Meadows from the threat of being converted into a car park for the extension of the Wincheap Park & Ride - a threat which is still looming on the horizon. It has also started an [ePetition](#) calling on the City Council to follow the example set by many other local authorities and adopt a Pollinator Action Plan to protect our remaining meadows from inappropriate management, such as excessive mowing and pesticide use. The ePetition has already got nearly 1000 signatures.

National Meadows Day is organised each year by the charity 'Save our magnificent meadows' which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It aims to raise public awareness of the importance and plight of meadows and species-rich grasslands. Save our Magnificent Meadows points out that *'Meadows and other species-rich grasslands are an intrinsic part of the UK's natural and cultural heritage. They are rich in landscape character, farming, folklore and history – as much part of our heritage as the works of Shakespeare. Unfortunately, six million acres of grassland were ploughed to grow cereals during the Second World War and the area of lowland meadows has declined by 97% during the following 40 years. Of those that survive, around 75% occur in small fragments and remain vulnerable to destruction. Aside from being species-rich, meadows provide other environmental benefits too, including carbon storage, water retention to prevent flooding and habitat for crop pollinators.'*

For more information on National Meadows Day 2020, go to:

<http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/celebrating-meadows/national-meadows-day>

For more information on the importance of meadows, go to:

<http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/conserve-restore/importance-of-meadows>