Friends of Portsdown Hill Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

Welcome back to Portsdown Hill — let's hope the best bits of normal service can be resumed. Since March 2020 our activities might have been curtailed but wildlife on the hill has appeared more or less as expected, even if the seasons have been a little confused. It is time to return to our events and enjoy the landscape and wildlife of Portsdown Hill.

Management and monitoring has continued. The requirement to maintain open grassland means mowing and grazing has not stopped. The recent summer has generated impressive amounts of vegetation growth and thus it has encroached on treasured species-rich grassland and obscured paths. Busy times lie ahead.

New species to the hill have been found, some of which have probably been overlooked because they are difficult to find and only active for a short time. Others are conspicuous and known to have recently arrived from further south suggesting they are responding to warmer weather.

Richard Jones

Countryside Officer



Jersey Tiger moth, a recent arrival. **Eared leaf hopper** is just about invisible on lichen—covered bark, it has probably been here for years.



Summer to Autumn

The season of peak butterflies and flowers is over again. We had plenty of both this year and are doing everything to encourage them in future years.

Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White on Greater Knapweed and the rare Rough poppy.

On the Web

www.portsdown.org.uk/ The FoPH website.

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

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

Events

Talks — Between October and April we meet on the second **Thursday** of the Month at the Church of the Resurrection hall, Brecon Avenue, Drayton, PO6 2AW. Starting at **7.30pm.** £ 2.00 on the door.

A change to talks

To allow more space between everyone at our talks, we shall meet in the larger room at the Hall. **This means that we will be meeting on a Thursday (rather than a Wednesday) evening.**

Thursday 14th October
Portsdown Hill 2021 What's been happening and what do we want to happen next
Richard Jones — A review of the hill and what is planned.

Thursday 11th November
Jenna Dewhurst Portsmouth Water's Environment and Biodiversity Specialist — Biodiversity on Portsmouth Water holdings.

Thursday 9th December
John Goodspeed — Local wildlife sites near the Hill.



Portsdown's chalk pits, hill forts, reservoirs, military research establishments, communication infrastructure and wildlife rich open spaces — all visible from Langstone harbour.

Guided walks Walks Meet at the East Gate of Fort Widley 10.00 am — 1.00 pm

Thursday, 21st October **Fungi foray**
We shall head off and see what mushrooms we can find.

Tuesday 7th December **Berry Christmas**
A winter walk taking note of the remaining berries in the hedges.