

## Hurst Water Meadow News **April 2009**

### **Old Bridge Meadow**

The fundraising is now complete and the purchase can go ahead. The South Oxfordshire District Council has offered a grant of £3,850 and the Dorchester Parish Council £1,000. The Landfill Communities Fund has pledged £20,000 (via the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment). WREN recycling group has given us £4,425 for enhancing biodiversity. Two charitable trusts have donated £7,000 and £3,000. The Trust land fund has contributed £7,500. Public donations with Gift Aid have filled the gap for the whole project which amounts to £51,722. This is an amazing achievement in these hard times and all these contributions are much appreciated.

The contractor working on the drain in the village has kindly offered to construct the ramp from the kissing gate into the meadow at no cost to the trustees. The path will be two metres wide with a gradient on one in fifteen as recommended for wheelchairs. This will save the trustees a lot of work and money. Once it has settled, working parties can sow a topsoil layer with grass seed, and lay down a strip of turf-reinforcement mesh to give a durable and non-slip grass surface. The sides of the ramp will be sown with a mix of grass and wild flower seed, so that they should merge into the landscape.



**Work started on footpath slope**

### **Hurst meadow**

The logs forming a seat by the millstream floated out of place in the flood on 11 February. They will be put back later. The horses had been removed just in time.

Clumps of soil had been left on the middle field following the seeding last October. This was because the soil was sticky after a frost and it clogged the seed drill. The soil clumps would make the hay cut more difficult, so they were removed by volunteers on 28 February. The new Countax tractor has been very useful and has now had its first annual factory service.



**Floods on Hurst**

**Peter Pritchard hon secretary 340008**