# Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust



# **Trustee Biographies 2024/25**

## Tim McVey (Chair)

Tim retired from General Practice after 30 years in Newtown in 2015. He has been a member of MWT since the mid-1980s and joined the Trustee board in 2017. He became Chair of the Trust in 2019. He has a general interest in Montgomeryshire, wildlife and the environment and now has more time to learn about it and explore Montgomeryshire and the wider world.

#### Clare Boyes (Vice Chair)

Clare worked for the NHS for forty years and has significant experience in risk and governance. She has a life-long interest in natural history and has been a member of the Trust since 1994. Clare retired to spend more time enjoying nature and has a particular interest in solitary bees and wasps. She volunteers for the Trust, helping with wildlife surveys and recording species throughout Montgomeryshire and is the Vice County Recorder for Bees and Wasps, and Butterflies. Clare completed her master's degree in Biological Recording in 2022 and is now studying for a Research Masters in Entomology. Clare became Vice Chair in 2020.

### Ann Bitcon (Treasurer)

Ann has recently retired as a chartered accountant and has been a MWT Trustee and Treasurer since 2012. As Treasurer she aims to support MWT's CEO and Head of Resources with regards to financial matters, keep fellow Trustees up to date as to the financial position of the Trust, arranges the preparation of accounts and chairs the Finance Committee.

#### Tim Ward

Tim has worked for over 30 years in commercial and product management roles for a range of UK and international life-science technology companies before moving to mid Wales in 2017. He has a lifelong interest in all aspects of wildlife and conservation and is also a keen gardener with a special focus on creating a garden that is both attractive to look at and a haven for wildlife. Since retiring he has become actively involved with the Trust, helping with habitat surveys and activities to preserve the Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Montgomeryshire. By supporting the Trust, he hopes that he can help to protect and enhance local biodiversity as well as increase public engagement with nature.

# **Susan Morley**

Susan was born in the United States and has lived in rural Wales for over 50 years. Susan has worked as a researcher and environmental consultant and has a MA in International Development Studies. She has recently retired as an Open University lecturer teaching International Development and Environment. Her work has focussed on education about the Earth's changing climate, along with threats to species and biodiversity, and how the need for action from individuals and groups as well as governments and companies is crucial. Susan runs a smallholding along organic principles, encouraging wildlife to thrive. She was a trustee/director of Cae Post Ltd and has worked with a number of voluntary organisations in Powys and the borders and has always been interested in and supportive of community-based projects that encourage people to get involved in improving their area whatever their background and skills.

#### **Nick Burton**

Nick has worked for 30 years as an open space, countryside and woodland manager in the public, private and voluntary sector. He moved to Montgomeryshire in 2012 to work as a horse logger, undertaking forestry contracts in Powys and surrounding counties. Although now retired, Nick continues to manage an 11 hectare woodland on a commercial basis, simultaneously restoring it to semi-natural ancient woodland. Nick is the Chair of the MWT local group Friends of Deri Woods, a small volunteer group which works closely with Llanfair Caereinion Town Council who own the ancient community woodland.

#### Jane Storkey

Jane was raised on a smallholding in rural Staffordshire surroundings, and as a small child and later as an adult, she was brought up surrounded by exotic wildlife, her family having established what became the world renowned Twycross Zoo, now a conservation and research charity, the East Midlands Zoological Society (EMZS). Jane was a Trustee of EMZS for a number of years and became a Trustee of MWT wishing to reunite and continue her passion for wildlife conservation. Her term of office with EMZS gave her a sound background in conserving and managing larger species as well as utilising her commercial and business experience to expand and develop their retail operation. She established a reputation in her working career during her time as a commercial sales and admin director of a Midlands advertising agency.

#### Nicola Berry

After working in London for many years, Nicola has come home to Wales, working part-time and remotely from Montgomeryshire as General Counsel of a tech start-up. Arriving from London, Nicola was initially delighted by the wildlife around her but then shocked to hear from her neighbours how the variety and number of birds, mammals and insects in the valley had plummeted over their 40 years of residence, Nicola was spurred to join the MWT board to better understand the reasons for the decline and in the hope of making a small contribution to reversing it.

#### Berni McEwan

Berni is a CIMA qualified accountant, moving from financial management in the social housing sector to taking over a smallholding in Powys. He started his career in community involvement with three different environmental charities and is returning to his roots with MWT and supporting a more sustainable approach to the environment.