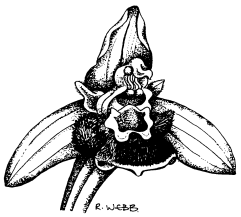
Friends of Portsdown Hill Newsletter



Welcome to first part of 2020. A relatively wet and mild autumn shows all the signs of merging into an equally wet and mild spring without first spending much time as winter. Many harbingers of spring are putting in an early appearance. Buff-tailed bumble bees have been seen foraging. Hazel catkins, lesser celandine and winter heliotrope are in flower and song thrushes are nosily living up to their name, as they claim territories.

Jan 2020

There is now an increased interest in sustainability, and consideration is given of the wider environmental impact of our actions, conservation and habitat management included. A lot of the work on the hill is achieved with hand tools wielded with our own physical effort, but we also use oil-powered machinery.

With this in mind we are hoping to purchase a battery-powered scrub cutter to complement the petrol ones we use. Being electrically powered it will not generate fumes as we use it and will produce fewer vibrations and be much quieter. It will therefore be nicer to use and be less raucous when working near the team. Waitrose at Waterlooville are kindly helping fund it through their Community Matters programme throughout January. So if you are shopping there before the end of the January please vote for us via the in store token process**.**



A petrol powered scrub cutter. We are hoping to move over to battery powered version.



Buff tailed bumble - already seen making its nest

On the Web
www.portsdown.org.uk/
The FoPH website.

www.havantnature.net/Portsdown.htm
Wildlife information on Portsdown and further afield.

www. portsdown-tunnels.org.uk
Portsdown's underground history.

Friends of Portsdown Hill
c/o Portsdown Hill Countryside Service
Fort Widley
Portsdown Hill Rd
Portsmouth
PO6 3LS

023 92389623
richard.jones2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Events

Between October and April we have meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Resurrection hall, Brecon Avenue, Drayton, PO6 2AW.
Starting at 7.45pm. £ 2.00 on the door

Portsmouth Saga Part IV
12th February
Andrew Negus has the next lively chapter to reveal to us.

Flora and Fauna of Farlington Marshes
11th March
Chris Lycett from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust takes us through the ever-changing life of the reserve in Langstone Harbour.

AGM and Annual Review
8th April
The Friend's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a presentation from Richard Jones on what's been happening on the hill. There is no charge this evening.



Overlooking Farlington Marshes, with Portsdown Hill on the horizon

Events at Portsmouth Natural History Museum, Cumberland House

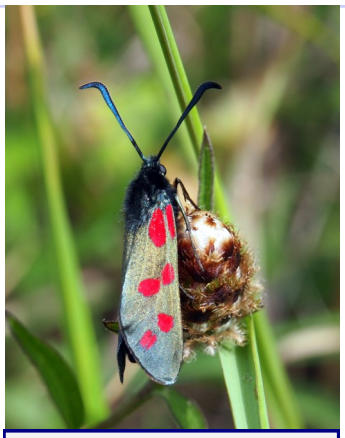
Saturday 25 April Moth Identification Workshop 10am - 4pm
(Portsmouth Museum in the morning & at Portsdown Hill in the afternoon).
Cost £25, or £15 with Leisure Card.

Saturday 9 May Butterfly Identification Workshop 10am - 4pm
(Portsmouth Museum in the morning & at Portsdown Hill in the afternoon).
Cost £25, or £15 with Leisure Card

We have also got a talk and book signing by Wolfgang Grulke:

Friday 28 February **'Beyond Extinction' 6-8pm**
Tickets – £5. Copies of Grulke's book will be on sale during the event, with £18 discount off the RRP – taking it from £48 to £30.

Please call 02392 834747 to reserve your place (s) for each event
http://portsmouthcitymuseums.co.uk/museum-events/event-detail/



Moth or butterfly?
Find out more about both — on courses at the Museum

Bluebell walk
Tuesday April 28th 10.00am - 1.00pm
We will head north over the hill and along the lanes and woods in search of bluebells and other spring wildlife.



Early Summer Flowers walk
Tuesday June 2nd 10.00am - 1.00pm
The flowers (and insects) of early summer should be on out and about and available for us to view.

Portsdown Hill Countryside Service Walks and Events
Meet at the East Gate of Fort Widley