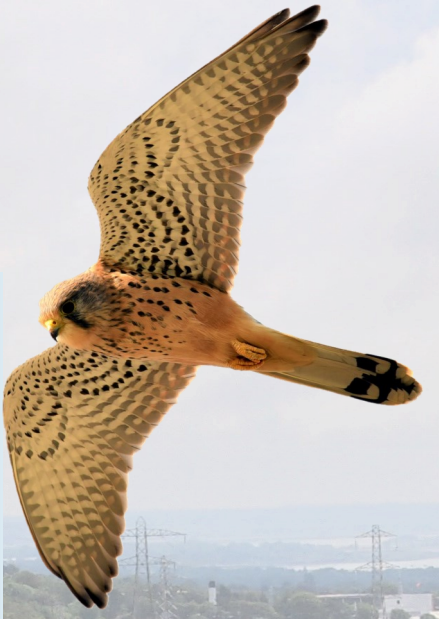
Friends of Portsdown Hill Newsletter

APRIL 2021



Welcome to Portsdown Hill

Last November we saw the very sad death of Richard Hill-Brown who had joined the FoPH committee earlier in the year. We all looked forward to him applying the skills and enthusiasm he had used as a motivated campaigner and fundraiser for many good causes. He recognised Portsdown's ecological and historical significance and that the area deserves to be looked after with consideration.

With summer on the way there are many wildlife delights to look forward to. The winter has been favorable for site management and we have been able to get the site in good condition. The early signs of a flower covered hill are in place. The rosettes of orchids are showing and the first leaves of knapweeds, horseshoe vetch and oxeye daisy and many other flowers carpet the hill.



Bee orchid rosettes are showing nicely

The **AGM** is on **Wednesday April 13th** 7.30pm, note we have moved back to Wednesday from Thursday. Have you considered taking a position on the committee? An update of the state of the hill will be given and refreshments provided.

Free Fertiliser

Anyone seeking to grow their own veg might want to gather free fertiliser (horse and cow manure) from the slopes of the hill. At the same time they will be assisting with the management of the site by reducing nutrients and thus favouring those species that prefer low fertility. Location of good gathering locations happily provided, or take a look at the website for more information.



Bags of manure, excellent for the garden

Richard Jones
Countryside Officer



On the Web
www.portsdown.org.uk/ The FoPH website.
www. havantnature.net/Wildlife information on Portsdown and further field.
www. portsdown-tunnels.org.uk Portsdown's underground history.

Notice of AGM

The AGM, followed by an account of events and progress in managing the hill will be given by Richard Jones, followed by refreshments.

Wednesday April 13th 7.30 PM (Evening meetings are back to Wednesday)

Church of the Resurrection hall, Brecon Avenue, Drayton, PO6 2AW.



Walks and Events Meet at Fort Widley

Early Summer Flowers Thursday June 2nd 10.00am - 1.00pm

The flowers (and insects) of early summer should be on display.

Summer Barbeque Wednesday July 13th (subject to confirmation)

FoPH BBQ at Fort Widley BBQ essentials will be on hand and barbequed vegetarian fare will be available. Feel free to bring your own meat to cook if you wish. Times to be confirmed, members to be advised nearer the time.

Harvest amble Thursday August 4th 10.00am – 3.00pm

An excursion over the hill and back through the village of Southwick.

'Ports-moth' We will be operating a moth trap in the last week of August with the aim of attracting and appreciating moths. More details nearer the time

