



Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods

NEWSLETTER, Autumn/Winter 2019

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Dear Members,

Welcome to our latest newsletter in which you'll find details of our tasks through to next April, our proposed ecological surveys, the menu for our January social meal, changes to our Rangers, and we are very proud to announce that one of our members' hard work in the field of conservation has been recognized by the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

In September our Ranger Will Furze got married and we wish him every happiness for the future, but as you will see from the messages below we are saying goodbye to Will and hello again to Emma Keane who was our ranger before Will.

From Will - Now that I have started in my new role as the Stanmer Estate Ranger, I just wanted to write a few words of thanks to you all. I've really enjoyed being your Ranger for the past few years and whilst I wasn't able to make many of your workdays it was always a good morning when I could! I know you'll all be in good hands with Emma Keane as your new ranger as you all know her and having been your previous ranger she obviously knows the site well! Hopefully I'll still see some of you around, thanks and best wishes, Will

From Emma - With Will Furze now in post in his new role as the Stanmer Ranger, I am very pleased to be back working with The Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods as your Ranger. At the moment there are fewer of us in the team and so I may be around less than I would like to be, but of course I will do my best to assist where I can.

We started off with a great work day in October cutting and raking the butterfly bank. This work also involved digging out some of the larger, more persistent species such as Dock, Mugwort and Charlock Mustard, that would eventually crowd out the smaller wildflower species that are so important to our pollinators. A big thank you to everyone who came out and braved the rain. It's always good to see such enthusiasm from everyone!

I very much look forward to seeing everyone soon. Emma

Forthcoming Work Sessions

Scheduled tasks* start at 10:00 hrs, finish 13:00 hrs.	Meeting place, Green container just inside southern gates to Roedale Allotments, accessed off Golf Drive, Hollingdean	Details of this special event will be found later in the Newsletter
	2019	
Clear round shrubs in Hollingbury Park bays & prune North hedge & finish topping of Elm hedge along Ditchling Road	Saturday 7 December	
	2020	
Clear North Tennis & Sheep Lane glades, Bee Bank maintenance & pruning trees opposite, finish H.Park bays	Sunday 5 January	
New Year Meal	Thursday 16 January	Cleveland PH
New glade tree pruning & Hazel Coppicing, Snowdrop division & replanting	Saturday 1 February	
Burstead Wood paths & Butterfly glade clearance	Sunday 1 March	
Clear Forget-me-Not glade, install replacement bench for Snowdrop glade and remove hybrid Bluebells	Saturday 4 April	
* maybe subject to change		

New Year Meal

As the Cleveland Public House proved to be very popular last year we decided to book the venue again for Thursday, 16th January. We hope you will be able to join us as it is a good opportunity for everyone to come together. We will meet at 7:00 for our meal at 7:30. The Cleveland is offering a choice of either three courses for £20 or two courses for £17.50. They have tried to cater for everyone's needs but if you have any dietary concerns please let us know as soon as possible.

To help them plan please make your choices from the menu below and let Karen our Social Secretary know by Monday 6th January via email karenjanejohnston@hotmail.com, or if you don't have access to email please telephone Gill on 07719943237.

Menu

Starters

Smoked Beetroot & Horseradish Soup, Foccacia & Pickled Beetroot (VG)

South Downs Ham Hock, Mustard & Pickle Terrine & Sourdough

Hot Smoked Salmon Mousse, Pickled Radish & Croutons

Mains

Seared Flank Steak, Wild Mushrooms & Triple Cooked Chips

Poached Cod Fillet, Baby Vegetables & Crushed Potatoes

Wild Mushroom Ragyu, Penne Pasta & Crushed Hazelnuts (VG)

Desserts

Sticky Toffee & Date Pudding, Salted Caramel & Vanilla Ice Cream

Baked Apple & Pear Spiced Crumble & Hazelnut Ice Cream

Vegan Chocolate & Beetroot Brownie, Vanilla Gelato & Popcorn (VG)

PLEASE ASK TO SEE OUR FULL LIST OF ALLERGENS AND INFORM US OF ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND PLEASE BE AWARE WE WORK IN A KITCHEN WITH THE FOLLOWING FRESH INGREDIENTS AND CANNOT GAURANTEE THAT FOOD WILL BE COMPLETELY FREE OF NUTS, GLUTEN, FISH, EGGS, DAIRY, CELERY & SESAME

Ecological Surveys

Some sharp-eyed volunteers found an Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar on the Rosebay Willow Herb in Snowdrop Glade a few months ago which caused great excitement and got us wondering whether it was time to update our Species List for the woods. The Brighton and Hove Ranger Service had conducted a Phase 1 Ecology Survey with a Species List for us back in 2011, but the woodland has matured since then and the glades are more established. The Caterpillar was a sure sign that things had changed. A new Survey would not only tell us what we have in the area but could also help us tweak our 10-year Management Plan so that biodiversity in the woods is increased even further. With that in mind, we are organising for a Professional Extended Ecology Survey to be undertaken in April 2020. We are in the lucky position of having some "spare cash" thanks to the generous donations raised from Dr Geoff Mead's walks and Dr Matt Pope, who collected for us on his fantastic Hollingbury Hill Fort Archaeological walk, and this is a great way to use that money. We are looking forward to seeing what the survey shows and what recommendations are made and we will share the results with you all once we have them.



If you are interested, the 2011 Species List can be found here.

https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/downloads/cityparks/management_plans/Appendix_2_Species_list.pdf

A Bird Survey was also undertaken that year by the Sussex Ornithological Society and the results of that can be seen here.

https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/downloads/cityparks/management_plans/Appendix_4_Sussex_Ornithological_Society_Breeding_Bird_Survey.pdf

Since the last newsletter . . .

Our plea in the last newsletter did not fall on deaf ears and we were very pleased (*and relieved*) to welcome Jane Burton to the committee as Publicity Officer. Unfortunately we still have vacancies for producing the newsletter, and although Christine continues to look after our website we understand she would still like to step down. So, if there is anyone out there who feels they could help out in either of these roles, or would like more information before committing themselves then please approach anyone on the committee, or have a chat about it at the meal in January.

In our last newsletter we told you that Lesley, our Projects Officer, was due to have an operation in May, but unfortunately this was cancelled at the last minute. However, we can now report that Lesley had her operation in September and you will be pleased to hear that it was successful and she is making good progress.

It is now possible to use the path alongside the old barn again, but the temporary make shift barrier between the path and a deep drop down to the foundations of the barn still hasn't been replaced with the proposed boundary wall. However, the work converting the barn to a house is now progressing more quickly so hopefully the boundary wall will be built in the not too distant future. The northern boundary issue has now been settled and once that has been properly demarcated we should be able to carry out some planting to replace what was cut down by the barn owner.

Emma, our new Ranger alluded to the extra work session in October in her message: she and Sally Graham-Macleod and some of her team from the Wildflower group, as well as some of our volunteers, tackled the end of season cutting back of the butterfly/insect banks above the Hollingbury meadow. With the combination of their petrol driven brush cutters and our shears and slashers we managed to almost complete the clearing of the banks of the spent wildflowers and removing a lot of the invasive species giving the wildflowers a better chance next spring. *(Our members managed to finish this task in our regular work sessions.)*

Another joint venture this autumn was erecting the chestnut paling fence along the length of Hollingbury Rise West. As regulars will testify this southern boundary to the woods has long been used for the dumping of builders' and garden waste, and we always find a lot of empty bottles of alcohol too. To tackle this we decided to use some of our funds to purchase the fencing and began the task by clearing a way through behind the hedge line. We only managed to put in one fence post on that day, which sadly was then dug up and stolen. We decided we would have to tackle this task in one session and enlisted the help of Ranger Neil Doyle and his 'nomadic' Friday team, and we are pleased to report that the fence has now been erected. Hopefully this will deter people from trampling down the hedge and reduce the amount of illegal dumping. Thanks are due to Kirsty Sloman, one of our volunteers for arranging this, and to the brilliant efforts of the nomads!



And finally, but certainly not least, we are delighted to tell you that one of our members, Jamie Burston, was presented with the *David Streeter award for Natural History in Sussex* at the AGM of the Sussex Wildlife Trust in November. Many of you will know Jamie from our work sessions and how he has championed the cause of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly, amongst others species. With his help and guidance we have improved the woodland edge adjoining Hollingbury Park to benefit this butterfly and Jamie

sourced and helped plant two disease resistant elms by the recycling point. You may remember that last year photographers from all over Sussex descended on us to photograph the white-letter hairstreak on the thistles. Not only has Jamie enhanced the areas we look after but he has also carried out ecological surveys in other parts of Sussex: hunting for pin-head sized butterfly eggs requires patience, time and good eyesight. Congratulations Jamie we are pleased your work has been recognized with this award.

Contact details of your committee members for you information.

FHBW Committee

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