

Walk290518

We had a sunny warm evening for our first walk of the season. Steve took us towards Craig y Borion to see the development of his traditional meadows. He showed us the meadow we had seen last year when it was growing its first strip of wild flower enriched grassland. This year he had a second strip in progress which had used the 'green hay' from the first strip. Looking at the two together, the first strip had increased its wild flowers and the second strip was also not looking a monoculture grass meadow. The important change was the amount of Yellow Rattle in the mix as it is a parasite which attacks grass and gives more opportunities for other plants to grow.

He then took us to a number of locations where trees are being planted to create wildlife corridors across the NT property and, where possible to join up with woodlands in neighbouring farms. The tree planting has a number of challenges. Firstly he wants to plant a variety of trees which will attract wildlife, secondly he wants to plant as wide a variety as possible to minimize the risk that imported diseases could destroy too many of trees, and lastly he has to manage the bracken which will compete with young saplings in their early years of growth. He commented that all the trees were being planted by Colby volunteers with further help from the local Boy Scouts.

Steve wants as many people as possible to have access to this part of Colby and is creating more paths to help achieve this. Maps of these paths will soon be available in the Colby Shop.