

**Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment Charity**  
**2013/2014 Report to Stow Bedon and Breckles Annual Assembly**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 2014**  
**At Caston Village Hall**  
**Charity Number 206598**

The shooting rights are let to Jonathan Yule of Stow Bedon. Jonathan's 5 year contract will last March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. Jonathan is a successful artist and plans to paint some images of the site.

Beneficiaries received fuel payments over the winter period: in February 2014, 6 people received a payment of £400 each. The list of beneficiaries for the winter period 2013/2014 stands at 6, if anybody feels they qualify or knows of any other person, who may benefit from payments, please let myself or another trustee know so they can be considered. All information will be handled discretely.

As a reminder the Trustees reviewed the Charities Governing Document in 2007 the revised objects of the charity from the beneficiaries account is to.

- To make grants to the poor and needy of the Parish of Stow Bedon and Breckles

By;

- To make grants for Fuel
- To make grants for Mobility Devices
- To make grants for the Relief of Distress
- To make grants for Further Education

During the past year continuing conservation work has been carried out including; scrub control in the open areas, to encourage grasses and wild flowers to re-establish and further clearance of scrub and invading canopy pingos. This is part of an on going plan creating glades through the woodland, the purpose being to encourage a greater bio-diversity. Maintenance of the site is now a little easier now that Phil Childs has acquired a tractor and topper. A new galvanised field gate has also been installed on the Crow's Lane entrance.

Projects for 2014/2015 include continuing spraying to reduce bracken encroachment, maintenance of glades, it is hoped that it will be possible to catch up with the maintenance of the open areas in late summer now the capital work is finished. If weather allows work should start installing a new fence either side of the Pingo Trail in the coming winter which will help prevent walker's dog entering the site. If permission is granted from English Nature and the conditions allow a start to install culverts around the site to improve access.

Due to work commitment the ongoing butterfly transect record will be postponed this year, but will be started again next year.

The aim of the work is to improve the site for game and wildlife conservation, all of which is carried out under a HLS agreement with Natural England, who also help with the funding of the conservation capital work.

A letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 from Natural England was received claiming that there were permanent ineligible features (PIF) on the land in the HLS agreement. This related to HC7 payment which is the permanent woodland landscape, they claimed that the area under agreement was 7.6ha and the area found was 7.22ha, a difference of 0.38ha and resulting in an over payment of £38 per annum from 2007 to 2012. This amounted to £228 over payment and a penalty £456 Total £684 for which the Charity would be invoiced.

P Childs contacted English Nature (Gail Deeming) and explained that all measurements made on the application were advised by English Nature and in no way was the Charity trying to make a false claim. Gail Deming advised P Childs that it still remained an over payment and the penalty would remain.

P Childs then contacted Bev Nichols the local advisor who investigated the problem, Bev then contacted P Childs informing him that the matter is not sorted and Gail Deeming will contact in due course.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May a letter from English Nature (Gail Deeming) was received stating that the PIF had been re-assessed and found that the inland water areas are temporary ponds (vegetated and form part of the woodland landscape. This resulted the recovery of moneys being cancelled and the £38 for year 2012/2013 which was deduct from the May payment was paid.

During the last year Norfolk Rural Community Councils used the Fuel Allotment Charity as part of there 'Poor's Land' Project. It involved gathering short history from a number of Norfolk Fuel Allotments, containing when they were formed, how they were run over time and how they are run today. P Childs presented the history of Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment which he wrote for the village history project a number of years earlier. From the information gathered and discussion at a meeting held for other local poor's lands charities at Caston Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> January, problems and achievements were noted and in due course will be sent to the Charity's Commission with recommendations.

From the discussions that took place P Childs felt that the Stow Bedon charity is in good shape in its organisation and running and the lessons learnt over recent years were passed on to others in the meeting.

If anybody has any questions I am always available and will answer to the best of my ability.

Phil Childs Tel; 01953 483533  
Trustee and Correspondent