



Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common

# FOLKtalk

Free to members; non-members 25p

Issue 49 Autumn  
2015

## Welcome to the 2015 Autumn FOLK newsletter. In this issue:

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## Chat from the Chair: John Harvey's views on some topical issues

First, my thanks to those of you who contacted me after my first chair's contribution to this Newsletter. I remain more than happy to hear from other members, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have reason to do so.

Several members of FOLK have recently agreed with me that seedlings of Ash are very abundant this year. At least this is the case in my garden and I assume therefore on the Hill and the Common. Invading Ash is one of the significant management issues on our site, as individuals of the species become established very rapidly



Tree growth on Charlton Kings Common

and can soon begin to have adverse impacts on the grassland. Large numbers of saplings, likely after a good crop of seedlings, means much more pulling, cutting, digging or spraying, at least as long as we see Ash as a threat. But for how long will it be a threat? The recent appearance of Ash Dieback Disease in the UK and its rapid spread east to west could mean that this year's seedlings are emerging into a very hostile environment and that their chances of a long life are very low. If this is the case, then would our attitude to Ash change as it became rare, such that its conservation became one of our priorities?

If Ash Dieback Disease does arrive in Cheltenham, then we might be faced with a very rapid change in the appearance of our local landscape, a change similar to that caused by Dutch Elm Disease 45 years ago. I still recall the dramatic effect of the elimination of what was virtually the only tree species in the open countryside around Cambridge and the complete change to the small wooded valleys of West Cornwall. Rapid changes of this kind, whether caused by invasive diseases or by human activities, such as the relatively recent removal of

field hedges, are always a shock and a challenge in several ways. Not only is there the issue of whether or not we attempt to stop the change, but at another level it makes us address the question of what range of species we want in the countryside. This latter question may not be easy to answer. I have recently been shown photographs of our site from various dates in the past 100 years. One thing that this series of snapshots show is how much the vegetation of our site has changed over this period, from one with virtually no trees, to one where Gorse was one of the main species, to the present situation where management, including the recent clearance of trees and scrub from parts of Leckhampton Hill, has replaced woody species by grassland. Which point in recent time would be the best model for the future? Over a much longer time frame, a recent study in the Swiss Alps has shown that the activities of Neolithic people between 5000 and 7000 years ago resulted in major changes in the tree populations of high level woodlands, especially the irreversible decline of European Silver Fir. This loss is not only of historical interest because, at the altitudes involved, Silver Fir is predicted to be better able to withstand the effects of the coming climate change than is the Norway Spruce that has replaced it.



**Bee orchid in grazed area with gorse re-growth**

So deciding what pattern of vegetation we might want in place of disappearing Ash communities will not be easy. Not only in terms of what our past experience leads us to believe is the “right” mixture, but also in deciding what species will best cope with future conditions. This is an issue we are likely to have to address in the near future, as not only is Ash under treat, but in parts of the UK other diseases are attacking Oak, both Sudden Oak Death and Acute Oak Decline, and Larch . Oak is not a major component of our tree population, but the large area of Larch, planted, into a species rich grassland about 40 years ago, is already rather decrepit and may have very little resistance to infection. So we must expect change, perhaps especially on the more wooded Leckhampton Hill and should be prepared for it, in terms both of how we react when the change comes and in what plans we lay for the future.

I began by thanking those of you who contacted me in recent months. This kind of contact will be even more important if we are faced with the situation I have discussed above. The Executive Committee will need to know what you want and how you would like FOLK and the Council to respond, so please do not hesitate to keep in touch with us.

As an aside, the speaker at this year’s AGM will be Chris Chavasse, the Senior Trees Officer of the Borough Council, who will explore with us some of the disease issues threatening our trees.

## **The Word from Wayne**

### **Wayne Sedgwick Senior Ranger. Cheltenham Borough Council**

Amey, the infrastructure management company took over the highways maintenance contract for Gloucestershire County Council in April last year. **Maintenance of public rights of way** is part of that contract and Amey are keen to involve volunteers and groups in that work. A training day was held at the Westwood Centre, Northleach on May 29<sup>th</sup> when Mike Barton and Ian Soule from the County Council rights of way team

provided training for nearly 60 people on legal, practical and health and safety aspects of looking after rights of way. A second course is to be provided.

2016 is the half way point in the Higher Level Stewardship scheme, which the Council operates on the Common. **Grazing** is a crucial part of the management. It is going well with the herd size being effectively at a sustainable level although there is always more to learn about how the herd plays its part in management of the common.



**Expectant mums in arable reversion field**

Our involvement in the **Magnificent Meadows** project has been at a trial level and is described elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Work continues on the **Industrial Archaeology interpretation boards**.

**Litter on the Hill and Common** continue to be a problem and annoyance to users of the site. Broken glass poses a threat to animals and wildlife. The hill is used for summer party activities including camp fires. Litter is

often left. A volunteer recently collected 30 to 40 bottles in one visit. This problem poses a serious challenge in how to deter people from littering and educating them about responsible use of the site.

Following on from the success of the **Summer Fiesta** in Montpellier Gardens, the Council are happy to continue to support FOLK if they wish to attend such public events to promote the group.

More **work on the trees on the Hill and Common** will be done in the coming months. It is planned to gradually open up carefully selected areas where trees are restricting the use of the Hill. Views from the Hill and Common will be improved and the habitat made more diverse. Hazel coppicing will be carried out in long neglected areas on the Common. FOLK will be involved in



**Tree growth on the Hill reduces the panoramic views**

this work.

A **commemorative bench with a dedication to**

**Brian Phillips**, funded by his Cribbage Group, is to be installed close to the Cotswold Way near the Iron Age Fort. Brian was a Cotswold Warden for many years. The work will be carried out by the Wardens.

A **work party day** involving the “front of house” team at the Borough Council offices is to be held on October 8<sup>th</sup>. This follows the policy of encouraging groups from local companies and organisations to do voluntary work on the Hill.

## Introducing Andrew Ross, FOLK Executive Committee member

In this issue of FOLKtalk we introduce a relatively recent recruit to FOLK. Andrew Ross discovered the Hill and Common a while ago whilst working for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Cheltenham. Andrew and his wife fell in love with the area and now live close to the Common with spectacular views from their house.



**Andrew with Lucy and Phoebe**



**Winter wonderland on the Hill**

*When did you join FOLK?* As I was discovering the Hill I saw the FOLK notices and we came across FOLK at a “Paws in the Park” event. A neighbour, who is a FOLK member, suggested that I might like to go to the FOLK AGM and as a result I joined FOLK 10 months ago at the 2014 AGM

*How do you (and your family) enjoy the Hill?* We walk on the hill with our dog twice a day. One of the main attractions that enticed us to move to Leckhampton 4 years ago was the hill and surrounding countryside. We are both keen walkers and the hill provides plenty of exercise, stunning scenery and a chance to meet with other dog walkers. As our dog Phoebe can only manage a short walk these days if we want to do a longer walk we “borrow” a neighbour’s dog.

*What are your earliest memories of the Hill?* Our first winter on the hill, 2011, was a beautiful white winter. We saw the unusual sight of frozen rain on the trees that made them look as if they were all covered in jewels.



**Ice gems**

*What changes have you noticed over the years?* The main change has been the introduction to the hill, which was not enclosed when we first came to the area, of the Dexter cattle. They are incredibly docile and friendly creatures and just seem to fit perfectly into the landscape. Another striking feature is the stone wall on the top of the Common.

*What is your favourite view of or from the Hill?* There are so many to choose from, but almost all of the views around autumn time provide a wonderful display of autumn colours. From the top of Windass Hill looking north east over the golf

club towards Timbercombe, there are stands of deciduous trees, which stand out in the autumn. From our house we occasionally see wonderful rainbows towards Charlton Kings.

*What is your favourite time of year on the Hill?* It is a difficult choice between spring and autumn, but on balance I would choose autumn because that is the time when the wonderful selection of trees on the hill are at their best.



**Autumn colours**



**Pizza delivery expected**

*What aspect of the natural history, archaeology or geology of the Hill do you find most interesting?* Undoubtedly the wildlife. In one walk last week I saw a Muntjack deer, a Roe Deer, a Green Woodpecker, three buzzards and more rabbits than I could count. We also get annual visits from swallows, and the photo above was taken on the hill. Bird feeders in our garden have regular visits from a wide range of birds. I hope to find out more about the wildflowers and butterflies on the Hill.

*What does membership of FOLK mean to you?* A chance to meet with other people who share the same enthusiasm for the wonderful countryside that we have around us and who hopefully may share their expertise in the different aspects of the ecology and history of the Hill and Common.

*What would you hope that FOLK would have achieved on the Hill by its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025?* Simply to increase the appreciation of the hill and countryside amongst the wider population of Cheltenham. I hope it retains its natural character and doesn't become too much of a picnic spot. I don't believe any significant changes are needed; we just need to treasure what we already have.

## **2015 Butterfly Surveys: Initial impressions**

2015 turned out to be a fairly challenging year for the 9 people involved in trying to monitor the butterfly populations on Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. Despite personal commitments and crises, illness and injury, and last but not least the unpredictable weather, between us we made 70 forays on 50 different days on to the site to (attempt) to record the butterflies. Several people commented on how they had been enticed out because of the warm and calm conditions at home in town, but when arriving to start a survey, conditions were less than ideal. Indeed on at least two occasions, rain caused an early finish with the survey incomplete, and there were several times when no butterflies were seen at all, though this was mainly at the start of the season in April.

I am pleased to report that once again, the Duke of Burgundy was seen on the eastern side of Charlton Kings Common, mainly close to the Gallops track. Green Hairstreaks were recorded in higher numbers than before, possibly reflecting the increasing knowledge and identification skills of the recorders. Chalkhill Blues remained

restricted to the west facing slope of Leckhampton Hill, but were never seen in large numbers so their continued presence there is a cause for concern. They appear to have been lost from the other site on the lower slopes of the western end of Charlton Kings Common, not having been seen there for several years despite intensive searches. It was good to see the Silver-washed Fritillaries again flying over the woodland edge alongside the grassy area above the Bridge car park on Daisybank Road and this year they made it over the beech wood and were spotted on the Charlton Kings Common side close to the pond. Dark Green Fritillaries were widespread in low numbers. It was interesting that the greatest number recorded in one section this year were outside the original survey area, but still on land owned by Cheltenham Borough Council. A ragwort pulling work party in Hopkins field in wet conditions drew my attention to the potential of

this area, and a visit the following week lived up to expectations!



**Wall Brown butterfly image from the internet**

Of great concern, no Wall Browns were seen in either of their usual 2 haunts, despite deliberate visits to these areas during reasonable and excellent conditions in the flight periods. This butterfly is becoming increasingly scarce nationwide, though it is still present on Cleeve Common in good numbers. Let us hope that this was just a temporary blip, and not the sign of a very local extinction.

Common Blues seem to have had a good year, not least because many of the females were of the blue form, making them easier to distinguish from Brown Argus with certainty. Also the habit of roosting at the top of grass stems and other vegetation meant that they were spotted at rest on poor days when most other butterflies were hunkered down out of sight.



**Common Blue butterfly picture from Russell Smith**

Once a full analysis of the records has been done, a further report will be made on the winners and losers, the distribution trends over the three years of records now held, if discernible and anything else of interest or note.

Many thanks to all the recorders - Russell Smith, Peter Whalley, John and Jenny Palmer, Ged Cassell, Andrew

Bishop, Pete Niblett and Pat Raddon for their continued help, enthusiasm and time that continues to add greatly to our knowledge of the butterflies on this site. Outline details of how the survey is conducted is described on the website. Please check that out if you would like to get involved next year, and then get in touch with me to discuss how you could help. I would love to hear from you, and potentially extend the survey area to include Hopkins field.

Serena Meredith

Email: [gmeredith308@btinternet.com](mailto:gmeredith308@btinternet.com) with Butterfly survey in subject line please

## Save or Magnificent Meadows (SOMM) project update

As mentioned in previous issues of FOLKtalk, Wayne Sedgwick of the Borough Council has been working with this national project so that Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common has a role with other of sites of national importance for protecting and improving our wildflower meadows. Cowslip field had been earmarked as a place where wildflower seeds could be harvested. Despite the rather indifferent summer we have had, a harvest was carried out. **Eleanor Reast of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**, who is managing the SOMM locally, organised the harvesting on August 6<sup>th</sup> when we had a brief respite from the cool damp weather. Below is an account of the harvest kindly provided by Eleanor.



Harvester in action on Cowslip meadow pic Amy Tyrer



Leckhampton Harvest pic Eleanor Reast

### Project update from Eleanor Reast

Save our Magnificent Meadows (SoMM) staff and volunteers spent a few hours in early August taking seed from a species-rich meadow on the edge of Leckhampton Hill, which we had previously surveyed. The field contains a good mix of calcareous grassland species, amongst others, quaking grass, common birds foot trefoil, cowslip, knapweed and yellow rattle. SoMM had already been out in July but even before the harvester was unloaded from the trailer the weather took a turn for the worse so the plan was postponed until the weather improved! Dry weather is crucial for seed harvesting and that, combined with the narrow window when each species shed its seed, meant a very limited amount of sites were able to be done this wet summer. Once collected, seed was spread out in a barn on tarpaulins and allowed to completely dry. The seed will be sown this autumn on a species-poor part of Leckhampton Hill and at a nearby farm.



Lizard rescued by Eleanor picture by Amy Tyrer

Wayne is planning to use some of the harvested material to help re-seed patches of cleared ground in Area 14, which is an area of grassland just up the Hill from the Bridge carpark on Daisy Bank road. FOLK have carried out clearance work in this area to open up meadow within the wooded area. We will report on progress in future issues of FOLKtalk.

## FOLK Work Party Report summer 2015

It turns out that I was a bit optimistic in the last newsletter when I said that there appeared to be little sign of the troublesome weed Hemp Agrimony this season. As it happens it was just a little late growing this year and we ended up spending 4 work parties during July and August pulling it up. However, it certainly wasn't in such dense patches as previous years and was rather patchy and more thinly spread. Also the growth wasn't as strong and there were signs that it was being grazed by the cattle whereas in previous years it was hardly being touched by them. Although we are unlikely to get rid of it, it looks as though our work over the last few years has knocked it back significantly and hopefully it is now more under control.



Hemp Agrimony friend or foe?

We also spent a little time removing the other weed we like to keep control of, Ragwort, which can be dangerous if eaten by the cattle. We found a couple of significant patches, as well as some isolated plants, which we pulled up and removed from the site. Unlike Hemp Agrimony which we can pull and leave on the ground, provided it hasn't flowered and seeded, we need to remove the pulled Ragwort plants off the Hill to prevent the cattle eating it.

In this summer period we are not allowed to undertake any significant removal of scrub or trees/saplings so as to protect breeding animals and birds, and the wild flowers. We therefore undertook a number of general

maintenance jobs.

We did some clearance work around the limekilns to make them more visible and to complement the work that has been done by Cheltenham Borough Council's contractors (erecting the metal fence and repointing some of the stonework).



**Clearance work around the Lime Kilns**



**Brush clearance and burning below the Devils Chimney**

We also finished the job we started in January to clear up and burn the brush resulting from the felling of the ash trees on a bank above the woodland walk that runs below the Devil's Chimney. We had some really impressive bonfires, but managed not to set the whole Hill alight! This felling and clearance work has opened up an old path that had been overgrown. It is now being used regularly by walkers.

In addition, we did some footpath maintenance work. We cleared back growth that was encroaching on the various footpaths leading from the limekilns and on the path that starts alongside the topograph. We installed some steps at the end of the Daisybank Road car park to try to make it a bit safer and repaired some steps on a footpath leading from the old Cirencester Road up on to the Hill.

In September, after the restriction on general clearance work ended, we did our annual mowing of the grass around the ancient barrow on top of the Hill. This barrow, which is an important archaeological feature, is now much more visible to visitors. It is one of the features mentioned on the recently installed interpretation panels now located in this area which we have noticed a lot of people are stopping and reading.

Finally, I would like to mention the contribution made by a number of workers from Kohler Mira who spent their company's volunteer day litter picking on the Hill. They removed a lot of litter, including three abandoned tents! It is very disappointing that so much litter is left on the Hill but we must thank the Kohler Mira volunteers for their help with this problem. We are also aware that a number of regular visitors to the Hill also routinely remove litter. We don't know who you all are but we are very grateful for what you do.

So, what do we have planned for our autumn and winter work parties? Well, the main job is likely to be continuing gorse clearance. It is encroaching more and more around the Hill. Although we are not trying to clear it totally – probably impossible anyway – we do need to contain and manage it. Old gorse growth has little value to the wild life and should be cut back, but not necessarily killed off, to allow new regrowth which is beneficial.



**New steps at Daisy Bank car park**

As always you are welcome to join us on one of our work parties. We are a friendly mixed group of male and female members. You can work at your own pace and take a break as and when you wish. We meet at 9.30am at Tramway Cottage Car Park, Daisybank Road, and are on the hill for approximately 3 hours. Tools are provided by FOLK. For your own safety we ask you to bring and wear stout footwear and tough gardening gloves. We have three FOLK work parties a month. Dates for the next 6 months are printed below.

For further information you can contact Mike on 01242 238790 or Geoff on 01242 244165, or you can look at the 'Work Party' page on our website ([www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk](http://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk)) or send an email to [folk.workparty@gmail.com](mailto:folk.workparty@gmail.com).

**Work party dates for Autumn 2015 to Spring 2016**

October 2015	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 20 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>
November 2015	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
December 2015	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>
January 2016	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>
February 2016	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>
March 2016	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>

## **SMOKE SIGNALS** other news from the Hill and Common and the conservation scene.

### **Updating progress of the Dexters on Charlton Kings Common**

Autumn is here and so starts the breeding season for the cows who roam Charlton Kings Common. During September, October and November a number of calves are due to be born, by the bull we hired in last Christmas. "Big Bob" stayed with us for a couple of months on our homefields with selected "ladies", as all breeding is planned by natural means. We need to have autumn calving as this is the timing that best fits with the way the Common needs to be managed and alternative land availability.

The prospective mums leave the Common just before calving down and are moved to safe pastures for the "event" and the early rearing of their offspring. This lightens the pressure on grazing of the Common over winter.



**New calf with mother nestling in the grass in the arable reversion field**

A number of the "ladies" left us during the year as ageing signs were beginning to show; the oldest being 17 years old and the others were 10 years upwards. They were the nucleus of cows born on the Common when grazing first started with the paddock system in 2003. It was hard to admit that their time had come to leave the herd.

So far the male/female split of births has been fairly even, which gives

rise to a supply of beef and herd replacements. Obviously the age of the stock and size of the herd has to be kept under constant review.

We are trying to breed a herd, which is naturally "polled" (without horns) to make for less work and safer handling. At present we have achieved a 50% success rate with the females but only 40% with the males. This means that we have to call the vet and get him to remove the horn buds with hot irons under local anaesthetic. Of course, he also has to castrate any bull calves born into the herd. The steers are only likely to be in the herd for two to three years, whilst the heifers are destined to roam the Common for much longer.

Anyone interested in the Dexter beef should contact the grazier – Anne North on Cheltenham 522767.

### **Summer Fiesta competition prize winners**

FOLK ran a well-attended stall at the successful Midsummer Fiesta in the Park in Montpellier Gardens on July 4<sup>th</sup> when FOLK were pleased to welcome 15 new members who joined on the day. A draw was held for the new members with a prize of a meal for two at The Royal in Charlton Kings.

The lucky winner was Helen Nye, seen here holding the voucher, kindly donated by The Royal. The Nye family live in Charlton Kings and are regular walkers on the hill.

There was lots of interest too, in the children's quiz about wildlife to be found on the hill. Several children submitted correct answer sheets, so there was a draw which was won by Clara Dykes aged 10. She is pictured with her family, who are all looking forward to using the free family ticket generously provided by the Cotswold Farm Park.



**Helen Nye with children Bethany and Charlie. Milo the dog looks on**



**Clara Dykes with Marit and Caspar**



**Ollie Watkins**

There was a search to trace the runner up in the children's competition but Rick Plummer, FOLK Secretary finally tracked down Ollie Wilkins, aged 8, who was the second name drawn from the group of children who got all the answers correct on the wildlife quiz. The Wilkins live on the edge of Prestbury and Ollie is pictured here holding his prize of a useful identification chart for garden birds, kindly donated by John Harvey.

We hope to see our competition winners enjoying the Hill in the months to come.

### **FOLK Website Report for Autumn 2015**

We hope you have managed to have a look at our new website which can be found at [www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk](http://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk) and that you are enjoying it. Please visit it regularly as we do try to keep it up to date by regularly adding new items. To help us to do this we would welcome comments and contributions from FOLK members, and also non-members. We would like help with several pages listed below.

We have a 'What's New' page where we like posting information on sightings by visitors to the Hill and Common. You don't need to be an expert on anything to do this, just tell us what you have seen, e.g. plants, animals, activities by people, anything. Let us have any related photos as well.

You may have noticed that some sub-pages under the 'Site Description' page are a little light and some maybe a little heavy going. We would like help to improve these so any offers would be welcome.

**Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common** [a TCV Community Network Group site](#)

Home Programme What's New Contact Join Us Site Description Work Parties Surveys Newsletters Activities Documents  
Gallery Links

 **Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common**

The Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, known as 'FOLK', was formed in 2000 and aims to represent all the users and lovers of Leckhampton Hill, Daisy Bank Fields and Charlton Kings Common, whether their interest is ecological, historical or recreational.

**FOLK's Objectives**

1. To promote the conservation and management of the ecology, geology and archaeology of the land.
2. To promote the land's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and compliance with the relevant National and European

**Latest News**

- 11/10/2015: Rare flying visitor to the Hill – see What's New page
- Please attend the FOLK AGM on 11th November
- New viewpoints opened up. See 'What's New'.
- Please report any significant litter sightings!
- Salterley Quarry Car Park levelled and resurfaced – why not park there?

**Programme**

- 20 Oct 2015 at Daisy Bank Car Park  
Tuesday Work Party 9:30am to 12:30pm
- 25 Oct 2015 at Daisy Bank Car Park  
Sunday Work Party 9:30am to 12:30pm

We also want to build up the 'Gallery' with photos taken on the Hill and Common. Any contributions would be welcome. If they are of wildlife or plants it would be nice if you could identify them for us so we can label them correctly. But, if you don't know what things are don't worry, send us your photos anyway and we'll put them up on the website and hopefully others will be able to identify them for us.

Following on from this previous point, if you are good at identification, please will you look at the photos on the Gallery - some of them are not fully labelled - and let us know what you think they are.

We are not just after wildlife or plant photos. General photos of the Hill and Common are also welcome. Also, if you have any photos taken some while ago that we can use to compare with more recent photos to show changes over time they would be welcome too.

Please email any contributions to [webmaster.leckhamptonhill@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.leckhamptonhill@gmail.com).

## **Hanging black bag mystery**

As a footnote to the comment on litter in Word from Wayne, there continues to be a mystery about why dog owners leave bags of dog waste on footpaths and hanging in bushes. Does anybody know why this strange and unpleasant habit has taken hold. Answers on a postcard.



**Mysterious deposited black bags near Brownstones car park**

**And finally:**

## **Photographic competition 2016**

FOLKtalk would like to invite members to send in their favourite photos of the Hill and Common. A small prize will be awarded to the member submitting a picture that best celebrates the site. The subject matter is open so you may like to capture the landscape, weather, ecology or the people.

The competition will run for a year from this year's AGM, which will be held at Leckhampton Primary School on Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>. Photos (up to three) can be submitted to the FOLKtalk editor as computer files or paper copies. So let's get snapping.

**Thanks as ever to all our sponsoring organisations:** Charlton Kings, Shurdington and Leckhampton and Warden Hill Parish Councils have generously provided grants again this year. Cheltenham and County Cycling Club have recently provided financial support, and Cotswold Conservation Board and Cheltenham Borough Council give continuous support for which we are very grateful.

## About FOLK

FOLK is an organisation set up to work with landowners, to promote the conservation and management of the ecology, geology and archaeology of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. We support sustainable recreational and agricultural use of the land.

We welcome new members to support and help us in this important work. If you wish to join (either as an individual or as a family) please contact any of the people listed below. Annual membership is £6 per year for an individual or £9 for a family.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter or would like to contribute an article to the next edition later in 2013 please contact Peter Whalley on 01242 517024 or email to: [whalley-p@o2.co.uk](mailto:whalley-p@o2.co.uk) Articles of around 500 words plus a photo at any time would be most welcome



**Rainbow over Cheltenham. Picture from Andrew Ross**

### Contact FOLK

John Harvey, Chairman: 01242 520053  
Geoff Holt Treasurer and Working Parties: 01242 244165  
Mike Donnelly Working Parties 01242 238790  
Anne North, Membership and Grazier: 01242 522767  
Find the Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common on  
[www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk](http://www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk) and on Facebook

*The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FOLK or its Executive Committee*