

# FRIENDS OF WILLASTON MEADOW

## NEWS LETTER 2021/22

### Introduction by Sarah Shannon

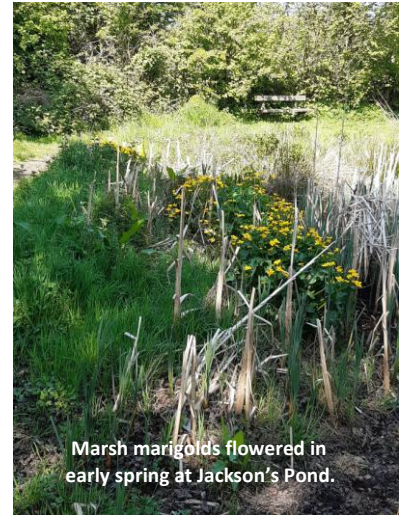
We have had a very successful year and I am pleased how many new volunteers we have recruited. We now have a growing enthusiastic team who happily contribute ideas and join in with the monthly working parties. This year's news letter will illustrate our achievements in photographs.



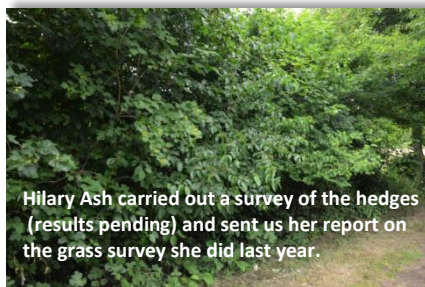
Great Crested Newts were found again in Jackson's Pond following another survey.



A water quality survey showed that the water in Dead Man's Pond is clean and healthy.



Marsh marigolds flowered in early spring at Jackson's Pond.



Hilary Ash carried out a survey of the hedges (results pending) and sent us her report on the grass survey she did last year.



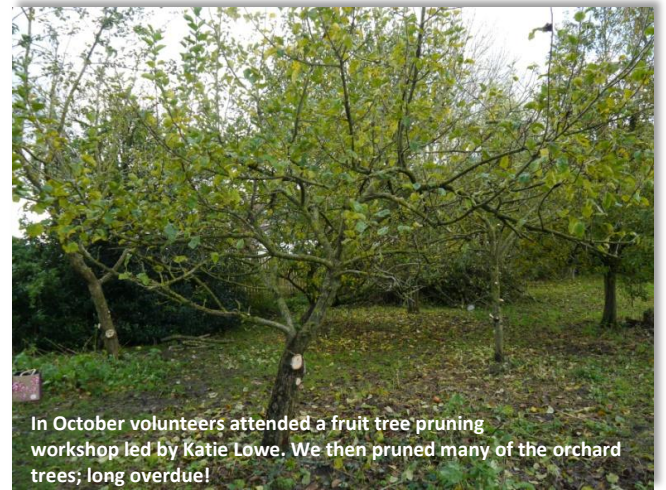
In March Tim Gannicliffe and Russell Grey came to help us with hedge laying.



The same hedge in July.



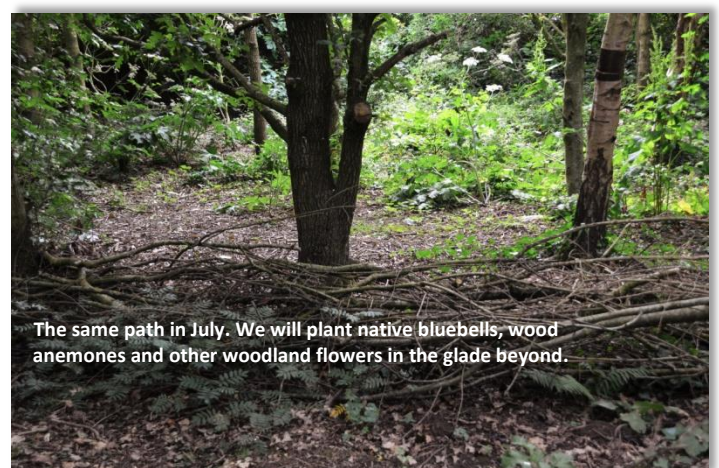
In September volunteers helped by Russell and Tim removed low branches from the trees near the Forest School area to raise the canopy.



In October volunteers attended a fruit tree pruning workshop led by Katie Lowe. We then pruned many of the orchard trees; long overdue!



Russell and Tim laid a 'living hedge' in September either side of the path through School Wood to help protect woodland plants in the glades.



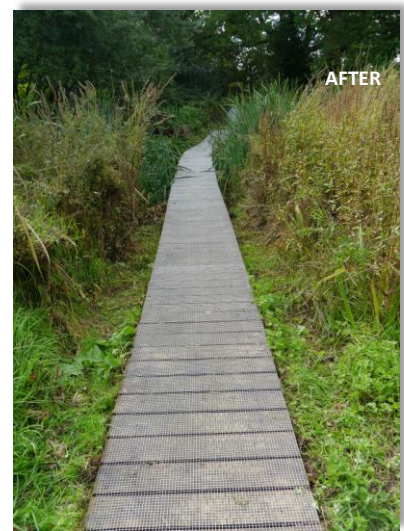
The same path in July. We will plant native bluebells, wood anemones and other woodland flowers in the glade beyond.



We are pleased that most of our new nest boxes were occupied and successful with Great and Blue tits. However the nuthatches lost their nest hole when a large tree came down in a storm. Ben and Annie continue to monitor the birds.



We removed and replaced the wire on the boardwalk across Jackson's Pond.



**FUTURE PLANS:** we still need your help! John Hardman is building us a large insect hotel which we will install before the AGM. We have the endless task of controlling the brambles and tree pruning/management. **Come along and help every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10.30am meet in the orchard.**

**AGM:** Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 2pm in the Methodist Hall. Guest speaker from RSPB Burton Mere and opportunity to sign up for a guided tour.

**ALSO:** Hedge laying: come and join in on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Apple day: celebrating all things appley. October date TBD. Volunteer's Picnic: one sunny Sunday in the summer!

Find us on Facebook  @friendswillastonmeadow and on the website <https://willastoninwirralresidents.org/friends-of-willaston-meadow/> for up to date information and news.

We do our best to encourage wild flowers in the meadow by mowing it once a year and removing the cuttings to reduce fertility. Volunteers also planted wild flowers around the perimeter. All the flowers benefit pollinators and contribute to the biodiversity of the area. Here are some photos of this year's best.



Bramble – really good for pollinators



Meadow Cranesbill, Red Campion and Bramble



Rosebay willowherb



Orchid



Yellow rattle and red clover



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