

# MANAGEMENT REPORT

(taken from the monthly reports to the Trustees and Management Committee sent in by Will Dobson of Strutt & Parker).

**Grazing** - The current grazier has renewed his tenancy for a further two years. The growth of grass has caused no problems but the elimination of stinging nettles still remains a priority.

**Sluices, Hatches, Channels and Drains** - The water levels have risen but it would have been better if they had been even higher. In spite of padlocks vandals have managed to open some sluices. BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and Sparsholt College have both provided labour forces to dig out selected ditches. It is proposed to take the meadows into the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme run by Natural England. This should commence in April 2008.

**Copses and Tree Works** - A pathway through Rotary Copse has been strimmed and overgrown vegetation cut back. A new access will be made so that in future walks will be able to take this route. The large black poplar in Rose Cottage garden which was in danger of blowing over was successfully pollarded. The trunk was found to be rotten in the centre but it should regenerate. Some replanting has taken place along the meadow boundaries where some trees had failed.

**Town Path** - Water flow has been maintained at the highest level possible in order to keep the channel open. The situation is being constantly monitored and Wiltshire County Council Highways department will be informed as soon as the reed growth becomes too great. The new tarmac promised last autumn did not materialise which was no surprise. Perhaps it will have appeared before the next Newsletter.

*Rosemary Allen*