

## Church Field Trust Report to the Parish Meeting 2017

Church Field was given to the village in 2003 by the late Dr Tom Waller. The field of 5.2 acres was formerly under arable crops but has been developed for wildlife and recreation so it now has a grass games area, a hard basketball practice area, new mixed hedging with hedgerow trees, thickets of gorse and bramble appreciated by the birds and butterflies; drifts of wildflowers and grasses which flower at different times of the year, and a population of many birds, insects, voles, fieldmice, moles and probably a lot of things we don't know about. There is also an information board, a small car park, several picnic benches and seats, a wonderful view of the river and plenty of fresh air.

Church Field was funded from a variety of sources and continues to receive a grant each year from the Parish Precept which last time was £300. This goes towards the public liability insurance.

Looking back through the year, in spring there were masses of ox eye daisies and the hawthorns in flower; bluebells, butterflies and bees.

In August the drainage problem in the car park was sorted by John Nunn with his digger. Thanks to John. An unusual visitor was a Red Kite (bird).

In autumn came a harvest of mushrooms and blackberries. Cobwebs festooned the gorse. There were three work parties, two of them aided by volunteers from the AONB. Volunteers from the village and the committee raked up mown grass to reduce fertility, cleared the unwanted evergreen honeysuckle from the hedges where it had been getting out of hand, and removed undesirable brambles where these were exceeding their allotted space.

The AGM was held at the beginning of December with mulled wine and mince pies. There are currently four trustees: Janet Elliot and Serena Gold of the Parish Council, Betsy Reid and Christine Fisher Kay. Rosa Waller is our minutes secretary.

In the winter Mr Allan Parkin cut the hedges for us again, and the long grass areas, so many thanks to him. Some grass areas were left uncut to help moth larvae survive the winter. During the summer the playing area and paths were cut by Duncan Andrew and by Paul Barrell, which was also most helpful, and also on one occasion by local authority team NORSE. We would like to thank everyone who has helped, and especially Helga Ballam who has stood down from the committee after being Treasurer for many years.

The field is regularly used for walking and running, dog walking, watching wildlife, playing football and other games, photography, picnics and quiet contemplation.

Anyone interested in helping in any capacity is welcome to get in touch.