



# Stepping Stones

Creating and linking wildlife-friendly spaces

**Hello from the Stepping Stones Project team.** We've got some updates, events and volunteer work parties for you. In particular we're looking forward to the Hay Meadow Festival on 24th July, a key event for Stepping Stones. Read on for more details of all these things!

## Help us clear bracken from Norbury Hill



You may remember the campaign last year to help the Middle Marches Community Land Trust purchase part of Norbury Hill, a wildlife site and valuable 'stepping stone'. We hope to help with many volunteer work parties there over the coming years, and we're making a start with some 'bracken bashing' sessions. We'll meet at 10am and you're welcome to stay as long as you like, but we'll finish by 3pm at the latest. The dates are:

- 1. Monday 5th July**
- 2. Tuesday 20th July**

To book, [email Charlie](#).

## Stepping Stones Wildlife Garden Visit



### **Monday 5th July, 7pm** Plealey, near Pontesbury

Following our [wildlife gardening webinar](#) last month, this is our chance to see how a wildlife stepping stone has been created in a wonderful garden within the Stepping Stones Project area. This is an evening event and will be very informal, allowing you chance to wander around the space and chat to the owners.

Booking is essential as places are limited. [Email Charlie](#) to book.

## Green hay available - 11th August

We have an opportunity to work with a local smallholder to help them manage their excellent hay meadow, in return for the green hay. They will cut the hay on **11th August** and we will rake and collect it on the same day. If you would like to come along to rake, bag and collect some green hay to help spread seed on your own meadow or verge restoration project then please [get in touch to book](#).

[Read more about green hay and how it is used...](#)



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### Stepping Stones at Belmore Farm

We've had a great series of work parties near Ratlinghope, fencing the trees we helped plant earlier this year. The trees will form wide bands of thicket which will provide habitat in their own right, as well as acting as corridors through the landscape. By fencing them off the adjoining meadow can be grazed later in the year when the hay has been cut. Thousands of trees were planted, and hundreds of meters of fence erected by our volunteers.

It's great to be able to help create these stepping stones and corridors in the wider landscape.



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## Hay Meadow Festival 24th July



A FUN FILLED FAMILY DAY  
FROM THE DISCOVERY CENTRE-CRAVEN ARMS  
TO CELEBRATE  
WILDFLOWER MEADOWS &  
THEIR WEALTH OF WILDLIFE  
THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS



**SAT 24TH  
JULY**  
11AM TILL 6PM

THERE WILL BE:

SCYTHING  
COMPETITIONS  
/HAVE A GO

WILDLIFE  
DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES

RURAL ARTS  
& CRAFTS

ECO TALK TENT

MUSIC, MERRIMENT  
& REFRESHMENT

Tickets available in advance  
for the Discovery Centre.  
please call: 01588 676060

In advance : £4.00 adults;  
£2.00 Children; £10.00 family

On the day: £5.00 adults;  
£3.00 children; £13.00 family.

Shropshire Hills  
Discovery Centre  
CRAVEN ARMS - SY7 9RS

This promises to be a fun-filled day to celebrate wildflower meadows and their wildlife. With guided meadow walks, wildlife safaris, scything demonstrations and competitions, talk tent, arts 'n crafts, information stands and a music stage as well as a barbecue and bar, this is the perfect summer day out for all the family!

[More details and advance tickets here.](#)



## Verges work continues

We've also been busy with the Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project. Last week we supported RSVP volunteers to plant plug plants on a road verge near Bishops Castle. We also distributed plug plants to volunteers to take away and plant on road verges around the area.

At the end of the month we hope to meet with Shropshire Council's new portfolio holder for Highways, to continue our discussions...