



Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods

NEWSLETTER, Spring 2017

www.fhbw.org.uk

info@fbw.org.uk

Programme (in ordinary type: monthly work sessions, starting 10 am at the barn next to Upper Roedale Cottages; **in bold type: details later in the Newsletter**)

- Sunday 7 May Clear Snowdrop and South Tennis glades.
Bench installation (tbc)
Clear Sheep Lane glade and weed Bee Bank
- Saturday 20 May AGM, with speaker Chris Sandom, on ‘Rewilding Sussex
and beyond, what would it mean?’**
- Sunday 28 May Wild flower identification walk**
- Saturday 3 June Weed North hedge
Eradicate hybrid bluebells from New glade
- Sunday 2 July (short session) Clear Hollingbury Park bays
Sunday 2 July Picnic
- Wednesday 12 July Guided walk with medical herbalist**
- Sunday 23 July Awayday to Knepp**
- Saturday 5 August Clear Forget-me-not glade and both hazel coppices
- Sunday 3 September Clear Butterfly banks
Clear Snowdrop and South Tennis glades
- Saturday 7 October Prune and weed Hollingbury Rise West hedge
Burstead Wood path and litter clearance
Butterfly glade clearance
Pioneer House perimeter trees after care
Wild daffodil planting
- Sunday 5 November Prune and weed North hedge
Clear Butterfly banks
Clear North Tennis glade

Saturday 20 May AGM, 2.30 pm

The annual general meeting of the Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods will be held at 2.30 pm on Saturday 20 May, in the usual venue, the Brian Foster Environment Centre, Dorothy Stringer School, Stringer Way. The formal business session will be followed by refreshments, with the customary home-made cakes. Then, at approximately 3.00 pm, Chris Sandom will speak on 'Re-wilding Sussex and beyond, what would it mean?'

The FHBW Committee. With effect from this AGM Brenda Pollack will be leaving the Committee. The other present members of the Committee - Peter Jarman, Gill Taylor, Adrian Peasgood, Lesley Brown, Karen Johnston (co-opted during the past year) - offer themselves for re-election en bloc. We very much hope that a replacement for Brenda will be forthcoming, either before or at the AGM: nominations (with a note of consent from the nominee) or self-nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Gill Taylor, before the AGM, or announced at the AGM. A note from Chairman Peter Jarman is later in this Newsletter.

Please note that some papers for the AGM are printed at the end of this Newsletter. They will not be available on the day, but there will be an opportunity for questions or comments. Our main activities during 2016/2017 will be reported orally by Lesley Brown, Projects Officer.

Sunday 28 May Wild flower identification walk, 10 am

Meet at the barn. This will be a relaxed opportunity to learn the names of some of the wildflowers we see in Hollingbury Woods and on the Bee Bank in Hollingbury Park. There will be a selection of wildflower ID books available as well as some knowledgeable members of the group to help.

Please bring a drink and snack for yourself, and also a camera or drawing/painting things if you would like to make images.

Jane Lyons

Sunday 2 July Picnic, 1 pm

We plan to hold another shared picnic (weather dependent) following a short work session on this date. Friends of FHBW members are welcome.

The aim will be to start the picnic about 1pm giving us time to set things up. The picnic will be a short distance from Upper Roedale Cottages and the barn, on the large expanse of grass above the tennis courts. So aim to meet at 1pm at the barn, bringing rugs and anything else to make yourselves comfortable, notably refreshments! We will provide some chairs and a table or two to put things on, plus plates and cutlery,

It's nice to bring different food and drinks to share with one another so if you can let Karen know what you plan to bring please email her at:
karenjanejohnston@hotmail.com.

If you're coming to the work session you can leave food (in covered containers) in the barn where the tools are kept. Members who cannot help at the work session are warmly invited to come just for the picnic.

To summarise: **Meet:** 1pm

At: the barn next to Upper Roedale Cottages

Bring: some food and drinks to share, and rugs or chairs

Karen Johnston

Wednesday 12 July Guided walk with medical herbalist

Details to follow by email. If you do not have email, and would like the details, please let Adrian Peasgood know and he will send them by post.

Sunday 23 July Awayday to Knepp, 10 am

FHBW last visited the Knepp estate, famed for its re-wilding policies, in July 2011, when we sat in a trailer which hauled us around the grounds. This year FHBW member Geoffrey Mead will lead a walk through parts of the estate; the following note is mostly by Geoffrey:

Knepp Castle estate lies out in the West Sussex Low Weald, an area of gently rolling clay land pasture, copses, hedges and small woodlands. After many centuries of agricultural development the estate adopted a policy of 'Re-wilding'; the withdrawal of prevailing agricultural practices in favour of a lightly managed 'eco-landscape'. Other than high external boundary fences, the internal divisions are the prior hedge-lines minus gates and barriers. Re-introduced livestock such as Long Horn English cattle and Tamworth pigs roam freely, opening up woodlands and rootling the soil surface, acting as herbivores did centuries or more ago. Wildlife has proliferated, especially varieties of deer, and the estate has 2% of the UK's nightingales, and is a breeding hotspot for purple emperor butterflies and turtle doves. Culled stock is sold at premium prices at farmers markets and on-line. There is a price to pay! There is local opposition to this 'vanity farming' and the abandonment of long improved pastures to 'tumble-down' grasses and thickets. However, the policy is justified as being environmentally friendly and a useful educational tool, pointing the way to new ways of using marginal landscape.

On this Awayday we will explore on foot a section of this clay landscape [you have been warned: it will be muddy if there has been recent rain!], a delightfully quiet area, with ancient 'Green Lanes', vernacular farm buildings, meandering streams and wildlife galore!"

If you expect to come on this visit, please let Lesley Brown know as long in advance as possible (01273 707289; lesleyannbrown@yahoo.co.uk), indicating whether you will be needing, or can offer, transport.

General news

The hazels in New Glade planted eight years ago have been coppiced for the first time. This long-established aspect of woodland management is useful for the production of poles, and increasing the diversity of habitats. It will in future happen

every seven or eight years, but it is unlikely that – as happened this year – some of the cuttings will be taken to be used as scenery by a local dramatic company!

Much work has been done to get as many as possible of the paths in the woods recognised formally by the Council.

There was considerable concern during the autumn about the Council's announced intention to require us to give up use of the barn which has been our base since we were established. A container of suitable size was promised as a replacement, and a site – at the south entrance to the allotments – was agreed by all who needed to do so. However, despite an impression at the time that matters were pressing, nothing further has happened since before Christmas.

The fine elm benchtop in Snowdrop Glade, donated by a volunteer, has been unscrewed and removed. This must have been a deliberate theft rather than casual vandalism, and is much regretted.

The FHBW Committee: a note from the Chairman

Two members of the Committee elected at the last AGM subsequently stood down, following Judith Richardson who had not sought re-election. The year's notice given by Publicity Officer Brenda Pollack at the last AGM is now about to expire; Treasurer Adrian Peasgood will be leaving after the 2018 AGM.

Karen Johnston has been co-opted to take over the responsibilities originally carried out by Judith Richardson. We have recruited a potential successor to take over the Treasurer's role from Adrian.

However, we have not managed to fill the role of Publicity Officer, even though we have been trying for over 12 months. We could continue to operate without filling this role, but a successful future for the group will be severely challenged without adequate communications. Membership is likely to reduce without new members replacing retiring members if there is no one "banging the drum", for instance by writing articles for local publications, or updating the contents of the new leaflet dispensers. If someone reading this report feels they would be able to assist with publicity activities such as these (or indeed any others!) please get in touch with any of our committee members. If you do not have any experience in this field, but would nonetheless like to join the committee, please also contact us since we have other roles that you may be able to assist in filling.

Thanks in anticipation.

Peter Jarman

Subscriptions for 2017-2018. This is the month when we ask members to renew their membership by completing the enclosed membership renewal form and returning it with a cheque to the Treasurer at the address given. The subscription remains at £3 per individual, £5 per household; these low rates can be maintained only because some members add a voluntary donation to the basic charge, and we welcome this expression of support.

Please note that the renewal form permits members to note if they may be available for an occasional extra work session; such extra sessions are usually scheduled for a weekday, though additional weekend days are occasionally needed. (Calls for extra help are not frequent – perhaps two or three a year.) **Please, if relevant do note your possible availability.** We of course understand that on any particular occasion you may be unable to help.

It's not on the renewal form, but we would very much like to know which members are *currently* qualified as First Aiders, so **please add a note about that if it's applicable.** We need first aid cover on workdays, including any special extra days, and it would be good to know whom to approach if we might otherwise be without cover on a particular day.

AGM PAPERS

Chairman's Report, 2016/2017

Another year has passed and we again approach our AGM. At our last year's AGM we had a good attendance to deal with the group's business and listen to Heather McNiven speaking on "Bees in my garden".

We have had changes to our committee in that Fraser Mc Farlane volunteered to join the committee but later resigned without attending any meetings, also Steven Kisko stood down. Both members were concerned about activities both carried out by the group and separate activities which we have no control upon. This AGM will mark the resignation of Brenda Pollack who gave us notice of this intention more than 12 months ago, also we have been given notice by Adrian Peasgood that he will stand down as Treasurer after the 2018 AGM. On the positive side, we co-opted Karen Johnston who has taken over the duties of Social Secretary and she organised our annual dinner in January; we have also secured a volunteer who will eventually succeed our Treasurer.

There was no Away Day trip this year partly due to the committee problems above. However, we organised a group picnic instead which was very successful and was visited by the Mayor and Mayoress. We intend to repeat the picnic event this year in addition to the away day visit to Knepp Estate, where we will be led by Geoff Mead. I reported, last year, about the dedication of footpaths and bridleways in our managed areas. These paths have now completed their formation procedures and have been added to the Definitive Map and have been allocated designation references. We anticipate finger posts being erected in the near future where the paths join Highways. Finally I wish to thank all committee members both present and past for their service

Peter Jarman

Accounts

FRIENDS OF HOLLINGBURY & BURSTEAD WOODS – ACCOUNTS 2016/2017		
A. SUMMARY	2016/2017	2015/2016
<i>Balance brought forward</i>	2196.39	1657.93
Total income – for details, see section B	942.12	787.87
Total expenditure – for details, see section C	(2182.88)	(249.41)
<i>Balance carried forward</i>	955.63	2196.39
B. INCOME		
Subscriptions (including top-up donations)	530.00	521.00
Donations not related to subscriptions	390.00	224.00
Grant	0.00	0.00
Sales, etc., including net profit from competitions	22.12	25.87
Other	0.00	17.00
<i>Total income</i>	942.12	787.87
C. EXPENDITURE		
Administration: refreshments, photocopying, etc.	90.00	117.85
Tools/materials: trees, tools, supplies	198.88	71.56
Training: first aid x 2	300.00	50.00
Social / personal	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous: noticeboards, £1194; leaflet dispensers, £390; subscription, £10	1594.00	10.00
<i>Total expenditure</i>	2182.88	249.41

Accounts prepared:

Accounts inspected and found in
accordance with books and vouchers:

A. N. Peasgood, Hon. Treasurer

C. Horwill, Hon. Scrutineer

A dated copy, signed by the scrutineer, will be available at the AGM.

Publicity

The noticeboards have all been installed and we hope members like them. Brenda Adrian and Gill spent a lot of time getting these designed and produced. Five leaflet dispensers have been purchased and installed. (Many thanks to Jill, Kirsty and Will for their efforts at this - pictures on Facebook). A new smaller poster with session dates is being used in the dispensers.

We have secured a regular article in the Fiveways Directory, and Gill and Brenda have been sharing the writing of these. In September Gill wrote a review of FHBW's work year so far and in December covered the issue of ivy in the woods. Brenda wrote a piece about rewilding to promote the forthcoming AGM talk and outing in July. Preston Pages continues to offer us space if we want it, but Brenda has not had time to send in any items in the last few months. We also advertise our work session dates in Hollingdean News, a local residents' newsletter which is bi-monthly.

The AGM talk has been advertised by poster and on social media.

Jane Lyons and Kirsty Sloman have been managing the Facebook posts putting up pictures after work sessions and posting about forthcoming work dates. We also use the twitter account to promote work dates. The website continues to be managed by Christine Wieting for which we are very grateful.

Brenda is in the process of getting a "pop up" banner produced for the group. There is an extensive library of group photos which Brenda is happy for the group to use in future. She will be writing a Handover note to list all the key publicity contacts she has.

Brenda Pollack

FHBW Committee

Chairman: Peter Jarman (01273 541206), peterjarm@sky.com
Secretary: Gill Taylor (07719 943237), gtwizardy2k@hotmail.com
Treasurer / Membership / Newsletter: Adrian Peasgood (01273 508620), adrian@peasgood.plus.com
Projects: Lesley Brown (01273 707289), lesleyannbrown@yahoo.co.uk
Publicity: Brenda Pollack (01273 553044), pollack.brenda@yahoo.co.uk
Schools: Peter Jarman (01273 541206), peterjarm@sky.com
Social secretary: Karen Johnston

On Saturday 15 July there will be walks in Hollingbury Park and Woods, looking for the white letter hairstreak butterfly. The walks will be led by Jamie Burston of Butterfly Conservation and are not FHBW events, but are likely to be of interest to some members. For details of these, and other Butterfly Conservation events, please go to <http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/events/#16> & <http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/events/#15>

