

# Hurst Water Meadow News March 2010

## Public Meeting

As previously announced, a public meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 28 April at 7.30 pm**. Most of the trustees will be present as will Peter Prichard, the founder and main driver for many years. There will be brief presentations on the following topics by those responsible in the Trust:

- Achievements and background of Hurst Water Meadow Trust.
- Review of the ecology of Old Bridge Meadow and Hurst Meadow.
- Plans for Old Bridge Meadow.
- Finances and Fundraising.
- Request for volunteers and help.
- Questions and answers on what has been done and what is planned for the future of the Old Bridge Meadow.

Unfortunately the meeting clashes with a Historical Society meeting, and we cannot now change the date of our meeting. If you cannot attend, please feel free to contact the hon. secretary with any questions you may have and we will do our best to give an answer.

The detailed plan drawn up by the Trust for improvement and development of the Old Bridge Meadow can be found on our website [www.hurst-water-meadow.co.uk](http://www.hurst-water-meadow.co.uk). Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained from the Dorchester Post Office, or from the hon. secretary (phone no. below).

## Old Bridge Meadow

In March, we had contractors plant a hedge along the wire fence between the meadow and the new car park. This small step should improve the appearance of the site and decrease the visual impact of the fence. The hedge itself has a mix of trees that makes it equivalent to a hedge dating from Saxon times. It still has plenty of growing to do before it becomes a full hedge. We planted a similar hedge a few years ago across the centre of the Hurst, and there is also a well established recent hedge on the other side of Wittenham woods on the path towards Shillingford bridge. Hedges are excellent for wildlife throughout the year.

In February, we removed the old stable which had become unsafe. One result of this is the beautiful view through the new clearing to the Thame and beyond.



*The new hedge along the car park fence.*



*The view allowed by the removal of the old stable.*

## Hurst Meadow

Once the weather improves, we will start tidying up the Hurst, removing what the flood-waters have brought.

If you'd like to help with work in either meadow, please contact Graham Beland at [workingparty@hurst-water-meadow.co.uk](mailto:workingparty@hurst-water-meadow.co.uk). All ages and abilities can join in. We always stop for elevenses! We usually have working parties every month or two.

**Mike Southon, hon. secretary 341544**