

BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 5 MAY 2021

The Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces Charitable Trust was set up in 2015 by a group of local people concerned to protect and enhance the green spaces in and around the village of Blaxhall in Suffolk, for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity and for community benefit. Our objects are to acquire, improve and maintain land in Blaxhall, for the enhancement of the environment, encouragement of biodiversity and increased recreational access.

Trustees. Rosy Thornton and Andrew Derrick were re-appointed at the 2020 AGM. Other trustees are Eve Rossor (Hon. Sec), Mike Livesey (Hon Treasurer), Rodney West (Hon Membership/Supporters Secretary), Karen Baker and Mark Oakley (Parish Council nominees).

Jasper's Pightle. The gifted land opposite Shepherd's Cottage has been named Jasper's Pightle, in memory of Jasper Walters, the late owner. Despite Covid restrictions, good progress has been made. Ben from Suffolk Wildlife Trust has cut all the areas of bracken accessible by tractor. Regular Sunday afternoon raking parties with volunteers and supports have taken place to clear the bracken. It will need regular cutting and clearing to keep on top of the situation.

A fundraising subcommittee has been set up to raise funds for asbestos removal from the pightle, and at the time of writing £5,000 of the anticipated cost of £7,500 has been raised; this includes grants of £1,000 from Adnams and £500 from the Scarfe Trust, as well as numerous generous donations from friends and supporters. We have registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and are in the process of setting up a JustGiving page. A fundraising leaflet is about to go out to all households in the village.

Potential gift of land at Stone Common: In an exciting possible further development, the Trust has been offered land at Stone Common. Discussions are in hand between our solicitors and representatives of the donor, Mr Prevost.

Parish newsletter: An update on the work of the Trust appeared in the parish newsletter for Winter 2020-21. A further article is planned for the next issue. Thanks to Shane Pictor.

Litter picks: Litter picks took place in October 2020 and April 2021. Each resulted in a substantial haul; a photograph of that for October featured in the Winter village newsletter.

BCOST
April 2021