



## Festive Greetings from the Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds!

December 2024

### Another busy year at the Watercress Beds!

As another year draws to a rather damp, grey close, we can look back on a busy and productive year at the Ewelme Watercress Beds. Our summer “Dr Anne Day” for young families was fully booked and took place on a rare sunny day back in August. The Chiltern Society’s Management Team won their Best Volunteer Team award thanks to all the hard work put in by the regular work teams and the Sonning Common and Wallingford Green Gyms. The watercress has flourished this year following the wipe-out of a couple of cold winters ago. The ducks have been remarkably successful in their breeding this year and we’ve had the usual array of birds and wildlife on site.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who puts in many hours of hard work each year to keep this special site so beautiful. It really is gratifying to see how many visitors to our village stop to take photos and gasp in awe at the lovely views from a number of vantage points. A particular thank you must go to Tom Stephenson, whose commitment and knowledge are unparalleled, although he would be the first to recognise the other management team members and volunteers who all help to keep the site in good condition and show it off to visitors.

The Friends were pleased to provide a ploughman’s lunch for the Haymaking Team back in October as well as mince pies for the December working party, to thank them for their efforts. Our focus now is securing funds to purchase a ride-on mower for the Management team so that the maintenance of the meadow can be easier and less manually intensive. So, here’s how you can help!

### Social and Fund-Raising Evening on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Tickets now on sale!

As you must know by now, our main fund-raising and social event will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025** from 7.00pm in the Ewelme Village Hall. We have taken on board feedback from this year’s event and will be ensuring there is more time for circulation and socialising before the more “formal” activities of the evening. The theme of the evening will be the **Wildlife of the Watercress Beds** with a display of photographs for you to enjoy. As before, there will be a hot supper, a fun table-top quiz and live music from our very own local jazz trio, Tom, Tania and Ronkey! Tickets cost just £15 a head and include your annual membership fee! To book your place, please send payment to The Friends of Ewelme the Watercress Beds, Account Number 00900695, Sort Code 30-98-56. It would be very helpful if you could also send an email to [andreaipowell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andreaipowell@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm the number and names of your party.

*Wishing all our Friends a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year*

*Visit our new website – <https://ewelmewatercressfriends.com>*