



Number 4

FRIENDS OF WOLSTONBURY

Winter 2007/8

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COMMITTEE

Chairman
Ian Pack

Call Ian if you intend participating on particular days or with membership or other queries, which will be passed on.

**Vice Chairman
& Field Task Organiser**
Mike Botterill

Secretary
Rod Scott

Treasurer (Funding)
Ray Howland

Treasurer (Membership)
David Creaton

National Trust Ranger
Graham Welfare

**South Downs Joint
Committee (SDJC)**

**Lifescape Community
Involvement Officer**
Thyone Outram

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Welcome

to newsletter number four.

What a short space of time a year really is. That's how long the Friends of Wolstonbury has been in existence (more or less). There were twenty three people at the original meeting on 23rd January 2007, who decided that there was enough local interest to create the group. We decided that we wanted to do a bit of work to maintain Wolstonbury Hill for ourselves and others and that we would have walks and talks to look at and appreciate what we have around us. To this end we elected people who were willing to give their time to a committee to decide what we should do and when, meeting every six weeks or so.

So what's been happening?

We have had twelve task days on the Hill carrying out scrub



Silver Washed Fritillary - just one of the species the work of Friends of Wolstonbury is enabling to thrive

clearance and maintaining fences/access. We had a number of interesting talks and monitoring exercises about butterflies, flowers and pond life.

We have helped the local

landowner, Richard Burrows, move/sort his mobile grass mowing unit (sheep!). Some of us have had a lot of fun on the way. Not bad considering we're just feeling our way really.

The Friends was set up as a local group to do interesting things on Wolstonbury Hill. If you would like to see different things happening everybody is welcome to come along to our meetings/ work parties. Let us hope that 2008 can be even better than 2007.

Mike Botterill

The Big Scrub Bash

One Saturday in October, a



One of the junior members getting to grips with the art of archery!

group of 27 merry workers downed tools on the hill and tucked into fire-cooked potatoes flavoured with garlic



A welcome break from scrub bashing

and fresh rosemary. Ian Pack takes his role as chairman very seriously and realises that what

DATES for Your Diary 2008

Sat. 19th January Wolstonbury in Winter NT Warden Guided Walk

Join the Friends and the NT wardens for a walk exploring Wolstonbury where ancient beech trees, yews and box cling to the slopes.

Tue. 22nd January Committee Meeting

Tue. 12th February Outdoor Task

Continuing with scrub-clearance to restore the rare species-rich chalk grassland of Wolstonbury or coppicing work with a bonfire.

Sat. 23rd February Outdoor Task

Continuing with scrub-clearance to restore the rare species-rich chalk grassland of Wolstonbury or coppicing work with a bonfire.

Thu. 6th March Outdoor Task

Continuing with scrub-clearance to restore the rare species-rich chalk grassland of Wolstonbury or coppicing work with a bonfire.

Thu. 3rd April Outdoor Task

A chance for a final bonfire of the year as the winter scrub clearing season has come to an end. Scrub clearance to allow the chalk grassland to thrive is only done in the winter, to disturb as little wildlife as possible i.e. nesting birds.

May Butterfly Morning

Details and date to follow.

Sun. 15th June Orchid Safari

Details to follow.

Unless advised to the contrary we will meet for tasks and events at 10 AM by the Plough Inn, Pyecombe. Locations for all meeting points can be found at our new web site www.wolstonbury.com.

The committee meets at the Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach (East), Hassocks at 7:30 PM unless notified to the contrary.

Supported by:



goes in your stomach can determine how much scrub bashing you get done, so he made sure we were fed like princes.

children too who all got stuck in with clearing scrub and dragging branches up for the fire. Some discovered which woods made the best bows and

a bank above the bridleway that runs east from the dew pond below the Rifle Range.

Like much of the clearance that we do, it looks pretty bare and barren at the moment, but with light now getting through to the ground, it will re-grow as mixed thinner scrub with some of the dormant chalk grassland species re-appearing, but also some taller plants growing. This will create a more varied habitat for wildlife especially birds and invertebrates such as butterflies.

Thyone Outram

www.wolstonbury.com

It's taken some time, but we now have web site live and on-line. Over the Christmas break Ian kindly designed the foundation for the groups' web site. It's envisaged that the web site will grow over the coming months. For now it contains essential information and a couple of 360 degree movies of the view from the north west side of the hill; contact details, how to join us and diary dates.

And finally...

Thank you to all the individuals and groups for their support during the last year, especially Thyone Outram for her



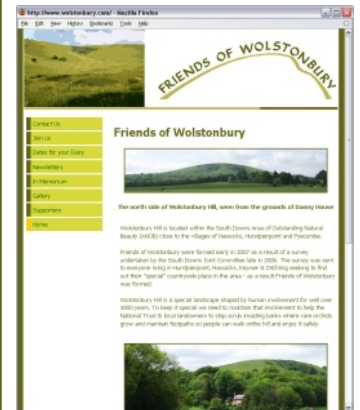
The results of a day of hard graft

Regulars and newcomers to the Friends were joined by some of the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service who came all the way from Seven Sisters Country Park to work with us.

It was good to see so many

arrows and plenty of weapons were made. Ian's daughter Abigail organised us all – especially when we stopped to eat (you'll go far Abi – aim for headmistress or prime minister!).

The group got a lot of work done coppicing and clearing on



Www.wolstonbury.com home page

dedication, enthusiasm and expertise in guiding us through the grant funding maze.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us feel free to forward this newsletter if you received by email, or direct them the "Join Us" section of www.wolstonbury.com.