



FRIENDS OF ASHENGROUND AND BOLNORE WOODS

conservation, protection, enhancement, enjoyment

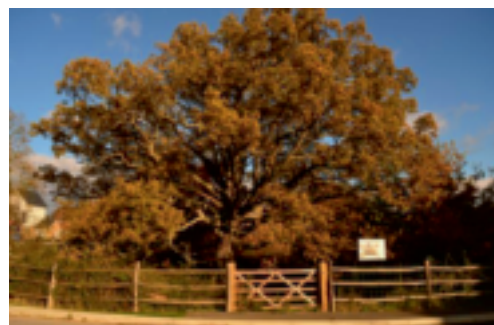
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

Introduction

This edition includes an invitation to our 2018 AGM alongside articles about the trees in our woods and our work over the last year. You will also find important reminders about membership and subscriptions. We hope you enjoy our Spring Newsletter.

Trees in Ashenground and Bolnore Woods

Our woods are made up of many kinds of tree. Most are ones which colonised these islands as the land warmed after the last Ice Age and have been here for thousands of years. As the ice melted the rising water cut us off from the continent. Since then wind-blown seeds and seeds brought in by trade and travel have increased our stock with many now very familiar trees –sycamore and horse chestnut for example.



Horse Chestnut

We have lost some of this variety in our woods since the mid-2000s - a group of larches near the railway bridge has almost gone and we had a black poplar where Trubwick Avenue now runs - but we still have more than twenty-five different kinds of trees and woody shrubs. Most of these bear fruit and flowers, which support an abundance of wildlife.



Sycamore

The woods have a variety of soils and microclimate, and different histories. Hundreds of years ago



Yew



Sweet Chestnut



Crab Apple



Rowan

some parts were planted as hornbeam coppice, or in Ashenground Wood, as hazel coppice with oak standards. There were forestry plantations where Bolnore Village is now and beeches to improve the view from Bolnore House.



Hornbeam



Hazel



Oak



Beech

There are now thousands of self-sown trees: holly deep under the trees, and birch and ash where there is a patch of light, with oak and hornbeam regenerating on the woodland edges. It is often



FRIENDS OF ASHENGROUND AND BOLNORE WOODS

conservation, protection, enhancement, enjoyment

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

difficult to identify trees in a wood, because usually you can't see the canopy, where the leaves and fruits grow, and you don't get a good view of the overall shape of the tree. Woodland edges provide a starting point, where the foliage is closer to you, and some of the wider rides give you a better distant view.

Gill Rogers



Holly



Birch



Ash

FoABW contribution to new noticeboards and keeping the drainage on track

FoABW contributed to the design of MSDC's new noticeboard in Pond Meadow and the information board sponsored by Crest for the Great Spreading Oak.



FoABW also advised Network Rail on a drainage proposal planning application involving channelling floodwater on the railway tracks through the northwest embankment and into Pond Meadow. It will then drain slowly away into Foundry Brook eventually feeding into the River Adur. At the time of writing Network Rail was clearing the embankment in preparation for the works.

Annual General Meeting invitation

You are warmly invited to attend our AGM at 14:30 on Sunday 11 March at Ashenground Community Centre in Haywards Heath. We continue to look for more Committee members. If you are interested please let me know (07802 162275 or email lorrainemaynard04@gmail.com). Copies of our accounts and the 2017 AGM minutes are available on our website. After the AGM, we are delighted to welcome back Michael Blencowe from Sussex Wildlife Trust for an illustrated talk on nocturnal life in the woods. Thank you very much for your continued support over the past year and I very much hope to see you at the AGM.

Lorraine Maynard



FRIENDS OF ASHENGROUND AND BOLNORE WOODS

conservation, protection, enhancement, enjoyment

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

Conservation Update

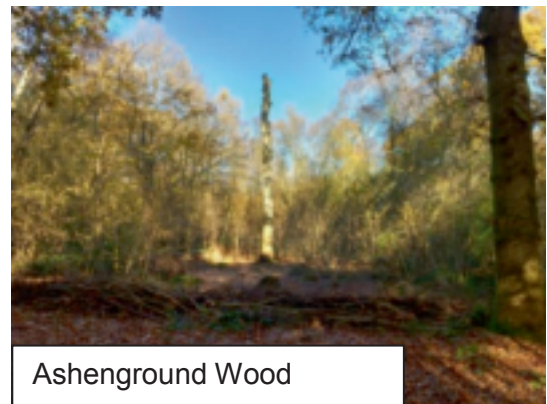
This season's activities for FoABW's conservation task group have included work on clearings in Ashenground



Catts Wood

Wood and Catts Wood.

This allows sunlight and warmth in encouraging bluebells, wood anemones and other flowers. This in turn will support butterflies, bees and other insects, birds and animals. If left unmanaged, the woodland becomes heavily shaded by the larger trees, preventing light reaching the



Ashenground Wood

woodland floor and reducing the range of plants and animals it supports.

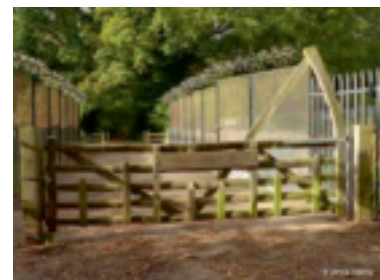
FoABW and the task group have also worked closely with Mid Sussex District Council's contractors, idverde, carrying out this year's annual conservation mowing, including scrub clearance in Pond Meadow. Over the autumn and winter months, the task group meets twice a month. Tasks include a combination of coppicing, cutting back undergrowth and litter picking. We are always pleased to see new volunteers. Further details are available on our website.



Patrick Burke

The Great Oaken Gate

FoABW is grateful to Stuart Meier for his work to repair and strengthen the Great Oaken Gate at the entrance to the Local Nature Reserve. FoABW first repaired the gate in 2013 after the driver of a stolen car smashed through it in his attempt to escape the police. It was damaged again in 2015 by thieves stealing from our tool store.



Living in Phase 5 of Bolnore Village? We don't want to lose touch.

This newsletter has been delivered as part of an agreement between Crest and FoABW which gives two years' free membership to Phase 5 households. If you enjoy the woods, we would encourage you now to join FoABW as an individual member by completing and returning a membership form (www.foabw.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MembershipFormWeb2012.pdf) to our Membership Secretary, Peter McKerchar (25 Wealden Way, Haywards Heath, RH16 4AF). We hope you will want to support the woods that are so much a part of the Village setting.



FRIENDS OF ASHENGROUND AND BOLNORE WOODS

conservation, protection, enhancement, enjoyment

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

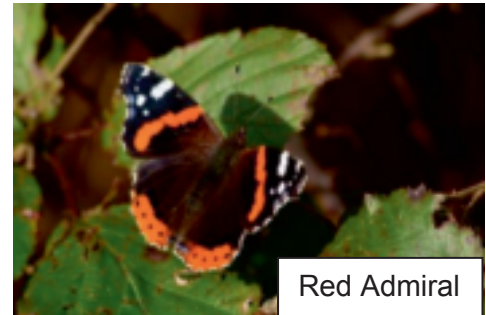
Wildlife Sightings - Spring and Summer 2017



Blackcap

During Spring and Summer 2017, we were lucky to have sightings of over 30 species of bird; 4 species of large mammal and one of bat; 4 species of reptile or amphibian; 20 species of butterfly or moth; 5 species of dragonfly or damselfly; and various other species of other

insects and invertebrates. Details of all these sightings are available on the 'Surveys' page on our website. Do let me know if you see any animals or birds in the woods, rare or common. **Lorraine Maynard**



Red Admiral



Slow Worm

Forthcoming Events

March 11 – AGM and Sussex Wildlife Trust talk

April/May (TBC) - Nature photography afternoon with Linda Howard

May (TBC) - History walk with Stuart Meier

August (TBC) - Bat walk

August/September (TBC) – Afternoon with owls



2018 Subscriptions Reminder

The annual subscription renewal falls due on 4 January 2018. The Committee is very grateful to those who pay more than the minimum of £5. Paying by standing order reduces our administration costs. If you do not already pay in this way, we have enclosed an addressed envelope. Please do one of the following:

- Set up a standing order by requesting the appropriate form from me.
- Send me a cheque, payable to FoABW.
- Pay by bank transfer to account no. 10021310, sort code 60-10-26, giving your surname & initials as reference.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Peter McKerchar