

Hurst Water Meadow News December 2009

Old Bridge Meadow

More than 50 people attended the opening event on Tuesday 27 October including many local residents and others who had contributed to the purchase. Richard Douglas, Chairman of the Trust, thanked all the people who by their generous contributions and efforts had made this purchase possible. He saw this as an attractive amenity for the village and an opportunity to restore the meadow to the way it had been managed for centuries. Volunteers from the village had already done a lot to improve access and control the nettles.

Sir Hugo Brunner praised the 'can do spirit' of the village which set an example to others. He said the meadow would be particularly valuable for children to be introduced to the wonders of nature. The leader of the South Oxfordshire District Council Malcolm Leonard presented a symbolic cheque for £3,850. Sir Hugo then unveiled the notice board to mark the opening of this meadow to the public. The Oxford Mail and Wallingford Herald described the event favourably.



Richard introducing Sir Hugo



The board unveiled

Working parties

More than a dozen volunteers worked hard on the old bridge meadow on 24 October clearing nettles along the river bank and clearing litter. The notice board was fixed at a level that children and wheelchair users could read. At the same time, two stalwarts cleared three large bags of litter from the Hurst, mostly around the angling sites. It included fishing tackle which is a danger to wildlife and dogs.



Fixing the notice board

Message from Peter

I have greatly enjoyed working for the Hurst Water Meadow Trust over the past 13 years. The wonderful support from the village, both as volunteers and donors, and the many messages of appreciation have been an inspiration. I am handing over to a dedicated and competent team with confidence that the meadows are safe in their hands. Future financing of the upkeep of the meadow will not be easy in these hard times, but the 'health' of the meadows could be ensured for ever if well-wishers would remember the Hurst in their will. This can be a simple codicil. Andrew Clements (340753) has the information.

Peter Pritchard former Hon sec 340008, Mike Southon Hon sec 341544.