



Wildflower Meadows

Survivors From a Golden Age

Margaret Pilkington

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- Focuses on untouched, ancient and historic meadows
- Stunningly illustrated with historic as well as recent photographs of ancient meadows
- Features a wide variety of meadows and their flowers, from grasslands, and heathlands to chalklands and wetlands

This book is a celebration of meadows and their wildflowers. Once common-place and familiar to all, not many now remain and their typical flowers are rapidly becoming a folk memory. Stylised meadow flowers, evoking a by-gone era of rural idyll and permanent summer sunshine, are used to sell everything from tea-towels to china plates and cups. Here we reveal their true beauty with close-up photography of flower detail and more distant shots setting them in their meadow context. The 1800s are sometimes referred to as the Golden Age of Farming, but social history reveals a different story. Life was hard for the farm labourers and the picturesque cottages they lived in had leaking roofs, but nature and wildflowers thrived. The meadows and the wildflowers described in this book are survivors from this golden age: a time when there was a meadow full of wildflowers and butterflies down every lane.

Dr. Margaret Pilkington is an Emeritus Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex. Her interest in meadows grew out of using the local countryside as a laboratory for teaching science and gained particular impetus with the publication of the National Vegetation Classification system in the 1990s. **Dr. John Pilkington** has a Ph.D. in Zoology from London University, and lectured in the Dept of Zoology at Otago University, NZ.

