

**Fairfield Association**  
**Flora, Fauna and Orchard Management Group [FFOG]**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7.30 pm**  
**at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

**Present:** Dave Brookes, David Elliott, Glenys Ferguson (Mins), Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Sue Nieduszynska (Chair), Ian Procter, Hilary Short, Mick Short

1. **Apologies:** Graham Brandwood, Ian Fraser, Chris Workman
2. **Minutes of last meetings:** Approved.
3. **Matters arising from Minutes:**
  - 3.1. **Damaged manhole in Flora Field (3.1):** Still not fully resolved as a special valve has to be sourced, but United Utilities has temporarily repaired the manhole and it is no longer leaking (**Ian**).
  - 3.2. **Funding for hedge trimmer (4):** On hold whilst **Ian** investigates options.
  - 3.3. **Lyme disease (10):** Whilst it was recognised that the likelihood of contracting this tick-borne disease from the nature reserve and Orchard is extremely low, it was agreed that it is a good thing to promote general awareness. Volunteer and Fields Access information sheets already do this, as does Graham for his Forest School sessions. A paragraph has now been added to the 'emergency' information displayed on the noticeboards. **Tony** will brief visiting schools.
4. **Review of open gate at Cromwell Road:** The meeting considered that it was appropriate to continue with an open gate. Unauthorised cycling remains an issue, but – as previously agreed (March item 3.2) – this will be addressed with better signage once LNR status is obtained.
5. **Winter work on ponds and ditches:** David Morris (RSPB) met Sue and Mick on 12th July to inspect the **channel in Upper Sowerholme**. His advice was to remove by hand some of the vegetation after the breeding season but whilst the weather is still warm. He offered the help of some RSPB staff with tools and waders for a session during September. On 23rd August Sue, Graham and Oliver attended a course on reedbed management at Leighton Moss. They were able to get further advice from Sarah Blyth, RSPB Land management Adviser. She agreed with David that the minimal disruption of volunteer work would be preferable to the large-scale disturbance of re-digging by machine and that the aim should be to remove about two thirds of the vegetation. FFOG considered this approach to be acceptable. it will improve on the current state of the channel, hopefully increase its flow and delay the need for any drastic work for a few years. It will not return the water to the depth specified in the NE Agreement but this seems of minor importance as there are no fish to require a winter refuge.

The joint RSPB/FA session has been scheduled for the morning of 16th September. **Sue** and **Ian** to co-ordinate arrangements and volunteers. **Sue** will purchase two pairs of waders. Graham has drawn attention to the risk of catching Swimmer's Itch (Cercarial Dermatitis) when working in water on the reserve. To protect hands against infection, the FA has acquired a supply of long latex gloves. Chris emailed a reminder to leave the scrapings/vegetation nearby so that organisms can readily move back into the water (the impact in terms of increased fertility will be negligible). This session will also incorporate scything to

create open patches in the drier parts of Upper Sowhrholme to promote the more varied habitat advocated by David Morris.

**Other outcomes from the RSPB course:**

- Heaps of cut reed/rush provide valuable habitats and hibernation sites. They need to be above flooding level, and ideally should be small and dome-shaped with an open structure (a layer of brash first helps to achieve this). They should be added to in successive years to provide a continuity of habitat from fresh outer layer to well composted inner core. This may not be so easy in the FA's meadows. Whilst the same sites can – and should be – re-used, the integrity of the heap is likely to be compromised by the cattle!
- Sue is holding two RSPB Handbooks relating to reedbed management for wildlife
- Sue, Graham and Oliver will be giving a talk at the Storey in the New Year.

**Grass and moss removal:** Graham and other volunteers have been removing grass growth to create areas of clear water in the ponds in Big Meadow. It was initially intended to clear encroaching moss from the bankings. This has proved impossible in the absence of well-defined banks. It now appears that the RSPB does not take any specific action on moss. **Graham** considers that a similar focus on grass removal next year should be sufficient to produce the clear water desired.

Graham has proposed an experiment to see whether a **pond dye** which inhibits photosynthesis is better at controlling algae and grass growth than barley straw. This would be added next spring/summer after existing growth has been cleared in Flora and Willow Ponds, which are closed systems. FFOG felt more information was required on the possible side effects of this 'harmless' approach, before contacting Natural England. Graham will be asked to liaise with Chris in the first instance (**Glenys**).

**6. Renovating the wildflower margin:** Despite re-assurances from NE that patience is needed for it to establish, FFOG has been concerned for some time about parts of the floristically enhanced grass margin in Flora Field. This concern has now been supported by ecologist Graeme Skelcher following his annual survey on 28th July. **Sue** will report Graeme's views to Natural England and advise that the FA now intends to take action, along the following lines:

1. Northern border with Lower Sowerholme: Graeme's view is that it is improving. **Action:** Cut as usual and continue to monitor.

2. Southern border from Pony Wood to Aldcliffe Road: Very little of note, upper part – drier? – is better than lower. But this border will be affected by the creation of Flora Path. **Action:** No cut this year. Plough and re-seed in spring, using species more appropriate for wetter areas in the lower part.

3. Along Aldcliffe Road Wall: There is some development in desirable grasses and scattered ribwort plantain but basically not much, because of the wetter conditions here. **Action:** First cut has already taken place. Plough and re-seed with more suitable plants for damp ground in the spring.

4. From Howsons' Gate to the Beehives: There are a few perennial wildflowers in the crop - probably growing more readily there than competing with the grass. Recently affected by the

manhole leak (3.1). **Action:** Too wet to cut this year and needs re-forming. Recreate when ploughed in the spring and re-seed, with similar mix to the Aldcliffe Road border.

FFOG considers ploughing and re-seeding a more practical approach than cutting and harrowing. **Sue** will contact the arable farmer about doing this in the spring. **Sue** will also arrange for this year's second cut where appropriate (required after 31st August but before 1st April).

Yellow rattle seeds have already been collected and will be scattered in the drier areas in spring (**Ian** to arrange for them to be subject to freezing). Graeme S. has suggested species which favour damper conditions. These include meadowsweet and figwort (**Ian** to arrange collection of seed and digging out of a few plants from the reserve). **Mick** will contact the FA's usual seed supplier to investigate a suitable mix for the wetter areas.

## 7. Management:

**7.1. Improvement of the Long Pads path and creation of the Flora path:** Funding is now in place with the award of a grant from Lancashire Environmental Fund, the raising of specific monies from FA supporters, and any extra finance required to be taken from general FA funds. Deadline for completion is August 2018, although most of the work needs to be undertaken during the winter months (this includes planting, which will be the main volunteer input – **Ian**). **Hilary** will convene a group, including the Landscape Architect, to manage the project with monthly meetings. Discharge of planning conditions remains outstanding, but the Tree Surgeon's survey is now available (**Oliver**) for this to be done. The tendering process will be handled by the Landscape Architect. This item will now be moved to the FA Agenda, unless there are specific items that FFOG needs to be aware of or take action on (**Hilary**). (See also 7.6.)

**7.2. Resurfacing of footpaths:** This work will be funded by the FA. The job will be bundled with the Flora path for more efficient tendering. Item to be moved to the FA Agenda (**Hilary**).

**7.3. Local Nature Reserve designation:** Oliver has written a detailed report summarising the steps that have been taken and are still required in order to achieve LNR status. His excellent management plan is now held on the FA's Dropbox. The paperwork is currently with Lancaster City Council's legal department, and talks are taking place with Lancaster Girls Grammar School to formalise the FA's access to School Pond. This item is being handed over to Geoff Oliver who will report to the FA meeting (**Hilary**). Progress with the Concessionary Path Agreement (a County matter) has stalled. It was agreed to pursue this again once the Flora path is created (**Glenys** to note).

**7.4. Arable update:** The crop was harvested on 12th August, along with a partial cut of the wildflower margin (see item 6). It had been severely battered by the weather, but feedback has not yet been received on whether this had damaged the quality of the crop. The wildflowers sown within the crop have been successful, garnering complements from the general public.

**7.5. Grazing matters:** The FA is now following the **new grazing regime** based on livestock units, although no formal change to the agreement has been received from NE. **Sue** will chase a reply to her email to NE on 4th June.

Hilary has received clarification from the Graziers of the **pedigree status** of the herd. The Graziers will need to confirm that any cattle brought on to the farm in future are pedigree White Park.

The **nose pump** has a split in the feed pipe. It should be possible to repair this (**Ian**). **Dave** is following up leads on a solar powered pump. Possibly available 'off the shelf', but could cost up to £1000. Deadline for acquiring is next spring.

The **second gate into School Pond** will be located where the land is slightly higher, in the NW corner close to the Fauna path. The idea of cutting the wire to create a flexible gap was rejected because of its potential impact on the tension of the fence and because the second access should be open as a complement to the first to allow better movement of the cattle through the pond area and reduce the degree of poaching. Instead costs will be moderated by including the job within the Flora path tender (with the work to be done as early as possible) – **Hilary**.

The offer of a **shed** to store hay has been turned down. The Graziers consider it too small and likely to be subject to vandalism. FA members have been unable to identify any alternative use for it.

- 7.6. Tree Surgeon's progress & Woodland Management Group feedback on proposed work:** The Woodland Management Group met to review the Tree Surgeon's April survey on site on 18<sup>th</sup> July. They identified a number of tasks that volunteers will undertake (including laying the blackthorn around the fruit circle to create a hedge); **Ian** will instruct the Tree Surgeon to undertake the rest. This includes the outstanding work on the ash tree by the stump circle (FFOG 6th July 6.7).

Ian reminded FFOG that the survey proposed no action in Pony Wood. But work on the Flora path is now in a position to start (see 7.1). This puts the condition of the Horse Chestnut potentially overhanging the path back onto the agenda. This should be considered as part of the planning of the detailed path route (**Hilary**).

The Woodland Management Group will reconvene soon to visit and survey the lane from Howson's Gate past the beehives (**Ian**).

Throughout the Orchard the cherry trees seem to be in a poor condition. The Tree Surgeon's advice is that they may look better next year. It was agreed that they will be inspected next spring alongside the annual monitoring of the Orchard fruit trees (**Glenys**).

## **8. Monitoring:**

- 8.1. Maintenance and HLS habitat inspections:** All fields are relatively wet and would easily pass NE's 6inch nail test. The ponds are currently holding reasonably good levels of water apart from Willow Pond which will be monitored for a suspected leak. There is prolific grass growth throughout the reserve at present, as a result of ideal growing conditions. However, the cattle have been in West Field with sufficient frequency to manage the sward here effectively this year. Ragwort remains under control following sweeps by volunteers. **Ian** will arrange to deal with the grass impeding the opening of gates. Urgent repairs have been made to parts of the fencing In the Hay

Meadow along Lucy Brook. Encroaching brambles along the Pads path have hopefully been dealt with by Lancashire County Council workers, who were spotted strimming on 7 September as per the agreement with the FA (**Sue** to convey thanks.)

**8.2. Progress with surveys:** Dan Haywood has yet to submit his report on breeding birds (**Sue** to chase, and also commission a winter survey). No report on butterflies, but survey work is believed to be on-going. Graeme Skelcher's report on his surveys of the meadows, woodlands and margins has been received (see also 6). It is not planned to discuss this in any detail this year, instead **FFOG members** were requested to read and pick up any relevant actions. However, two points stand out. Bad news: sycamore regeneration is high in Pony Wood (**Ian** to add its control to the volunteer task list). Good news: Hay and Carr House Meadows are continuing to improve. The increasing diversity and cover of wildflowers means the FA is easily meeting the criteria for 'semi-natural grassland' and is now very close to becoming a herb-rich 'lowland meadow'. Oliver has carried out three surveys of bumblebees in June & July and is in the process of exchanging results with a Lancaster student who has also been studying bees on the reserve.

## 9. Volunteer activities:

**9.1. Volunteer activities:** Full reports for July and August are attached. In addition to the formal volunteer sessions, Associate Volunteers have been beavering away over the summer and are making a very valuable contribution.

**9.2. Haymaking review:** Ian had arranged for the contractor to cut Hay and Carr House Meadows as soon as possible after NE's permitted start date of 15th July. Unfortunately there was no weather window for the crop to be harvested (and still hasn't been!). It was getting beyond having any value as haylage and the Graziers advised allowing the cattle into the meadows to graze. They were consequently let into the Hay Meadow on 25th August. As yet there has been no grazing in Carr House Meadow, but this is promised when it becomes dry enough to prevent poaching. NE will be advised that haymaking has proved impossible this year (**Sue**) and **Dave** will take it into account in his annual declaration.

A decision was taken to pay for haylage using the money which would have been paid to a contractor to harvest and wrap. (Graziers to source up to a specified maximum cost and production of invoices.) FFOG supported this approach subject to checking that this is consistent with the FA's charitable status (**Trustees**). It was also noted for future years that for the continued improvement of the wildflower meadows the hay needs to be removed.

**9.3. Scything progress:** Encouraging progress is being made in terms of tackling thistles, nettles and cutting rides through the soft rush in the marshes in the Hay and Big Meadows. Many of the tasks on the initial list compiled by Ian and Paul F. have been completed, with the exception of the grass along the Fauna path which will be deferred until next year. There have been several trained scythers involved, who have taken opportunities to induct other interested volunteers. The Tuesday evening scything group has now been cancelled as the nights are drawing in. Work will continue on Wednesday mornings.

**10. Forest School events:** Graham ran two sessions in the Orchard on Saturdays 22nd and 29th July. The sessions were advertised on the noticeboards and on the Fairfield website and Facebook. Although the weather on both afternoons was fine, attendance was very disappointing with only two children on the first session and five children on the second. Feedback from parents on the day was positive. In Graham's absence, FFOG briefly considered how attendance might be boosted in future. Dates before the summer school holidays, linking to another FA event (such as Fun Day) and advertising through schools were suggested (**Graham**).

**11. Standing items:**

**11.1. Arrangements: Glenys** will arrange the restart of monthly winter flush counts (first one scheduled for Monday 2nd October).

Assess mortality of Pony Wood planting and arrange for replacement as necessary – **Ian** needs to consult with Mick, but has this in hand.

Illegal camp fires: Graham does not think there have been more than 4 or 5 this summer. It was commented that the growing vegetation in Pony Wood is making the camp fire site less obvious to potential users. It was agreed to defer any further review until after the Flora path has been constructed.

**Ian** will

- arrange the flailing of north (and west?) hedges of West Field with the neighbouring farmer.
- ensure the nose pump is removed before it freezes.
- review and update the first aid equipment and remind First Aiders of what there is and where it can be found at the October Volunteer session.
- arrange renewal of first aid certification in November for himself, Ken and Mick

**Sue** will commission a winter bird survey (8.2) and present ideas for a Volunteers' Buffet in February to November FFOG.

**11.2. Financial control:**

£105.84 reclaimed by Mick for new 90 amp leisure battery to power shed lights

Dave has investigated the missing NE payment noted by the FA Treasurer at the June AGM. It has been delayed by the RPA mapping changes and NE processing. If it does not arrive shortly, **Dave** will chase again.

**11.3. Organised events for notification to FA:** Jon Carter (RSPB) led another of his popular bird walks around the reserve on 3rd September. 18 people (mostly non-FA members) attended and "the owls performed beautifully". Another walk will be scheduled during the winter.

Ian N. is preparing a talk on bird migration, with reference to the Fairfield Reserve. For delivery at the Storey Institute, date yet to be confirmed. **Sue** will follow up on an FA member's idea of a talk about the therapeutic benefits of green spaces.

**12. AOB:**

**12.1. Local Green Space award:** The re-application submitted by Sue appears to be under consideration as she has received a query about the map.

**12.2. Tree Offer:** The Rotary Club has approached the FA with an offer of providing 40 trees. It was agreed to accept these for infilling in Pony Wood around the new Flora path, subject to the varieties proposed being consistent with NE's requirements. **Hilary** will ask the Rotary Club to provide a list for the Woodland Management Group to approve.

**13. Date/place of next meetings:** Thursday 2nd November, Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30pm. Venue: Whitegates Sunnyside Close.

## **Ian Procter's Report on Volunteer Activities:**

### 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The Ragwort Working Party (RWP) attracted 8 volunteers who completed the second sweep of the Reserve by working through the Paddock, the School Fields, the Gun Range and School Pond.

27 bags of ragwort taken to the tip in the afternoon.

### 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Two volunteers repair a broken fence rail at the Lucy Brook cattle crossing.

### 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Two volunteers continued work clearing enveloping grass from the saplings in Pony Wood and the extension.

### 8<sup>th</sup> July

The monthly Saturday morning session was led by Mick in Ian's absence with 14 volunteers attending.

- A fallen branch at the edge of the Stump Circle was cut back and the brash carted into the woodland. The branch junction needs tidying.
- The Fauna path benches were cleared of encroaching vegetation.
- More work done clearing around the Pony Wood saplings.
- A start was made clearing excessive bindweed and goose grass from the Pads footpath hedge.
- We are trying to increase wildlife access to the scrapes and ponds but the uncertain 'edge' of some of them makes it a bit of a problem. We will treat each on its merits and also clear couch grass to reveal some clear water. This was done for Friar's, Loxam's and Ash Tree Ponds on this occasion.
- Keith delivered pots of purple ramping fumitory which need planting out quite soon.
- Work continued on the summer pruning of the apple trees.
- A length of wire fence left in the West Field was rolled to make safe and taken to the shed.
- The shed yard was swept of debris.

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The first meeting of the Scything Working Party (SWP), led by Paul F. Five volunteers agreed the Site Specific Risk Assessment (SSRA) and set to work cutting the thistles and nettles in Lower Sowerholme.

### 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Only 4 volunteers for the RWP and three priority jobs so we split up to:

1. Do a ragwort sweep of the hay meadows to ensure it is clear enough for mowing as from July 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Flowering heads of ragwort had been spotted in the Big Meadow marsh so these were cleared to prevent seeding.
3. The dense and extensive patch of thistle in the Gun Range was turning from flower to seed so a start was made on scything it.

### 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

A volunteer tackled odd jobs on the Reserve:

- Rogue ragwort which had escaped our attention was dug out in Lower Sowerholme, School Pond and behind the Fauna stones.
- As agreed by the May FFOG purple ramping-fumitory was planted out in the wildflower plot behind the Fauna stones.
- Invasive nettles and brambles cut back through the Orchard and the Pads footpath.
- The plastic supports to the saplings down the track from the shed were rectified after the usual disruption.

### 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Two volunteers assisted Sarah from Dallas Road in placing the children's willow sculptures around the Orchard and Fauna path.

The SWP had 3 volunteers who scythed the invasive nettles and others around the Paddock and the northern section of Big Meadow.

### 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The RWP attracted 9 volunteers who had a busy morning in warm sunny weather:

- The last sculpture (above) placed on the big ash tree along the Fauna path.
- Ragwort cleared from Upper Sowerholme, the hay meadows and the School fields.
- Three scythers re-cut the wandering channels through the Hay Meadow swamp and collected the debris into habitat piles.
- The nettles entangling the double gates to the hay meadows were scythed back.
- Invasive bramble cut out from the Carr House Meadow along the Gun Range boundary.
- Dock flowering heads carefully cut off and bagged up to prevent seeding.
- Yellow rattle seed collected.

18 bags taken to tip in the afternoon.

### 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The SWP attracted six volunteers on a beautiful summer's evening. Five were scythers and cut thistle and nettle in the West Field. Our remaining volunteer cut back overhanging vegetation on the Pads footpath and pulled thistle from between the hedge and the stock fence.



Lots of people congregating by the concrete wall to watch for little owls.

### 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The forecast was for persistent, heavy rain; the experience was of steady rain, occasionally heavy. Despite this five volunteers reported for the RWP and cleared the flowering ragwort from all of Big Meadow.

In the evening the monthly session attracted only two volunteers but we were able to:

- Place the net on the shed roof to catch the sycamore seeds after gently raking the sedum (very healthy) of seed which have already fallen.
- Check out how the 'Men and women at work' sign can be used.
- Established that a chain saw is needed to sharpen the old fencing stakes we plan to use as hedging stakes next winter.
- Removed graffiti from the bench along the Fauna path. On advice from the Triangle we used nail polish remover and found it more effective than sanding.
- Removed flowering ragwort from the Hay Meadow.

### 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

5 bags of ragwort to the tip (along with my hedge clippings so a full load).

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#### Associate Volunteers in July

- Mowing the grass in the Orchard
- Clear ragwort (1 bag) from the Hay Meadow marsh along with some thistle and dock.
- Keeping small saplings free of competing vegetation (Pads footpath between Orchard and Big Meadow).
- Cutting back thistle along the Fauna path margins.
- Cutting back invasive bramble around the Paddock.
- Scything thistle in the Gun Range

### 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017

The Scything Group (SG) attracted 5 volunteers who scythed thistles and nettles around the edge of Lower Sowerholme and made a start cutting snipe friendly pathways into the rush around the pond. Other rush invading too far into the field was also cut back.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

The Ragwort Working Party (RWP) had six volunteers on a morning which threatened heavy rain (which in the event held off). Thus scything was not appropriate. We:

- Cut back the overhanging hawthorn near the Cromwell Gate for tractor access.
- Dug out ragwort from the Hay Meadow and Carr House Meadow.
- Trimmed overhanging hawthorn around the Fauna benches.
- Cut back invasive bramble along the Fauna path.
- Strimmed sections of the Fauna path where the grass overhang was obstructive.
- Removed bindweed from a section of the Orchard / Pads footpath. This was an experiment to test how laborious the work is (very) and whether the hedge underneath seems to be

suffering from near blanket cover. We concluded that the work should only be done with young saplings and newly laid hedge.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Just two volunteers attended the SG on a rain threatened evening. However, the rain held off and most of the clumps of thistles in the Grammar School Fields were scythed. Flowering ragwort pulled out.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Four volunteers attended the RWP on a lovely morning.

- We finished off scything the thistle clumps in Grammar School Fields.
- We began cutting meandering channels through the Big Meadow bog.
- Flowering ragwort was pulled from both locations.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017

The monthly Saturday volunteer session attracted 13 volunteers on a cloudy but dry morning.

- Alder Pond was cleared of invading couch grass.
- Flowering ragwort was removed from the Paddock, Big Meadow and Lower Sowerholme.
- The 'Don't Pick' signs were tied to the apple trees.
- Enveloping vegetation was cleared from the smaller saplings along the Pads footpath.
- Bindweed, goose grass and bramble were cleared from the hedge laid last winter in the concrete wall area.
- The track leading down from Sunnyside Lane past the shed was cleared of overhanging vegetation and accumulating debris.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Three volunteers joined the SG and continued to scythe winding channels through the thicker areas of rush in the Big Meadow wet area.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Four volunteers formed the RWP on a pleasant morning.

- Two scythers continued with the channels above. Note we put up snipe on three occasions, two apparently from channels already cut.
- Ragwort, especially but not exclusively flowering, was dug out of Big Meadow.
- The work of clearing couch grass from Alder Pond continued.

Eight bags of ragwort to the tip in the afternoon.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Two volunteers repaired a loose bird box, replaced a fallen bat box and checked out the nose pump. The supply pipe for the latter needs repair.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

In the morning the RWP met with 7 volunteers in increasingly sunny weather.

- Flowering ragwort was cleared from the Hay Meadow, Carr House Meadow, the School fields and pond, Big Meadow and the Paddock.
- Soft rush encroaching the Hay Meadow was scythed down.
- Three gaps between the Hay Meadow and Lucy Brook were blocked with barbed wire to prevent the cattle accessing the neighbouring gardens. *A small amount of JKW was noted and needs to be dealt with.*
- Overhanging vegetation was cut back from the Pads footpath.

In the evening the last of the summer evening volunteer sessions attracted 9 volunteers, something of a record in recent years, a pleasant evening helped.

- The 'wild camper' site in the north Orchard woodland was cleared with all items placed in black plastic bags and a notice posted (below).



- Four scythers (including two novices) continued work in Big Meadow cutting around the edge of the stock fence and clumps of rush invading the pasture.
- Overhanging nettles, bramble and the like were cut back in the Orchard to keep access on the paths.

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#### Associate volunteers in August

- Mowed the Orchard grass.
- Trimmed back overhang on the Fauna path.
- Lots of work in the playground.
- Clearing of couch grass from Alder Pond and rebuilding the bund.
- Assorted tasks done with a disabled member.
- Chain saw sharpened.