

Waldringfield Church Field Trust

Report to the Annual Parish General Meeting

Church Field was a gift to the village from the late Dr Tom Waller in 2003. A Trust was set up to develop and manage it which has now been in place for 22 years. Originally an arable field, it now has small woods and open grass areas for games, a network of grass paths to explore, a basketball practice area and a football practice goal, hedges and trees and hundreds of different species of plants which arrived on their own without being sown by anyone.

Activities pursued at Church Field range from ball games to bird watching, kite flying to jogging, dog walking, meeting friends, observing nature and quiet contemplation.

The re-conditioned mower purchased with very generous donations from the village last autumn has been put to good use by Martin Spall, who is doing a great job of keeping the playing field area and paths easy to use. In late winter the longer rough grass areas and hedge were cut by Allan Parken, keeping brambles in check. Many thanks to both of them for their continuing help, and to all the others who help to maintain the field.

On 28th May local children and their families were invited to join in a morning workshop organised by Waldringfield Wildlife Group and run by Charlie Zaks of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Activities included small craft projects and investigation of insects and flowers using lenses and nets. This was repeated in August when 19 children attended each with an adult and had a great time with mud, plants and insects although not so many insects as expected.

The Wildlife Group held their annual picnic on the field in July. 9 species of butterfly were recorded, three less than the year before. Earlier in the year, Ox Eye Daisies put on a stunning show, having spread to almost the entire field.

Following discussions at the AGM and subsequent meetings the committee are looking into the possibility of making a pitch for Boules at the field. A survey may be carried out of the village to assess support for this and some other ideas such as installing two new goal posts.

On 21st January this year about 10 local volunteers and another ten or so from National Landscapes joined forces to form a very active and jolly work party and carried out essential tasks such as raking off the long grass cut by Mr Parken to reduce fertility and favour flowering plants over grasses.

The annual general meeting is always held at the end of November or beginning of December, with a powerpoint presentation of what has been happening on the field and opportunity to find out more over mulled wine and mince pies. Anyone wishing to get

involved is invited to get in touch with any committee member. The committee members are currently

Janet Elliot and Serena Gold (Parish Council), Peter Maddison (Wildlife Group), Betsy Reid, David Eaton, Richard Atkins (elected) and Christine Fisher Kay (Tennis Club)

Christine Fisher Kay, Chair of the Trustees

16th April 2025