



Friends of Markstakes Common

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

From the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

It has been some time since we last issued a newsletter and to be fair it has until recently, been a quiet time in terms of activity on the Common. Having made a brief return in the autumn the national lockdown in January required a further suspension of activities at the beginning of the year. With the progressive relaxations announced so far this year we resumed practical conservation activities on Monday mornings in April. While there is much that needs doing, I am happy to report that the Common is still a delightful place to spend a productive morning getting healthy exercise in the open air.

There have been other developments which have contributed to the general uncertainty. Lewes District Council has merged some of its services with Eastbourne District Council. Following that there was one of the periodical reorganisations as part of which Thyone Outram, the community ranger decided to leave. Thyone was a key support

in maintaining the Common in good condition. Activities included engaging contractors to complete tasks that were beyond the scope of the Friends, bringing in volunteers from other conservation organisations, challenging encroachments and providing sound advice based on many years working in conservation. She is sorely missed and given that the Council still seems to be in the throes of reorganisation we have no clear idea as to how the Council plan to deal with the Common going forward.

I am also sorry to report that Ian Woolsey passed away earlier this year. He was a great support to the Friends conducting bird surveys on the Common for 10 years and helping with butterfly surveys. Anyone who was lucky enough as I was to venture out with him while he was surveying would have been impressed with his ID skills. Others may remember him from his presentations at the AGM where his 'spot' map of likely breeding birds was original and informative.

I am acutely aware that it has been over two years since we have held an AGM and this

newsletter would normally have been the occasion when notice was given. However, as we are still in lockdown it has been postponed again. We hope to convene an AGM later in the year and will give you an update closer to the time. Meanwhile if there are any concerns or queries, please let either me or Andy Frost at Lewes District Council know.

Rupert Hall

Seasonal Markstakes

November 2020



After the rain – water from the ‘collects’ and ‘issues’ flows through the common finding its way down.



Flowing well under the footpath bridge.

**NOTICE OF TWELTH ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

THE ‘FRIENDS OF MARKSTAKES
COMMON’

**TWELTH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2021**

**HAS BEEN POSTPONED OWING TO
COVID-19 CURRENT RESTRICTIONS**

NEW DATE TO BE ADVISED

January 2021



Frost over the Heather Glade



Cold Holly leaves

(William Coleman)

Membership Matters

Our team of volunteer members has been meeting when possible (see Rupert's report). Welcome to our new member Jenny and a welcome return to Roger after his long absence.

May 2021 brings further and better news of relaxation of restrictions so hopefully 'normal service is resumed' soon.

Our modest £2 membership contribution can be paid anytime for 2021. Thank you if you already pay or could do so by bank transfer to 'Friends of Markstakes Common' at Unity Trust Bank 09-01-29 06750439.

We look forward to continuing our sensitive and careful clearing and maintenance of this lovely place continues. Thank you for your support.

William Coleman

Dates for the Diary

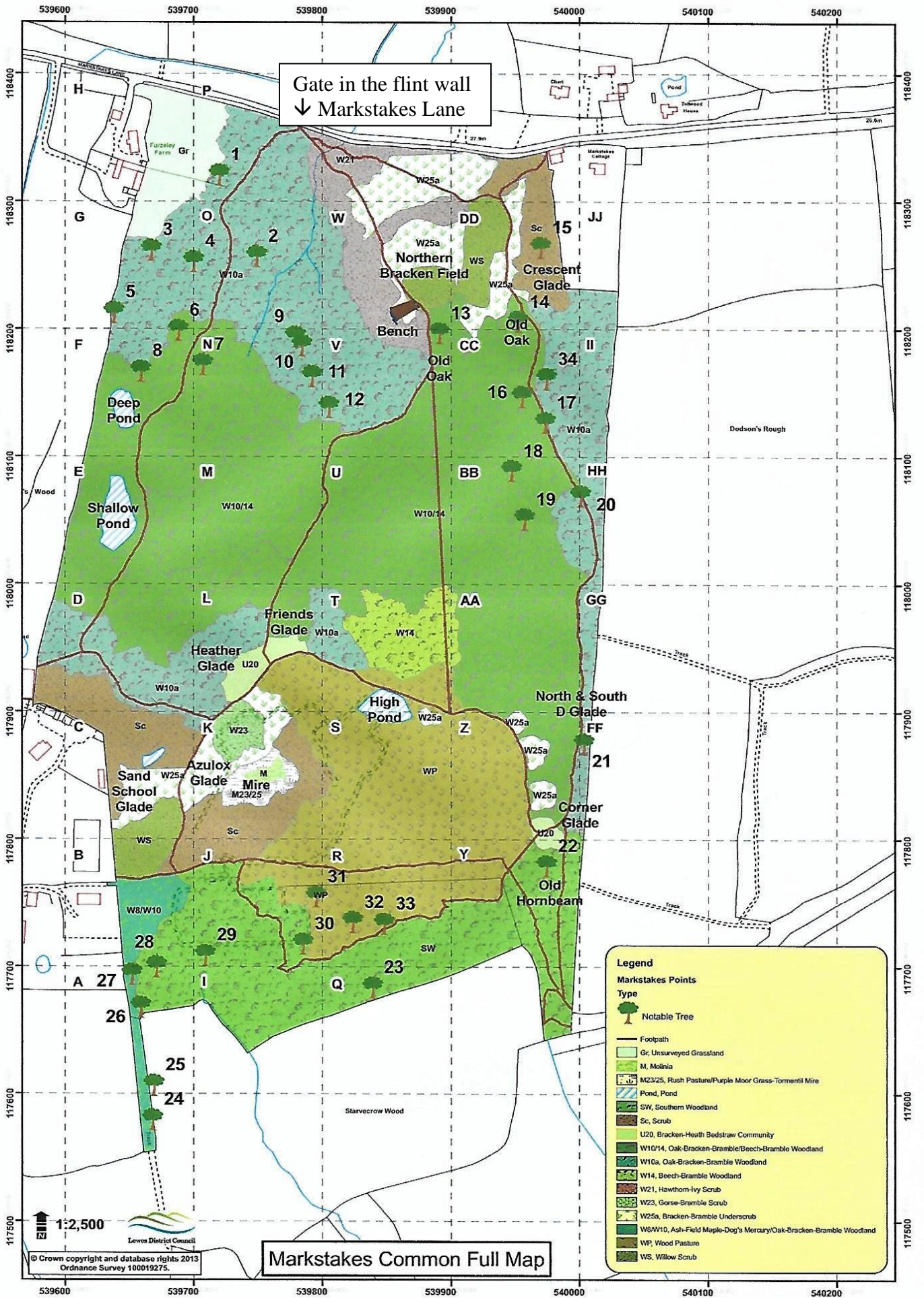
Mondays (most Mondays except B/Holidays)

This is our regular volunteer group time to meet. We gather at the Gate in the flint wall Markstakes Lane at 9.30.a.m. working until around 12.00. Tools and gloves are provided, and suitable clothes and footwear are recommended according to the weather. There is a drink break to keep you going.

If you have not been already, do come along and help us with this worthwhile and sensitive conservation work which is rewarding and keeps you fit. No phoning required, just come along and join us – we shall be pleased to see you.

email – 'markstakes@chaileyccommons.org.uk'





Gate in the flint wall
 ↓ Markstakes Lane

Legend

Markstakes Points

Type

- Notable Tree
- Footpath
- Gr, Unsurveyed Grassland
- M, Molinia
- M23/25, Rush Pasture/Purple Moor Grass-Tormentil Mire
- Pond, Pond
- SW, Southern Woodland
- Sc, Scrub
- U20, Bracken-Heath Bedstraw Community
- W10/14, Oak-Bracken-Bramble/Beech-Bramble Woodland
- W10a, Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland
- W14, Beech-Bramble Woodland
- W21, Hawthorn-Ivy Scrub
- W23, Gorse-Bramble Scrub
- W25a, Bracken-Bramble Underscrub
- W8/W10, Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury/Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland
- WP, Wood Pasture
- WS, Willow Scrub

Markstakes Common Full Map

1:2,500
 Lewes District Council
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