



The Friends of

Putnoe Wood & Mowsbury Hillfort

Newsletter



Issue 8 December 2012



A Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year

The Friends of
**Putnoe Wood
& Mowsbury Hillfort**

Lucky Thirteen

As the new year approaches many of us will be considering a New Year resolution. The Friends numbers have grown and flourished during 2012, we have enjoyed growing friendship, lots of enthusiasm and bundles of energy. Long may it continue and we look forward to encouraging more volunteers to come and join us to enjoy the beautiful Bedfordshire countryside. Let us make 2013 a special year. We wish you every success in achieving your own New Year resolution.



Tasks and Events for 2013

Friends Meeting

January Tuesday 8th. 7.00pm.
Mowsbury Golf Club.

Wassail event with the Hemlock Morris Dancers.

January 21st. 6.30pm
(Please check web site diary or Facebook for details.)

Tasks and Activities

Every Wednesday and alternate Saturdays.
1.30—4.00pm
(Please check web site or Facebook for details)

Chairman: *Andy Wilkins* Secretary: *Chris Wedge* Treasurer: *John Wilkie* Events and Tasks Coordinator: *John Wallace*

Bedford Green Fair

The Green Fair is an event where Bedford Borough Council departments and local volunteer groups can



showcase their activities. The Friends had a stall that generated a great deal of interest and we were able to share with visitors our recent activities. A Power Point display ran throughout the day, together with a lichen and moss display, lots of photographs and historical information about the Wood and Hillfort. In addition, we were able to do some funds raising by selling hot apple juice, homemade flapjack, our very own notelets and other items. Diana 'the pocket rocket', Katy and other members gave obelisk building demonstrations during the day.

When We Get Older Many Years From Now



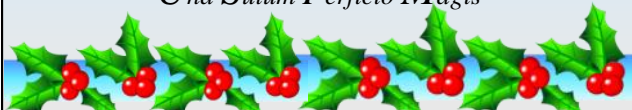
The Hemlock Morris Dancers demonstrating how we may look in a few years time as we struggle up to the Hillfort. With enthusiasm comes new vigour and renewed youth, our hope is the next generation will carry on the good work for which we have laid the foundations.

Let Us Know Your Views.

Contribute to the March issue of the newsletter.

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

Una Sulum Perficio Magis



Wassail Event 2013



Photograph by Larissa Clark

A Wassail is a traditional ceremony to celebrate the apple harvest, the trees are blessed and hot mulled apple punch is consumed to keep everyone warm and happy. We held one last year at Mowsbury Hillfort and it was a great success. We intend to repeat the event on 21st January 2013 and the Hemlock Morris Dancers will be making a very welcome return appearance. The Wassail evening will start at 6.30pm, do keep an eye on our web site or facebook page for more details. Places are limited so please book.

We came, We tried and strategically retired.



Enthusiasm, human effort and insanity could not defeat the very heavy rain on one of our scrub clearance tasks in the neglected orchard at the Hillfort.

Storm Damage



One of the fruit trees at the Hillfort came down in the recent bad weather. Work continues in the neglected orchard where we are trying to save as many trees as possible by clearing the scrub and elder, to allow more light and air around the trees to prevent further decay.

Goblin

For some time now we have been concerned over the disappearance of our tea time biscuits. Stray dogs have been blamed and even members of the friends group have come under scrutiny and accused of gobbling them up. The plain digestives were always safe but as soon as a chocolate or luxury biscuit arrived on site they quickly disappeared. We believe we have now found the culprit and the mystery has been solved.



Medieval Ponds



The medieval ponds have filled considerably this year due to the unusually heavy rain fall. A rare occurrence in recent years as the leat no longer supplies water to the ponds.

Newsletter Publication.

As from next year 2013 our newsletter will be published every quarter instead of monthly.

Christmas Stocking Filler

Why stuff a healthy orange, nuts or a fattening Mars bar into your loved ones Christmas stocking this year when you can give them a pack of our unique notelets.



They are virtually fat, salt and sugar free, fibre rich and are 100% recyclable. Each pack contains four images from Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort complete with envelopes in clear packaging. A minimum donation for each pack of £2.00 would be appreciated.

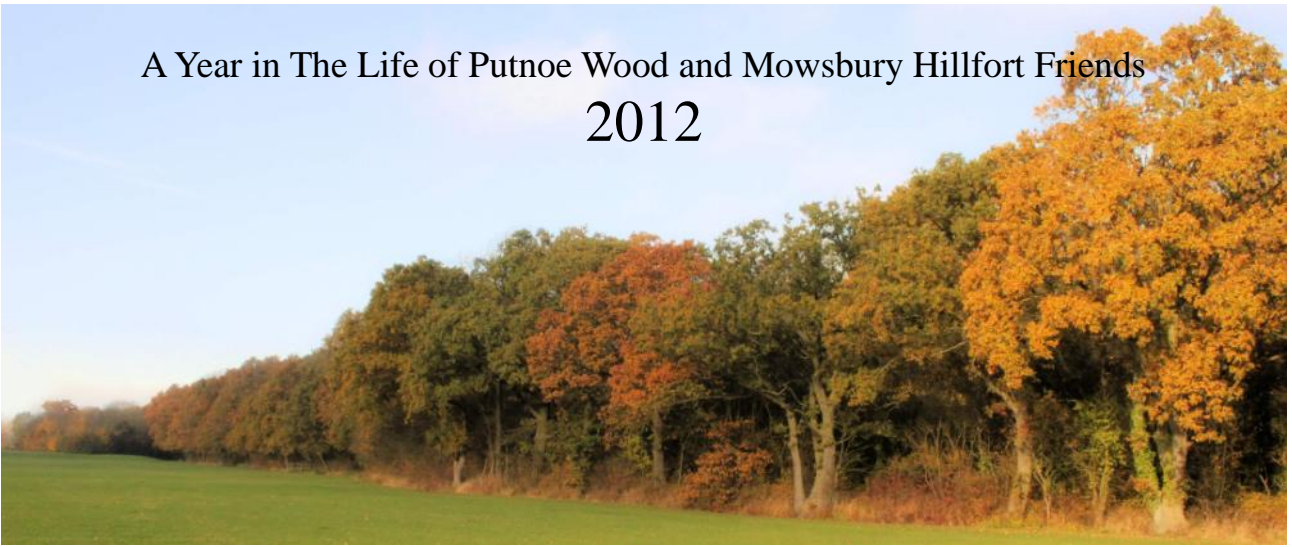
Become a Friend of ours on Facebook and register your "likes" to show your support.

Mowsbury Hillfort Time Line

The medieval site has been identified with the manor of Morinsbury mentioned in various documents before 1465. Morsebury was the name used in the 16th century for the land including the Hillfort earthworks and one assumes it evolved into the present name of Mowsbury. The history of the area is still being researched.

- 700BC Early Iron Age. Catuvellauni Tribal area.
- AD43 Roman Invasion. End of Iron Age in England.
- AD410 Romans Leave.
- AD450 Anglo Saxons Arrive (German, Danish, Dutch.)
- AD876 Vikings settle in Britain (Scandinavian).
- 1066. 1066. The Norman Invasion. The Hillfort is probably under the same ownership as Putnoe Wood at this time
- 1086. Domesday Book entry. Anschil or Asketil is recorded owner and land is forfeited to Hugh de Beauchamp, 1st Baron of Bedford .
- 1195. Ralph Morin is owner.
- 1207. The Tyringham Family is the owner.
- 1302. Roger Tyringham is the owner.
- 1405. Sold to John Prior of Newnham.
- 1416. John Tyringham is the owner.
- 1465. Passed to son John Tyringham.
- 1539. Surrender of Warden Abby to Crown Estate. The site given to the Gostwick Family of Willington.
- 1700. Still recorded as being under Gostwick's ownership.
- 1778. Contemporary maps show it as a moated site.
- 1864. Maps show evidence of small brickworks and kilns.
- 1884. Immediate area used as rifle range.
- 1926. Orchards Planted.
- 1946. Photograph shows area called Courtyard meadow as clear.
- 2000. Additional fruit trees planted in orchard.

A Year in The Life of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort Friends 2012



May: Plant ID at Hillfort



July: Lichen and Moss survey



September: Raking Meadow



June: Nature Walk at Hillfort



August: Expedition to Inner Island



September: Open sightlines at Hillfort



June: Plant ID at Putnoe Wood



August: Inner Island clearance



October: Hillfort scrub clearance



July: Path clearance at Hillfort



August: Lichen survey at Hillfort



November: Hillfort orchard clearance



www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk



This Newsletter is independently published on behalf of The Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort but does not necessary reflect the views of all members or of Bedford Borough Council