

Field of remembrance



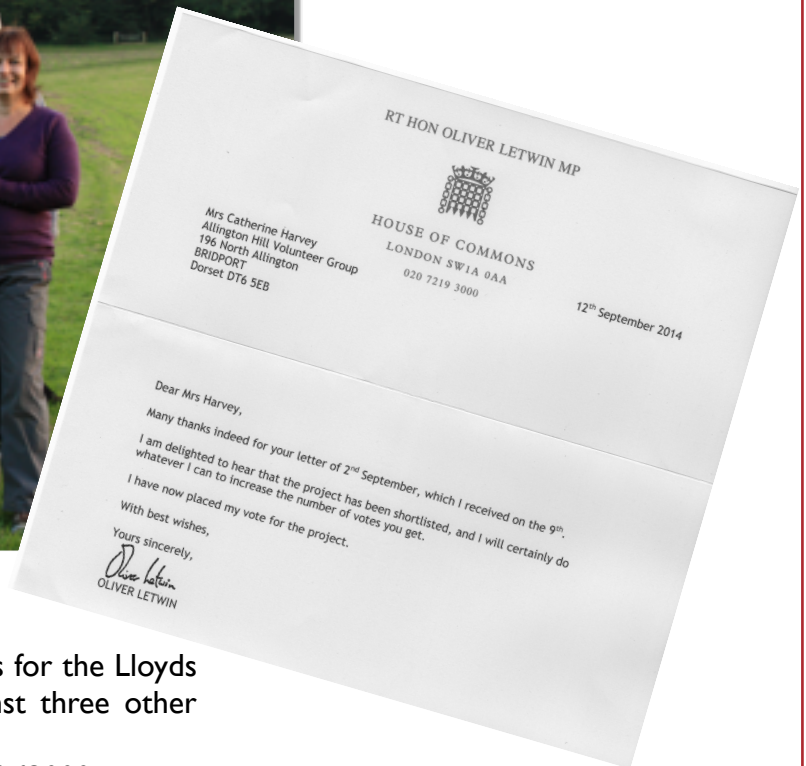
153 local men lost their lives in WWI. We paid tribute to them with 153 handmade named wooden crosses and placed them in front of a large poppy.

We were unable to publicise this in advance as we were not sure if it would work and that the weather may be against us. As the sun was rising on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning we placed the crosses and poppy in Cooper's Field just inside the main gate.

The response has been very moving and we were overwhelmed by the response from people far and wide.



Grants and Funding



Thanks to Sarah Worner who nominated us for the Lloyds Bank Community Fund. We were up against three other groups within the Chard Area.

We campaigned hard for the top funding of £3000, but we were unable to catch the imagination of local people on how it would benefit the community as a whole by improving the access for all to Cooper's Field.

We received the fewest votes, but still receive £500 towards the project.

The next person that complains about the mud.....

Bridport Town Council did have the foresight and imagination to grant us £500 to improve the access to the hill. We are extremely grateful for the continued support from Council. This means that we will be able to start this project hopefully in the spring early summer next year.

With the funding from Lloyds and £250 from fundraising, we have £1,250. This does mean that the purchase of the picnic table suitable for wheelchair users will have to be put on hold until we can raise more funds.

We have at this time no other grant applications outstanding. I am sure our Treasurer will be scouring every source available for grants in the coming months. It would be much more cost effective to complete a whole section at once.

CALENDAR 2015

THIS YEARS CALENDAR WILL BE ON SALE FROM THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER.

THEY CAN BE VIEWED AND PURCHASED FROM THE ODDFELLOWS, NORTH ALLINGTON.

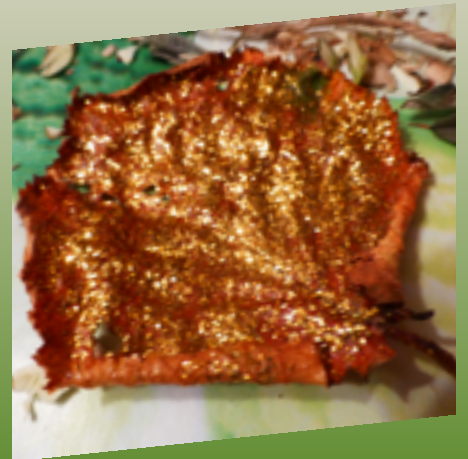
THE COST WILL BE £7.50 EACH WITH ALL THE PROFITS GOING TO THE VOLUNTEER GROUP TO HELP FUND OUR PROJECTS

CHRISTMAS TREE

THIS WILL BE THE THIRD YEAR THAT WE HAVE HAD A CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

THE THEME THIS YEAR IS "GOLDEN WOODLAND"

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP MAKE THE DECORATIONS YOU WILL FIND DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, UNDER EVENTS.



TREE PACK

WE APPLIED FOR A WW1 MEMORIAL TREE PACK FROM THE WOODLAND TRUST BACK IN THE SPRING. DUE TO A TECHNICAL HITCH THEIR END WE ENDED UP WITH TWO PACKS!

IN THESE TWO BOXES ARE OVER 200 TREES. THEY ARE OF A MUCH BETTER QUALITY THAN THE ONES WE RECEIVED FOR THE QUEENS JUBILEE.

SOME WILL BE USED FOR HEDGING, OTHERS TO REPLACE THE FEW TREES IN JUBILEE WOOD THAT DID NOT MAKE IT AND THE REST WILL BE PLANTED IN MEMORY OF LOCAL MEN WHO DIED IN WW1.



Allington Hill Volunteers sow wild

I will let Daisy explain. This was her school homework. (she is only eight)

On one sunny morning a group of volunteers called the Allington Hillbillies met because they were going to sow a wild flower meadow .

The group look after Coopers Wood on the hill .For their latest project they asked for people to come and help, on Thursday 30th of October. There were eight adults and a lot of children.

Everyone met at the bottom of the field with their buckets.

The wild flowers got mixed with sand, so that they knew where they had sown, and everyone was given some.

Each person had four flags to scatter their seeds between which measured 5sqm.

There was another session in the afternoon.

The flower meadow project started 3 years ago.

The 1st stage (a) was sown with yellow rattle, a plant which suppresses grass.

The 2nd year they did another area (b) sown with yellow rattle and a wild flower mix on the 1st area (a).

The flowers included Corn marigold, Oxeye daisy, Wild mustard and Corn poppy.

Both areas were a success so this year they added more annual seed to area (a) and to area (b) more wild flower mix.

One other area has been sown with yellow rattle and other wild flowers (not meadow flowers) have been sown along the top of the hill

Cathy Harvey(group coordinator) said "that the reason for it is because the hillbillies want to develop the area for the community and to get projects going like this for the children to join in."

Christine Toombs, another Hillbilly, said "the children are the future of the hill. They hope that they will look after it when they are older too."

Cathy said "in spring Cowslips will be planted" not sown

Some of the adults remember playing on the hill when they were young, they enjoyed the day!



WILDFLOWER PLANTS TOO

It use to be only wildflower seed that I use to get through the letter box. We now have people knocking on the door with wildflower plants that they have grown on. This included Fox Gloves, Oxeye Daisy and so many Cowslips I have lost count.

We also have wildflower plug plants donated by the butterfly conservation group. Some of these plants will have to be overwintered in cold frames. The rest we hope will be planted out this week. All we can do now is wait for spring and let nature take it's course.

A huge thank you to J. C. Phillips and Son Ltd gravel yard in Bridport for the very generous donation of sand to help disperse the seed. We are extremely grateful.

THE NEW SEAT

THANK YOU

Two volunteers went up to Evans Scaffolding on the scrounge for a few broken scaffold boards. after handing over £20, Stan set to work.

This was the result. Not bad return on the money!

Thanks guys it has already been well used.



Ohh, this was messy. We invited the local Beaver group to make some wildflower seed bombs.

As you can see they were very keen and made well over 100 bombs. Two weeks later after they had dried, they ran up to the top of Cooper's Field at dusk and bombed the field, with much excitement.

We will be inviting them back in the spring to help us plant 100's of cowslips.

If you know of any other children's group that would like to get involved in projects on the hill, please let us know.



Personal thanks to Margaret Preuss-Higham and other leaders and Roly Boughton who took over at the last minute with the bombing as I was unable to attend. I always miss all the fun!

Pat's Doggy Blog!

As dogs and their walkers have during the past few years become a familiar sight on Allington Hill it was thought that they deserved a regular spot in the very popular Allington Hill newsletter.

We would very much like to hear from anyone having a Dog v Hill related story as I know we constantly swap tales amongst ourselves all the time. Such as....dogs v wasps nests...dogs v playmates...dogs v children...dogs v mud the list is endlessly entertaining. Photos could also be submitted of course as I know that Cathy loves to get technical and creative with the layout!

I myself will be happy to answer any canine queries ranging from simple health issues to easily resolved behavioural (for this page) issues.

For the health queries I have Veterinary back up advice if needed and for the behavioural queries I have a 25year (and how methods have altered during this time) history of working with and for dogs within many disciplines.

So then, a simple, entertaining contribution for the newsletter please.

You may all be aware of the two new dog waste bins on Coopers Field and not as I believe as was stated in the Bridport News as being sited on the Hill itself.

These bins were deliberately placed in their present locations as dogs will generally relieve themselves within 300yards of being released.

Hopefully this means that people do not have to carry the bags too far before continuing their walk.

I have been asked why we cannot have another bin at the top of the field? The reason for this is that they require emptying by volunteers every Sunday and believe it or not we now have to use a sack truck as the load is so heavy...it would be a somewhat daunting task.

So a huge thank you to all of you for using our bins, it is proving to be a huge success overall.

One day hopefully the lower path will be all grass and nothing else.

For the next Newsletter I hope to be able to put in tales from people about themselves and their dogs both past and present, also Sarah is organising two events on the same day 15th November with the dog trainer Jim Greenwood . 2 pm Coopers Field then 7:30 pm The Kings Head. So pictures and report from that event too?

One final request, well two really. If you have any suggestions for this dog blog slot do let us know and I will enjoy the input. The other is to ask that comments of a personal or aggrieved nature not be submitted but by all means any other canine concerns such as poisonous plants, loose wire etc.

Thanks Pat. I look forward to forwarding all these doggy tales. I think 90% of people who visit the hill have a dog, yet they never get a look in, in the newsletter. Pat as your Community representative for the group is now an administrator on the Facebook page. You may find it easier to message her via the Facebook page.

Sat 15th Nov
7.30-9.30
The King's Head
St Andrews Road
BRIDPORT, DT6 3DS
Talk & buffet £10.00 p.p.

"Any Questions?"
Jim Greenwood
Dog Behaviourist
& Trainer

07740194709/01308426327
slwmoley@btinternet.com
For information



Jim Greenwood - Dog Trainer is coming to West Dorset

This is a great opportunity for dog owners to meet one of the top dog trainers in the country.

Sarah Worner has arranged some private training sessions during the day and there will be an opportunity for people to come along on Sunday 16th at Cooper's Field in the morning.

I would highly recommend that you contact Sarah at the address on the poster for more information or visit our Facebook page.

Sarah approached the community group to hold the event on the field. It is a community area and we encourage people to use it. We passed the information on to Allington Parish Council and after filling in an easy risk assessment form the job was done.

This will be the first event not arranged by the group. We wish Sarah and Jim every success. Please support them.

The latest nature news.

Roly and Jon have put up the two owl boxes that we were donated. We have kept the location secret as we do not wish any nesting owls to be disturbed.



Today a professional photographer nearly stepped on a Dormouse. He has captured an amazing photograph, our first photographic evidence of Dormice on the hill. He has kindly put the photo on the Facebook page.

This is so important as it is proof that they are in the area. For example it was not found far from the Hibernia area, where developers wish to build. These mammals are protected and you need a licence to handle them and trapping them for research purposes.

COOPER'S WOOD

MANY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE CONDITION OF THE TREES IN COOPER'S WOOD. MANY LOOKING AS THEY ARE DYING.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH A.O.N.B, THE FORESTRY COMMISSION, ALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL AND THE WOODLAND TRUST.

THROUGH A.O.N.B WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED £2000 OF LOTTERY FUNDING TO PUT IN PLACE A MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INITIAL WORK FOR THE WOOD, WHICH SHOULD START NEXT YEAR.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF ALL INVOLVED AND THE EASE WITH WHICH THIS HAS TAKEN PLACE. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED LAST WEEK, SO ALL SYSTEMS GO.

The Weather

The weather report will be back, there just is not enough room for it in the last couple of issues. So it will be given pride of place next time.

Chat from the hill

Why did you leave it so late this year to sow the seed for the flower meadow?

We were governed by the weather. September was too dry and warm. The grass was still growing very fast. Although it is very mild, we dare not leave it any longer.

When is the seat for the disabled going to be put in place?

We will need to do even more fund raising. Someone asked what's the point, no disabled people use the area. I wonder why?

Where are the memorial trees going to be planted?

Next spring. We need to have the management plan for Cooper's Wood to be completed. As some of them could be incorporated within the wood.

What happened to the Autumn festival this year?

We have had a lot of people ask and especially for the bonfire. We have a very small core of volunteers who wish to be involved in organising events on the hill. With so many other things happening, we just did not have enough help. Any volunteers?

What has happened about the WWI memorial bench?
This has been more difficult than we imagined. £500 grant for a handmade bench and no one wanted the commission. Stan one of the volunteers has now taken on the challenge and is sourcing some English Oak for the project.

What happened to the Sunday club for children?
We found that this was impractical. Special events throughout the year such as munching caterpillar event and involving groups such as the Beavers reaches a lot more children.

Why are your working parties not held on the same day and time each week?

All our regular volunteers have very busy lives and by changing the days and times we actually get more volunteers turn up, working in smaller groups. This way we get a lot more done. They are advertised on the main gate and on the Facebook page.

allingtonhill@gmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/allingtonhillbillies/>

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