



Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods

NEWSLETTER, Spring 2019

www.fhbw.org.uk

info@fbw.org.uk

Dear Members,

We hope you enjoyed the lovely weather over Easter and have managed to take a walk through the woods: the blackthorn covered in its snow white beautiful spring blossom and the wonderful show of yellow cowslips on the bee and insect banks, and in the meadow above the reservoir are spectacular. Less conspicuous but none-the-less worth seeking out are the primroses, wood anemones, violets and lesser celandines. The wild daffodils and snowdrops are now sadly over, but the newly emerging fresh green leaves of the trees will once again make a shady canopy over the woodland floor so if it gets too hot this summer take a stroll along our meandering paths or rest awhile in one of the many glades.

The years of work in the woods, glades, woodland edges and hedges and on the bee and butterfly banks is really showing what can be achieved by our dedicated volunteers with increases in the biodiversity of our flora and fauna. Our work programme for the coming months is below and we hope you can join us. If you can't make the work sessions we also have our Annual General Meeting in May, when after the short formal part, you can learn how you can help hedgehogs in your garden, and in July we have organized a return visit to Tottington Woodlands for our Awayday.

Some of you may know that Lesley, our Project Officer, is due to have an operation so she will not be at the May work session. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back leading the work sessions in the very near future.

Two of our long-standing members, Barbara Pond and Geoffrey Mead, who have supported us for many years, were married on April 15th. We wish them every happiness and health and hope they enjoy the 'alpine garden' we gave them for many years to come.

And finally, don't forget to renew your membership - see last page.

Forthcoming Work Sessions

<i>Scheduled tasks * start at 10:00 hrs, finish 13:00 hrs.</i>	<i>Meeting place, Green container just inside southern gates to Roedale Allotments, accessed off Golf Drive, Hollingdean</i>	<i>Details of this special event will be found later in the Newsletter</i>
2019		
Clear Snowdrop & S. Tennis glades, remove Spanish/hybrid bluebells	Sunday 5 May	
Annual General Meeting 14:30 at the Brian Foster Environment Centre	Saturday 18 May	AGM
Weed north hedge, cut long grass around butterfly banks	Saturday 1 June	
Car share visit to Tottington Woods. N.B. no work session on Sunday 7 July	Saturday 6 July	Awayday
Clear Forget-me-Not glade & hazel coppices	Saturday 3 August	
Clear Snowdrop, Tennis & Sheep Lane glades, plus weed Bee Bank	Sunday 1 September	
HRW hedge maintenance & erect chestnut paling & clear Butterfly glade in Burstead Wood	Saturday 5 October	
* maybe subject to change		

Dear Friends,

This is a plea from the FHBW's committee for more members to come forward to help with the task of running the group.

Currently there are five of us on the committee, plus Jane Lyons & Kirsty Sloman helping with the social media and Christine Weiting currently maintaining the website, although she would like to step down:

Peter Jarman - Chair

Gill Taylor – Secretary

Jill Spedding – Treasurer and Membership

Lesley Brown – Projects Officer

Karen Johnston – Social Secretary

Although we are not a big group and we're not involved in large projects the general administration necessary to any group still needs to be done. Besides current committee members doubling up on roles we do have a few kind members who are helping to

keep things ticking over on a temporary basis, but we are desperately in need of people to fill the roles of:

Website manager

Publicity

Newsletter

The Committee meets four times a year but if you are someone who is not keen on attending meetings that isn't a problem. Although we would be very happy should you choose to come to some or all of our meetings, **none of these roles requires attendance at committee or workdays**. However, as all these roles cover "publicity" it would be helpful if the role holders could interact with each other and Jane and Kirsty.

Website manager

Our small 4-page web site is updated at least once a month after the monthly work session. The pages are amended using Microsoft Word which displays exactly as the pages will look online. Small edits directly into the HTML code can be done using Notepad. Updated web pages and images are uploaded onto the Fasthosts web server via a password-protected web site. Alternatively if someone was keen they could look into using a free website builder such as Wix.com which I understand makes editing easier.

The role requires familiarity with desktop tools and web browsing, and does require a bit of troubleshooting when something goes wrong. What's needed is someone who would enjoy keeping the information up to date, possibly creating copy for the site, capturing / selecting good images, and making the site attractive.

Publicity

This role involves creating and distributing posters and fliers for one off events, such as our AGM, and distributing our main leaflet.

Our main FHBW leaflet is distributed in the boxes at the various entrances to the woods and in local outlets, like the shops at Fiveways. The leaflet is currently in the process of a major update which means that anyone taking over this role shouldn't need to do this piece of work for several years, fingers crossed!

There is also scope to write articles for local magazines, residents newsletters and press releases all aimed at keeping residents aware of who we are, what we're doing and why. These can be done just a couple of times a year or more often if the person wishes and has the time.

Newsletter

This is produced twice a year and was previously undertaken by a retired committee member. It involves collating the copy, mostly provided by others and putting it into a newsletter type format.

Finally:-

Whilst we don't want to be accused of spreading alarm we do need volunteers to do this work as currently the Committee is finding it difficult to keep up with the workload around **Publicity**. If these posts can't be filled this year the Committee feels that there is a serious risk that the group will become unsustainable at some point in the near future so please consider if you have some time and skills to give to our group.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will start at 14:30 and again be held in the Brian Foster Environment Centre on the Dorothy Stringer school campus, accessed from Stringer Way. (If you need more directions either email us or call our secretary on 07719943237) We try to keep the formal business short and to this end we have included the Chairman's report, the Accounts and the draft minutes of the 2018 AGM at the end of this newsletter. This is your opportunity to question the committee or raise any queries. The current committee all offer themselves for re-election, but as mentioned above we urgently need more administrative support. If you would like to put yourself forward or want to nominate somebody to serve on the committee, or can help out on an informal basis, please email the secretary direct (gtwizardy2k@hotmail.com).

We do hope you will be able to attend as after the formal business we will have the usual homemade refreshments followed by a talk, tips and information on hedgehogs from local community group HK Hedgehogs, whose mission is to reverse the decline of this once common mammal. Do come along and find out how you can help the hedgehogs in your area to thrive.

Awayday

We're pleased to offer an outing for members to woods near Henfield managed by the Tottington Woodlanders. The outing is arranged for Saturday July 6th from 10:30 to 12.30. Malcolm Knight, the group's chair will lead a walk around their 13 acre woodland which will take approximately 2 hours. Malcolm is an experienced guide and is enthusiastic to share his knowledge of woodland management including techniques in coppicing. As it's not easy to get there by public transport we will be organising car shares so if you intend to drive please let the

committee know. Once we know how many people want to come we can arrange lifts. Parking at the entrance to the woodlands is restricted to 4/5 cars. It maybe possible to use the local pub 's car park if some of us have a drink or lunch there afterwards. Details can be firmed up nearer the time. Please let us know if you want to come by the June work session.

Flint barn update.

Since our last newsletter we understand that revised plans have been submitted for its change of use to a dwelling. We have raised concerns about the design but more importantly for us the new owner seems to be extending his boundary into the woods to the north and has now dug up the public footpath to the west side in order to install drainage. Following pressure from our group the Council has now temporarily closed this section of footpath because of the danger of the adjacent deep trench: we will be keeping a close eye on this to make sure the path is properly reinstated. Retrospectively the Council is also trying to rectify the limits of the northern boundary by offering to sell to the barn owner the parcel of woodland that he cleared without permission. On closer inspection the heart wood of the tree that the owner felled on this piece of land was decaying, but it should not have been carried out when he did not own the land.

Since the last newsletter

A good number enjoyed our annual meal at The Cleveland in January and our volunteers have continued to help us maintain the glades and woodland edges to keep them open to encourage a greater diversity of plants; this should in turn attract more insects and we hope to see a return of the white-letter hairstreak butterflies on the thistles this summer. The gorse we planted in Burstead woods is doing well on the clayey cap on the top of the hill and we have almost completed the pruning of the elm suckers to form a hedge bordering the Ditchling Road. In our March work session we discovered a huge amount of rubbish, builders' and garden waste on the lower north facing slope of Burstead wood which was too much for us to tackle on our own. We therefore arranged with the Council's Tidy-up Team a joint event to carry out a dedicated litter clearance with them as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean event. The weather was glorious on the 17th April and with four of our members and six of the Tidy-up Team volunteers we set about clearing the area of the accumulated rubbish and completely filled the back of Ranger, Garry Meyer's truck.

Unfortunately the sofa dumped in the top part of the woods was just too big for us to handle so we've had to leave that to the Rangers and City clean to sort out. All-in-all the event was very successful. If you want to get your own kit to go litter picking you can contact Gary of the Tidy-Up Team garry.meyer@brighton-hove.gov.uk and sign up for one of the training sessions.

FHBW Committee

Chairman: Peter Jarman (01273 541206), peterjarm@sky.com

Secretary: Gill Taylor (07719 943237), gtwizardy2k@hotmail.com

Treasurer / Membership Jill Spedding jill.spedding@btinternet.com

Project officer: Lesley Brown (01273 707289), lesleyannebrown@virginmedia.com

Social Secretary: Karen Johnston [:karenjanejohnston@hotmail.com](mailto:karenjanejohnston@hotmail.com)

Publicity: Vacant

Newsletter: Vacant

Outreach/Education: Vacant

Papers for the Annual General Meeting 18th May 2019 14:30 Brian Foster Environment Centre Dorothy Stringer school campus, Stringer Way (accessed via Draxmont Way off Surrenden Road)

Chairman's Report

Another year has passed, our 28th year. It is also our first year with our new HQ, a mobile container situated inside the Roedale Allotments. The Flint Barn was vacated in May and is now being developed into a dwelling accommodation.

Again I have to report our failure to recruit any new member to serve on the committee. This is now critical, see the separate report in this newsletter. We are represented in 67 households with over 80 members and no one appears to wish to get involved.

Looking back on the year, we had our away day visiting Benfield Open Day taking part on a wild flower identification tour, but only 2 committee members attended. We were entered into the Britain in Bloom competition by B&H Council, which involved us in conducting a tour around the whole of Hollingbury Wood with the competition judge. The result was the award of the silver gilt medal. We also had our picnic in the park, not so well attended and our annual dinner, well attended.

Our work days continue each month, some well attended others not so good especially when the weather is bad. However we can still claim that we have never cancelled our working in all of the 28 years.

Peter Jarman, Chairman

Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods

Accounts for the year 27th March 2018 to 26th March 2019

	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions (including top-up donations)	482.00	548.00
Donations not related to subscriptions	320.10	325.00
Other income	13.90	37.55
Total income	<u>£816.00</u>	<u>£910.55</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Tools and Plants	6.00	26.00
Postage and Printing	73.15	67.60
Publicity and Web	0.00	139.41
AGM and meetings	8.53	18.95
General Admin	4.66	23.40
Other	91.97	10.00
Total expenditure	<u>£184.31</u>	<u>£285.36</u>
Surplus or (deficit) in year	631.69	625.19
<u>Adjustments</u>		
Bank Balance b/fwd at 26 th March	1,580.82	955.63
Surplus or (deficit) as above	631.69	625.19
Balance at 26th March	<u><u>£2,212.51</u></u>	<u><u>£1,580.82</u></u>

Accounts prepared:

Accounts inspected:

Jill Spedding, Hon. Treasurer
Date: 17th April 2019

As yet unchecked

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2018
at the Brian Foster Environment Centre, Stringer Way at 2:30pm**

1. Present: 15 including committee members. Apologies Jean Belgrave, Michael Hickman, John Higgs, Geoff Mead, Barbara Pond, Brenda Pollack, Chris Todd.
2. Chairman's opening remarks (summarised): Peter Jarman welcomed everyone to the 2018 Annual General Meeting and recounted some of the achievements of the group during the past year. He highlighted that since our success in getting the main footpaths through Hollingbury Woods designated as Rights of Way the Council has taken responsibility for their maintenance, and we now have properly repaired steps on the southern slopes leading down to Hollingbury Rise West. (The Officers' Reports had already been circulated with the Newsletter so these were not read out.)
3. Matters arising. There were none and the draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved.
4. Project Officer's report (summarised): Lesley Brown began by expressing the sense of sadness of many in our group as we gathered at the barn for the last time. A last ditch attempt to get the barn registered as a community asset was being explored but the auction sale is expected to proceed. The number of volunteers varied through the year but averaged out at 15 enabling us to maintain our level of work in the woods. The new path through the National Park coppice was being well-used, the two new disease resistant elms had successfully established and work on the elm hedge bordering Ditchling Road had been started. The butterfly/insect banks at the top of the meadow were doing extremely well with bettany and common gromwell seen and a silver-washed fritillary butterfly was also spotted. The wood anemones in the hazel coppice had begun to self-seed and the HRW hedge was flourishing providing a good supply of berries for the birds in winter. Unfortunately fly tipping was still prevalent in this area and garden waste was still an issue in Burstead wood, especially along the perimeter fence backing onto the houses. The Rights of Way officer now has the budget to maintain the public footpaths. Lesley thanked Kirsty and Ross for their help in getting the tools ready for the work sessions, and also thanked Jill for agreeing to take on the role of Treasurer. Some of our more elderly members featured in a community project with their photographs being seen on Brighton railway station and at a cafe in Hove. The Rangers have nominated us for a Britain in Bloom award in the large conservation category, and we passed our health & safety spot check in February.
5. Questions relating to the Reports and Accounts, or any other business: Christine asked where the new elms were - answer - in front of the recycling bins. Christine also asked Adrian, our outgoing Treasurer,

about the large amount of money the group has - Adrian replied that we may incur considerable expenses in the move from the barn and highlighted the generous donations made by Geoff Mead and an elderly lady who sends us a large amount every year on top of her subscription. Peter queried the miscellaneous item on the accounts - answer - £10 subscription to the South Downs Society, and the £2,182.88 for the previous year was confirmed as expenses for the noticeboards.

6. Election of Officers: The committee was re-elected with the exception of Adrian Peasgood who was retiring from the committee. Peter Jarman thanked Adrian for the work he has done as Treasurer and membership secretary and the considerable amount of other work he has done over the last 14 plus years: he led the fight against housing on Hollingbury Park, he dealt with the incoming emails, applied for grants, looked after the archives, and to keep members informed he set up and produced the biannual newsletter. Adrian was presented with a painting of the old flint barn which was done by our talented member Kirsty Sloman. Peter put out a plea for offers of help with publicity and the newsletter stating that this did not require one to serve on the committee. Peter said he would be taking on the incoming emails and Jill was taking over from Adrian as treasurer and membership secretary. The officers' roles will be formally confirmed at the first committee meeting following the AGM.
7. Notices/AOB. Peter asked for offers of help with the move from the barn to the container on the allotment when the date was known. Jill explained the circumstances behind the move from the barn and that Amos at the allotments was looking forward to seeing us there. Adrian pointed out that some groups, e.g. Benfield don't have any storage. Peter said he had tried to point out to the Council the unsuitability of the barn as a dwelling and how the adjacent cottage occupiers had not been consulted. Details of forthcoming events had been included in the spring newsletter so were not read out, but we brought to the attention of those present that there are government proposals to remove reference to Local Wildlife Sites, and hence their protection, out of the National Planning Policy Guidelines.
8. There followed a break for refreshments with homemade cakes. We then took our seats to hear about the history of our group and area including the formation of the steering committee that led to the setting up of our group, the trials and tribulations of the first work sessions, our first major project which was the planting of the Triangle copse on November 1st 1992, the charcoal burning in Snowdrop glade, the planting of the hedges etc. The committee also explained about their own backgrounds and how they became involved with the group. It was an enjoyable reminiscence and brought back many memories.
9. We thanked Rob Sandercock for the use of the Brian Foster Centre, and everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 16:30.

Membership Renewal Form

Annual Membership Rate	Amount	Cheque/ Transfer
Household - £5.00		
Individual - £3.00		
Donation - optional		
Total		

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods and enclose an SAE if you require a receipt. Please send your form and payment to:

Jill Spedding
3 Greenfield Crescent
Brighton BN1 8HL

If you wish pay by bank transfer the details are as follows but please complete the form electronically and send to me jill.spedding@btinternet.com or post it as above.

Bank Sort Code: 40-14-01
Bank Account Number: 51163264

I hope to attend some of the usual monthly work sessions	
I may be available for extra work sessions on other weekends	
I may be available for extra work sessions on weekdays	

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we confirm that we will not pass your information to anyone outside of the FHBW committee. This information is kept for as long as you are a member of FHBW and for a period of 6 months after your membership lapses in order that we can contact you about renewal.

Please confirm your present address, telephone number and/or email address as we are required to make sure that our data is accurate and up to date.

You have the legal right to see what personal information we hold about you. If at any point you believe that this information is incorrect, you can ask to have it corrected or deleted.

I consent to FHBW contacting me in the following way(s):

	Please fill in the contact details for the way(s) you would like us to communicate with you:
Member (s) names	
By post to	
By email	
By phone	