

2023 Annual General Meeting



**Devon
Mammal
Group**

Thursday 7th September – 7.30pm

The Kenn Centre, 3 Exeter Rd, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7TW and online

Attendees in person: George Bemment, Simone Bullion, Stephen Carroll, Phil Collins, Michael Hodges, Ellie Knott, Hilary Marshall, Jess Smallcombe.

Attendees via Zoom: Claire Edey, Chris Hughes, Kathy Mead, Matt Parkins, Mike Treble

Chaired by Phil Collins, Minutes by Ellie Knott

1. Apologies for Absence: Chris Blood, Sarah Butcher, Helen Calver, Graham Cooper, Charly Mead, Sue Smallshire
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM were made available on the website, members were made aware of where they could be found when invited to the AGM. The minutes were accepted by members with no changes.

Proposer Jess Smallcombe
Secunder George Bemment

3. Chairman's Report: The 2022 AGM in July was due to have a talk by Stephen Powles on Cave Elephants, but the talk was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid. Ellie Knott did a talk on the English Otter Survey instead. The next talk was from Craig Shuttleworth on pine martens and red squirrels in North Wales at the beginning of September (online). The Cave Elephants talk was rescheduled for the end of September, but was cancelled due to lack of interest. The autumn Pips and Pints bat walk was also cancelled due to the weather. In November there was a talk on some of the dormice projects being carried out in Devon by Ellie Scopes, Charlotte Armitage and Matt Parkins, and there was a Christmas Quiz in December, run by Hilary Marshall. There were no talks in January-March, due to the difficulty of finding speakers.
4. Presentation of Accounts by Ellie Knott (Treasurer): We spent more on events than we took in bookings, as room hire prices have increased, and we also have to pay for the Zoom licence. There were donations from DMG members, and a small amount of money from Amazon Smile (that ended in 2023). The only equipment bought this year was a VGA converter so that the projector donated by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre could be used with modern laptops. There were no Small Grants given in 2022-2023 as we were funding the Harvest Mouse project.

The Harvest Mouse project accounts show slightly different total income and expenditure to the main DMG accounts as there was a payment of £94.10 from a training course run in the previous year that came in in 01/04/2022. There was also a payment for Sarah Butcher's time and travel of £1,833.74 at the end of March that didn't go through for some reason, so had to be redone. There was a donation of £250 from one of the harvest mouse volunteers, and some income from talks and training days. We also had some money left

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over from Tesco Bags for Life (£1,000) and LUSH (£382.25) – this could only be spent on equipment, it could not be spent on project officer time or travel, so some of the money was used to cover the SurveyMonkey licence (£288).

The Harvest Mouse project was funded by Devon Mammal Group funds this year as we were not able to get any other funding. A bid to the Post Code Lottery was unsuccessful. We have funding from the Devon Environment Fund for the 2023-2024 season, but this will be the last year of the project unless we are able to find a new source of funding.

Devon Mammal Group accounts 2022 – 2023

Opening balance 1st April 2022 £11,131.53

Accounts 2022/23	Income	Expenditure
Membership	£1,212.50	£6.80
Sales stock (selling)	£0.00	
Sales stock (buying)		£0.00
Events	£239.66	£373.38
Trips	£0.00	£0.00
Harvest Mouse Project	£619.10	£6,669.29
Website (hosting & domain name)	0	£95.40
Printing Newsletter		£0.00
Amazon Smile	£17.33	
Donations	£70.00	£0.00
Interest/Bank charges/Admin	£0.00	£0.00
Equipment	£0.00	£26.99
Insurance		£128.18
Gift Aid Credit	£259.55	
Mammal Society Membership		£43.00
Small Grants Scheme		£0.00
Totals	£2,418.14	£7,343.04
Closing balance		£6,206.63

Devon Mammal Group Harvest Mouse Project accounts 2022 – 2023

Opening balance 1st April 2022 £1,382.25

Accounts 2022/23	Income	Expenditure
Grants	£0.00	
Donations	£250.00	
Card Sales (Jess's & Xmas)	£0.00	
Project Officer Time		£4,080.00
Project Officer Travel		£467.55
Insurance		£0.00
Talks/Events	£275.00	£0.00
Training Days		£0.00
Equipment		£288.00
Totals	£525.00	£4,835.55
Closing balance		-£2,928.30

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Proposer George Bemment
Secunder Jess Smallcombe

5. Elections to Committee: the following committee members are up for re-election - Helen Calver, Jess Smallcombe and Sue Smallshire. Jess and Sue are happy to stand again, but Helen has resigned as Chair. The Committee would like to thank Helen for the hard work she has put in as Chair, especially during Covid lockdowns.

Proposer Hilary Marshall
Secunder Stephen Carroll

Charly Mead has offered to be the next Chair, and we think that we have someone who will be willing to take over the post of Secretary.

Proposer Jess Smallcombe
Secunder Ellie Knott

Simone Bullion and Michael Hodges have also offered to join the Committee.

The current Committee is:

- Chair – Charly Mead
- Vice Chair – Phil Collins
- Secretary – currently vacant
- Membership Secretary – Chris Hughes
- Treasurer – Ellie Knott
- Website Officer – Jess Smallcombe
- Sue Smallshire
- Hilary Marshall
- Kate Hills
- Stephen Carroll
- Sarah Butcher
- Simone Bullion
- Michael Hodges

6. Harvest Mouse Project update: Sarah Butcher was unable to attend, but sent a PowerPoint presentation with highlights. She ran several training sessions for Saving Devon's Treescapes, Erme to Yealm farmers' group, Moor Meadows, the Dartmoor National Trust team and RHS Rosemoor staff and volunteers. There were also group surveys at West Hawkerland, Lower Halsdon, Mutters Moor, Moor Meadows (Brook Manor), Trinity Hill, Holbeton, Northam Burrows, Coombe Mill and Bursdon. At least 49 nests were found during the surveys and by the volunteers.

The project has over 1,500 followers on Facebook, 530 followers on Twitter, with regular retweets by high profile people and organisations, a YouTube channel and a website. Sarah sits on the National Harvest Mouse Steering Group, and the Devon project has had an impact on the national survey approach. She is also working with Dave Groves at Cornwall Mammal Group. The trail cameras and owl pellet work has been very successful, and a

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harvest mouse was recorded on the cameras at Rosemoor after 4 years and analysing 3,000 images per month!

There is funding from the Devon Environment Fund for the 2023-2024 season, and Sarah has four surveys planned already. She also plans to work with National Highways to monitor harvest mice on the county's highways, plus doing more surveys including at repeat sites to monitor trends. She will be working with the National Trust on the Culm grassland restoration projects and the Barn Owl Trust to monitor owl pellets, and the trail camera project will also continue.

7. Any Other Business - none

The AGM was followed by a talk by Emily Cuff of Devon Wildlife Trust on Natural Flood Management in Ottery St Mary