



Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common

FOLKtalk

Free to members; non-members 25p

Issue 46 Autumn
2014

Welcome to the 2014 Autumn FOLK newsletter. In this issue:

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Reflections on his Chairmanship of FOLK by Julius Marstrand

FOLK's Officers have to stand for re-election every year, but to ensure they don't become a 'self-perpetuating clique' they are limited as to how many times they can be re-elected. I was elected as the first Chairman of FOLK and was re-elected for the following four years. I remained on the Committee when I had to retire from the Chair and Judith Frazer-Holland was elected as the new Chairman. She served for four years, before becoming ill and, in the absence of anyone else willing to take on the role, I was re-elected as Chair in 2009 and have been re-elected every year since. Now I have reached the limit again and am standing down, although I will continue to be a member of the Executive. As I come to the end of my second period of office as Chairman of FOLK I can look back at how far we have come and what we have achieved. Some of this will be reflected in my Annual Report to the AGM in November.

Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common have always had many different kinds of user, from families enjoying a few hours in the countryside, to long distance walkers doing the Cotswold Way, from dog walkers to mountain bikers, from horse

riders to paragliders and many more. There are also many naturalists all interested in different flora and fauna on the hill and archaeologists interested in the Iron Age Fort and the more recent industrial archaeology. We all share a love of the Hill, but we also sometimes have conflicting interests.



Julius: retiring FOLK Chairman

Since its inception, FOLK has striven to represent ALL these different interests. It was recognised that the best way to protect the hill was to get these groups to collaborate and reconcile the conflicts as far as possible. Had any one interest tried to promote one view above all others, they might have been ignored by those with different interests and it would have been impossible to enforce compliance anyway

I am a mountain biker and often used to ride up Leckhampton Hill and out into the Cotswolds with Cheltenham and County Cycling Club. My parents were both biologists and I have two uncles who were farmers, so I also have an interest in the environment and the countryside. I missed the first couple of public meetings called by Cheltenham Borough Council in 1998/9 to discuss the future of the site, but was encouraged to attend by the Cycling Club which was concerned there might be attempts to restrict mountain biking on the site – as has happened elsewhere in the country.

The idea of a Friends group arose out of those public meetings and I ended up chairing a working group which drew up the draft constitution. It was based on the Charity Commission's 'Model Constitution', in case the group ever wants to register as a charity. The constitution was designed to try to prevent any one 'special interest' group dominating the Executive Committee. This has been one of the great successes of FOLK. It is worth recalling the original Objectives, which still apply today:

- To promote the conservation and management of the ecology, geology and archaeology of the Land
- To promote the lands status as an SSSI, an AONB and compliance with relevant National and European legislation
- To support the widest possible recreational use of the land consistent with the above objectives
- To promote public awareness and education in the objectives above
- To liaise and consult with the owners and trustees of the Land and of adjacent land over matters of mutual interest.

Julius Marstrand Retiring Chairman

The Word from Wayne (Wayne Sedgwick Senior Community Ranger, Cheltenham Borough Council.)

Grazing on Charlton Kings Common continues to have a beneficial effect on the grassland. Changes to government funding schemes however including the imminent implementation of the Basic Payment Scheme is likely to affect how the

Borough Council will be able to fund the management of the Hill and Common. Natural England will be carrying out an assessment of the Hill and Common in the near future when the effect of grazing will be the focus. In the meantime we continue to work with the Grazier and Natural England to fine tune the way grazing is carried out.

Two attractive new **interpretation boards** have been installed at the arable reversion field and Devil's Chimney approaches to the Iron-Age fort. They have already attracted the attention of visitors. FOLK members are encouraged to take a look at them.



Interpretation board at the Iron Age fort

No progress can be reported on the search for a new contact with the **biking** community. It appears that, at the moment, the bike jumps in the Daisy Bank field are not being used much. Whether this is part of a tailing off in popularity of the Hill for mountain bikers is currently an open question.

Tuesday September 16th saw a burst of activity on the Hill when a contingent of staff from **Ubico** the Council's services company took their coats off to lend several hands to the regular FOLK work party. This joint work party is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Another addition to the facilities on the Hill and Common will be three new **memorial benches**. One is already in place west of Windass Hill. Another will be put half way up Windass Hill and the third on top of Woodland walk. A new simple robust design has been adopted. There will be no

overall increase in the number of benches although there will be scope to replace existing benches as their condition deteriorates and the Council may start a waiting list for these replacements.



New memorial bench with a view to the west

A small bit of good news can be reported on the **Lime Kilns**. Capital works funding has been agreed by the Council to provide fencing for the location of the Lime Kilns where it is felt that the condition of the kilns and the surrounding cliff edges may increase the risk to visitors to the Hill. An interpretation board is being considered to explain the situation to visitors. A search for funding for the work needed to restore the kilns will continue.

Initial discussions have taken place with the Council's web team to see if they could help FOLK with the setting up of a **new website**.

From the point of view of the Council, there was a successful visit of **Cleeve Hill Conservators** to the Hill on 19th of August 2014. This visit is reported in more detail elsewhere in this issue of FOLKtalk.

Introducing John-Paul North

In this issue of FOLKtalk we are introducing John-Paul North, whose family have roots that go deep into the Hill and Common. He is the fifth generation to work on the family's farm on the lower slopes of the Hill and he is in direct line of descent to one of the rioters who bravely helped to secure the Hill and Common for the enduring enjoyment of the people of Cheltenham. His great grandfather, who was a WW1 veteran, built Shackleton, a place beloved of FOLK members as

the place where work parties start with a briefing about the day's task and where John-Paul lives.

When did you join FOLK? In 1999 a visiting foreign exchange group suggested that a "friends of" type organisation could help in managing the Hill. At the time there was pressure on Cheltenham Borough to do something about the site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and so FOLK was born. I was one of the founding members. Other founders such as Judy Frazer-Holland, Allan Wood and Jack Shepherd were keen to start work. Cheltenham Borough had a new management plan drawn up but apart from a small grant from the Cotswold Conservation Board funding was very limited. It was decided that grazing held the key to improvement. Anne North had a small number of cows including some Dexters and they were put to work on Charlton Kings Common. This work continues today.

How do you enjoy the Hill? In a way the Hill and Common are like a back garden and I enjoy them as such. They are just always there. I also feel a responsibility to the history of the Hill. And it gives me great pleasure to be able to work to improve the Hill so that future generations will be able to enjoy the Hill as I have.

What are your earliest memories of the Hill? The Hill was a playground for me as a little boy, fighting battles as a soldier, hiding under trees and making treehouses. There was the noise of grasshoppers in summer and the grasshopper warbler could be spotted. I remember especially a bad winter in the early 80's when snow lay 6 or 7 feet deep. My mum kept me at home from school and the school master came out to see why John-Paul North was being kept from school. He struggled but couldn't get to the house. He wisely retreated.

What changes have you noticed over the years? There is scrub in areas that used to be clear and there are more trees. The "lone pine" used to be visible on the western escarpment but it is now difficult to see. The iron-age fort and the top of the Hill were always popular but elsewhere apart

from the odd courting couple there were not many people. It is much busier now.



John-Paul: man and machine

What is your favourite view of or from the Hill?
There are so many views from different places that I love. I suppose my favourite is when the town is in mist but the top of Cleeve and the Malvern Hills are lit by the sun.

What is your favourite time of year on the Hill? As I work outside I don't like winter when it is gloomy with snow, ice and rain. Each season has its attractions, spring with a nip in the air, early summer with the anticipation of hay making and autumn when there is a bit of release from the busy time of harvest.

What aspect of the natural history, archaeology or geology of the Hill do you find most interesting? I enjoy the overall natural history of the site. It was interesting to learn some geology at school.

What does membership of FOLK mean to you? I joined FOLK to have a say in how the Hill was managed. It doesn't belong to individuals but to all and for the future. I like to think that we are

helping the Council and FOLK by developing our herd to improve the grazing on the Common.

What would you hope that FOLK would have achieved on the Hill by its 25th anniversary in 2025?
If I were to be really honest I suppose I would hope that FOLK would have achieved its objective that the Council had a sustainable system for managing the Hill and Common and that FOLK was no longer needed but I think FOLK will have a job to do for a few more years yet.

Visit of Cleeve Conservators August 2014

Two years ago members of FOLK enjoyed a guided tour of Cleeve Common at the invitation of the Board of Conservators. We learned a lot about how they manage their site. It was always intended to invite them back to Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, but it proved difficult to arrange a mutually convenient date.

Finally thirteen members of the Cleeve Conservators visited the site in the evening of 19th August this year. At the topograph above Deadman's Quarry, they were welcomed to the site by FOLK's Chairman, Julius Marstrand, who gave a brief history of the site and the formation of FOLK. FOLK was also represented by Geoff Holt, Treasurer, Mike Donnelly, Working Party Co-ordinator, John Harvey, Peter Niblett and Tim Sugrue of the Executive Committee, Anne and John-Paul North, the Grazier and Contractor, and Wayne Sedgwick, CBC's Ranger.



Wayne Sedgwick briefing the Cleeve Conservators

From Cleeve Common there were Paul Lightfoot, Chair of the Board of Conservators, Michael Bates, Vice Chair, Janet Page, Clerk to the Board, Cllrs

Simon Wheeler and Pat Thornton, Bob Stayt, Noel Hemming, Alan Shakespeare and Bob East who are all Board members, Ellie Phillips, the Conservation Officer and Chantal Brown, the Education and Access Officer, David Stevenson, Senior Ranger and Diane Baker, Voluntary Warden

At the plaque to commemorate construction of the drystone wall in 2008/9, Wayne Sedgwick talked about raising funding for the wall, Higher Level Stewardship and the collaboration between FOLK and CBC. At the top of Windass Hill, Mike Donnelly spoke about FOLK's conservation work.



Conservators and FOLK members by the stone wall

After the tour of the site, we adjourned to the Brown Jug in Leckhampton for drinks and a buffet. John Harvey, gave a detailed account of the process of drawing up the various Management Plans for the site and some of the issues that had been encountered. Grazing is also used for grassland management on Cleeve Common and this provoked a revealing discussion about grazing regimes.

Everyone agreed the visit had been a useful and enjoyable one and we had all learned a lot from one another.

Julius Marstrand, FOLK Chairman

Hemp Agrimony- Sheep or Wolf?

Why an article about a species of plant that is not mentioned in the 2003 Management Plan for the Common and Hill, and which does not seem to have been recorded in the vegetation surveys carried out during the production of that plan? A species moreover that is normally associated with, and characteristic of, wet or damp conditions, such as the banks of rivers or ponds, marshes and swamps, or wet woodlands, rather than Limestone grassland. The species is not unknown on dry sites, indeed the last, 2002, comprehensive survey of the flora of Britain and Ireland noted that, it *is infrequent in dry habitats, but can be foundeven on dry chalk banks*. Such occurrences do indeed seem to be infrequent, as a fairly detailed search of the internet located only three “dry” sites where the species is listed as being present. At two small nature reserves in Hampshire it is a valued, but sparse, component of chalk grassland, whilst on Magnesium Limestone in Durham it is abundant and less welcome.

It is Hemp Agrimony's recent abundance on Charlton Kings Common that justifies this short note. From a small, insignificant, patch near the Gallops the species has increased dramatically in the past three or four years to become the most prominent herbaceous flowering plant on the Common in the late summer, and also the most widely distributed. Also over this period, managing the species has taken up an increasing amount of the effort of FOLK work parties. It is these differences in behaviour over time and site, plus the recognised conservation value of the species in some habitats, that explains the question in the title above, but the schizophrenic aspects of the plant go further than its biology in the UK. It is often sold in the UK as a garden plant attractive to butterflies and moths, but is an invasive weed in New Zealand, where it was introduced from its native Europe. It has been recommended as a suitable species for inclusion in grasslands grazed by horses, but contains a group of alkaloids that are thought to deter feeding by large grazing animals and which have been shown, in Australia,

to be toxic to some domestic livestock. The species has long been used as an alternative medicine, with tea made from leaves used to alleviate flu type symptoms, and extracts of leaves or roots being used for many purposes, such as a diuretic or laxative, a treatment for diarrhoea, and even as an antidote for snakebite. However, at strong concentrations the alkaloids can damage human liver cells. Even the plant's name is a strange hybrid, as it does not belong to either of the families of which Hemp or Agrimony are members, although it gets the Hemp part of its name because its leaves are similar in shape to those of Cannabis.



The villain of the piece?

How does one recognize Hemp Agrimony other than by the shape of its leaves that are held opposite one another on the stem? It is one of the few tall plants that you will see on the Common with stems, reaching up to 1.5 metres, topped by large, rather fluffy, flower-heads. Its rather flat flower-heads are clusters of many small flowers that are pink or purple in colour. The stems arise from rather insignificant rosettes of leaves at ground level. Below these leaves is a large system of fleshy roots. These roots give the species a considerable ability to spread and form dense

patches, sometimes with up to 30 stems in a square metre. However, much of the species' rapid spread across the Common must have been due to the very large number of very light seeds that it can produce. It is the combination of long distance dispersal, the ability to form dense patches and tall growth that has attracted the attention of Folk work parties. These features have created a new threat, severe shade, to the ground hugging flowering plants that thrive in full sun that are characteristic of Limestone grassland. The shade is not as deep as that cast by scrub or Gorse, but it will have an adverse effect on plant species of conservation value and hence its cause needs to be tackled. This issue has been recognised at the Durham site mentioned above and has resulted in the introduction of annual mowing in an attempt to address it.

The first requirement in reducing the probable adverse impact of Hemp Agrimony is to limit its spread, this means trying to reduce the amount of seed that is produced. This can currently be done only by cutting or pulling flowering stems before they produce seed. The steep slopes of the Common restrict the areas that can be cut by machine, unlike in Durham, so pulling by hand is the usual approach. Pulling can remove most of the roots of plants when the soil is damp, but this is much more difficult to achieve when the soil is dry, so that some plants may survive until the next year, as happens in Durham with cutting. Annual cutting in Durham does not seem to weaken the plants or reduce their subsequent growth. This means that, at the moment, pulling is the only tool for removing plants. Given the large amount of Hemp Agrimony that is present, the steep slopes and the difficulty in ensuring that pulling removes all roots, it seems that we do not presently have the resources needed to eradicate the species by this means. Herbicides might be an effective means of control, but there are always concerns about their use on a conservation site where valued plant species could also be affected. Very recently, a piece of easily portable kit has been developed that allows a herbicide to be "wiped" on to the leaves of tall species such as Hemp Agrimony

without it reaching short growing species. This might be tried on the Common in 2015.



Hemp Agrimony on Charlton Kings Common

Why has Hemp Agrimony suddenly become a problem on the Common and have other local sites been similarly affected? The answer to the second question is Yes, the species has increased on several other Cotswold grasslands in recent years, although apparently not at Cleeve Common. A characteristic shared by all the sites affected is that grazing by cattle has recently been re-introduced. This might make the sites a more suitable habitat for the species, for example by creating bare ground or short swards suitable for seeds to germinate and plants to establish, or might be the reason for its spread from an initial colony. As far as dispersal is concerned, some reports suggest that the seed may be spread, at least locally, by animals. But the seeds are much more adapted to dispersal by wind than to attachment to, or ingestion by, animals and the patterns of spread across the Common seem to be associated with wind direction. Also, isolated plants seem to turn up on the Common in patches of Gorse or scrub not penetrated by our cows. This last point suggests that it is not the grazing and trampling impacts of cattle that are responsible for the increase. The site in Durham is not grazed. So, on balance, the introduction of grazing may not be the driver of the recent increase. What does this leave? The species is normally associated with wet or damp situations and is more common in the south of the UK than in the north. Could recent weather conditions, or even climate change involving increasing local temperatures, be

implicated? Nothing in recent weather records suggests that conditions have changed dramatically, whilst the rate at which the species has increased is much faster than any other recorded change in species abundance ascribed to climate change. So, perhaps no simple explanation is available and the increase might be due to some combination of events that will be very difficult to discover.

Finally, to return to the beginning. Was Hemp Agrimony missed by the brief surveys carried out in 2002, or was it perhaps not present then, having arrived, maybe from a local garden since? If it had been recorded at that time, then would we now be focussing on its value as a food plant for certain invertebrates and treating it as a desirable feature of the site, rather than as a problem species? Such questions underlie many decisions in conservation.

John Harvey

Butterfly Survey – 2014: preliminary report

After the slow and late start in 2013, the 2nd year of regular monitoring began early. The weather encouraged all the recorders out and about from the first week in April, and the hibernators (Brimstones and Peacocks) were already flying. On 16th April, the first Green hairstreaks and Orange tips were sighted, almost 3 weeks earlier than 2013. As the weather continued fine and warm, Dingy skippers were flying by 3rd May (which was just more than 3 weeks earlier) and by mid-month were recorded in good numbers, along with Common blue and Small heath. The trend of early emergence compared with last year continued with most of the remaining species, but with a corresponding early last sighting date, with few if any Marbled Whites and Ringlets surviving beyond the end of July, when last year they were seen until the end of August.

The highlights of the season must be the sighting of Silver-washed fritillary and Adonis blue by Andrew Bishop, the former initially not on the survey route. However, it was subsequently seen on various days

by 3 different recorders on the Leckhampton Hill section just above the Bridge car park on Daisybank Road, with a minimum of 4 individuals present. Whether the single Adonis blue was there naturally or by introduction cannot be determined. It has in the past been recorded spasmodically across the site, but never appeared to successfully establish a viable colony.



Silver Washed Fritillary. Image from Butterfly Conservation

The Duke of Burgundy was again recorded on Charlton Kings Common, mainly in the area above the golf course. At the height of the flight period, a timed count was done by a member of Butterfly Conservation, during which a total of about 30 were seen, which was an excellent result, even though some may have been counted more than once.

A disappointingly small number of Wall browns were recorded during surveys, though some were seen by me during casual walks around the hill, so it is still present. After a bumper year in 2013, Dark green fritillaries were not quite so numerous, but were still seen in most previous locations, as well as some new ones. Numbers of Chalkhill blues were also lower, and this was in line with trends on other Cotswold sites.

A single Small (Little) Blue was seen in a new location, but as none of the larval (caterpillars) food plant is known from there, it was presumably what is known as a wanderer, having flown in from elsewhere. Migrant species were more common this year, with several records of Painted ladies and Red admirals.

As not all the records have been received and analysed, just the highlights of the season are recalled here. The comparison of population numbers between the two years will not be able to be made due to a change in the method of recording. But the impression is that there have been some winners and some losers – Marbled Whites up but Gatekeepers down. The reasons for this cannot be determined but are likely to be many and varied such as weather or management related.

My thanks go to all the recorders – Andrew Bishop, Pete Niblett, Pat Raddon, John and Jenny Palmer, Ged Cassell, Russell Smith and Peter Whalley for their continued efforts, energy and time to add to our knowledge of the butterflies of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common.

If you would like more information about the surveys or could help with the surveying next year, please get in touch with me.



Red Admiral filmed in September

Serena Meredith

01242 524138 or gmeredith308@btinternet.com with "FOLK butterfly survey" in the subject line.

FOLK Work Party Report Autumn 2014

If you use Daisy Bank or Bridge car parks and walk up the incline, you may have noticed that we have been working on a large project to open up the area of grassland to the left hand side of the incline as you go up the hill. This area and the area below it are often used in the winter for sledging when we have snow(!) and are heavily used by dog walkers all the year round.

We have used a contractor to take out an area of hawthorn from what was once a grassland area. On one of our work parties we were joined by 10 volunteers from Ubico (the local authority owned environmental services company) Most of the existing grassland has been cut and cleared to encourage the wild flowers in the spring and summer. The objective of this work is to open up a larger area of grassland for the benefit of the public for recreation.



Charlton Kings Common before FOLK work

We had a good work party in July clearing the track from Hartley Lane to the Cow Slip Meadow, cutting back the scrub and weeds to widen it out and also cutting back over-hanging trees and scrub. It was very overgrown and had become very wet and muddy. This track is part of the Cotswold Way and it is planned to use a contractor to improve the surface with stone infill.

One of the projects that is not seen by members is to make a photographic record of changes on the hill. Alongside the pictures of work done by work parties, once a year we walk round the hill and

from 40 fixed locations take the same picture each year. We are presently taking the fourth set of pictures. This is not a professional shoot but it does show changes to areas by nature and FOLK. I have attached two pictures of the same area in different years which shows a marked difference as a result of scrub clearance.



The same view after restoration of grassland

The area above Salterly Quarry car park and the area of grassland in the iron age fort have both had patches of grass cut and bailed or cut and cleared. We do not cut these areas every year, some only get cut every three years. This gives areas with different sward height for habitat and allows in some years more wild flower seeds to set.

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 if you wish. We meet at 9.30 at Tramway Cottage Car Park, Daisy Bank Road and are on the hill for approximately 3 hours. Tools are provided by FOLK. For your own safety please 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 Contact Mike 01242 238790 or Geoff 01242 244165

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Mike Donnelly, FOLK Work Party Coordinator

Work parties for 2014/5

October 2014	Thursday 9 th	Tuesday 21 st	Sunday 26 th
November 2014	Thursday 13 th	Tuesday 18 th	Sunday 23 rd
December 2014	Thursday 11 th	Tuesday 16 th	Sunday 28 th
January 2015	Thursday 8 th	Tuesday 20 th	Sunday 25 th
February 2015	Thursday 12 th	Tuesday 17 th	Sunday 22 nd
March 2015	Thursday 12 th	Tuesday 17 th	Sunday 22 nd

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

Ubico offers help to Friends of Leckhampton Hill

Tuesday the 16th of September was no ordinary FOLK work party because local authority owned environmental services company Ubico Ltd sent a group of 10 volunteers to help FOLK with the morning's task. Ubico's management team had agreed that they would like to give up some of their time as part of an ongoing commitment to support local community and volunteer groups.

Claire Blizzard who is Ubico's Marketing and Communications Officer was one of the volunteers and she has kindly provided a blow by blow of the day's labours. This is Claire's report:

On Tuesday morning we gathered in the nearby Daisy Bank Road car park for a quick introduction and health and safety briefing before heading up

the path to our work place for the day. Wayne talked us through the equipment that was available and showed us the area that we would be attacking. The group was split into smaller teams, mixing gardening novices with the more experienced FOLK regulars so we were all near to someone able to offer assistance or advice, if needed.



Volunteers flex their muscles

We quickly got into the swing of things, working together as a group to cut down the huge expanse of overgrowth. Most of us were content with loppers, while Marc and Rob opted for more of a challenge and spent the majority of the morning brush cutting like pros!

We were visited at 10am by a photographer from the Gloucestershire Echo who asked us to pose for photos, but soon after his departure we were back to it, loading the bonfire with ash and raking up grass.



The U team

The three hours flew by and before we knew it we were winding down and packing away our tools.

At the start of the day there was a definite divide in our group; some of us had never done ANY gardening at all, others were more competent, but we all had a thoroughly enjoyable time regardless of our ability – thank you very much to the FOLK work party for having us!



Stoking the bonfire or making smoke signals?

As a postscript we can report that the bonfire building was so successful that the local fire brigade had been alerted to smoke billowing from the Hill. Fortunately they were happy with our activities and they stopped long enough to pose for a group photo.

The day was judged to be enjoyable and productive and an all-round success. FOLK look forward to further joint work with Ubico.

FOLK Membership

FOLK needs to boost its membership and raise funds to ensure we keep up the good work on the Hill and Common into the future. If anybody has any bright ideas or would like to help, please let us know or mention your ideas at the AGM in November.

Remembering World War One

In this year of commemoration of the sacrifices and horror of World War 1, more people than usual will have studied the local war memorials with their lists of men who died in the conflict. The war memorial in Leckhampton, on the corner of Hall Road and Church Road occupies the site of the old

village well. It is a simple Cotswold stone cross made from limestone supplied by the Leckhampton Quarry Company. The memorial was designed by a local architect L W Barnard and unveiled on Easter Monday in 1920.

Familiar local surnames are listed, all of those who died were young and though a few are buried in our local churchyards many lie in the countries where they were killed; France, Belgium, Turkey, Israel. Particularly poignant are the names of the Thompson brothers, sons of the headmaster of Leckhampton School. They lived in the school house beside the site of what is now the war memorial; Ernest, a Quartermaster Sergeant in the 1st Grenadier Guards was killed in action at Ypres 29th October 1914 a few hours after his brother Sidney, a Sergeant Major in the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers was killed twenty five miles away in Neuve Chapelle.

Like us, the Thompson brothers and others listed on Cotswold Stone memorials throughout the area would have spent many happy hours exploring Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common.



Leckhampton War Memorial

New addition to the Dexter team

Thanks to Anne North for an update on the Dexter grazing project. The calving programme for 2014 started on September 20th with the birth of a black heifer, duly named Kingsbank Prunus (her mother is Plum). Hopefully there will be six more calves to follow.

And finally:

Tour of Britain races up Leckhampton Hill

Well actually on the road. On September 10th the Tour of Britain swept through Cheltenham with top international riders including the UK's Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish being seen zooming up Leckhampton Road in the direction of the Cotswolds.



Tour of Britain racers heading towards Leckhampton Hill

Thanks as ever to all our sponsoring organisations: Leckhampton and Warden Hill Parish Council, Charlton Kings Parish Council, Shurdington Parish Council, Cheltenham and County Cycling Club, Cotswold Conservation Board and Cheltenham Borough Council. Thanks also to Mike Donnelly and Claire Blizzard for photos.

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 Articles of around 500 words plus a photo at any time would be most welcome

Contact FOLK

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