

# **FOLKtalk**

Issue 61 Autumn 2019

Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common

Conserving and improving the Hill for you



### A NEW COTSWOLDS NATIONAL PARK?

Seventy years after the passing of the Act of Parliament which set up our *National Parks* and *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (AONB), a major report raises the prospect of the Cotswolds AONB becoming a National Park. Entitled **Landscapes Review**, this report considers the progress made by National Parks and AONBs since their introduction as well as setting a new framework for their future.

The authors recognise the many benefits of the existing collection of national landscapes, but focus on the fact that, while the individual National Parks and AONBs offer a great deal to local people, visitors and wildlife, they work almost entirely in isolation from each other, and are hampered by widely differing funding and governance. More crucially, despite the best efforts of many

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue Important news for email users – See Page 4					
FOLK at the Fetes	5	The Word from Wayne	12		
Cheltenham Lottery	6	Froghopper Citizen Science	14		
FOLK Work Party Report	8	Bats on Leckhampton Hill	15		
June "Walkabout" Committee Meeting	10	UK Wildlife at Risk	17		

#### **FOLK AGM**

#### 7pm 20<sup>th</sup> November at The Wheatsheaf, Old Bath Road

The FOLK AGM is never dull and, as well as some short business items, always includes lots of news about recent developments and our plans for the future. As usual, this year's meeting will be rounded off with a special lecture by a guest speaker. The AGM's location in the function room at the rear of The Wheatsheaf also makes it a relaxed and very friendly occasion. So do come along and remember, your "non-member" guests are also welcome.

#### SPECIAL LECTURE

Our guest speaker at the AGM will be Ian Stevenson, Senior Reserve Manager for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT). As a member of FOLK you will know that the Iand we help to preserve and manage is very mixed, with miles of public footpaths, patches of woodland and, of course, its rare "unimproved limestone grassland" all supporting a wide range of wild flowers, birds, mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. It is enjoyed by a variety of visitors: walkers, riders, dog-walkers, mountain bikers and many more.

The "Reserves" team at GWT manage the Trust's nature reserves for the benefit of both wildlife and people: resolving exactly the kind of potentially conflicting demands commonly met on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. So Ian Stevenson's talk on "**Countryside management on open access sites"** promises to offer a fascinating insight into this complex challenge.

2

#### A NEW COTSWOLDS NATIONAL PARK cont

dedicated individuals and teams, these spaces are not yet delivering the improvements which are urgently needed - either for people or for nature.

#### PROPOSALS

The report urges action to widen the appeal of all of these precious areas for a more diverse range of visitors. It seeks improvements in visitor information, greater efforts to boost sustainable tourism, and opportunities for every child to "spend a night under the stars". It also recommends greater action on affordable housing and public transport in these areas.

To counter the current gap between the status of National Parks and AONBs the report proposes that the AONBs should gain some of the duties currently limited to National Parks: principally the duty to boost public enjoyment, and to support local communities and local economic activity. This should be supported by increased funding. *Significantly for our area, there is also a call to enable the three largest AONBs (Cotswolds, Chilterns and Dorset) to begin the process of becoming National Parks.* 

Among the structural changes recommended are the creation of a new National Landscapes Service to bring better coordination of effort and exchange of best practice across National Parks and AONBs. Similarly, it is proposed that new Nature Recovery Networks should be established to join up disparate endeavours within and beyond each designated area. It is not enough, the report concludes, merely to preserve the wildlife we have got left. We should, instead, aim to roll back as much as we can of the loss of biodiversity which has taken place since 1949 when the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed.

A summary of the report is available on the Documents page of the FOLK website: <u>https://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk/documents/</u>

The full report may be found by following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/ attachment\_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf

### **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR EMAIL USERS**

With membership now approaching 400, it has become increasingly cumbersome using normal email services to send out the newsletter and other information to you all.

So in the coming months we plan to start using a popular service called **Mailchimp**. You will still receive communications from us in the usual way and you will not need to "join" Mailchimp. It is simply a system to help us stay in touch.

Mailchimp is a mailing platform that is used by small companies and hundreds of voluntary or charitable organisations to share information with members, clients and other interested parties. Its appeal to organisations like FOLK is that it is absolutely free for any group with up to 2,000 contacts.

Mailchimp is a well-established, secure and highly respected service. Mailchimp does not pass on any personal data to other organisations and its use does not affect either our existing data protection arrangements or privacy policy. Messages are automatically sent out through Mailchimp on "BCC" basis, meaning that nobody else will be able to see your email address.

## Later this year we will send you further information about our use of Mailchimp. Please read these emails carefully.

In the meantime, if you have any queries about this change please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Martin Wood, using the contact details on the inside back page of this newsletter.

### **HELP US STAY IN TOUCH**

We are keen to keep you all up to date with news about FOLK. So if you change any of your contact details – and especially your email address – please remember to let us know. You can do this by phoning our Membership secretary Tony Duffin on 01242 522767 or sending an email to <u>folk.membership@gmail.com</u>

Thank you.

### FOLK at the FETES



FOLK at Charlton Kings Summer Fete

FOLK once again took stands at the Charlton Kings Fete and the Cheltenham Midsummer Fiesta. The two main objectives were to raise awareness of FOLK and its objectives and secondly to sign up new members. The committee had approved another free membership promotion, after the very successful promotions last year signing up 85 new members.

The Charlton Kings Fete was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. We knew that the weather was to be very windy with heavy showers of rain, but we

were prepared, and in the dry spells had a lot of interest in the stand's display. As it turned out, the rain actually helped us because people were sheltering from the rain under our dry gazebo and we literally had a "captive audience".

The display stand focused on the benefits of FOLK Membership and its events, Work Parties on the Hill and the different types of users of the Hill. It also featured pictures relating to the fact that the Hill had in September 1929 been reopened by the Cheltenham Mayor to the public, celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! There seems to be a lot of interest in the industrial history of the hill and of course how the hill was reopened up to public after the riots and the bankruptcy of the Quarry Company.

The Cheltenham Midsummer Fiesta, held this year on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, is a large free family event with bands, dancers, artists, musicians, children's entertainment and 80 stalls in the "market place". The display area on this stall was large enough that we were able to increase the Hill History section and again had a lot of interest from the public. We also had a nice dry day and a steady number of visitors came to the stall throughout the day.

Both events were again well worth the effort, as we signed up 36 new members at the Charlton Kings Fete and 72 at the Midsummer Fiesta, a total of 108. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped design the display panels and those who set up and manned the stands at the two events.

Mike Donnelly

### CHELTENHAM LOTTERY Supporting Local Good Causes

Cheltenham Borough Council has joined a growing number of local councils supporting community-centred online weekly lotteries. Starting in 2015 with the Vale Lottery, in



Aylesbury, this scheme is pouring tens of thousands of pounds into local good causes every month and Cheltenham has come on board, launching its own local lottery last month. FOLK wholeheartedly supports this initiative and will be one of the beneficiaries of the regular income which it generates.

Put simply, players choose six numbers per entry at a cost of £1 per week. Prizes range from £25 to £25,000. Of the income generated, 50% goes to the registered good causes, 20% is distributed in prizes and 20% is used to cover costs, including associated taxes. The final 10% is automatically allocated to Cheltenham Borough Council's own charitable cause which is "No Child Left Behind" year of action on child poverty.

The Cheltenham Lottery will (like all the others in this scheme) be independently run by a specialist lottery management company - Gatherwell Ltd. Cheltenham Borough Council is fully supportive of the scheme but takes no money from its operations; apart from promoting the scheme, the Council's chief role is to verify the status of organisations registering as local good causes.

#### Why is FOLK promoting this scheme?

The Cheltenham Lottery only supports local good causes and FOLK has been registered as one of the good causes to benefit.

#### How can I make sure my ticket purchase helps FOLK?

If you would like the proceeds of your ticket purchase to go directly to FOLK, please buy your tickets via the FOLK webpage within the Cheltenham Lottery site, by following this link:

https://www.cheltenhamlottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-leckhampton-hill

You can also go to the "find a good cause" page <u>https://www.cheltenhamlottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause</u> and type Friends in the search bar. This will bring up any local registered "Friends" groups and you can click on FOLK there.

If you prefer you may also play by ringing 01242 396124 from 0900 to 1730 Monday-Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

#### Why is this lottery important for FOLK?

FOLK works hard to help preserve the landscape and wildlife on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, but although its efforts are voluntary, there are costs to meet, including the purchase and maintenance of heavy duty tools. So regular income from the Cheltenham Lottery will provide a hugely welcome boost to our operations.

Membership of FOLK no longer costs you anything at all . . . and even if only one in ten of our members play, we stand to receive up to £1000 per year. So perhaps you could consider offering your support by playing the Cheltenham Lottery every week – and giving yourself the chance of winning the £25,000 first prize. Please tell your friends too. Even if they are not members they may want to help.

### FOLK WORK PARTY REPORT

During the late spring/early summer period we are always slightly limited as to what work we can do so that we avoid disturbing nesting birds. As a result, this year we did a number of tidying up tasks. These included clearing, by burning, a number of piles of brash that had been left dotted about the site following previous work parties. (We wanted to get rid of these as a potential source of temptation to the 'arsonist' who has set fire to a number of patches of gorse this year!) We have also been walking most of the various footpaths and tracks across the site and cutting back any encroaching scrub to try to improve access both for walkers and also for the cattle.



As you can see from the second photo above, we do take regular breaks during our work parties. This time we were enjoying home-made cakes and homegrown strawberries. If you have been thinking about joining our work parties but have concerns that it will be all hard labour, you can see from this that you shouldn't worry!

With the success of the extension to the car park in Daisy Bank Road it has now been decided also to extend the Brownstone Quarry car park to increase its capacity. To facilitate this, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens cut down a number of trees in an area at the back of the car park. We then came along and tidied up the area by burning the resulting brash.

We also used some of this brash to produce a barrier around an area in the quarry which we know is used by adders. The aim of this is to try to minimise disturbance to the adders, e.g. by dogs entering the area.



Newly cleared track

In addition to improving access for walkers, we also spent time removing overhanging/overhead branches along the main tracks around '5-Ways' to improve access for horse riders.

In July and August we got on with one of our regular tasks, removing Hemp Agrimony and Ragwort. We were supported in this at one of our work parties by nine volunteers from the Cotswold Vale Conservations Volunteers which was a great help.

We are always happy to host visits by other local groups who want to help us. So we were also pleased to welcome five people from a

local company, THB Group, who had been allowed to join us on a company volunteering day. At this work party (pictured below) we did our annual cut and clearance of the area above Bridge Car Park on Daisy Bank Road which we

are trying to maintain as an open area.

Our final work party task in this period has been removing some of the gorse that had been damaged by the arson attacks this year. We have worked on a patch on the top of Charlton Kings Common which not only removes the unsightly partly-burnt gorse but should also create a good fire-break.



As you can see, there is always plenty to do. So, if you, or anyone else you know, would like to join in, please do join 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, Daisy Bank 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 (<u>www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk</u>) or send an email to <u>folk.workparty@gmail.com</u>.

October 2019	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
November 2019	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>
December 2019	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
January 2020	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>
February 2020	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>
March 2020	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>

#### Work party dates to March 2020

### JUNE "WALKABOUT" COMMITTEE MEETING

This event is now a regular part of the committee's annual calendar, taking the meeting up onto the Hill to see the way the landscape and wildlife are developing, to see what FOLK has been doing and to consider future plans.

On this occasion, FOLK committee members also invited representatives from the Cleeve Common Trust and also Rob Williams of Charlton Kings Parish Council. It was good that two Cheltenham Borough Council members of the committee, ClIrs Paul Baker and Stephen Cooke, were also able to join us for this meeting.

Over the course of a two-hour walk around some key areas of the site which FOLK supports, the committee visited:

- Bridge Car Park to see the problems caused by water and mud gathering by the gate onto the Hill
- various sites of industrial archaeology connected with the historic quarrying works, including tramways, sidings and the limekilns

- Area 16 where FOLK has helped with the seeding of Yellow Rattle and has commissioned clearance works to open up marvellous views across Cheltenham
- the large area of Larch planted in the 1970s, which is not native to the Cotswolds and has little environmental benefit, but would prove difficult and costly to remove
- the grassland where work has been undertaken to help boost the butterfly population as well as supporting the grazing by the Dexter cattle
- the Hill Fort where annual mowing by FOLK has helped reveal the site for visitors

In both the evaluation of the site and the discussions about ongoing plans, it was extremely helpful to be able to consider the knowledge shared by the Cleeve Common Trust and the three councillors, and to hear their views on possible future developments.

### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY WALK

On a windy Sunday at the end of September the **Gloucestershire Society** for **Industrial Archaeology** organised a two and a half hour exploration of Leckhampton Hill. Led by local expert Ray Wilson at a gentle pace we enjoyed a tour of the sites of former quarries, lime kilns. tram roads. inclines and



GSIA Members at The Limekilns

standard gauge railway. Ray Wilson has a deep knowledge of the industrial archaeology of the hill and common and always gives an interesting talk. Although we had rain when we met at Daisy Bank car park, the rest of the afternoon stayed windy but dry. A lot of interest was shown in the various interpretation boards located across the hill and a vote of thanks was given to FOLK and the Cotswold Wardens for their work on preserving and explaining these important industrial archaeology sites.

### THE WORD FROM WAYNE

#### Wayne Sedgwick, Senior Ranger, Cheltenham Borough Council

#### **Dry Stone Wall**

The Cotswold Wardens continue to make good progress with their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project to create a Cotswold dry stone wall from Hartley Lane right up to near the hill fort at the top of Leckhampton Hill. More than sixty metres has already been completed and another delivery of good quality Cotswold stone has been ordered for the next phase of this highly-skilled work.

This ongoing project in itself offers a further benefit to anyone passing by as it provides a perfect view into the internal anatomy of a Cotswold dry stone wall. With shallow flat stones at the base, it is currently possible to see how the carefully set, sloping walls are then constructed using a wooden frame, the rubble in-fill is added and finally vertical stones are placed across the top.



#### **Tramper Route**

A more accessible pathway for the users of "Trampers" (all-terrain mobility scooters) has been in operation for some months now and seems to be proving successful. Exploring much of the Hill by foot involves going through gates which keep the cattle in their designated pastures, but the gates themselves are a particular hindrance to those with limited mobility. So the basic idea



behind this project is to leave some gates across the footpaths open and others much easier to open from a seated position. This then means that tramper-users may enjoy the pleasure of venturing across the hill without frequently having to negotiate closed gates.

The current route is around 2.5 miles long and includes the

hill fort. A recent survey of the route undertaken alongside representatives of the Cotswold Conservation Board and the Cotswold Wardens was very positive. More importantly, visitors to Cheltenham who need help with mobility have also commented very favourably on this innovative facility.

#### **Rural Skills**

We are delighted that the Cotswold Conservation Board (CCB) is in the process of moving its rural skills training centre to the currently disused site of Hill Farm near the top of Leckhampton Hill. Based just a short walk from the Brownstones Car Park, the farm buildings have been made secure and safe to use thanks to the efforts of the Cotswold Wardens.

This is great news for Cheltenham as it brings the learning of vital rural skills into the heart of our area. The experts from CCB will be putting together a wide-ranging programme of courses covering skills like lime mortar restoration, stone carving, charcoal burning, green woodworking and, of course, dry stone walling. More details of this local programme will be included in future editions of FOLKtalk.

### **FROGHOPPER – CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH**

In the last edition of FOLKtalk we encouraged readers to take part in a "citizen

science" project logging sightings of Froghoppers (also known as Spittlebugs) or "cuckoo spit" – the frothy home of their nymphs.

By mid-summer more than 11,000 sightings of either the spittlebug itself or the cuckoo spit had been recorded across the UK, with the south of England proving a stronghold. The top five areas in terms of numbers of records submitted were Surrey, South Hampshire, East Sussex, Middlesex and the south of Devon.



Mature Froghopper (Spittlebug)

The mature Froghopper does no harm to plants and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) urges people neither to disturb nor harm the insects themselves. It is in their nymph stage that Froghoppers and other sap-eating insects may spread the bacterium xylella when they move from one plant to another.

This disease has not reached the UK yet but has had devastating consequences for plants such as olive trees in some European countries. So the purpose of the research was to learn more about the UK population of Froghoppers so that, in turn, scientists could help fight any future outbreak here by modelling how it might spread

The preliminary data shows that the vast majority (85%) of insect records are for the common or meadow froghopper (*Philaenus spumarius*). The insect has been recorded living on over 400 plant species and 81% of records have been submitted from private gardens. The top hosts are: lavender (40% of records), Rosemary (12%), Rose (4%), Fuchsia (3%) and Grass vetchling (2%).

#### What is Xylella?

*Xylella fastidiosa* arrived in Europe six years ago, devastating olive groves in southern Italy and spreading to other countries in the EU, including parts of France and Spain. According to experts, *Xylella* is one of the most dangerous pathogens worldwide. If found in the UK, all host plants within 100m would need to be destroyed and there would be immediate movement restrictions on some plants within a 5km radius for up to five years. So the RHS is warning holidaymakers not to bring plants in from abroad in case they may be harbouring the *Xylella* bacterium.

#### **BATS ON LECKHAMPTON HILL**

It has long been known that there is a thriving population of bats up on Leckhampton Hill and last year local bat experts undertook a survey to identify some of the main species found there. This identified, among others, including lesser horseshoe bats, long-eared bats, noctule bats, common pipistrelle and



Kate Kibble explaining how to use the bat detectors

some bats of the Myotis genus. While this information was interesting to read, most of us had very little knowledge about the bats themselves. So we were delighted when Kate Kibble of the Gloucestershire Bat Group, which carried out the survey, agreed to organise a FOLK Bat Walk.

On a clear, dry evening in September around thirty of us gathered in Brownstones car park where Kate gave us a brief introduction and explained how

to use the electronic bat

detectors we would be using to detect any bats which might fly near us during the walk. During our two-hour ramble around likely spots, it has to be said that actual sightings - and even just the audible alerts from our hand-held electronic

detectors - were pretty few and far between. Early on we traced a handful of the larger Noctule bats, while when darkness fell the smaller Pipstrelle bats also emerged. Perhaps the glorious full moon, which certainly delighted the group, was not so popular with the darkness-loving bats . . . or perhaps we were just unlucky.



Any disappointment at the low numbers of sightings, however, was more than offset by the fascinating insight which Kate provided at each stopping point.

Common Pipistrelle bat

Among the key things we learned were:

- Leckhampton Hill is a good site for bats featuring very low levels of "light pollution", wooded lanes and good populations of the insects on which bats feed.
- Different bat species emit of widely differing calls, with variation in both the pitch and the pattern of the sounds which in turn helps experts identify which species is passing by. The lower the pitch, the larger the bat.
- Perhaps surprisingly, bats are actually undertaking courtship and mating at this time of year, but because of their "delayed gestation" they will not give birth until the spring.
- Bats have hugely varying territories. While many stay very close to their roosts, some tagged at nearby Woodchester Mansion, have been identified as far afield as Wales.
- Individual bats may live up to 25 years of age. Their principal threats are predation by hawks and prolonged wet weather.
- The smallest bat found on the hill is the common pipistrelle. Weighing around just 5 grams and with a wingspan of 20-23cm, this tiny bat probably consumes up to 3,000 insects per night.

### UK WILDLIFE AT RISK

A major report into the status of populations of wildlife in the UK has charted a general decline and identified a wide range of species which are on the verge of disappearing from our shores. The **State of Nature Report 2019** is the first of its kind to be conducted in partnership with the Government. Its seventy contributing organisations include substantial bodies such as the National Trust, the People's Trust for Endangered Species, the RSPB and the Woodland Trust, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, the Bat Conservation Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology.

**State of Nature 2019** documents how human impacts are driving sweeping changes in wildlife in the UK. It presents an overview of how the country's wildlife is faring, looking back over nearly 50 years of monitoring to see how nature has changed in the UK, its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. As well as this long-term view, the report focuses on what has happened in the last decade, and so whether things are getting better or worse for nature. In addition, it assesses the pressures that are acting on nature, and the responses being made, collectively, to counter these pressures.

#### Concerns

Since the 1970s:

- 26% of the UK's mammals are deemed to be at risk of disappearing.
- 41% of the UK's species have noticeably declined.
- Butterfly numbers are down by 17% and moths by 25%.
- Farmland birds have declined by more than 50%. Turtle Dove numbers have plummeted by 94% since 1995, and Willow Tits are now extinct in most of their former UK strongholds.

Among the mammal species currently most at risk are the wildcat, the greater mouse-eared bat, the European Water Vole, the Eurasian Beaver, the European Hedgehog and the Hazel Dormouse.

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly lost two-thirds of its colonies between 1990 and 2000; and the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Speckled Wood butterflies are also struggling.

The woodland bird indicator has fallen by 25% since the 1970s and, despite the increase in woodland over the period of this study, the UK remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe.

**There is some good news.** The report notes numerous exciting and ambitious projects and policy commitments which illustrate the wide range of responses for nature in the UK. Volunteering is up by 40% since 2000; 20,000 acres of new managed wetland have been created, there has been some increase in nature-friendly farming (especially on field margins), and some previously lost species are being re-introduced.

As well as these broad signs of improvement, there are individual success stories. Butterfly Conservation, for example, has concluded that conservation efforts are making a difference, pointing to the Duke of Burgundy and the Large Blue butterflies which have both been brought back from the edge of UK extinction. This is very heartening for us in Gloucestershire as the Duke of Burgundy butterfly has been targeted for support in the Cotswolds under the national Back from the Brink project. Other beneficiaries of positive land management include the Bittern, some butterfly populations in Dartmoor, and increased abundance for some birds, for example Corncrake, Cirl Bunting and Stone Curlew.

**The most significant challenges facing nature** identified by this report include increased urbanisation, intensive farming, global warming, emissions and pollutants as the major threats.

**Looking ahead** some positive changes have been identified. These include growing numbers of farmers adopting wild-life friendly practices, recent legislation on emissions and pollutants, the creation of new woodland or wetland areas, and the restoration of some heathland and moors. In addition to recognising the efforts of many people and organisations, the report stresses the positive effects of joining up pockets of wild space to make "nature corridors" and "urban jungles". This is known to work and should be implemented more extensively.

For a full copy of the report follow this link to the National Biodiversity Network <u>https://nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/</u>

### 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. There is currently no fee for membership.

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: <u>martinwood360@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>http://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk/</u> 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**

John Harvey, Chairman:	01242 520053			
Geoff Holt, Work Parties:	01242 244165			
Malcolm Geddes, Treasurer:	01242 514602			
Tony Duffin, Membership:	01242 529240			
Martin Wood, Newsletter:	01242 231230			
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.



### FOLK

### Annual General Meeting and Special Lecture

Wed 20th November 2019

7.00 - 9.00pm

The Wheatsheaf (Hall at back) Old Bath Road, Leckhampton, GL53 9AJ

Non Members Welcome – Free Entry

Come to the AGM to find out about FOLK and its role in managing the hill and common.

Followed by an Interesting Talk by Ian Stevenson

**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Senior Reserve Manager** 

"Countryside management on open access sites"

For further information about FOLK and the AGM please see leckhamptonhill.org.uk or contact the secretary Andrew Ross at leckhamptonhill@gmail.com or 01242 251869