



# Manx Wildlife Trust



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## History of the MWT

### After forty years, our work continues unabated

It all began with a letter to the Isle of Man Examiner in 1970, when Felicity Cain and Elizabeth Hamm wrote a rousing letter calling on island residents to do something in recognition of European Conservation Year.



A meeting led to the formation of the Manx Nature Conservation Trust in March 1973.

The first nature reserves were acquired a short time later, Barnell Reservoir in 1974 and Cooldarry in 1976.

#### The 1980s

The Ayres Visitor Centre was soon established and the Scarlett Visitor Centre opened in 1986. Nowadays they attract more than 2,500 each summer.

Another four reserves were taken on in the latter half of the 1980s.

A shop, with adjoining office office, opened in Tynwald Mills in 1992, the

floor space of the shop was eventually doubled in 2000.

#### The 1990s

The 1990s saw a large expansion in the number of reserves owned by the Trust, ten were either purchased or donated during the decade. The Trust also got involved in a number of important ecological reports including, in 1995, the Manx Hill-land Report.

#### Turn of the century

The staff team expanded at the turn of the century, employing a Marine Officer and a Education Officer.

2001 saw the formation of the Wildflowers of Man project, with the aim of protecting and promoting native Manx wildflowers.

An Education Officer was appointed in 2002 to work with schools and children's groups.

#### A change of name

Thirty years after it was established, the MNCT became known as the Manx Wildlife Trust.



With the dissolution of the Manx Basking Shark Society in 2006, the Trust established the Manx Basking Shark Watch project.

Also that year, the Wildlife Site project was established with the aim of identifying sites of significant nature conservation interest.



In 2000 the Trust provided a warden service for the Ayres National Nature Reserve, it was followed in 2006 with the management of two wardens on the Calf of Man, for the government and Manx National Heritage respectively. The latter contract continues to this day, in partnership with Manx Birdlife.

#### **A new home**

2011 saw the Trust moved to its current home, in the heart of Peel. Offices sit above an information centre and the Wildlife Shop, whose profits help fund the Trust's work.

The same year saw the acquisition of the Trust's twenty-first nature reserve, a 25 acres site in West Baldwin.

#### **Forty years on**

Forty years after it was first established, the Trust's work continues unabated. The plight of our native wildlife and the importance of nature conservation has never been higher, we're pleased to see that public awareness of the problems faced by the natural world have never been higher either.

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