

Hurst Water Meadow News July 2011

Old Bridge Meadow

The year old hedge separating us from the car park has greatly benefited from the rain and is still looking healthy.

Hurst Meadow

A survey of the plant species on the meadow has been started. This is required to satisfy one of the bodies that has supported us in our work on the Hurst. Their goal is for us to increase the diversity of species, with species typical of established meadows being especially valued. The early signs are very good. We will report further when this is complete.

The Hurst is not only a place where people can enjoy a quiet walk while enjoying the surroundings. It also provides an environment where schools can bring young children to explore and learn about the countryside around them. Recently an exercise class has held their class in the meadow – much better than a stuffy hall. One individual has been heard practising choral works. As it was 7.00 am, their family and neighbours must appreciate their thoughtfulness.

Given the diversity of usage, we would ask those who walk their dog in the Hurst to consider other users. If your dog fouls a mown area of the Hurst, please either bag it, or flick it into the long grass, or the bushes. This means that others, especially the very young or visually impaired (perhaps people that you know), are much less likely to encounter it. We know that most dog walkers already do this and we greatly appreciate your efforts.

Storage of the mower and equipment

We are very grateful that, for the last several years, the ride-on mower and other equipment used on the Hurst has been stored in Peter Pritchard's garage. Peter now needs this space back and so we are looking for a new home for the mower. If you have, or know of a secure place where we might store this, please tell us.

If you would like to help mow the paths, please let us know.

Volunteering to help on the meadows

Included with this issue of Dorchester News is a sheet describing the joys of helping on the meadows and inviting you to volunteer! It is a great way to let off steam in the open air, learn a little about wildlife and do something of value for your community.

If you'd like to help with work in either meadow, please contact Graham Beland at workingparty@hurst-water-meadow.co.uk, or look on the notice boards for details of the next one. We are likely to have several working parties this summer and autumn.

Mike Southon, hon. secretary 341544

