



# Friends of Limpsfield Common Winter Newsletter 2016



## Chairman's Report by David Claridge



Hello, I'm David Claridge, I took over as Chairman of the Local Committee shortly after the AGM, when Peter Jarvis stood down. As Monty once said "I expect some of you are wondering why I'm here". It's a long story and I don't want to generate the yawn factor just yet, so maybe it's best told another time or better still not at all.

So, let's get on with the business in hand. Firstly, a very big thanks to Peter who deftly handled the business of the Committee for several years at a very difficult time in its relationship with the National Trust. Thanks also to Mark and Eleanor and the Task Force for all their hard work too. And, as I'm not yet done with saying thank you, last but not least I'd like to thank my colleagues on the Local Committee and all of you Friends of the Common. All of you help to make the Common such an attractive place to live on or visit.

During the past year, the Friends have raised over £3000 that has been put to good use. In short, funding improvements to the Common and providing the Task Force with specialised equipment. The TF are restoring many of the open spaces that have been lost through the invasive growth of birch, holly, brambles and bracken.



In 2016, we're hoping to start sending out the newsletter (and other bulletins) to any of the Friends that are happy to receive emails.

Don't worry we'll still keep posting it to Friends that would prefer their Newsletter to drop through their letter box. But, for those of you that are happy to receive e mails, we need you to let us have your email address. There's an e mail address below which you can use to drop us a line to get on the emailing list. We promise not to share your address with anyone else and only email you about matters related to the Common land owned by the National Trust

## Regular property updates by email

The newsletter is a great way to keep the Friends informed about the main happenings on Limpsfield Common over the last six to nine months, but on occasions the information can be quite out of date, especially if it has occurred soon after the previous newsletter was sent out.

We are therefore keen to keep you much more up to date with the latest happens on Limpsfield Common, whether that's what the volunteers up to or issues such as fly tipping or even up coming events.

If you would like to receive updates about Limpsfield Common, then please email;

[friendsoflimpsfieldcommon@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:friendsoflimpsfieldcommon@nationaltrust.org.uk) letting us know and we can add you onto our mailing list.

## Volunteer Update

The volunteers have been very busy in Ridlands Grove, in particular opening up the woodland with the golf course. Since we have completed



that particular project we have had numerous positive comments about the work and people can't wait for next year's bluebell display. Due to the opening up of the woodland and the creation of the animal houses in Ridlands Grove, we have



continued to see a huge number of visitors to the woods, in particular families, many for the first time. Since finishing in Ridlands Grove,

the volunteers have been busy over the last couple of months opening up the woodland along Ridlands Lane in a couple of places. We have been doing this work for a number of reasons. Firstly to remove vegetation that was starting to encroach onto the lane and secondly to allow people driving along the lane the opportunity to see into the woodland instead of looking at a dense wall

of birch that used to border the roadside. As part of this work we have opened up the small strip of woodland between the children's playground and Ridlands Lane, making it inviting and safe for families as well as reducing the amount of litter that seemed to accumulate in the denser vegetation.

## Forest Schools at Limpsfield CofE Infant School

Forest School sessions provide children with the opportunity to explore and experience the natural world through practical activities in the outdoors which will in return help promote confidence, independence and self-esteem. By using the natural resources available in the wood and the children's interest we hope to stimulate their imagination, creativity, and enquiry skills. All children attending Limpsfield CofE Infant School will have the opportunity to attend Forest School sessions every year. Children will visit our Forest School site in the woods just off Grub Street regularly throughout the year and in all weather. They will work with tools, self-initiate learning and understand boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social.



## Dates for your diary

### FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING 2016

Friends of Limpsfield Common and Members of the Limpsfield Common Task Force are cordially invited to the Annual Public Meeting of the **Limpsfield Common Local Committee** on **SATURDAY 18th JUNE at 11am at St Andrew's Hall, Limpsfield Chart** (next to St Andrew's Church). The meeting is also open to the public generally.

The agenda includes the annual report of the Committee and approval of the accounts, a update of work on the Common from our rangers Mark Richards and Eleanor Yoxall, as well as an opportunity to have input in the future plans for Limpsfield Common. Questions from Friends and Members of the Task Force are very welcome.



There will be a buffet lunch with wine available after the meeting.

# Forest School – Limpsfield CofE Infant School, Mulberry Class 2015

By Dr Julia Nash

We have had a great time in Forest School last year and these are just a few of the children's comments to emphasize how important and precious it has become to them. As part of the Grub Wood Nature Walk it is there for everyone to enjoy and the children hope you will visit.

- Forest School is a place where you can't be naughty. You can dig in the deep soggy earth. In the woods you can climb trees. When you are in the wood you can find ants.

- I like Forest School because I like the zig-zag bridge.

- Forest School is a place where we climb the trees like silver Birch trees. You can make a bug home. In the woods you can hear the birds and the wind in the leaves. When you are there you can eat fruit, sour apples.



- I like Forest School because we can go on the zig-zag trail.

- Forest School is a place where you can find an animal. You can climb beech trees. In the woods you can eat fruit.

- When you are in the woods you can smell leaves. I like Forest School because I can play with friends.

- Forest School is a place where you can play with your friends. You can whittle sharp pencils. In the woods you can go on the zig-zag bridge what is fun.

- When you are in the woods you can hear the wind in the trees. I like the Forest School because it has two trees that I can climb.

- In Forest School you can do some writing and you can do some running around everywhere.

In Forest School is a place where you can enjoy yourself. You can find slimy soggy slugs. In the woods you can do some hiding and jumping. When you are happy you are in the Forest School. You might think that the creatures are slimy but they are really fast. I like Forest School because it is fun.



Forest school is a place where you can find spotty strange bugs! You can play epic games like hide and seek. In the woods we can do wobbly balancing on the zig-zags. When you are in the Forest School you can make dens for animals.



- I like Forest School because you can whittle sharp pencils and it's dangerous.

- Forest School is a place to think about stripy ants. You can make dirty caves for little insects.

In the woods you can climb trees. When you are in Forest School you can eat green sour apples.



- Forest School is a place where you can see the birds in the bird hide! You can play hide and seek and whittle with Dr Nash but don't take fungus off!

**I like Forest School because it is fun!**

## My Favorite Place on Limpsfield Common

There's plenty of scope to find your own favourite place on Limpsfield Common, I expect many of you already have one. Something that is just a beautiful scene or view or a place that triggers fond memories. I thought I'd share my favourite place with you.

It's, just beyond the air raid shelters at the view point looking out over Limpsfield, beyond it to Oxted and beyond that to the Downs. I stand on the edge of the now disused, sandpit. I suspect most of the houses in the village were built with lime mortar made from the sand dug out below me and lime from quarries, the remnants of which are still visible in the distant view before me.

The view reminds me that despite the onslaught of New Oxted town, largely a creation of the Victorians and their successors, Limpsfield village has maintained its independence and identity. Looking behind me, I see a 20th century place of sanctuary, the air



raid shelters built to protect the inhabitants of Limpsfield. Just by them is the mortar spigot pin a legacy of Limpsfield's Home Guard. They both mark just one episode over many centuries of warfare affecting us directly. They incorporate an invasion, a couple of civil wars and two world ones. And finally, walking home across the cricket pitch, or as some locals would say the bowling green as it's been called for centuries, I'm reminded how the Common has served its community in so many different ways since time began. A place to keep animals, dig up sand and stone, pick up firewood, build an illegal cottage ..... the list is endless.

To my mind there isn't a better place on the Common than the one I've described to see how all these different timelines and activities converge and yet be still in plain sight.

### Don't Miss!

#### War time experiences at Limpsfield Common

Sunday 13th March 2016  
at  
2pm to 3.30pm

Step back 70 years to when Limpsfield was often under direct threat of enemy attack. We'll tell you how the shelters were used and give you a taste of the times with ration-book recipe tea and biscuits.



Adults £12, Children £6.

Booking required, please call  
01372 220644

### Limpsfield Volunteers become TV Stars!

Last November BBC South East came out to film a story about the Limpsfield Volunteers and in particular our more mature members. The story appeared on the lunchtime news on Friday 8th January. If you missed here is the link to the news story.



<https://www.facebook.com/BBCSouthEastToday/videos/10153829475138648/?ref=nf>