**Achievements since last AGM –**

* **Won SE in Bloom Gold in Large Conservation Area class** – great achievement in National competition - our 1st time as a competitor in our own right.
* **Reduced outstanding Buildings Preservation trust loan from £75k to £44k**
* **Won a £9.5k grant from Heritage Lottery Fund**. First from this source – hopefully not the last. Congratulations to Pippa who masterminded our application. Pays for series of SWT surveys feeding into new Management Plan.
* **Commissioned new Management plan** – replaces old one drawn up 2010. Draft expected from SWT October paid for by HLF grant. V exciting to see how the Meadow has changed since the 1st plan. Presence of grass snakes, slow worms and hedgehogs and lots of moths and butterflies.
* **Community Orchard - Schools project** –distribution of weather stations to 3 participating schools and set up of the master station. Thanks to Jo Aylwin – organising and recruiting schools. Lions - buying the stations. Lou and Jon James - allowing the master station to be set up on their orchard.
* **Schools Fun day**. Pottersgate and St Peters. Funded by Round Table and run by SWT. Lots of children - great success and definitely to be repeated. Essential to get involvement of children in Meadow – they are the future trustees.
* **Preparation for cattle 2018 –** fencing off Oak meadow, installing gates, water supply and trough. Conservation grazing important for restoration of meadows. Cattle from local farmer – same as cattle grazing Farnham Park. Grazing traditional use of land – has made Meadow what it is today. 1st time for 40 years. Extensive consultation and expert advice sought.
* **Memorial to Ronnie Broughton** member of original Board. Six native British trees, selected to be insect attracting, donated by family. Trees flourishing. Generous annual donation for maintenance.
* **Work on weir and river by SWT and Environment Dept - i**nstallation of fish ladder on weir allows fish to pass upstream to breed. Upper river cut off for too long. Work on improving river bed and banks. Release of new stocks of roach and dace.

**Thanks to**

* **Bridge Tea** – Tessa Trench, Meg Daniels, Sue & Nick Green, Bill Dolan, Jo Aylwin very successful event much enjoyed. Next on 20th November so please make note in diaries. Helpers needed
* **Lou and Jon James –**Hayfest Garden Party very successful and good time had by all – gift of mini tractor and generally great generosity to Trust.
* **All volunteers** - hard work in the Meadow in all weathers – more needed.
* **Andy MacLaren** and beautiful vintage tractor. Work on Meadow margins, cutting back brambles preparing for new fencing.
* **SWT –** advice, help with planning.
* **Scottish and Southern Electricity –** huge work party (14 vans arrived on meadow!) put up fences, cleared ground, dug water trough foundations, cleared part of Tudor ditch.
* **Farnham Town Council –** funding, support and flower seed.
* **Generous donors** especially Waitrose customers, Round Table, Farnham Lions, British Car Auctions, Farnham Institute for generous support which has made so many things possible.

**Final thanks to departing director – Bill Dolan –** long association with trust, sanity checker and adviser

**Thoughts for the future**

Looking back – clear Meadow has changed over last 8 years, more species of plants, more animals and insects. River in better shape too. Long way to go but we are in this for the long haul – no quick fix.

Together we have achieved great things and we must not allow ourselves to be so bogged down in the day to day problems that we forget this. Last year SE in Bloom Chair award – v prestigious award - best of the best. This year Gold – hard standard to live up to but with your support we will do it.

**Points for action.**

1. **Recruitment to Board and Trust - Need help** –people prepared to volunteer time and expertise for admin not just Meadow work. Board not getting younger and overstretched. Need back up if Trust is to survive.
2. **Focus on community engagement** – good start with schools, Beavers and Scouts. Build up community support for the long term.
3. **Future financial sustainability** - need steady flow of income to support long term land management and restoration. Delighted at number now paying regular subscription. Encourage more to do so.

It’s your Trust , your land, your achievements. We want your ideas, suggestions and – dare we ask – your help. Talk to us – find out what lies ahead – add your thoughts.

**Pause for brief Q& A session**