



Downlands Trust Newsletter

SPRING 2022



From the Chairman

Peter Wakeham

After two difficult years, it is pleasing to be able to say that the activities of the Trust have now returned to normal. We held a very successful AGM in October, presentations to indoor meetings have recommenced and trustee meetings are once again being held around the table. The Downlands Partnership Task Team is running a full programme of volunteering days, some of which have been joined by staff from Fidelity International, our corporate sponsors. This summer, we will be sharing a stall with Downlands Partnership staff at Coulsdon Rotary Fair, Chipstead Flower Show and Carshalton Environmental Fair and we will be very pleased to meet some of our members at these events.

This is the 4th and final year of Fidelity International's sponsorship of the Trust. It has been a friendly and productive relationship throughout and the equipment and activities that they have funded have significantly enhanced the ability of the Downland Partnership and local conservation organisations to maintain our downland sites in good condition. The Trust is immensely grateful for the support that Fidelity has provided over this period.

We are fortunate in having many excellent bluebell woods in this area and, as the bluebell season approaches, many of us will be looking forward to visiting our favourite wood. A fairly recent addition to accessible bluebell woods is Langley Vale Wood, just south of Epsom Downs racecourse and a little to the west of our area. The site is owned by the Woodland Trust, is open to the public and contains two outstanding bluebell woods that will shortly become much more accessible with the opening of a public car park. Well worth a visit!

Annual General Meeting

Sean Grufferty gave a talk on Old Lodge Farm telling those attending the AGM about the history from the time it was a farm on the Earl of Derby's estate back in the 1700s, the failed experiment to house soldiers returning from WW1 with shell-shock and the dereliction from 1980 until the time when it was renovated in the Old Surrey Downs Project in 2007-11.

Surrey County Council has recently invested to bring the property up to a suitable standard with a classroom for education and office, kitchen and internal toilet to replace the tent and portaloos that the team had to use during lambing.



Sean giving his presentation

Meet the Trustees



From left: Elspeth Pringle (Social Media) Pam Mascall (Grants), Peter Wakeham (Chairman), Geof Haseler (Newsletter), Sarah Milan (Membership), Roger Findley (Treasurer), Noreen Siba (Marketing)

Grants made to organisations

Pam Mascall

Grants of over £17,000 have been approved which include:

Purchases for the DP Grazing Team:

- 3 Sussex bullocks. As the Sussex cattle age, they grow to an extremely large size and become bolder and more difficult to manage. The vet's recommendation is that they are replaced between 30-40 months. These three are replacements.
- A Beulah ram to replace the existing Beulah ram that had declined in condition.
- Lightweight cattle hurdles for a corral pen system to replace the current heavy metal hurdles.
- Electric collars for cattle which will enable the Team to specify the area where the animals can range and also enable them to check on the animals without the need to visit the site.

Old Lodge Farm is used as a hub for conservation education and engagement. The Trust approved grants for:

- creating a new hedgerow around one of the copses to provide an area for education as well as the benefits it would bring to wildlife: Speckled Wood and Ringlet butterflies, birds and mammals.
- setting up a chicken coop - having chickens on site adds a new element when groups, especially of youngsters, visit.

Other projects

- Planting a new hedge and replanting gaps in older hedges at Tithepit Shaw Lane
- Brushcutter training course, new and replacement equipment - chainsaws, pole saws, gloves and leg guards
- 30 dormouse boxes at Blanchman's Farm and the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Conservation Area

Hawkhurst Wood and Foxley Wood: strimming of both meadows and removal of excess scrub where sheep have been unable to keep the scrub under control. This will allow for a better regeneration of wild flowers.

Discovering Brown Hairstreak eggs at Blanchman's Farm

Pam Mascall



Photo: Ken Elsom

It's 12.30 and, after a morning of working in the open air, I should be thinking about lunch. But just as I start to plan my escape from the thicket I am cutting back, an excited shout is heard: 'They're here, they're actually here'. It's the voice of wildlife expert Malcolm Jennings. We all crowd round as he points to a twig of blackthorn. We look but see nothing. Then Malcolm passes me his hand lens and there, at the junction of a thorn and the twig, is a tiny bright white honeycomb structure. It's an egg of the Brown Hairstreak butterfly.

We're at Blanchman's Farm Local Nature Reserve in Warlingham where we have been managing blackthorn to support the Brown Hairstreak. Over recent years this butterfly's habitat has been reduced when hedges have been uprooted and others flailed. Brown Hairstreaks lay their eggs on new growth in sunny sheltered positions.



Photo: Ken Elsom



Photo: Pam Mascall

So, on the advice of Tom Thorn of the Downlands Partnership, we started a cycle of cutting back and scalloping the blackthorn to encourage new growth and sheltered coves.

The Brown Hairstreak butterfly is rarely seen because they congregate to feed and mate at the top of ash trees. So spotting these pinhead sized eggs was our confirmation that the Brown Hairstreak was on site. The eggs are laid in autumn; the female butterfly travels down a blackthorn stem laying eggs at the base of thorns. Larvae emerge in spring and normally feed on the underside of leaves before pupating at ground level and emerging as a butterfly in late July / August.



In the past year, we have been very busy, despite the pandemic. Our first two chalk scrapes were put in to promote the return of more chalk grassland and to encourage the return of the Small Blue Butterfly. The kidney vetch seeds, some of which were kindly provided by Peter Wakeham, have sprouted enthusiastically. Two further scrapes will be put in at the end of 2022.

We were more than delighted to be given a Gold Award by London in Bloom and to be awarded a Green Flag in September, showing we are a safe and well cared for park. This represented a lot of hard work by many people, particularly our gardener, Tony Moorhouse, who works for our maintenance contractor,ilverde.

Our Dawn Chorus and Bat Walks

were very successful in the summer and we planted woodland bulbs and 3,000 daffodils and tulips in October. The results of all that effort are being enjoyed now.

2022 is going to be a big year for us. We are focussing on planting trees and participating in the Sutton Parks Festival 2022. There is a busy programme of events from Tai Chi classes starting in May through to a Meadow Day in September when scything will be demonstrated and we hope to have heavy horses on site.

Our big project for the year is to plant a new copse in the park with up to 30 mature trees to mark H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are working with Sutton Council's Trees Team. The site has been selected and the trees will be largely English native. Individuals will be able to buy a tree at a cost of £700, including ongoing care, or contribute to one of the community trees we will be planting. There will a big planting event at the end of November 2022, which will be a lovely way to end the year.



Hilux vehicle update

The latest delivery date for the new Toyota Hilux ordered by the Downlands Partnership has been pushed back and is now scheduled for the end of May. The team cannot wait to get their hands on this new vehicle.

The new Hilux will be similar to that in the picture below and we will include a picture of the vehicle liveried up in the Autumn newsletter. Roll on the end of May!!!



Thank you!

The Trustees would like to thank all those who have donated to the Trust over the last year which has contributed significantly to our ability to fund local groups in their conservation work.

We would like to thank especially Waitrose Caterham for their generous donation of £1,000.

Applications for grants have been lower than usual during the Covid pandemic as many groups have been unable to continue their work, despite it being outdoors!

However, these funds are invaluable in allowing the Trust to continue to fund local groups who are in need of financial support.

Calling all Members and Volunteers

We already have the dates below in 2022 when we want to advertise the work of the Downlands Trust and Partnership at local fairs. However, we cannot manage to man a stall all day as well as setting it up and dismantling it.

We need a rota of helpers on these dates who can assist for a couple of hours. If you are willing or know of anyone who is willing to help, please contact **Noreen on 07770 417 796**

- Saturday 2 July Old Coulsdon Village Fair
- Saturday 16 July Chipstead Village Flower Show and Fair
- Monday 29 August Carshalton Environmental Fair

Walks, talks and events

Noreen Siba

- 8 May * - Rotary Club of Banstead Sponsored Charity Walk. 8.5 miles across the North Downs starting and finishing at Epsom Downs. Apply at bansteadrotary.com/charity-walk-2022 or phone Roger de la Perrelle on 01737 813870 or Derek Aram on 01737 212397.
- 8 May * - Bird Watching walk led by David Campbell. 3 hours. Meet at 9am at Canons Farmhouse TQ247576. Donation of £3 to Canons Farm and Banstead Woods Bird Group would be appreciated.
- 14 May * - Flowers and butterflies of Park Downs. 2 hour walk led by Peter Wakeham and Jill Hall. Meet at Holly Lane car park TQ273583 at 10.30am. Donation of at least £2 to Downlands Trust would be appreciated.
- 14 May - Old Lodge Farm Open Day 9.30 - 15.00 to meet the lambs. Location Telegraph Track, Carshalton, SM5 4 AZ. What3words: beats.couches.riding. Email: downlands.grazing@surreycc.gov.uk to book lunch (a simple BBQ lunch) between 12-2pm so that the team can plan dietary requirements.
- 25 June - Walk at Park Ham led by Sean Grufferty. 10am - 12. Meet in Mary's Field. Exact location for parking is <https://goo.gl/maps/morMMVTSWUEHV5Kn7>. Wear suitable footwear as the site is quite steep and there may be livestock in the bowl field.
- 29 May - Parks Festival Event at Oaks Park. See Friends of Oaks Park website for details.
- 2 July - Bat walk in Oaks Park. Cost £7.50. Details on friendsofoakspark

* Part of the Banstead Arts Festival Programme

Fungus Foray

Graham Kenward

Back in October, I joined a Fungus Foray in Banstead Woods, led by Jane McLauchin for members of the Trust. Over the course of an enjoyable morning's exploration, Jane identified no fewer than 40 species of fungi, some difficult to spot with the naked eye or even our volunteers' spectacles.

The common names of these diverse species are as descriptive as they are memorable, with Russet Toughshank, Hairy Curtain Crust and Stump Puffball perfectly demonstrating 'what it says on the tin'.

With Jane's expert guidance, the group found examples right across the size range, from larger species like Burgundydrop Bonnet and Yellow Fieldcap to the hard-to-spot Beechmast Candlesnuff and tiny Orange Bonnet, right down to the barely visible Holly Speckle.

We also learned that the hard-of-seeing can use their nose to identify certain subjects like Fruity Fibrecap (smells of stewed pears), or Lilac Bonnet (radish). Less fragrant others can smell of rotting meat.

Whichever sense you use to identify fungi, remember that common sense is best for avoiding being ill or worse as a result of foraging for a woodland snack. Fungi like Bitter Poisonpie are obviously to be avoided but types that might appear harmless in looks, name or smell can, in fact, be deadly. Beware the likes of the Amethyst Deceiver!

Terry Pratchett was among those who offered this advice: "All fungi are edible. Some fungi are only edible once." A big thank you to Jane for making the outing a most interesting and informative experience.

Fungi Foray in Banstead Woods, 10th October 2021

Leader: Jane McLauchin

10 people, Downlands and Banstead U3A

Weather: Mild, a bit dull

Location: Woodland with oak, beech, hawthorn, holly, cherry etc and occasional pine

Auricularia auricula-judae	Jelly Ear	Shaped and feels like an ear. On standing elder.
Bjerkandera adusta	Smoky Bracket	Small bracket with grey pores. On dead part of hazel stump.
Bolbitius tibubans	Yellow Fieldcap	In the field in damp grass.
Colletotrichum liliacearum	no common name	Black spots on dead bluebell.
Coprinellus macaques	Glistening Inkcap	Cap with shiny scales, in clusters of many around ash stump.
Coprinopsis picaceus	Magpie Inkcap	Large inkcap, black with white scales. In leaf litter under beech.
Gymnopus dryophilus	Russet Toughshank	In the field under oak.
Hebeloma sinapizans	Bitter Poisonpie	In leaf litter under oak etc.
Hymenoscyphus fraxineus	Ash dieback	We didn't see the fungus but only its effects on ash
Hypoxylon fuscum	Hazel Woodwart	Hard black warty lumps on fallen hazel branches.
Inocybe ?bongardii	Fruity Fibrecap	In leaf litter, smells like stewed pears/fruit.
Inocybe geophylla	White Fibrecap	Small white mushroom in the leaf litter.
Inocybe geophylla var lilacina		Lilac-coloured form of the above, we found both.
Kretzschmaria deusta	Brittle Cinder	Black/grey crust at base of oak.
Laccaria laccata	Deceiver	In the field under oak tree.
Lactarius quietus	Oakbug Milkcap	In the field under oak. Exudes white juice when broken.
Lycoperdon perlatum	Common Puffball	In the leaf litter.
Lycoperdon pyriforme	Stump Puffball	On buried roots.
Mycena acicula	Orange Bonnet	A tiny bonnet.
Mycena haematopus	Burgundydrop Bonnet	Bleeds red juice. On decayed wood, one of the carved signs.
Mycena pura	Lilac Bonnet	In leaf litter; smells of radish.
Mycena sp	Bonnet Cap	A small brown one.
Panellus stipticus	Bitter Oysterling	On dead hazel stump.
Parasola plicatilis	Pleated Inkcap	Very delicate inkcap, on bare ground at side of path.
Peniophora quercina	no common name	Lilac-coloured crust on fallen oak branch.
Phacidostroma multivalve	another holly spot	Larger black spots on holly leaves.
Phlebia radiata	Wrinkled Crust	On fallen log.
Phragmidium violaceum	Violet Bramble Rust	Purple spots on bramble leaves.
Phyllactinia guttata	no common name	On underside of hazel leaves, white fur with black spots which are spectacular under the microscope.
Piptoporus betulina	Birch Polypore	Brackets on fallen birch trunk.
Plicatura crispa	Crimped Gill	A small soft bracket on a fallen birch branch.
Puccinia phragmites	leaf spot on dock	Purple spots on leaves.
Rhopoglyphus filicinus	Bracken Map	Black streaks on old bracken stems.
Rhizisma acerinum	Tar Spot	Black spots on sycamore leaves.
Schizopora paradoxa	Split Porecrust	White crusty patches on wet wood.
Skeletocutis nivea	Hazel Bracket	White crust or small bracket, tiny pores with shining surface, on hazel.
Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust	Small thin bracket on fallen branch.
Trochila lilicina	Holly Speckle	Black spots on fallen holly leaves
Ucinula bicornis	no common name	On underside of field maple leaves.
Xylaria carpophila	Beechmast Candlesnuff	Only on old black beechmast husks.
40 SPECIES		

Fidelity Day in December at Old Lodge Farm

A volunteer from Fidelity International

It was so exciting to attend another volunteering day, this time with a festive theme. I volunteered with other colleagues from Fidelity International to help the Downlands Partnership with current projects at the farm and learn about the animals, with a taster of their livestock courses! We were asked to arrive from 9.30am for a 10am start. The yard holds around 30 cars and staff were on site to help direct people to spaces. The itinerary for the day included the livestock course taster - sheep catching, MOTs and dagging; cow whispering; an introduction to chicken keeping; scrub clearance, woodland management, hedge planting and potting plants for sale at the summer shows. It can get cold and muddy. Wellingtons are a strong recommendation as are waterproofs even if it's a dry day! Ideally, also take a water bottle and gardening gloves.



We gathered in the barn, where we were given a briefing for the day, before dividing ourselves into groups. My colleagues and I opted first for a practical activity inside the barn potting bulbs, and found ourselves furiously getting through such a therapeutic task and even more excited to plant our 'bulbs in a bowl' to take home. After our hour was up, we moved onto the next task - hedge planting. Another briefing and demonstration, and we grabbed our spades and planted away, before heading onto tree thinning. Alan was waiting ready for us with saws and cutting tools to help guide us through scrub clearance. It can be arduous, but Alan gave us some great tips and with the proper technique and teamwork, I was so impressed with everyone's efforts! It's been a very challenging year for charities and Downlands Partnership really benefit from our help. The organisers always express sincere thanks for our support and being able to hold this event.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the introduction to chicken keeping, seeing the chickens and learning about their coop. Last but not least was the taster in livestock management - learning how to gently approach the cows to feed them their oats. Ultimately, though, the day was all about the sheep and this was the highlight of the day, as we became somewhat obsessed with the incredibly photogenic Herdwick, a breed of sheep native to the Lake District and a favourite of the children's author Beatrix Potter in the later years of her life.



We finished the day with a tasty BBQ, plenty of hot cuppas and an abundant selection of mince pies. It was a real hubbub of faces smiling to the tune of music and songs being played in the barn, after another extremely satisfying day of volunteering. Thank you to all the staff and my colleagues at Fidelity for their efforts organising such a brilliant day!

Fidelity Christmas Day at Whyteleafe

Sarah Clifford, Countryside Warden



It is Christmas and there are plans for a wreath making and scrub clearance event to be held at Whyteleafe Recreation Ground for Fidelity International. Whyteleafe Recreation Ground is not a typical recreation ground in that it is part of a wider area that covers 200 acres, from ancient woodland to chalk grassland and grassy meadows.

As you walk up the hill known as the Dobbin, the area opens onto grassy fields where the song of the Skylark can be heard. Whyteleafe Recreation Ground is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest and also of historical importance. Roman baths are hidden under the grass and the cricket scene in the film "Reach for the Skies" was filmed here with the pavilion used for the teas scene. The "Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner" was also filmed here

with the actors entering the Recreation Ground under the railway bridge at Maple Road and filmed walking up to the Dobbin.

On Wednesday 8th December, the day after storm Barra, and on a beautiful but windy day, we arrive at Whyteleafe Recreation Ground to set up ready for Fidelity International volunteers to arrive to enjoy the day's activities of Christmas wreath making, using locally gathered materials from the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area, and carry out some practical work in the hills clearing scrub and raking. Species important for the Chalk Grassland are found here.

A buffet lunch was provided and served inside Whyteleafe Recreation Ground's Pavilion, with hot drinks and homemade cakes - a welcome respite from the cold weather outside!

The event is to say a special thank you to Fidelity International who have supported the Downlands Countryside Partnership over the last few years with practical and financial support. Many thanks for all those hard workers who helped. What a great day!



Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Peter Wakeham



Almost half of the world's bluebells are found in Britain, making our bluebell woods very special. Bluebells are generally found in ancient woodlands, the main exception being on the west coast where they grow in rough clifftop grassland where the moist and mild influence of the Gulf Stream provides an approximation of the humidity offered by woodland further east.

Ancient woodlands are defined as woods that have existed since at least AD 1600 and they have developed irreplaceable, complex ecosystems. In addition to bluebells, a number of other plants are associated with these woodlands and are known as 'ancient woodland indicators'. They require long-term, stable woodland cover to survive and are slow to colonise new territory. Such species include Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel and Wood Spurge. Many, including bluebells, drop their seeds immediately alongside their parents and have no other dispersal mechanism, helping to explain their reluctance to spread readily to other apparently suitable sites.

All parts of the bluebell are poisonous if eaten and this works to their advantage because they are untouched by deer, squirrels, and other bulb eaters. Despite this toxicity, they were nevertheless used in various folk remedies in the past. Herbalists thought that hanging bluebells beside your bed would help prevent nightmares, and they were also believed to be a remedy against leprosy, spider-bites and tuberculosis. Bluebell sap extracted from the bulbs was used as a glue in the 1600s and possibly as far back as the Bronze Age. It was used to attach feathers to arrows and later for bookbinding, a particular advantage being that the toxic sap stopped certain insects from attacking the binding. In the Elizabethan period, ruff collars were often stiffened using starch made from crushed bluebell bulbs.

Considerable publicity has been given to the apparent threat posed by Spanish Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) which can hybridise with the native species and threaten their dominance in bluebell woods. Spanish Bluebells are rare in this country and most plants sold by garden centres are the hybrid between the Spanish and native bluebells (*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*) which nevertheless can hybridise further with the native species. In Surrey and elsewhere, there is as yet little evidence of any significant displacement of the native species and most hybrid bluebells are found near sites of human activity and originate as garden escapes. The photograph illustrates some of the differences between Spanish (left) and native (right) bluebells, Spanish bluebells being erect, of a paler blue, prominently bell shaped and having wider leaves.



Overwhelmingly violet-blue in colour, white and pink forms are occasionally found among native bluebells and more frequently amongst Spanish hybrids. This is the result of a mutation affecting one or both of two colour-determining genes and where both are absent then the result is a white bluebell.

Bluebell seeds germinate on the surface and the first flowers appear after about 5 years. In mature plants, the bulbs themselves are found several inches below the surface and they are positioned at this depth by contractile roots, a mechanism used by some other plants including daffodils, lilies and dandelions. Contractile roots are vertical roots that have a concertina-like profile. Bluebell leaves and bulbs detect the amount of light reaching the plant and, if this is above a certain level, then the contractile roots shrivel from the bottom upwards, the ridges grip the soil and pull the bulb downwards to the appropriate depth.

Continued..

Native bluebells have been protected since 1998 under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), meaning that digging up the plant or bulb in the countryside is prohibited and it is also illegal for landowners to remove bluebells from their land to sell. Nevertheless, bluebells continue to face many threats including habitat destruction, climate change and nitrogen pollution. Nitrates in the atmosphere, in rainwater and agricultural runoff encourage the growth of coarse vegetation such as brambles that can outcompete bluebells in the woodland understorey. Trampling is also a serious threat to bluebells because their leaves are easily damaged and this impoverishes the bulbs, which can take up to 5 years to recover. This is why it is important to remain on paths in bluebell woods, in spite of any desire to take that perfect picture amidst the bluebells!

Trees under attack Geof Haseler

The Woodland Trust has identified at least 20 exotic pests and diseases which have entered the UK from overseas and which are attacking our native trees, with six reaching epidemic levels. The government's plans to expand the rate of tree planting by 2025 to help combat climate change could perversely help the spread of these diseases if foreign grown trees are used. The value of tree imports has almost doubled in four years to £100 million. The Woodland Trust are campaigning for UK sourced and grown trees to be used to reduce the spread of these imported diseases and pests.

Some of the diseases and pests currently affecting South East England include:

Ash dieback (also called chalara) is highly destructive disease caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which originated in eastern Asia. Its introduction to Europe about 30 years ago has devastated the UK's native European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) whereas other ash species have developed a level of tolerance, having co-evolved with the fungus over thousands of years. The first symptoms are a blackening and wilting of the leaves, then the infection progresses into the twigs and branches and eventually into the trunk causing dark elongated diamond shaped lesions or cankers.



Ash die back
Photo:
Forestry Commission

Dutch elm disease is caused by the fungus *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*. This now infamous tree disease has killed tens of millions of trees in the UK since its appearance in the 1960s and now occurs in all parts of the UK. A major vector in the spread of the fungus is the large elm bark beetle *Scolytus scolytus*. There is no effective cure for the disease but early removal of infected trees can help slow its spread.

Elm zig-zag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*) was first seen in England in Dorking in 2017 and is likely to have arrived here with imported plants for planting. Adult sawflies lay their eggs into the serrations at the edges of elm leaves and the larvae hatch within 4-8 days. They develop over a further 15-18 days, spending this time feeding on the leaves, then build a loose silk cocoon on the underside of the leaf, emerging as adults within 4-7 days. Multiple generations are produced during the summer. The adult is a small black, wasp-like sawfly with white legs. The larvae are tiny green caterpillars which can defoliate whole trees.



OPM nest
Photo: Forestry Commission

Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*). The oak processionary moth is a major health hazard, causing itching skin rashes, eye irritation and breathing difficulties for humans and animals. There is one generation of oak processionary moth each year. The caterpillars hatch in spring and go through several instars, eventually developing the irritating hairs. The caterpillars descend lower down the tree as they develop, stripping the tree of its leaves as they go, leaving it vulnerable and weakened. The caterpillars are only seen in mid-late Spring and early Summer and cluster together while feeding on oak leaves and moving from place to place. In summer, they retreat into nests and pupate. The adult moths emerge in late summer, living for only four days in order to mate. The female lays her fertilised eggs high in the tree canopy and the cycle begins again. The oak processionary moth is mostly confined to Greater London, but by 2020 had expanded its range in south-east England. Sightings are reportable and Government advice is to "spot it, avoid it, report it".

Sweet chestnut blight is a destructive disease caused by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*. It infects trees through fissures or wounds, and it has the potential to have a significant impact on our historic sweet chestnut woods. The disease was first discovered in Warwickshire in 2011 from trees imported from France. There were further outbreaks in southern and central England but these have been contained.

Membership Sarah Milan

We very much value your support in bringing the aims of the Trust and conservation of our wonderful chalk downlands to a wider audience and are very grateful to all of our members for continuing to renew your membership each year and for your donations. Your annual subscription is used almost entirely to fund local projects since our overheads are extremely low.

It would be fantastic if we could increase membership and you can help by spreading the word more widely and also by engaging the interest of the next generation who will in time take over from us.

If you are reading this newsletter and you are not a member, please do consider joining us. Our membership form is on the next page.

Support us with membership, donation or a legacy

DOWNLANDS TRUST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

If you are not a member or if you know anyone who would like to support our valuable work in the countryside, we would be delighted to receive the following application form and subscription. Alternatively, you can join via our website

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (please tick)

- Individual (**£10**)
 Senior /student /unwaged (**£5**) Please delete as applicable
 Family (**£15**)
 Group /company /school (**£15**) Please delete as applicable

Please note: Memberships are due for renewal annually on 1st January. However, any memberships taken out after 1st September in any year are covered for membership for the following calendar year.

PAYMENT OPTIONS (please tick as applicable)

- I enclose a cheque for £..... to cover the subscription. You may like to add an additional donation to aid our work.
 I have made an online payment of £..... to your bank account, Downlands Trust 40-09-04 31439820. Please use your name as the reference so that we can connect the payment to your membership.

GIFT AID Please tick the box below if you are in a position to do so.

- I agree to the Downlands Trust claiming tax under the Gift Aid Scheme on all my donations and subscriptions until I advise otherwise. I confirm that I am paying an amount of UK Income and/or Capital Gains Tax that at least equals the amount that the charity will reclaim.

YOUR DETAILS

Title:		Full name:	
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Email:			
Telephone:			
Signature:		Date:	

**Please return completed membership application to:
Membership Secretary, Downlands Trust, 71 Warren Road, Banstead, SM7 1LG**

Support Downlands Trust when shopping online

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These donations help us fund projects to keep the countryside accessible to all.

Downlands Trust

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