

Report from Waldringfield Church Field Trust For Parish AGM April 9th 2013

This is the **10th** year that **Waldringfield Church Field Trust** has been in existence. The Trust was established in 2003 to manage the Church Field, an area of 2.2 ha which was given to the village by Dr Tom Waller.

The field has a maintained open grass area for activities such as football and kite flying, different habitats for wildlife including hedges, shrub and tree plantations and grassland and maintained pathways for walking or jogging.

In the past year funding was obtained from the Suffolk Coastal District Council sports fund to enlarge the **basketball practice area** and replace the pole stand with a more robust version. The sum of £6517 was provided from the sports fund which paid for the enlargement of the hard playing area and provision of the new post. This includes 20% VAT and the planning fee of £180 to SCDC. The work was carried out in January by Booth Tarmacadam. We hope this improvement to the sports provision for young people and adults in the village will be well used. Markings are due to be added to the hard surface when the weather permits.

The field continues to be used by Waldringfield School for cross country and by the football club organised on Saturdays by Duncan Andrews. It is also frequently used by villagers for walking and jogging.

An **additional picnic table** has been provided this year so there are now three. One picnic table was damaged in summer by a barbecue being allowed to burn out on it. The burnt planks have been replaced.

We had the usual **AGM in November** and again only one parishioner not on the committee turned up in spite of the enticement of mince pies and mulled wine.

Children from Waldringfield school came out in December to dig over two patches of grassland to encourage skylarks to nest as they are supposed to prefer ground which has been turned over by the plough. This may also lead to more annual flowers appearing and the children are going to monitor the areas.

Maintenance has been carried out by the committee with Tim Burslem in particular doing all the grass cutting. The grass was cut 6 times in the last season. The ride on mower is getting a bit old and we are on the lookout for a second hand replacement. The hedge and verge along Mill Road have again been cut by Mr Allan Parken who kindly does this every year for us as well as topping the long grass in winter.

A new **Entry Level Stewardship** agreement has been entered into with the **Rural Payments Agency** which will run for 5 years. In order to receive the standard £30 per hectare we maintain hedges and grassland areas to encourage biodiversity.

Wildlife: The barn owl box was again occupied by a stock dove. The usual swallows and house martins appeared in summer although seemingly less than in previous years. A kestrel is often seen hunting over the field. The long grass which grew well during the wet summer resulted in lots of dragonflies and blue damselflies flying at the field, also butterflies including small coppers, gatekeepers, common blue , large skippers and lots of meadow browns.

Accounts: The accounts were again checked by Stan Baston. These are made up to the end of March. These are given out at the AGM.

The Trust is grateful for a grant of £300 from the pc.

Main outgoings are the insurance of the field both public liability and for damage.

Events: As it is the 10th birthday of the Trust we would like to have a village event to celebrate this in the summer and will be planning this over the next few weeks. It will be advertised in the usual places (parish newsletter, school newsletter and on waldringfielders) and on posters so please watch out for the information and come along if you can.

Dog nuisance:

Since the notices at entrances were renewed there seems to be less of a problem with dog mess on the field however it still occurs and is very bad news for children playing sports and running. We have a policy of dogs on leads to protect children and wildlife from harm or disturbance. Incidents were also reported of dogs running after people when jogging and even attacking them. We would like everyone to obey the notices in order to prevent any of these nuisances.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the trustees for their assistance with many different tasks, Rosa Waller for acting as minutes secretary, Stan Baston for doing the accounts, Duncan Andrews and friends for running the football club and Allan Parken for hedge and grass cutting. Thanks also to those who have turned out for work parties.

Christine Fisher Kay, Chair of the Trustees, April 2013 Tel: 01473-736384