

Annual Public Meeting of The Friends of Limpsfield Common
Saturday 28th September 2024 11:30
St Andrew's Hall, Limpsfield Chart

Maintaining the Legacy for All
Working Together for Limpsfield Common

friendsoflimpsfieldcommon@gmail.com

Apologies - Maggie Morgan, Stuart Paterson, Paul Byrne, Amanda Richards

Speakers - Tony Pearson, Sophie Martin (on behalf of Maggie) Yves Le Hur, Conor McNeil

Welcome - Tony Pearson, our Chairman

Introduction (TP)

Introduction of committee members

Overview of Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday volunteer groups.

Task Force groups, litter picker volunteers, Air Raid shelter volunteers, Heritage volunteers. We have around 100 volunteers all supporting our various causes.

Projects and Activities (SM on behalf of MM)

Recap of the survey in 2020, which had around 1000 responses.

SM gave overview of activities undertaken as a result: people requested more Dog poo bins, litter bins, maps, seats, trail amongst others.

These have been addressed alongside new Way Markers, improved footpaths, car park height barriers, increased parking capacity, flora & fauna information, more family areas.

Findings from the Summer Survey 2024

Update survey undertaken over the summer. 150 responses received.

SM gave outline of key requests from respondents (including benches, footpath maintenance) and activities planned, including confirmation of £20k per year for 3 years from funds held with the NT to use on improving and maintaining these areas of concern.

Air Raid Shelters

SM gave overview of Air Raid shelter activities this year, including

- 120 Year 6 pupils from St Mary's school spent the day at the Air Raid Shelters learning all about the history and experiencing how it must have felt to have used them.
- 120 attended the open day in July and we have had visits from local Cub & Scout groups.

Rob Davey heads up the volunteer team for educational open days at the Air Raid Shelters.

There are 12 volunteers involved with the Air Raid Shelter group.

New FoLC Website

A new website has been launched to include FOLC committee news, updates, info on flora and fauna, walks, trails and other activities.

Request for any suggestions of content. www.friendsoflimpsfieldcommon.org

Treasurers Report - YLH

- The 2 years CIL project was completed and £70,000 of TDC funding was utilised, much of it was used to purchase such things as the Car Park height barriers, including installation, Information Panels and the Oak Notice Boards together with some of the carpark extension works and some footpaths.
- Within Income, mostly subscriptions, were some notable donations particularly, from Chris Pendred because of the success of the book he had produced and published. In addition, there were monies raised from donations arising from the Air Raid Shelter Open Days.
- Expenses were largely as usual and included purchase of bird and bat boxes, bins and anchor posts etc.
- On the Funds Under Management the returns were approx 8% and meant that the income from the Endowment Fund was used to help to mitigate the costs to the NT of maintaining LC. In addition, the NT have agreed with us to allow £20000 per annum for 3 years to be drawn from the Expendable Fund to help maintain the footpaths etc.
- We have approx £15000 in the Bank and the Committee will be working with the NT to put this money to good use with some projects being discussed at present. Copies of the Accounts are available on request.

Rangers Report - CMN

Conor McNeil gives an overview of aspects of conservation work being carried out.

- Invasive Species Management, increase sunlight & open canopy, encourage native flora.
- Yalden Spring improvements, improving habitat, clearing the water and aiming to achieve SSSI status
- Heathland scrapes, destroy the bracken and encourage heather, gorse, honeysuckle etc.

Other activities include:

- Footpath management - way markers improved, closing desire lines to improve habitat
- Height barriers at car parks
- Bike pit - restricting the scope / area
- New notice boards
- Anti-social behaviour - car park watch

2024-25 projects include: increase heathland, manage the bracken, more signage, continued Yalden Spring maintenance, dead hedge structures continuing, footpath management.

Question of fire risk was raised: Mark Richards addressed this, Fire signs erected when risk is high and water is accessible when necessary. Fire beaters are not completely reliable when left out in elements. NT are prepared for fire threats.

Question of Ragwort was raised: local growing near Grub Street. Has been noted.

Question of wildflower donations: although a great idea sometimes it is better to allow local sensitive habitats to flourish with help, without additional flower bomb planting which can potentially introduce non-native/invasive species.

Heritage & Archaeology Volunteer Group

TP gives overview of Heritage group and project outline.

This group has investigated the air raid shelters, Yalden Spring, Roman Road.

The National Trust Website has Heritage Records which includes Limpsfield Common.

www.heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk

Volunteer groups will identify and assess the sites indicated on the National Trust Heritage Website.

Thanks to all attendees and speakers and to Louise & Holly for the delicious catering.

