

Task Mornings

Meet at Mill Road car park on the 3rd Sunday in the Month at 10.00am for a couple of hours.

Next dates:

19th August

16th September

21st October

Useful contacts:

Henry Heath (Chairman) 07776 144 053

Sue Crowhurst (Membership Secretary) 01903 368978

Adrienne Stevenson (Secretary) 01903 753977

<https://www.facebook.com/friendslancingring>

<http://folr.wordpress.com>

If you would like receive a copy of the newsletter by email from now on, please email me at

AdrienneStevenson@gmail.com



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

Sometimes working with nature can be a frustrating business and this year has been a case in point. With a mainly mild, wet winter and spring, many of the grasses have grown long and flowers have had to compete with them. As a result some haven't done quite so well. However, by contrast, we have had some notable success in the chalk pit. For about 3 years contractors have been opening up some of the scrub that has been taking over there. This has allowed more light into the chalk pit and this year we have seen more cowslips, round headed rampions (the Sussex Flower) and pyramidal orchids.

With the control of scrub in mind, the slope overlooking Halewick Lane has been under discussion. The South Downs National Park Ranger also arranged for contractors to work on this slope and they have cleared quite a large area. Many people have said they like the more open look, but we have to consider how to consolidate their work. For many years horses grazed on the slope which kept the scrub under control. It was noticeable how quickly and densely the scrub took over after they went. This area is particularly difficult to manage as it is a steep slope where machinery can't be used. Tom, the Ranger, has asked if some limited grazing again in this area might be considered but by a small number of docile cows rather than horses this time. This is currently under discussion by the Committee and others. The cows would be kept off the path going along the slope to prevent them getting in the way of dog walkers or having cow pats on the path.

The FOLR Committee are not against this idea in principle, although we have made it clear that this would be just one area that is otherwise difficult to manage and where we do not have the resource to make a difference. However, it is a sensitive issue and we are all clear that nothing should happen unless there is proper public consultation and it should, perhaps, be a trial to gauge how things go. If this progresses any further there is likely to be roadshow information in the car park and an opportunity for people to ask questions. In the meantime, we would be interested to hear from you, the Members, with your thoughts or concerns so that we can include them in any discussions. Please

contact any of the Committee listed below.

COMMITTEE 2018-2019

The Committee are Henry Heath (Chair), Veronica Eltringham (Vice Chair), Sue Crowhurst (Membership Secretary), Adrienne Stevenson (Secretary) and Keith Dollemore. Henry Heath continues to double as Treasurer. Members of the Committee are normally available at the task mornings on the 3rd Sunday of each month, so do seek us out if you have any enquiries or concerns.

TASK DAYS

We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month to work on the Reserve and welcome anyone who would like to come and help. You don't have to commit to every session; just come when you can. We spend 2 hours doing simple maintenance but you can come for as long as you have spare. One of the main summer jobs is keeping the paths clear as it is surprising how quickly they completely disappear if they are not maintained.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR THIS YEAR

Thanks to those who have renewed. Numbers are important, so please do renew and encourage other people who use the area to join. Subs are £3 per person, £5 for families or 50p juniors. You can renew at: Lancing Pet Shop, Culver Road; Bowness Avenue newsagents, 21 The Street or by contacting Sue Crowhurst, 31 Sedbury Road, Sompting.

AGM – this year we had one of our most successful coffee mornings. Particular thanks go to the Men in Sheds for bringing the wonderful things they made and to the other stall holders and helpers.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, enjoy the Reserve and if you see the youths who have been walking round with saws and axes cutting down trees and lighting bonfires, the advice is to call the Police asap.