

## Carter's Meadow Trust.

### Chairman's report 2018 AGM.

I think I can safely report to you that 2018 has been another very good year for the Meadow.

As I reported to you last year, our Treasurer was in the process of claiming back Gift Aid from HMRC that was eligible from Mrs Jansma's donation to us. I am very pleased to say that this was successful, and many thanks are due Mrs Judy Fearn.

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The projects that the Trustees were considering in my 2017 report to you, have all been completed and were in time for our 2018 Family day. We now have a very serviceable, well constructed and sanitary Earth Closet. It is even equipped with a solar powered L.E.D light... Carter's Meadow at its cutting edge best! Many thanks to Mark Pollintine, who constructed it for us.

We also now have a well built pond dipping jetty, many thanks to James Hanlon who designed and built it for us. However I do need report that we have not yet been billed for this, so we have not paid for it. I have twice reminded James that we still owe him money.

As a bit of fun we constructed a four metre living Willow Tunnel, and despite our exceptionally dry summer it has survived and is growing.

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At the beginning of June we held our second family day, this was well supported with about 60 people attending and seems to have been well received. The theme this year was Winnie the Poo. In addition to Poo and his friends we also had pond dipping, a nature trail, story telling, teas and refreshments together with homemade cakes, tractor rides and the addition of a huge real John Deere tractor that we were free to inspect and climb on and into. Homemade bread and small pots of honey were given to children of all ages.

Many thanks to all of those who helped at or supported this event, including Kirsty Pollintine, Judy Fern, Dave the pond dipper, Henry Bullock, Sarah Wenban our story teller, all the good folk who made cake and refreshments, all the Mums, Dads, children, friends and Grandparents who came along and the Good Lord for lovely weather.

After a post event meeting, several points were raised and these matters will be reviewed before our 2019 event.

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The summer of 2018 will chiefly be remembered for sunshine and lack of rain. This resulted in a rather stunted flower meadow and as a result it was not worth asking the Museum of East Anglian Life to take the flower hay.

This year we have experimented with altering the pattern of the mown areas of the meadow. In addition to keeping the perimeter paths clear, we are also mowing informal paths through flower area, with the hope that this will invite and lead visitors into the heart of the meadow. This seems to have been successful. The Trustees, and I hope the people of Cotton, are very grateful to Andy Collins who undertakes the regular mowing, and to all those people who help to look after the Meadow.

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The Trustees made a successful bid to the Parish Council for funding to purchase some outdoor catering equipment. We now have a large gas hob, a 60cm paella pan (essentially a huge frying pan), a large gas hob kettle and a large teapot. This will be its first service at the early morning commemorations at the church to mark the centennial of the end of WW1.

As this equipment is essentially owned by and paid for by the Parish Council it is anticipated that this equipment will be available for any resident to borrow, probably subject to a £25 refundable deposit and a nominal charge for the gas used.

The Trustees are very grateful to the Parish Council for this equipment.

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We also completed all of our planned meadow maintenance, and have agreed on a work schedule for this winter.

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The Carter's Meadow Trust is owned by the village of Cotton through the Parish Council, and administered by its Trustees. It is yours, so please come and help at the monthly work parties, each first Sunday of the month from 1000-1200. It is also yours to use and enjoy.

The Trustees are Quentin Bretherton, Kirsty Pollintine, Judy Fern, Chris Tester, Andrew Stringer, Andrew Collins, Peter Gibbs and Beryl Ellis.

Quentin Bretherton. 8 November 2018.