

Friends of Willaston Meadow Annual News Letter August 2023



Some highlights from our year.

August/September 2022:

Left: One of our new fruit tree labels

Right: our new luxury bug hotel in School Wood designed and made by volunteer John Hardman. The children of Willaston CE Primary will finish adding material to it.



October:

Left: the sketchbook walk led by Neil Greenhalgh was a great success.



Right: hedge laying



November to January:

Left and right: we built a dead hedge bordering the path in School Wood. This is to enable woodland flowers to grow freely in the spring. We coppiced a hazel to get the stakes for the hedge. We also planted bluebells, wild garlic, wood anemones and many others.



*Left: Before
Right: After*



This area by the top entrance from the recreation ground was very overgrown. The ash tree planted in 2002 by Cllr Myles Hogg was swamped by blackthorn and brambles.

We planted a wild clematis and some foxgloves and primroses here in the spring.





February/March/April:

Left: We gained a 'new' notice board at Jackson's Pond from the Recreation Ground as theirs was replaced. It needed repainting. Our other board at the top entrance was repaired.

Right: After a meeting with the Forest School teacher at Willaston CE Primary, we decided to replace the log seats in the area they use with more robust seating. This will be done soon. We will also continue to work with the school.



May/June:

Left: ducklings on Jackson's Pond. They are now fully grown.

Right: great tit chicks in one of our nest boxes.



July/August:

Left: A group of 10 pupils from Ellesmere Port C of E College came to make a film about the meadow for us.

Right: our volunteers now have polo shirts so you can spot us working in the meadow (every first Sunday 10.30am in the orchard). Come and join us!



THANKS!

To our team of volunteers who help each month, Ben and Annie who do a monthly bird-watch, the FoWM committee members, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Russell Grey, his father and Tim Ganniccliffe for their expertise



Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 29th August at 7pm in the Methodist Hall. Our speaker will be Jim Hollinshead from Park Fields in Neston (see below)



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