

# How you can help us:

You can make FREE donations to Ashted Rye Meadows and it's very simple. Follow these three simple steps:-

1. Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and choose the charity "Friends of Rye Meadows".
2. Register your name with the site.
3. When next shopping at Amazon, Argos, Marks & Spencer or any of the 2,700 other online retailers visit [Easyfundraising first](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and choose the retailer you want to go online to visit.
4. Make your online purchases!

The retailer processes your order and he then donates a small percentage to Ashted Rye Meadows. To date we have raised over £300 in this way and every penny helps.



# News:

## Hedges:

In 2015 we planted over 1,000 new hedge plants in areas of Rye Meadows. Rather than build fences we have planted hedging that will in time grow and provide a barrier between gardens and



the meadows whilst providing a habitat for birds and animals. The hedges will be kept to a height that will still permit an unobstructed view across the fields to the Rye Brook.

## Dead Hedges:

This year the volunteers together with the Estate Manager have created several dead hedges within Rye Meadows. Dead hedges are a way of creating a barrier that uses material cut on site. It establishes a boundary and provides a habitat for birds and wildlife.



## Paths:

New paths have been laid on both public footpaths that cross the Rye Meadows. Our own volunteers were assisted by volunteers from Ashted Common and very shortly the hard path from the wooden bridge to Preston Grove will be completed enabling residents to walk a circular route without getting their feet muddy.

## Hedge Laying:

It was hoped we would be able to lay the hedge that bordered the footpath from Bushey Shaw to the Common, but it proved to be too old and unsuitable for laying. Therefore with the assistance of volunteers from the Lower Mole Project we coppiced the hedge. Anti-deer netting was then erected to prevent deer from eating the new shoots.

In time the new hedge will grow to a height that will permit laying and where gaps occur new hedging plants will be added.

This year the remaining part of the old hedge will be coppiced and volunteers will be needed to help with this task.



## Fields in Trust & Centenary Field:



Whilst the meadows are still privately owned, it has been decided to place them under the guardianship of Fields in Trust. This will ensure they remain an open space to be enjoyed by residents, birds and wild-

life in perpetuity.

In addition one field is being set aside as a Centenary Field to commemorate those who fell in World War 1 and subsequent conflicts. This field is also to be the site of new ponds, and we hope to obtain a grant from Thames Water to construct a wooden walkway so residents may visit the wetland area and sit in peace and quiet.