

¹Jubilee Field Trust AGM - Chairman's report May 2023

The Jubilee Field is a well used and much appreciated open space in Uffington, and the Parish Council continues to look after the playground, seats and benches, grassed area, hedges, trees, pond and surrounding ditches and verges.

The playground equipment is inspected monthly by a councillor, and annually by RoSPA, after which any recommendations on improved safety are carried out. The small swings and slide have recently benefitted from repainting, and we are awaiting some replacement matting under the big swings at the southern end of the field. Some new equipment for older children is being considered, and we would value any ideas and help in planning what we should have installed, and where.

After last year's tree survey suggesting that remedial work or felling should be carried out on the 3 largest poplar trees on the Upper Common side of the field, it was decided to take down the central tree in April. This has opened up the view around the pond and will give a nearby oak tree room to "spread its wings". We now hope to level this area, getting rid of some unwanted undergrowth and encourage grass and wild flowers before making any decisions on remedial work to the remaining 2 trees or planting another tree.

The trees planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative for her Platinum Jubilee last year are thriving, and the Gardening Club has kindly donated and added another tree, slightly further down the High Street side of the field.

The pond has again been partially dredged, and although it overflows directly into the ditch after very heavy rain this is not a permanent problem, and the weir at the exit keeps the water at an acceptable level. The Cubs had an enjoyable evening's "pond dipping" in the spring when they were able to identify an interesting variety of pond life.

The grass area of the field is well used, particularly in the warmer drier months when the Farmers Market can take advantage of the outdoor space. A successful Big Picnic was initiated by the Parish Council to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last June, and another for the Coronation of King Charles has just taken place. After a wet day for the Coronation itself, the day after turned out to be warm and sunny, and villagers turned out in large numbers to picnic, enjoy burgers, a drink, teas, and a

variety of entertainment and games to occupy the youngsters, including a very popular climbing wall organised by the Beavers and Scouts, as well as Dibbles' traditional tug o'war.

There are a few bookings for the field from outside organisations for which we make no charge, but these are often combined with bookings for the hall such as the Farmers Market or wedding receptions.

We have held our usual 2 well advertised Jubilee Field Tidy sessions on Saturday mornings. However support for the last one was disappointing, and we would like to encourage more helpers in order to keep the field in the state that both the village and Parish Council would like it maintained. Nevertheless we would like to thank all those who voluntarily give up their time to help maintain the field, surrounding ditches and the playground.