

Upcoming Stepping Stones events, courses, work parties and surveys

The best way to stay up to date with all our volunteering opportunities is to sign up to the Stepping Stones newsletter. To sign up, [email Charlie](#).

Scything courses

We are working with Caring for God's Acre to run two scything training days. Scything is a great way of undertaking a variety of conservation tasks – e.g. cutting a hay meadow or removing bracken. If you think this might be a useful skill to learn, join us on either **Wednesday 5th** or **Wednesday 12th May**.

The days will run 10am - 3pm and we will start in Carding Mill Valley, learning some theory and how to care for and sharpen the scythes, later travelling a short distance for the practical side of the day! To book please [email Charlie](#).

Fencing work parties

We're also looking for volunteers to help us with some fencing work to protect some newly planted trees at Belmore Farm near Ratlinghope. We'll meet at 9.3pm and finish around 3pm. Come to one or all three! The dates are:

1. **Thursday 20th May;**
2. **Thursday 3rd June;**
3. **Thursday 17th June.**

To book, [email Charlie](#).

Butterfly Conservation work parties

We are also working with Butterfly Conservation to run some volunteer work parties to improve habitat for small pearl bordered fritillary. This will mainly be cutting and raking rushes. Dates are:

1. **Wednesday 22nd September, Nipstone;**
2. **Wednesday 20th October, Black Rhadley;**
3. **Wednesday 3rd November, venue TBC.**

All start at 10.00am and continue until 3.00pm. Booking essential, please contact [Stephen Lewis](#)

Butterfly walks

These are being led by Butterfly Conservation for the Stepping Stones project:

1. Sunday 13th June at 2pm, Norbury Hill (meet at Norbury Village Hall car park);
2. Wednesday 16th June at 2pm, Stiperstones (meet at The Knolls car park).

Walks will be led by Rob Rowe and Stephen Lewis. Areas visited will be wet and uneven rush pasture so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Booking essential via [Stephen Lewis](#)

Bumblebee survey

We're looking for people to help carry out surveys for any bumblebees that have a red or orange talk. For more details about how to take part, please watch our training sessions online:

[Part 1: Background and last year's survey results;](#)

[Part 2: This year's 'red tail' photo survey](#)

Other events

Wildlife Gardening Webinar – 17th May. Local wildlife gardener Nancy Lowe will answer questions and give tips on how to create your own garden stepping stones. To book please email Charlie.

Hay Meadow Festival – this is currently planned for Saturday 24th July at the Discovery centre Craven Arms. More details to follow...

Stepping Stones YouTube Channel

Did you know that we've got a series of talks and webinars on our [YouTube Channel](#)? Watch them here:

- [The Long Mynd and the Stepping Stones project](#)
- [Bumblebees on the Mynd: background and 2020 survey](#)
- [Bumblebees on the Mynd: 2021 'red-tail' survey](#)
- [Bumblebees on the Mynd: carder bee extension survey](#)
- [Conservation Grazing webinar](#)
- [Dormouse Detectives Survey training session](#)
- [Restoring Shropshire's Verges project](#) (with Caring for God's Acre)