

TRUSTEES CONTRIBUTION

The Trustees are conscious that as the national economy falters charitable fund raising has become very much more difficult. Rose Cottage is necessarily an enduring maintenance liability and while it has much to offer us in the way of facilities it does take significant resources to run and maintain. With this in mind a certain amount of belt tightening has been forced on us and progress with some of our longer term objectives, such as re-establishing ancient hedgelines, have been curtailed for the moment.

The following work has been approved by the Trustees for the winter work programme for 2008/2009:-

- To fell and remove the dead ash tree adjacent to Sluice 7; to be completed within the current financial year
- To reduce in height the Goat Willow at Long Bridge to be done before the undergrowth thickens
- Pollarding selected willows on a 5-year cycle at a rate of 10 trees per year in the eastern and western meadows to be started in the current financial year
- Felling of two Lombardy Poplars in Rose Cottage garden, one to be done in this financial year, the other in the next financial year

- Reinstatement of Sluice 18 following receipt of grant funding from SWAG to be completed during the current financial year
- Works to damp-proof Rose Cottage. Commencing in spring/summer 2009 to defer the cost to the next financial year

Ongoing Management of the Meadows

- Clearing a margin of scrub along the edge of Nail Mead Copse, Rotary Copse and Joiners Belt to prevent further encroachment onto the meadows and damage to the fence-line. To be completed through the winter months before any spring growth occurs.
- The replacement of fence posts and rewiring along the Town Path to be completed in this financial year.
- Removing the over-hanging branches, deadwood and brambles from Nadder Bank, adjacent to Sluice 13, to be completed in this financial year.
- Maintaining Rose Cottage gardens with grass and hedge cutting (which will be paid for by the Friends)

*Andrew Jeans
Chairman Management Committee*