

Hurst Water Meadow News for October 2009

Purchase of Old Bridge Meadow

Contracts have been exchanged and completion should follow a few weeks later. Work has been done on essential tasks and the expert reports, on which trustees will base their plans, have been commissioned. These will cover Land management, Pond design and encouraging more wild flowers. The plans will be presented to the public for discussion and comment. The trustees are extremely grateful to all the generous donors whose support has made this acquisition possible.

School visits

We normally welcome about six school groups to visit the meadow where they learn about the natural world, rivers, floods etc. They all seem to enjoy it and the teachers are enthusiastic. We could do with more visits and would welcome any suggestions on how to increase 'learning outside the classroom' – now a national priority of the Department of Children, Schools and Families. We have been awarded their 'Quality Badge' for reaching high standards. Ours was one of the first in Oxfordshire.

Retirement of Hon. Secretary

A shall be retiring when the purchase of the Old Bridge Meadow is completed. Mike Southon will take over as Hon. Secretary with help from the Trust's Administrator Lisbet Clements (admin.hwmt@tiscali.co.uk). Graham Beland will be the new trustee. I have greatly enjoyed the 13 years spent in post, and am confident that the Trust and its meadows are in safe and competent hands.

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