

## Middle Marches Community Land Trust summer 2023 events

### 3<sup>rd</sup> MMCLT Conference - May

Over Summer 2023 MMCLT has organised a series of events starting with a third conference on May 12<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Shropshire Hills AONB which attracted 120 delegates, indicating the high level of interest and expertise in the natural world across South Shropshire.

The conference brought together Town and Parish council representatives and individuals owning smaller plots of land with a common desire to improve them for biodiversity through Nature Recovery work.

Speakers presented on a wide range of topics including woodland, ponds and wildflower gardening.

### Stoney Field Site Visit, New Invention – June 2023

The conference was followed up with a visit to Sarah Jamesons Stoney Field site.

Sarah's blog 'We bought a field. The story of an 11.4 acre field in South West Shropshire <https://sarahnewinvention.wixsite.com/we-bought-a-field> and the lovely story of land management for nature and the results.



### The Isle Estate, Bicton – June 2023

Next came the visit to Sir Edward Tate's Isle Estate situated about four miles northwest of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Edward had generously offered the visit after attendance at one of last years MMCLT conferences.

'The Isle' consists of approximately 860 acres of agricultural land, water, woodland and dwellings, with the majority of the farm surrounded by the River Severn.

The Estate is on a mission to return the land to a level of health and biodiversity not seen in our lifetimes. More information at : [www.the-isle-estate.co.uk/isle-farm](http://www.the-isle-estate.co.uk/isle-farm)

Sir Edward Tate led a walk around the estate explaining the ecological programme and explaining how the estate is working on:

- Cropping techniques/use of livestock in a regenerative arable context
- Soil health
- Farm diversification / access
- Biodiversity Water management
- Utilisation of urban by product (green waste) for plant nutrient needs

The visit finished with a picnic in the walled garden on a lovely sunny day.



### **Cudwell Meadow and High Leasowes – July 2023**

Two site visits in one day in Church Stretton with a picnic in between.

The morning visit was to Cudwell meadow hosted by Mike and Isabel Carter, helped by Cudwell Meadow management committee member Aiden Foster, followed by an afternoon visit to the newly acquired MMCLT site at High Leasowes hosted by Sandra and Peter Whitlock.



### **Pam's Pools – July 2023**

A visit to Pam's Pools permaculture and wildlife site (<https://pamspools.co.uk/> ) took place at the end of July.

The vision at this site is to maintain and enhance the mosaic of existing wildlife habitats over the whole 110 acres of "Pam's Pools" and to increase species diversity by creating new ones through conservation grazing, planting native trees and shrubs and the management of the two wildflower hay meadows, two lakes and three pools.



### **Norbury Hill MMCLT Reserve– August 2023**

The final site visit for summer 2023 was a walk and talk hosted by Rob Rowe, MMCLT board member.

Situated a mile north of the village of Norbury in south-west Shropshire, Norbury Hill has been described as 'the largest stepping stone' between two important sites of conservation, the Long Mynd and the Stiperstones.

