



FOLKtalk

Issue 58
Autumn 2018

Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common

Conserving and improving the Hill for you

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STALWARTS REMEMBERED AT THE WHEATSHEAF

On Sunday September 30th, in bright sunshine with a hint of an autumn breeze, a plaque to commemorate the so called Leckhampton Stalwarts was unveiled by Neela Mann at The Wheatsheaf in Old Bath Road. A gathering of more than 50 people heard Neela, a local history expert



and a FOLK member, pay tribute to Walter Ballinger and the other Stalwarts, who were imprisoned in 1906 as a result of their action to secure public access to the Hill. The Wheatsheaf was the headquarters for the Stalwarts and so it is fitting that the new plaque will be a permanent reminder of the sacrifice they made so that future generations could continue to enjoy the Hill.

The Leckhampton Local History Society organised the event with their members being half of the gathering. FOLK was well represented. Martin Horwood, Leckhampton ward Borough Councillor and a supporter of FOLK was present. The current owner of the Dale Forty Piano company, Colin Crawford attended the unveiling. Colin is not related to Henry Dale, who bought the site in 1894 and was a protagonist in the drama, but he has an interest in the history.



Walkers along the Cotswold Way from Hartley Lane will be able to see another plaque dedicated to a Stalwart and more information on the battle for access is available on the FOLK website www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk/site-description/history. After the unveiling, welcome refreshments of tea and cake, generously provided by the Leckhampton Local History Society, were enjoyed by all in the skittle alley of The Wheatsheaf. A display board gave further information on the Stalwarts and their campaign.

Thanks to Sue Marlow, Eric Miller and the Local History Society for their invitation to the event.

FOLK AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 13th November** at a new venue: **The Wheatsheaf on Old Bath Road**. As ever, there is much to celebrate in the past year's work and the meeting will also provide an opportunity for the committee to share thoughts and hear views about the future. After the formal business has been completed we are very pleased to announce that there will be a talk by **Julian Bendle** from the **Back from the Brink** project.

WALTER BALLINGER: Stalwart and soldier

Walter Ballinger was one of the campaigners who fought strenuously for free access to Leckhampton Hill during the riots of 1902-1906. Their actions were provoked by local businessman Henry Dale who bought many acres of land on the hill from the Tryes family at Leckhampton Court in 1894. Within a few years Dale had built Tramway Cottage to block off one footpath and fenced off 26 acres of the northern slopes of hill running down to Daisybank Road. This incensed the public and 1902 saw the start of a vigorous and often violent struggle to win back centuries-old rights of access. This culminated in a particularly angry riot in 1906 when Tramway Cottage was torn down. Eight of the rioters, including Ballinger, were jailed for their actions and were subsequently dubbed The Stalwarts.



Two stages in the demolition of Tramway Cottage, 15 July 1902. On seeing the mob approach, the quarry foreman and his family fled. The house was ransacked and the building razed to the ground. In 1906 Dale rebuilt the house on the same spot, and on Good Friday 1906 an angry crowd repeated the destruction of fences and cottage. G.B. Wilts read the Riot Act and in due course eight men were tried at Gloucester Assizes.

Despite his active involvement in the Leckhampton Hill Riots, Walter Ballinger was no simple troublemaker. He was a skilled tradesman, a brave soldier and a man always ready to take up the struggle for what he believed to be right. His contribution to both the Leckhampton Hill campaign and the First World War was recently included in the splendid

publication **“Cheltenham in the Great War”** by **Neela Mann**. Neela kindly gave permission for this article to be included in FOLKtalk and recently led the unveiling of the plaque at The Wheatsheaf which commemorates the Stalwarts. An edited version of her account of Walter’s story appears below.

“Ballinger was one of the rioters known as the ‘Leckhampton Stalwarts’ jailed for their actions for defending rights of way over Leckhampton Hill. Henry Dale of Leckhampton Quarries and Dale, Forty Pianos in the Promenade, had fenced off the paths on the hill. The case went to court but the Stalwarts lost their case. Known as ‘Pooser’ and ‘The King of the

Common', Ballinger was a platelayer with the Railway Company. He volunteered for army service soon after war broke out.

In his army record he claims not to have been in prison and to be 38 years and eleven months. He was in fact, a few weeks off his forty-sixth birthday – not only the young lied about their age to enlist! Ballinger joined the 1st Gloucestershire Royal Engineer Volunteers. As he left Cheltenham with thirteen other volunteers in January 1915 he told an Echo reporter, 'I'm off to fight for what I'm not allowed walk over'.

He was sent to France to build new railways close up to the trenches, and to repair damaged bridges and rail lines. In July 1915, still clearly aggrieved at the enclosures and obstructions on Leckhampton Hill, he wrote that when he 'saw barbed wire entanglements he was reminded of the narrow paths with a wire fence either side to keep [the public] to the footpath'.

Walter Ballinger survived the war. He returned to live back in sight of his beloved hill and was present at the ceremony when the Council purchased the hill and declared it officially open to the public in September 1929."

CHELTENHAM REMEMBERS

As this edition goes out, we approach the centenary of the end of World War One. The story of Walter Ballinger reminds us all of the courage and sacrifice



made by so many over the last hundred years and it is only right that we continue to remember those who gave their lives.

In this centenary year there will be a wide range of special memorial events across Cheltenham, including a march by 1,290 people, each representing one name on Cheltenham's war memorial. This will take place between Pittville and Montpellier on 10th November.

Full details of these events can be found at

<https://cheltenhamremembers.org.uk/>

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF LECKHAMPTON HILL: how much has changed and why?

The conservation and management of the wildlife on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common lies at the very heart of what FOLK does. So we were interested to hear that local historian Eric Miller has unearthed a short survey of the local flora and fauna conducted some sixty years ago. In their 1957 history of the village, the Leckhampton Women's Institute included an article on the local flora and fauna. Now Eric Miller is preparing an entry for the next edition of the Local History Society Research Bulletin which draws attention to this survey and also poses some interesting questions about what may have changed in the intervening years and why. What is clear, though, is that sixty years on things are very different, and our chairman, John Harvey, provides a fascinating insight into some of the reasons why these changes may have occurred.

In a later edition of FOLKtalk we hope to shed more light on the current state of the flora and fauna of the Hill.

If you know anything about the current situation for any of the species found by the WI in 1957 please let us know. Contact details on back page.

We begin with some abridged extracts from the 1957 WI survey, followed by a summary of John Harvey's analysis. The full text of both articles will appear on the FOLK website.

The Flora and Fauna of Leckhampton Hill (WI, 1957)



Bee orchid

The most notable wild flowers of Leckhampton are members of the Orchid family [a genus of the orchid family], to be found on the hill and in some of the meadows. The Bee, Fly, Green-winged, Twayblade, Musk, Fragrant, Pyramid and Spotted Orchid can all be found.

An interesting plant that grows in many of the fields is the Adder's Tongue Fern. A very rare plant is another fern,

Moonwort. It has been recorded from the hillside field between Leckhampton Court and the disused reservoir.



Viper's Bugloss

The hill top in late summer is gay with purple Thyme, yellow St John's Wort, the brilliant blue of Viper's Bugloss, the salmon pink of Centaury, the yellow Rock Rose and many other plants well adapted to flourish on dry exposed places. The autumn flowers on the hill include the dwarf yellow Carline Thistle, Perfoliate Yellow-wort and the Clematis Vitalba (Old Man's Beard).

A plant that now appears to be extinct in the district is the delightful little Bog Pimpernel with delicate pink flowers. Until house-building encroached this flourished in a patch of bog land just below the reservoir intake-spring on the side of the hill.

Alder trees grow by the stream that flows through the lower Bittams Wood. Up to about 1912 these were visited from time to time by woodmen who cut the orange-coloured timber and fashioned it into clogs while camping by the water side. Alder wood is notable for its water-resisting properties and apart from clog-making is also used for the construction of taps for beer barrels.

A plant of the Lily family, Herb-Paris (Paris quadrifolia) that is little known and rare in most parts of England grows in the lower Bittams Wood. Its yellowish-green flower develops on a long stem in the midst of a rosette of four green leaves.

On the hill, large Roman Snails are often to be found. They favour a wet summer evening for feeding. Winter is spent in hibernation with the shell opening securely sealed over.



Roman Snail

At one time rabbits were very common in and around Leckhampton but in recent years, following the outbreak of myxomatosis, most of them have perished. They are returning, a strong colony has been formed in the rocks of the old quarry workings near the top of the hill. Hares, foxes and badgers have all been seen.”

Why may the changes have occurred? (JH, 2018)

Inevitably much has changed around Leckhampton in the 60 years since the Women’s Institute produced its history, not least the massive further encroachment of house building. Fortunately, there had been no building on the Hill, but there have been many changes there. For example, in the 1950s there was a large area of limestone grassland, stretching uphill from Bridge Car Park to the base of the quarry cliffs. Until the early 1950s this area would probably have been grazed short by Rabbits. Hardly any of this grassland still survives. Most of the seven species listed in the WI report as occurring on the



Circa 1960



Circa 2010

oolitic limestone on the upper parts of the Hill might well have been abundant in this area. They could also have been frequent on the steep slope above Hartley Lane, with others occupying the plateau area in which the Hill Fort sits. These last two areas are the only locations in which these species are now likely to be found on the Hill, although the number of plants must be lower than in 1957 and some species may have been lost.

The main reason for these changes in the vegetation must be a massive increase in the extent of scrub and woodland. In large part this has been due to the disappearance of rabbits and the lack of grazing by other animals, but humans have also been responsible.

Rabbits had major impacts on many of our semi-natural lowland grasslands for hundreds of years before the 1950s. They could be present in very large numbers, with burrows being very close together, and they feed on most herbaceous species of plant and most seedlings by nibbling very close to the ground. Rabbits also strip bark from most woody species, but established plants of species such as Gorse and Bramble can survive. This situation favours a group of short growing or ground hugging species of plant. It is these, along with species protected by spines or other defences, which became the characteristic species of chalk and limestone grassland over southern England when rabbits were common.

The arrival of Myxomatosis into the UK in 1953 changed all this, with the former estimated population of 60 to 100 million Rabbits being reduced by 99%. Rabbit numbers recovered to perhaps 30 million in 1995, but then Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease reduced the population once again. Numbers are now very low and local populations may disappear in some years. The most visible landscape effect of this has been the development of large areas of scrub composed of Hawthorn or Gorse, which is what has happened over parts of the Hill.

In the absence of Rabbits on the Common, the denser growth of grasses and the development of scrub would have cut off sunlight from low growing flowering plants. Gorse itself also mines mineral nutrients needed for plant growth and produces a deep layer of dead needles. All this would almost certainly have reduced the abundance of most such species, driving some to extinction. Many of these low growing species also have poor powers of dispersal, so are slow to recolonise areas from which they have been lost. This means that there are now large patches of grassland on the Common that have only a scattering of a limited number of species of flowering plants.



Yellow Rattle

The vegetation of the Harley Lane and plateau sites will have changed less than areas where there has been no planting of trees and there has been some positive management. The plateau area has been mown every one or two years, favouring flowering plants such as Yellow Rattle. The vegetation of the neighbouring Charlton Kings Common will have changed much less than that of the Hill since 1957. A much lower proportion of the grassland has been lost here. There are good populations of orchids and a wide range of the flowering plants characteristic of limestone soils. There are large populations of some of these species, although numbers can vary from year to year.

The abundance of Roman Snails observed in the 1950s was badly affected by the 2002 fire. Many Roman Snails were killed by the fire itself and numbers have been very slow to recover, but the species can now be regularly seen.

FOLK is committed to preserving and restoring this precious landscape and its work parties make huge efforts to support Cheltenham Borough Council, in particular by reducing scrub and woody vegetation in the hope of establishing a plant community similar in some respects to that previously present. FOLK has also worked hard to help manage the healthier areas of grassland and to support the redistribution of wildflower seeds from areas of the Hill less affected by recent changes.

FOLK WORK PARTY REPORT

At the end of the period covered by the last newsletter we were doing one of our less exciting jobs: pulling up Hemp Agrimony. Just for a change, we started



this period by pulling up Ragwort! There is now very little of this on the Hill and Common but we found that there was a lot in our new grazing fields, known as Hopkins Fields, which are off the East end of Charlton Kings Common. We had

Volunteers with bags full of Ragwort

to do a second work party here and still we didn't manage to clear it all. Of course, with Ragwort, we have to bag up the pulled plants and take them off the site so the cattle cannot be harmed by eating them.

Our next routine summer task was to set up a temporary paddock in Daisybank Fields so that the young cattle can be separated from their mothers.



Setting up the temporary paddock

Next we went up to the top of the Hill and gave the ancient Barrow, and what we call the Butterfly Motorway which is nearby, their summer haircut.



Trimming the Barrow and Butterfly Motorway

We also try to get up to the Limekiln ruins each year to cut back the annual growth. This year we had a bit more to do as a tree had come down and landed on the old plant house ruins. We managed to clear this out of the way. We also cut down a number of branches around the entrance to the limekilns' area to open up the view.



Clearing the fallen tree

One work party was spent clearing back a track just along from the limekilns that runs fairly steeply up to the top of the Hill. This had become rather overgrown and was blocking access along this route. It is now fully open again (but, sorry, I forgot to take a photo).

Our final task for this season was to start cutting down a bank of gorse at the top of the Windass track which stretches up onto the top of the Common. Our plan is to do a "rotational cut" on the large area of gorse above the Cotswold

Way path, i.e. we will cut it section by section over about 10 years so that we end up with a good mix of gorse bushes of different ages. We have started this process in an area where the gorse is rather old and leggy which is not a particularly good nature habitat, but it did burn well!



Cutting and burning gorse

As this is now the end of FOLK's business year it is time for some statistics. Over the year, 34 FOLK volunteers have spent 935 volunteer-hours on our work parties. We have had a maximum of 15 volunteers attend a work party, a minimum of 4 (but it was a wet day!) and an average of 8.5. Pretty good statistics. Thank you to all of our volunteers. Unfortunately I didn't keep count of how many pieces of cake we consumed during that time, but it was quite a few! I must say that we are all very grateful to the ladies who provided them. (Ladies! Why is it always the ladies? Come on you blokes. Surely some of you have baking skills you would like to show off. Why not surprise us next year??)

In addition to FOLK's own stalwart volunteers, we had a number of other groups help us out. This included workers from Kohler Mira, boys from the 24th Cheltenham Leckhampton Scouts and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. Many thanks also to them.

As always you, or anyone you know, are welcome to join us on any of our FOLK work parties. We are a friendly, mixed group of male and female volunteers. You can work at your own pace and take a break as and when you wish. We meet at 9.30am at Tramway Cottage Car Park, Daisybank Road, and are on the hill for approximately 3 hours. Tools are provided by FOLK. For your own safety we ask you to wear stout footwear and bring tough gardening gloves. We have

three FOLK work parties a month. Dates for the next 6 months are printed below.

For further information you can contact Geoff on 01242 244165 or you can look at the 'Work Party' page on our website (www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk) or send an email to folk.workparty@gmail.com.

Work party dates for Autumn & Winter 2018 to Spring 2019

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| October 2018 | Thursday 11 th | Tuesday 16 th | Sunday 28 th |
| November 2018 | Thursday 8 th | Tuesday 20 th | Sunday 25 th |
| December 2018 | Thursday 13 th | Tuesday 18 th | Sunday 23 rd |
| January 2019 | Thursday 10 th | Tuesday 15 th | Sunday 27 th |
| February 2019 | Thursday 14 th | Tuesday 19 th | Sunday 24 th |
| March 2019 | Thursday 14 th | Tuesday 19 th | Sunday 24 th |

THE WORD FROM WAYNE

Wayne Sedgwick Senior Ranger. Cheltenham Borough Council

Cotswold Wardens

The Cotswold Wardens continue to work in close cooperation with Cheltenham Borough Council and FOLK on projects designed to improve everyone's enjoyment of the Hill. A good start has been made on the new drystone wall being built along the stretch of the Cotswolds Way between Hartley Lane and the hill fort. As reported in the previous edition of FOLKtalk, this project is being undertaken and funded by the Cotswold Wardens as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. Already 10m of walling has been completed during training sessions which the Wardens are running to help sustain this vital countryside skill.

Another task supported by the Cotswold Wardens is a project to make the Hill more accessible to those using "trampers". These all-terrain mobility scooters are increasingly popular, but need the pedestrian gates to be wide enough to

let them pass. The Wardens have completed much of that work and this, in turn, has made it possible for another innovation: leaving some pedestrian



gates open to allow users of trampers or suitably robust wheelchairs to pass straight through. Opening the traditional spring-loaded catches on these gates from a wheelchair or tramper is cumbersome at best and often requires more force than can usually be exerted from a sitting position.

So Cheltenham Borough Council have recently approved a three-month trial in which seven gates on an otherwise accessible route will be locked open. This trial will start soon and we will keep you updated on progress.

On top of all this work, the Wardens are also supporting the efforts to make the Hill more readily accessible from the car parks. It is good that Bridge Car Park and the newly enlarged Daisybank Car Park offer such direct access to the Hill, but the lower reaches of the footpaths up from these car parks are both very steep and they can be quite treacherous underfoot in wet weather. So the Wardens will be involved in cutting new steps on these paths to make them safer and more appealing to walkers.

Cotswold Conservation Board

In a separate development, the Cotswold Conservation Board (CCB) is supporting two projects to improve important buildings on the Hill. The CCB is an independent statutory body that works to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), to increase understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities, and to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities. It was established in 2004 and is one of only two such Conservation Boards in the country, the other being the Chilterns. Like the Cotswold Wardens, the CCB organises training on a range of skills including applying lime mortar and lime render. Here students learn from experts but hone their new skills by completing practical tasks which directly benefit the local community. In our case this will mean projects to repair and lime render one of the large barns at Hill Farm, and to stabilise and re-point with lime mortar the stonework at Leckhampton's Limekilns.

Back from the Brink

The Back from the Brink project is one of the most ambitious conservation

projects ever undertaken. Its aim: to save 20 species from extinction and benefit over 200 more through 19 projects that span England; from the tip of Cornwall to Northumberland.

Here the project is prioritising seven locally endangered species and the current work aims to help adders. The first stage will be to conduct a survey of the adder population on the Hill. This will take place in the spring of 2019 and we will keep you posted on progress as the work continues.

Trees outside woods

In the last edition of FOLKtalk we told you about The Woodland Trust's proposal to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund in support of a nation-wide project to plant thousands of trees across the country. A consortium of local councils, voluntary groups and commercial organisations across Gloucestershire successfully applied to The Woodland Trust to be part of its bid – one of only seven successful area projects accepted by the Trust. The Heritage Lottery Fund is currently undertaking its initial scrutiny of the Trust's application for funding and it will be some time before the final outcome of the bid is known. It is, however, a great credit to our county that such a large, ambitious and credible project has passed the first hurdle. If the whole bid is successful, tens of thousands of trees will, over the next few years, be grown and planted right across Gloucestershire.

Progress with the management plan

All the week-by-week practical work undertaken by FOLK on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common contributes to an official management plan agreed by Natural England. This is renewed annually and a new plan for 2018-19 has just been agreed.

Much has been done in recent months. The **Dexter herd** which grazes the Hill continues to do well. The 14 cows which are in calf have been removed to quieter, more remote pastures and they are expected to calve before the end of the year. Ten cows have remained on the Hill and six yearlings are grazing in fields near Daisybank. The next major landscape project will be the improvement of a semi-open area just above Daisybank Road which is generally referred to as **Area 16**. Once heavily overgrown, this is being transformed into a large, pleasant open space with picnic facilities – all designed to help visitors of all ages to enjoy spending time on the Hill. Early October saw the next phase of this work in which a large group of FOLK

volunteers, Borough Council staff and Cotswold Wardens combined to finish the process of creating more grassland by clearing the ground of unwanted trees and vegetation. We also continue to process the images produced by the recent **drone survey**. The ultimate aim is to map the area we support by merging the data from the drone survey with existing mapping by Ordnance Survey to produce a comprehensive, multi-layered profile. This very technical process is progressing well; it takes both time and skill, but promises to offer a ground-breaking level of detail about a very special piece of our local and national landscape.

WHO PAINTED THE TRIG POINT?



When Geoff Holt and the work party were up on the top of Leckhampton Hill in August they were more than a little surprised to find that the trig point has had something of an artistic makeover. The colour scheme is certain to divide opinion, but FOLK would love to find out who did it. If you know, please contact us by email or facebook.

AERIAL PHOTOS



Few, if any of us, have seen Leckhampton Hill and the Devil's Chimney from this perspective and we are grateful to Chris Baish who sent us three pictures taken recently from his drone. Chris also sent a link to a marvellous three-minute aerial video which he shot at the same time. This

has been put together very skilfully and is well worth a look. All three photos and the video can be viewed by visiting the **What's New** section of the FOLK website or by using the link below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=swULOuQjdR0&t=74s

SMOKE SIGNALS

News from the Hill and Common and the wider conservation scene.

Butterflies at risk after heatwave

It's official. The Met Office has confirmed that the three month period June-August 2018 was the hottest ever recorded for England with an average temperature of 17.1°C. It was also one of the driest. Sadly, this is not good news for butterflies. Neither was the unusually cold and wet spring which we experienced. The 2015 report *The State of Britain's Butterflies*, based on a nationwide assessment by Butterfly Conservation, suggested that 70 percent of British butterflies were in decline. This summer is likely to put their numbers in further jeopardy, as was the case after the scorching summer of 1976. Put simply, in extremely hot dry weather two things happen, either of which is bad for butterflies. Firstly there may not be enough rainfall to keep the flowers which the butterflies visit topped up with nectar. Secondly the leaves on which newly hatched caterpillars feed are either insufficiently plump and moist or are

actually prematurely discarded by the plants and trees; either way caterpillars may starve. On top of this, the unusually cold and wet spring was very bad for early flying species such as the orange-tip.



Orange-tip butterfly

It is too early to be sure about the impact of such exceptional weather, but this year's Big Butterfly Count is not encouraging. The survey, conducted in August, involved people across the country spending fifteen minutes spotting and recording 17 common species of butterflies and 2 species of day-flying moths. The results appear to show that sightings are markedly down from 12 per count in 2010 to 10 per count this year. When the findings of our own 2018 butterfly survey on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common have been analysed and published, it will be fascinating to see whether or not our local results reflect these national concerns.

CHELTENHAM CIRCULAR FOOTPATH

We are grateful to Geoff Wilkes of the Gloucestershire group of The Ramblers for reminding us that the Cheltenham Circular Footpath passes along the northern edge of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. So for members living near the Hill, either Daisybank Car Park or the woodland just past the end of Sandy Lane offer great start points.

In total the Cheltenham Circular Footpath is 25 miles (40km) long and many local walkers would probably complete it in stages. Fortunately the path cuts across a number of main routes out of Cheltenham, e.g., Leckhampton Road/Hill, Shurdington Road, the A40 at Fiddlers Green, the A4019 at Uckington etc, and so it can be walked in sections using public transport.

Information about this great walk can be found on the website of the **Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA)** where a book about it is also available.

Follow this link to find out more.

www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?path_name=Cheltenham+Circular+Footpath

HIDDEN CHELTENHAM

A new walking trail around Cheltenham town centre reveals little-known facts about some of its best-known buildings and locations. The trail is called **Hidden Cheltenham** and highlight the stories of the people, places and communities of the town that have been overlooked, forgotten and in some cases even written out of history. It is in central Cheltenham that Britain's first jet aircraft engine was assembled and where the Rolling Stones starred in one of their first concerts, with Cheltenham-born Brian Jones on guitar. It is even the site of the first successful parachute descent by an Englishman back in 1838.

To find out more visit the dedicated website www.hiddencheltenham.com which is packed with information on the background to the places on the trail. As well as modern and historic images, local experts give the lowdown on everything you could possibly want to know.

The trail has been designed by The Wilson and its production is supported by Cheltenham Business Improvement District (BID). A copy of the map will be made available on the FOLK website.

WALKS WITH WHEELCHAIRS

Readers who need information about accessible walks in the countryside might be interested to hear about a website dedicated to just this challenge. **Walks with Wheelchairs** has sprung from its founder's original site, Walks with Buggies, and for each walk there is a map and detailed directions which you follow. There are also additional notes to help make sure that you understand the terrain etc before setting off. Each walk has been walked or confirmed by someone with good local knowledge. There is one walk on Leckhampton Hill which the site has kindly shared with us. You can find it by following this link.

<http://walkswithwheelchairs.com/UK/Gloucestershire/Cheltenham/949>

If you are interested in finding out about other suggested walks you will need to visit the site itself walkswithwheelchairs.com and register with the organisation.

About FOLK

FOLK is an organisation set up to work with landowners, to promote the conservation and management of the ecology, geology and archaeology of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. We support sustainable recreational and agricultural use of the land. We welcome new members to support and help us in this important work. If you wish to join (either as an individual or as a family) please contact any of the people listed below. Annual membership is £6 per year for an individual or £9 for a family.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter or would like to contribute an article to the next edition please contact Martin Wood on 01242 231230 or email to: martinwood360@gmail.com. Articles of around 500 words plus a photo at any time would be most welcome.

Why not have a look at what is new on the FOLK website <http://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk/> and look us up on Facebook Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common.

Contributions to the FOLK Website are always gratefully received.

Contact: webmaster.leckhamptonhill@gmail.com

Contact FOLK

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Find the Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common on www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk and on Facebook

The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FOLK or its Executive Committee.