QUARTERLY UPDATE

Volunteer work

Despite the hot weather, our volunteers have been hard at work on the usual Summer maintenance tasks, cutting back the brambles and blackthorn (which seem impervious to drought and are ever encroaching!), mowing grass paths and maintaining the hard paths, including making the Cedar Park School entrance more accessible.

The biggest job and most time consuming job this summer though has been watering! Over the past couple of years we have planted hundreds of saplings in and around the fields. These will take a few years to establish solid root systems that can tap into moisture deep underground. Until that happens they are very vulnerable to drought and so we have been watering as much as possible to give them the best possible chance. It's not an easy task. There is no water source in the fields and the rain water we collect from our shed roof is long gone. So we've been filling watering cans from outside taps at volunteers houses and hauling them across the fields to where they are most needed. That involves dozens of trips back and forth and a lot of distance travelled! Hopefully it is paying off, we will inevitably lose some trees but if we can keep most of them going then it's a job well done.

A warm welcome to Robert and Peter who have recently joined the Volunteer group; its great to have you on board. If you have some time and are interested in helping, then do get in touch. We would love to hear from you. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us with this important work!

Our acquisition of the old pub car park on Grange Road is nearing completion – hopefully by the time you read this it will be done! We can then start the work to give the car park a make over before the weather turns wet and muddy again.

If you haven't donated to the car park appeal fund then please do. We are just over a quarter of the way to our £20,000 target. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, we have made a great start.

But we still have some way to go and you may have spotted us out on the fields over this summer raising awareness of the work we do and the car park appeal and asking for your support. We now have the ability to take a card/phone contactless payment but cash is also always welcome!

Can you donate?

If you don't catch us on the fields you can donate by bank transfer to the Grange Area Trust. Please include "Car Park" in the reference:

Sort code: 30-94-28

Account: 35631560

You can make a one off donation or set up a standing order. If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim gift aid which adds an extra 25% to your donation.

If you are able to help then please contact the Grange Area Trust Secretary, Joanna Davinson.

Email: honorarysecretary@grangeareatrust.org.uk | Or call: 07970 056 903