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Maresfield Village Meadows Trust Newsletter

Dear Member

As another year has passed us by with such speed, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We would also like to give you an update of the progress and changes that have happened over the past year.

In July 2019 a Special General Meeting was held by the then Chairman Michael Clifton. He was stepping down from his Chairman's role, so a selection of options were presented to the members. The membership voted for the site to continue and remain open, however there were no volunteers forthcoming and options were considered for closing the charity and site. Two local residents of Maresfield Janice Somner and Kaywainwright offered to volunteer to prevent closure. They were willing to take on this role however, they were clear they did not have capacity to provide the same commitments as the previous Chair.

Another Special General Meeting was held in November to vote an ammendment to the constitution and Janice and Kay were voted as Joint Chair. This has helped share some of the workload. Also raised by members was the consideration of a change of the name as the vision of the charity has become more focused on Normans Pond woodland rather than wider areas in Maresfield. This will be discussed with the full membership at the next AGM with a view to consider a more relevant name.

HELP!Volunteers needed

Volunteers for practical work on the site are desperately needed. Whilst the aim now is to keep the site open and safe, (as a minimum requirement) there is some work that needs to be done to keep the area safe. A working management plan will be available to members at the AGM. We are aware there are many ideas for work that can be undertaken, however unless volunteers are found this will not be an option. We really

do need support to help run this charity, it cannot survive without willing volunteers to help.

We were fortunate to have 12 soldiers volunteer the from Royal Corps of Signals Regiment on the 9th November 2019. They provided combined effort of 25 hours of work which was much appreciated. The work was carried out in non- stop rain and it was necessary to saw everything in the wet which proved a challenge!

Soldiers worked on the grass embankment on the eastern edge of the main pond .This is a steeply inclined slope and the task was cut back the overgrown shrub and bush work to the edge of the pond and prepare it for future strimming and stack the cuttings at the end of the Main pond for future burning. Further work was completed on the Grover Farmer's field adjacent to the broken Willow tree by the Feeder pond. A team cut back the overgrown side branches to the trunk so the trunk ends could be cut and the wood returned to the Trust side. In the time available a very large area of the tree growth and ground cover were removed and there is now a considerable amount of material for future burning.

We have also reinstated the Trust website and work is in progress to update it.

We do have two dates for your diaries

Bluebell Day 19th April 2020 2-4pm A chance to have tea and cake and admire the mass of beautiful bluebells.

AGM 22 May 2020 7pm. Maresfield Village Hall

We would welcome any photos you have to share of the area. Please send them to our email address for future publication in our newsletters.



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Thank you!

