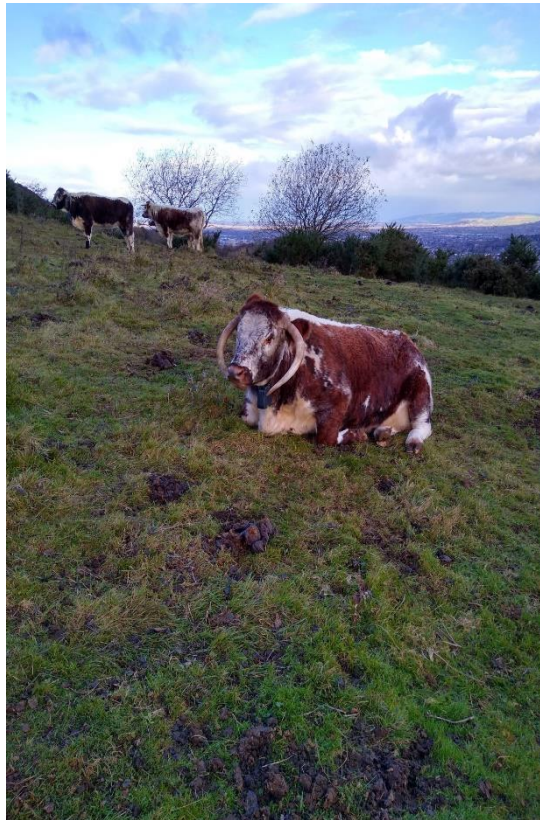


FOLK Annual Report - 2022



Agenda

- Welcome and apologies
- Minutes of 2021 AGM and matters arising
- Annual Report and Accounts
 - Presentation and approval
- Election of officers and committee
- Any other business
- Presentation by Katie Allen, Heritage Graziers

Annual Report

- Committee Activities
- National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative
- Membership
- Major Works carried out
- Work Parties
- Cotswold Voluntary Wardens
- CPRE
- Cycling on the Hill
- Secretary's report
- Financial report
- The coming year

Committee Activities

- 7 meetings held since the last AGM

(December, February, May, June (on site), August, September and October)

- Some issues discussed :
 - National Grid Project - administration & progress
 - Memorial Wall
 - Cycling
 - Dog mess
 - Website & Facebook
- Participation in local fetes

National Grid Landscape Enhancement Project

- Grant worth £ 127k to Leckhampton Hill over three years
- Cash administered through CKPC and spent on projects outlined in the original bid
- Matched funding required of £35k (largely as volunteer labour)
- Projects commenced:
 - Cotswold Way resurfacing
 - Tree felling on the Incline
 - Enhanced grazing (GPS collars)
 - Fencing refurbishment
 - Gorse clearance
 - Walling

National Grid Landscape Enhancement Project

- Project at half way stage, £46k funds remain to be spent
- Matched funding - £27k out of target £35k already achieved
- Future Projects:
 - Veteran Tree maintenance
 - Selective Larch felling
 - Lime Kilns maintenance
 - Gorse clearance
 - Walling
 - Commissioning of a new Management Plan

Membership

- Offer of free membership continued
- Followers on Facebook now over 1,600
- Number of members
 - 2018 - 270
 - 2021 – 478

Major Works Carried Out

- Cotswold Wall rebuild beside Cotswold Way continues (Cotswold Wardens) together with erection of the new Memorial Wall
- Refurbishment of fencing to facilitate grazing
- Help with resurfacing the Cotswold Way and improving disabled access
- Gorse clearance – an ongoing task
- Assistance with Standard Gauge Incline resurfacing

Work Party Statistics 2021/22

- No Work Parties cancelled due to Covid-19 although 3 succumbed to wet or hot weather
- Approximately 55 different volunteers
- 1,441 volunteer Work Party hours logged
- Number at Work Parties ranged from 9 to 26

Work Parties Report 2021/22

- Tasks completed over last year include
 - removing gorse, hawthorn and bramble
 - annual mowing and clearance in various areas
 - removing Ragwort
 - removing growth to re-expose Cotswold stone walls and fence lines
 - demolition of old walls to prepare for rebuild and moving stone
 - clearing debris after contractor's felling
- Additional support provided by Atkins, Kohler Mira, Capita and Gloucester Vale Conservation Volunteers
- Provided opportunities for local school's participating in the DoE Awards Scheme

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

- The volunteer arm of the Cotswold National Landscape
- Spent approximately 1,400 man hours on Leckhampton Hill in 2021/22
- Building the 'Hartley Lane' Wall
- Building the Memorial Wall
- Assistance with refurbishing of fencing, saving CBC large sums of money

Council for the Preservation of Rural England

The efforts of both FOLK and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens enabled a successful application to be made to the CPRE for an award.

The citation from CPRE said the following:

The Awards judges were unanimous in their view that the great improvements that have been achieved on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common should be recognised through a CPRE Gloucestershire Award.

Cycling on the Hill

- Walkers, Cheltenham & County Cycling Club, FOLK and Cheltenham Borough Council are working so that all users can use the hill safely
- Most established mountain bike tracks will remain with minor modifications to improve safety for walkers
- Some minor tracks have been blocked off where risks for walkers cannot be mitigated
- Others have been facilitated
- Signage will be installed to warn walkers and cyclists of each other's presence

Secretary's Report

Activity	Volunteer hours
Work Parties	1,441
Project Work (largely RCEG)	300
Newsletter Production	75
Events	69
Committee meetings and work	431
TOTAL	2,316

Financial Report

- Income £870
(includes £395 from Cheltenham Lottery, £300 from L&WHPC , £50 from Shurdington PC and £100 from CKPC)
- Expenditure £1,453
(major items include noticeboard repairs, insurance and work party materials & tools)
- Deficit for the year £583
- £1,500 received in prior year from the Sir Charles Irving Trust now earmarked as contribution to the Management Plan
- £675 reserved for purchase of a defibrillator for work parties
- Total available funds at year end £2,363

The coming year

- Gorse clearance by contractors and volunteers to enhance grassland and reduce fire risk
- Making diseased and end of life trees safe for visitors
- Rebuilding a dry stone wall to mount memorial plaques and continue with other walls
- Continued removal of invasive plant species
- Veteran Trees – employment of specialists to assist in preservation

Agenda

- Questions?
- Election of officers and committee
- Any other business
- Presentation by Katie Allen

Existing Committee Members

		<u>Term</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Chairman - Mike Donnelly	2021 - 2024	Term is up to five years
2	Secretary - Tony Duffin	2018 – 2020	Term is up to three years
3	Treasurer	VACANCY	Mark Dowie Nominated by John Harvey
4	Geoff Holt	2020 – 2023	Term is three years
5	Peter Niblett	2020 – 2023	Term is three years
6	Clive Lewis	2020 – 2023	Term is three years
7	Anne North	2020 - 2023	Term is three years
8	Morgan Miller	2021 - 2024	Term is three years

Election of Committee

The 2022 AGM is required to elect the following:

- Treasurer
- Up to three Committee Members - the election of whom will bring the Committee to its' maximum size of eleven.
- The COMMITTEE may co-opt a further 2 members, at a Committee meeting.
- Nominations should be with the Secretary 14 days before the AGM, however, if there are more vacancies than nominations then nominations may be accepted from the floor of the meeting.

Nominations Received:

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AGENDA

- Any other business
- Presentation by Katie Allen