

friends of WARTON CRAG LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

21st August 2021

Grassland Management

A staggering 97% of wildflower meadows have been eradicated since the 1940's. We are very lucky to live in an area where limestone grasslands and meadows are thriving but this takes close management by many teams of dedicated staff, volunteers, farmers and landowners. Two of our volunteers were given the opportunity to attend a scything beginner's course organised through our Green Recovery Challenge Fund project 'Meadow Makers'. We put that training into practice to mow around one third of the species rich grassland in the quarry car park. By cutting back a portion of the grassland at the end of the season this will hopefully maintain and increase the diversity of the meadow, and slow scrub encroachment. We used most of the mown grass as 'green hay' – moving the plants and their seeds to an adjacent site on which scrub was cut last winter, and excellently cleared again of bramble and ivy by volunteers on the task, creating bare ground for sowing the green hay and hopefully in the future ideal habitat for the benefit of butterflies and other pollinators.



Save the date: Saturday 25th September (**note a week later than normal**)