

MONTHLY GET TOGETHERS

Meet at the car park in Mill Road at 10am

NEXT DATES

19 November

17 December

(Christmas meeting with sherry and mince pies)

21 January

18 February

18 March

**Details also on our website: <http://folr.wordpress.com>
and our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/friendslancingring>.**

Useful contacts:

Henry Heath (Chairman) 07776 144 053

Sue Crowhurst (Membership Secretary) 01903 368978

Adrienne Stevenson (Secretary) 01903 753977

**To receive the newsletter by email from now on, please
email me at AdrienneStevenson@gmail.com**



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017

Colder mornings, heavy dews and glistening cobwebs – the signs are here that autumn has arrived and it's time for the last newsletter of the year. At the moment many trees are still holding onto their leaves, but they are now beginning to change to those lovely golden, brown colours that we associate with this time of year. In the Diamond Jubilee plantation there is also a beautiful splash of pink from the spindle saplings. The year has certainly turned.

AUTUMN / WINTER MAINTENANCE

Soon the busy work on the Reserve will start when the Council begins mowing. This is one of the major autumn / winter jobs. This year we are reverting to the usual method of cutting using the Council's mowers, as the trial using the flailing machine which also collected the clippings and dispersed them in bays amongst the scrub and trees proved too expensive. However, the bucket on the tractor will be used to collect some of the cut grass and move it to the bays.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

We are always keen to work with others and this year has been busy. A local Cub pack spent a hot day clearing brambles in the plantation field and we also had an evening of activities with the local Brownies measuring trees and identifying flowers. A moth expert contacted us to see if the endangered Barred Tooth-striped moth is on our patch, but survey attempts were thwarted by poor weather. We will try again next year, but we are making sure that we have privet growing in suitable places to help this moth. We have continued to work closely with Tom Parry from the SDNPA and his contractors have just finished clearing more scrub in the chalk pit area. We hope they may also clear more of the Halewick Lane slope. We also joined Mike Tristram from the Sompting Estate in an application for funding to renovate the dewpond. Unfortunately we weren't successful this time, but we will keep alert for any other sources of funding.

The plight of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly

We were also contacted recently by Jamie Burston from Butterfly Conservation about this butterfly. The loss of habitat following Dutch elm disease has badly affected numbers, as their sole food source is elm trees. Research with elm varieties from Spain and Italy have shown that the trees have so far shown resistance to the disease and the butterflies have adopted them as their habitat. Lancing College are planting some of these elms on their land borders and the FOLR have also agreed to buy 5 of each of the Italian and Spanish elms to plant in the hedgerows of our D Jubilee plantation to widen their habitat. We will plant the first 5 in November and the second group in February. Once established we hope we will see this brown butterfly with a fine white line on its wings flourishing on our patch.

SUNDAY MORNING TASK DAYS

Our monthly Sunday morning task days continue all year. Some members come regularly, whilst others come when they can and we are very grateful for all the help. Our summer work has been mainly keeping paths accessible but we widen our activities in the winter months to other tasks. It has been suggested that we email a reminder of the date each month, so if you are interested and would like a reminder please email Adrienne and we will create a contact list.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A big thank you to all who have renewed. Please consider doing so if you haven't so far. It is important to keep our numbers up and at £3 per person, £5 for families or 50p juniors the cost is not too much. You can renew at: **Fircroft News**, Manor Road; **Lancing Pet Shop**, Culver Road; **Bowness Avenue newsagents, 21 The Street** or by contacting Sue Crowhurst, **31 Sedbury Road, Sompting**

Wishing you all a safe and warm winter and thank you for your support.