

The Cricket at Haughley Green

Report from the Working Group – May 2023

Members of The Cricket Working Group volunteer to improve the wildlife management of The Cricket in Haughley Green. The Cricket is widely used by local residents for walking, playing and socialising; and this only increased during Covid.

Since 2009 it has been monitored in line with a Management Plan provided by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and along with the wildflower survey additional trees were planted and many birdboxes were erected. There are two distinct areas, scrub and meadow, with the separate play area. Over 115 species of grass and wildflowers are found on The Cricket.

Work that was undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Clearing the pond of New Zealand crassula, an invasive weed, as recommended by Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- Cutting back trees and scrub around the pond
- Re-instating old footpaths and keeping them clear
- Installing two new benches as part of the Parish bench project
- Fixing play equipment while waiting for new equipment being installed

Regular work that is undertaken includes:

- Conservation cut of the meadow twice a year
- Monitor and clear birdboxes
- Ad hoc repair of play equipment
- Check on the ponds
- Monitor wildflower areas
- Check the memorial trees

New play equipment has been agreed with local residents and has been organised in a project led by the Parish Council. Funding has been gained and the new equipment is expected to be installed before summer 2023. The Parish Council continues to have responsibility for the play equipment and arranges the annual ROSPA inspection.

Various information signs need to be replaced and it is hoped to do have this done this year.

The working group would like to undertake a wildflower survey but would need a wildflower enthusiast to help!

Separately Haughley Green residents, via events held on The Cricket, had raised funds towards traffic calming, a total of £2,150, which is currently held with the Parish Council.

Rachel Eburne

May 2023