

WARNEFORD MEADOW TOWN GREEN APPEAL

Supported by Friends of Warneford Meadow



The Meadow as Town Green – Funding Consequences

As you are certainly aware, Vivian Chapman QC, the Inspector who heard the application for Warneford Meadow and Orchard to be registered as a Town Green, recommended that Town Green status should be granted. The Inspector's Report will now be presented for decision to the Oxfordshire County Council Planning & Regulation Committee at their meeting at 2.00pm on Monday 6th April at County Hall, New Road. The meeting is open to the public, so please attend if you are able to do so.

The objectors have made submissions to the Committee arguing against the registration of the Meadow as a Town Green. The Planning & Regulation Committee is required to take account of legal advice, in this case in the form of Mr Chapman's report. It is therefore expected that the Committee will decide to register the Meadow and we hope to see it officially designated as a Town Green in April.

We shall straight away begin the development of the Warneford Meadow Town Green, working with the NHS to manage it as an amenity for residents of the local neighbourhood.

Our legal submissions to the Planning Committee and any subsequent appeal or judicial review into the registration of the Meadow as a Town Green will generate more legal fees. Even if there are no further legal challenges, the Meadow will need to be managed to conserve its unique features for present and future local residents to enjoy.

All of this requires funding.

We therefore continue to appeal for funds to ensure the future of the Meadow and the Orchard. Donations may be made in the usual way, to David Sutton, at 12 Hill Top Road, Oxford. Cheques for £50 or more should be made out to *CPRE Oxfordshire Branch*. Donations of £50 or more are eligible for Gift Aid, which will add an extra £2.80 to every £10 donated. Cheques for smaller amounts should be made out to Friends of Warneford Meadow. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the donation form and – if appropriate – the Gift Aid Declaration, both of which are available for download from the FoWM website.

Warneford Meadow and Orchard Merchandise

As well as accepting direct donations, which have sustained the campaign to save the meadow for so long, we want to build on the success of the Warneford Meadow notelets and cards produced before Christmas 2008. These were hugely popular and provided an opportunity for friends and neighbours to feel genuinely part of the campaign. We are now planning to produce other items for sale in aid of FoWM.

These will include:

- *Notelets with meadow views;*
- *Fridge magnets*
- *A 2010 calendar with views of the Meadow and Orchard through the seasons;*
- *Commemorative mugs;*
- *A publication to celebrate the Orchard, the Meadow and the campaign as a whole;*
- *A short history of the Warneford Hospital, Meadow and the neighbourhood.*

There may also be opportunities to present a new exhibition at appropriate local events.

In order to ensure that the sale items genuinely reflect the experience of local people who have enjoyed – and wish to continue to enjoy – the amenity provided by the Meadow and the Orchard, *we should like to put together a collections of images which we can draw on to decorate the sale items and document the use of the Meadow and Orchard in living memory.*

If you have photos, drawings, paintings or other mementos that you think we could use, please let us have them – or borrow them - for future publications and the archive we are planning to create.

We'd welcome images in electronic form – initially as small JPEG files (up to 1Mb). If we wish to use them for printing, we'll ask for the full size file. If you only have paper copies of photographs, or original sketches or paintings, we'd like the opportunity to borrow them and scan them. Other objects would be photographed and the images stored for subsequent use.

We'd be particularly interested in images that show your use of the Meadow or Orchard during the last twenty years and earlier.

We shall also be mining the archive of **witness statements** which were prepared for the Town Green application hearings. It would be lovely to hear **other memories** from long-standing and more recent residents about your use of the meadow as a resource for enjoyment, refreshment and recreation.

Timeline

- We need to collect images for use on **notelets** and **fridge magnets** by 28th February 2009.
- We are planning to begin work on the **2010 calendar** on 1st September 2009. Please supply images in good time. We shall be taking orders for the calendar early in the autumn.
- We'll let you know how work on the **commemorative mugs** proceeds over the next month or so.
- Look out for the **History of Warneford Hospital and the Meadow** in October 2009.

Please don't feel too constrained by deadlines. Feel free to let us have items that may be of use to us as and when they occur to you or when you unearth them!

Upcoming Events

Saturday March 7th: OxClean litter sweep on Warneford Meadow - Volunteers meet at Jack Howarth House, 2.00pm.

Tuesday March 17th, 7.30pm, at Cheney School Community Hall, Cheney Lane
Talk, by naturalist Andrew Lack about his recent book, *Redbreast: The Robin in Life and Literature*

Friday 1st May: We plan to hold a celebration of some kind once the Meadow officially becomes a Town Green. More information will be circulated in due course. Keep an eye on the website. If you are able to help with organisation, please let us know.

How to get in touch:

We hope very much that you will be able to respond to these requests. If you have something you would like to share – images, memories or other objects – please contact us.

We are also looking for volunteers to share in the work of monitoring wildlife on the Meadow.

If you would like to become more directly involved in supporting FoWM activities – for instance, by joining the Steering Group – we'd love to hear from you.

By post: Friends of Warneford Meadow, c/o 108 Southfield Road, Oxford, OX4 1PA
Telephone: 01865-728153
Email: info@friendsofwarnefordmeadow.org.uk - Or simply reply to this email.

With best wishes from Friends of Warneford Meadow Steering Group,

www.friendsofwarnefordmeadow.org.uk