

Hurst Water Meadow News

Old Bridge Meadow

Sir Hugo Brunner is due to lead an opening occasion on 27th October. A working party on 26th September, led by Graham Beland with volunteers including two new ones, erected the information board. It is similar in design to the one on the Hurst but smaller. One side has an artist's plan of the site: the other some provisional text describing the meadow. It will be updated when reports on the history and archaeology of the site are received. They cleared some nettles and removed fallen logs. They also worked hard on the drain under the small arch near the kissing gate which takes flood water from Overy and is silted up.

Three experts have visited the site to advise the trustees on future management of the meadow, pond design and improving the habitat for wildlife. Their reports will be valuable for the trustees to make plans for the short- and long-term, which will be presented to the public for comments.

Hurst meadow

The grass was harrowed on 3 October to break up the mat prior to hand sowing with wild flower seed. On 9 October children from form 4 of St Birinus Dorchester Primary School spread 6 kilograms of seed of the following ten varieties on the weir field (by Buck Pool) and on the Slips (the strip by the river): Lady's bedstraw (25%), Cowslip, Lesser knapweed, Ox-eye daisy, Greater birdsfoot trefoil, Common birdsfoot trefoil, Ragged robin, Rough hawkbit, Field scabious, Greater burnet (2%). The meadow will then be grazed by polo ponies to keep the grass down and tread in the seed with their hooves. We hope there will be a colourful result in years to come – of flowers, butterflies and other insects.

Some willow trees from the copse the other side of the Thame have fallen across the river. The Environment Agency will deal with them.



Children sowing wild flower seed

Future arrangements

By the time this appears, the purchase and transfer of title should be complete, and I will have resigned as hon secretary but will still be available as a volunteer. People to contact will be Lisbet Clements, Administrator **340753**, admin.hwmt@tiscali.co.uk and Mike Southon, Hon. secretary **341544** (evenings and weekends), mike@hurst-water-meadow.co.uk

Peter Pritchard, hon. secretary 340008