



FRIENDS OF WOLSTONBURY

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2011

CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

Chairman

Ian Pack
Tel: 07710 814 665
Email: ian@wolstonbury.com

Vice Chairman & Field task Organiser

Mike Botterill
Tel: 07971 045 607
Email: mike@wolstonbury.com

Treasurer

Rod Scott
Email: rod@wolstonbury.com
Address:

Oaklands
Oreham Common
Henfield
West Sussex
BN5 9SB

Secretary (Membership)

Steve Witts
TEL: 07713 501 530
Email: stevew@wolstonbury.com

Secretary (Events)

Hilary Pulham
TEL: 07742 909 100
Email: hilary@wolstonbury.com

National Trust Ranger

Graham Welfare

Website

<http://www.wolstonbury.com>

WELCOME

Welcome to the April 2011 newsletter from the Friends of Wolstonbury.

This is a brief follow up on the January 2011 newsletter, with latest dates for all the events, meetings and field tasks planned for summer 2011.

Please note in particular the activities described by Mike below, the Bird Walk described by Peter overleaf, and also please note our AGM will be held on 16th May, all very welcome at all these events.

Steve W

Manv thanks for contributions and assistance from Rod. Mike. Hilarv. and Peter.

NEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES & PLANS FROM MIKE

With the bird nesting season upon us our task day activities have recently changed from the winter removal of woody material with associated bonfires to infrastructure maintenance; mainly fence repairs, gate/stile repairs and step maintenance. We have recently repaired the horse fencing along the top of the hill to help keep riders on the bridleway and off where the man orchids grow. We have also helped cut material which will be used in the Red Earth installation. This material we would have removed anyway so we just collected it rather than burned it. We will have a task day to move this on 6th May and for those of you who are interested the Red Earth team will be starting the construction the week beginning 9th May, details as per the website.

Unfortunately we have been unable to source a leader for the butterfly walk this year so it is with regret that this has had to be cancelled but with the hope that we can reinstate it next year. The bird walk and the National Trust orchid walk will however go ahead.

Task days continue through until the end of July and everybody is welcome young and old, no booking is necessary, just turn up at the appointed time/destination. I know that not everyone can always make a full day so come out for an hour when you can, all help is greatly appreciated. If you want any further information, my contact details are on the left here, and on the website. For those of you who are less physical we are always looking for people to help with the admin side of the group.

I hope to see you out on the Hill.

Mike Botterill - Task day organiser and Vice chairman.



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NOTES ON ACTIVITIES FOR 2011

We are a friendly group who meet for field tasks regularly throughout the year, whatever the weather! All are welcome, the young, not so young and families. We provide the tools, tea and coffee. All you need are a stout pair of walking boots or wellies, wet weather gear and food. Don't feel that joining us will mean hard work! Come along and do as much as you feel you can.

Unless otherwise stated, we meet in the slip road, near the Plough Inn, Pyecombe (TQ292125) for 10:00 AM start, or meet at the task site between 10:30am and 3:30pm

We also arrange events on the hill during the summer and have an evening meeting every four to six weeks or so, where those people interested in running the group meet to discuss current issues etc over a drink.

Current dates are in the 'dates for your diary' table on the following pages. Please check the website for latest updates:

"[http:// www.wolstonbury.com](http://www.wolstonbury.com)"



Typical field task, beautiful weather, where's the task leader ?



Celandines, seen on the top of the hill in early April 2011

BIRD WALK - 2011

We write to inform you of the forthcoming annual Friends of Wolstonbury Bird Walk on the hill. It takes place on Saturday 14th may, when we shall meet at the west end of Pyecombe Street (Map reference 284128) at 08:30 am.

This year our guide Bob Miles of Brighton RSPB Members Group will lead us first onto the west side of the hill. We don't expect lots of rarities, but have seen in previous years Chaffinch, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, meadow Pipit and Skylark, and heard brilliant song from more common birds like Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Blue and Great Tit and Green Woodpecker at different spots during the walk. We're having a later start than the dawn Chorus to make it easier for you to attend. We also expect to see early flowering spring flowers such as Man and Early Purple Orchid. If the weather is reasonable this will make a fine outing.

Peter Hedge



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

Firm dates are in the table below. Please check the website "[http:// www.wolstonbury.com](http://www.wolstonbury.com)" for latest updates.

2011 DATES	MEET	ACTIVITY
Friday 6 th May	10.00am – 4:00pm Meet on slip road beside Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Field task involving moving of the previously cut material for use in the creation of the Red Earth Installation. Bring Stout shoes and packed lunch.
Tuesday 10 th May	10.00am @ the Dew Pond in Wellcombe Bottom or contact Mike if transport required	Creation of the installation by Red Earth. Any help would be appreciated. Bring lunch and stout shoes.
Wednesday 11 th May	"	Continuation of creation of the installation by Red Earth
Thursday 12 th May	"	"
Saturday 14 th May	8:30am – 11:00am Pyecombe Street, where footbridge crosses A23	Bird Walk A guided walk to discover the bird varieties of Wolstonbury led by Bob Miles of Brighton RSPB. See page 2 above for more details
Monday 16 th May	7:30pm – 9:00pm Plough Inn, Pyecombe	AGM All welcome, please come along to discuss what we have done in the last year and plans for the next year.
Saturday 21 st May	2:00pm – 4:30pm Plough Pyecombe	Red Earth Chalk Walk: Natural Navigation Part of the Red Earth series of walks - landscape navigation with neither map nor compass. Booking Essential 01243814554. F.O.W members have booking priority. Cost adult £4, child £2, Family £9, Dogs on lead, suitable for groups, children 8+
Sunday 22 nd May	2:00pm – 4:30pm Plough Pyecombe	Red Earth Chalk Walk: Archaeology Explore the archaeology of Wolstonbury with archaeologist Matt Pope. Booking essential 01243814554. F.O.W members have booking priority. Cost Adult £4, Child £2, Family £9. Dogs on lead. Suitable for groups, children 8+
Saturday 28 th May	10:30am – 3:30pm Plough Pyecombe	Red Earth Chalk Walk: Wild Plant Foraging Spend the day gathering and preparing remedies and wild food on site. Booking Essential 01243814554. F.O.W members have priority booking. Adult £6, Child £3, Family £14. Dogs on leads Suitable for groups and children 8+
Friday 3 rd June	10.00am on slip road beside Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Field task involving repairs and replacing fencing to keep the stock where they should be.. Bring Stout shoes and packed lunch.
Sunday 5 th June	10:30am – 1:30pm Plough Pyecombe	Red Earth Chalk Walk: Orchid Walk Explore the flora of Wolstonbury Hill with National Trust Warden Graham Welfare. Booking Essential 0124381455. F.O.W members have priority booking. Adult £4, Child £2, Family £9. Dogs on lead, suitable for groups.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011 - CONTINUED

Firm dates are in the table below. Please check the website "[http:// www.wolstonbury.com](http://www.wolstonbury.com)" for latest updates.

2011 DATES	MEET	ACTIVITY
Tuesday 14 th June	7:30pm – 9:00pm Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Committee Meeting Open meeting, with all welcome, please come along to discuss current issues and plans.
Saturday 18 th June	10.00am – 4:00pm Meet on slip road beside Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Field task day Details to be confirmed
Thursday 7 th July	10.00am – 4:00pm Meet on slip road beside Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Pond Survey Annual survey of the dew pond and area inside the surrounding fence. Bring wellington boots and packed lunch.
Saturday 16 th July	10.00am – 4:00pm Meet on slip road beside Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Field task day Details to be confirmed
Tuesday 26 th July	7:30pm – 9:00pm Plough Inn, Pyecombe	Committee Meeting Open meeting, with all welcome, please come along to discuss current issues and plans.