

Trustees report to the Friends for the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees who served throughout the year were Helen Hendry, Brian Shepherd, Simon Sweeney, Jeremy Dick, Elaine Rutherford, Guy Shuttleworth, Kim Ward and Jim Warrington.

Tim Hunt and John Eastlake remain as committed volunteers.

Membership: we have (approx.) 60 members at 31/12/2025

Work done in the Glebe in 2025 was as follows

Coppicing of another large hawthorn in the line between the 'tennis court' and the adjacent meadow; subsequent regrowth noted. Multiple re-growths around old sycamore on the east mound reduced to 2 strongest.

We welcomed visits by staff from the Howardian Hills National Landscape staff, who provided us with advice on the future management of the Glebe, and trays of wildflower plug plants. Spring planting of white campion and ox-eye daisies resulted. (The subsequent dry spring and summer may have impacted on their survival!)

A notice board was added to the field gate advising upcoming volunteer work and flora highlights. Removal and responsible disposal via HHNL of the plastic guards in the south hedge line and removal of encroaching growth around the new hedge plants.

Planting and protecting 2 guelder roses in the hedge dividing the 'tennis court' and the adjacent meadow, and a further 5 in the south hedge. 2 oak saplings were also planted in the south hedge. Sample dig in east pond to determine base composition.

Partial removal of hogweed flower heads and dock seeds, including mechanical topping of the hogweed in the areas of worst infestation.

Paths and bowl between the mounds mowed as required. We are grateful to the Church for the use of their mower.

Autumn/early winter sheep grazing resulted in close cropping of all grass, and this was the sole method to reduce the grass, rather than mowing as in previous years.

Cutting back of brambles on the mounds.

Significant reduction of the vegetation on the edges of the east and south ponds to allow more light access

Bonfire of resulting brash

Removal and treatment of the spread of cherry seedlings around the existing trees and the blackthorn seedlings in the north-east corner.

It is also very disappointing to report that we had a number of acts of vandalism, including damage (twice) to the seat on the mound, malicious relocations of the 'to the village' bench and the seat in the northeast corner and den making, resulting in littering in that area.

We continue to be extremely thankful for the physical and financial support provided by the Friends.

To continue:

Increasing Friends numbers and awareness of the Glebe. We are always looking to recruit new members and welcome new referrals.

Mowing of paths and the bowl

Bramble, hogweed, and dock control, including for 2026 the trial spraying of early hogweed growth.

Continued monitoring of the new hedge

Sheep grazing in autumn/early winter

Replace any dead slips in new hedge

Appropriate harvesting of yellow rattle seed from tennis court and sowing this and other sourced material elsewhere in meadows

To complete:

Plant available oak saplings in appropriate places in the large copse.

Survey trees around south pond and reduce as appropriate to allow view of pond and light into meadow.

Cut down small trees at west side of east pond (other than large crab apple and the one supporting the briar rose).

Make safe dead tree by gate to churchyard, and any others identified after survey.

Bonfire of arisings from above activities and hogweed and dock debris at side of gate to south pond

Cut ivy growing up most of the trees in the large copse.

Spring

If appropriate, apply weedkiller to new dock and hogweed growth in selected areas.

Continue to source and plant wildflowers in the meadows.

To consider:

Removal of grass etc. from bottom of south pond.

Re-lining of the east pond to eliminate leakage.