

Cremer's Meadow Annual Parish Meeting Report 2025

As usual the Friends have had a busy year on the Meadow. Regular maintenance takes place most Friday morning for 2 hours. Planning meetings take place bi-monthly when decisions can be made for the improvements of the site. In addition, 2 major events take place during the year – the Annual Orchid Open Day and the Cut and Clear day when we welcome additional volunteers to help.

The Orchid Open Day in 2024 was successful with the addition this year of home-made cakes and soft drinks. Visitors were able to enjoy the orchids which were out in abundance once again and it is interesting to see they have spread further northwards this year.

At the Open Day we also celebrated that it is 10 years since the first opening of Cremer's to the public. The Friends welcomed Shirley Cremer on the day, and she made a speech and cut the anniversary cake. Councillors also attended the event and Kevin made a speech which thanked everyone for their work over the last 10-12 years.

The long-awaited bridge between Cremer's and Marty's Marsh was finally opened in September. Everyone has given very positive feedback about the look of the bridge and that it has opened safe pathways between the villages and beyond.

To mark the collaboration between the two sites, we are holding a joint open day on June 14th which will celebrate the different natural environments which the overall space offers.

Heavy rainfall has caused the surrounding dykes to become full and these are being monitored to prevent overflow - particularly into the barn. There is concern that at least one culvert may be blocked which could lead to significant work in the future. John from the Friends has worked with members of local councils and other experts to determine the best way to tackle this issue. It is likely there will be a significant job of work to be carried out during the year.

The central pond is still the subject of discussion and hopes for improvement. We have completed some preliminary work on depth measurements but are awaiting information about whether there will be funding and help from external sources.

We are still waiting to complete repairs on the Information Hut. New bearings have been put in place (thanks to the Allotment Working Group) but the floor and roof require more attention. It is hoped that this might be completed during the summer of 2025.

The tree surveys (both local and by an expert contractor) demonstrated that there is no significant concern about the trees on the site. A small amount of remedial work has been carried out to comply with their findings.

We have been supported by the Parish Council Environment Committee this year as their Biodiversity Working Group has been carrying out several surveys on the site to determine a baseline of flora and fauna found at Cremer's. The highlights of their findings are;

Number of breeding bird species - 35

Number of plant species – 226

Number of individual (temporarily) trapped invertebrates – 112

The group have also installed more bird boxes and introduced some bat boxes onto the site and continue to give valuable guidance for the site overall.

The Cut and Clear in September was again successful. Help from Badcog and Bure Valley Conservation made it an easier task and we had completed by lunch time. The lunch provided was a very welcome celebration of a job well done. Thanks to the Central England Co-op who provided the ingredients and the Friends who made them into a delicious cream tea.

We have welcomed a few new volunteers to the Friends group over the year and they have been wonderful with their work. A group of Aviva volunteers also came for a day and worked very hard to tackle the bamboo which is invading areas of the site. Having a group of strong youngsters was a very welcome addition to the work of the regular volunteers.

As ever, huge thanks go to the Friends of Cremer's Meadow who dedicate time and effort into making it such a valued village asset. If you would like to volunteer to work on this wonderful site, please contact Gill on 07530447980 for further information.

Gill Buckley 24.3.25