

Hurst Water Meadow News August 2016

Autumn / winter land management and volunteering

We are now well into our autumn / winter land management programme. This will be our third year of rotational management where we aim to spread our management load to create different habitats.

Take a close look at willows and you will see examples of new growth, mature trees and dead stumps covered with fungi. This is all part of our strategy to increase biodiversity and variety on our lands for all to enjoy. From the economic side it also helps us spread our costs.

We have a small active band of volunteers moving around the meadows and a good working relationship with Sonning Common Green Gym. We would love a few more people to join in and help us. So if you are looking for a gentle (or not so gentle!) workout in our 'green gym', the opportunity to learn traditional skills, find out about local wildlife, gain fresh air in all weather conditions, and enjoy friendly company, then why not give conservation volunteering a go.

Take a look at the section of our website specific to volunteering. You'll find details about our plans and may recognise some people you know: <http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk/volunteers.html>



How we are managing financially

One of our farming grants worth £1,900 p.a. and an education grant, which was worth £1,800 at our last claim, ended on 31st July 2016. We are trying to negotiate a follow-on grant for five years which would start on 1st January 2017, but there are no guarantees and plenty of red tape to get through and rules to follow. We probably won't know if we've been successful until later this year.

Our accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 can be downloaded from our website (www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk).

Trying to balance the books from year to year is not easy in these times of uncertainty. If you would like to make a donation to the Trust your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

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