

BREDFIELD JUBILEE MEADOW AND ORCHARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Orchard

Most of the fruit trees in orchard continue to grow well, with several trees now producing impressive amounts of fruit. A large batch of apples harvested from the orchard were pressed in our annual Apple Pressing Day. This said, some of the other trees are not yet developing as well, and two appeared to have died. The committee is looking into what can be done. The committee continues to monitor the extent to which the trees require pruning, protection (from deer) and support.

The Meadow

The meadow continues to be a wildlife haven. A large number of orchids bloomed in June. Butterflies and other insects continue to visit the meadow in encouraging numbers, and records are submitted to the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service. Photographs of the flora and fauna of the meadow are available on the Bredfield Wildlife Friendly Village [website](#) (where you will also find a full record of all species recorded in the meadow).

The meadow thrives because of the unenriched and undisturbed nature of the soil there. Dog waste is not only unhygienic and unsightly, it can also adversely affect the nature of the soil. There is a dog waste bin and notices to encourage dog walkers not to leave dog poo in the meadow. The BJMO committee continues to consider ways to discourage the anti-social and environmentally damaging practice of not disposing of dog poo. At the end of summer 2022, it was noticed that 2-3 children were playing football in the meadow. Clearly, this activity risks damaging the meadow and the shelter, and is to be discouraged. A letter was distributed to new residents welcoming them to the meadow and orchard, and reminding them of the restrictions on its use.

The Shelter

The BJMO shelter continues to show signs of wear. Last year, a small group of volunteers painted the shelter with wood presentative, and this helped to restore the shelter somewhat. However, there are still a few leaks in rainy weather and a couple of wooden 'posts' have been broken. The committee is looking into what can be done to maintain the condition of the shelter.

Events

Two events took place in 2022. The first was our annual Wildflower Walk in mid-June, led by Laurie Forsyth from the Suffolk Flora Preservation Society. This was well attended and included some welcome new faces. Unfortunately, this was the final year that Laurie was able to lead to walk. The second event was our annual Autumn Apple Pressing Day. A good number of people, of all ages (and various nationalities!) attended. Our newly purchased press produced plenty of fine juice.

Green Flag award

For the fifth year running, Bredfield Meadow and Orchard won a Community Green Flag award.

Expenditure – current and future

Our expenditure this year has been below the usual amount. We have patched-up and made-do. Next year, we are most likely to have to spend more money on upkeep, repairs and maintenance: the mower will need a service (probably around £150); the hedges and trees bordering the meadow will need to be pruned and cut-back; dead fruit trees will need replacing; and further protection will be required around the trees (given the increased prevalence of browsing deer in the neighbourhood).

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023.

Dealt with in 2 parts | : Barclays Bank Account and Petty Cash.

£2318.40 Amount in BJMO Barclays Account at start of year.

Incomes. To Barclays Account

Bank interest.....£3.52

Total incomes into Bank Account.....£3.52

Expenditures

Equipment purchases.....£55.72

Meadow topping.....£120.00

M&O Sign Repairs (at road).....£96.47

Total Expenditures.....£272.19

All above expenditures covered by PC Annual Grant.

Amount held in BJMO Account in Barclays at end of Financial year = £2321.92

Petty Cash

There were no incomes or expenditures during the year.

Petty cash remains at £33.90

Total Finances held by BJMO 31st. March 2023 = £2355.82