Get in touch by email: **Friendsofsuttondowns@gmail.com**
Visit our website at **https://www.friendsofsuttondowns.co.uk**

THE GROWING PROJECT



Tree Planting Day

Saturday 28th February, 10am – 2pm

Join us and Trees for Seaford to help plant a row of Silver Birches along the edge of the carpark next to the gym at the Downs, as well as three apple trees in the community orchard, and a range of other tasks. Come for the morning or afternoon - or bring a packed lunch and make a day of it!

RSVP to friendsofsuttondowns@gmail.com - In case of bad weather the day will be moved to 1st March.

Winter 2026 News

Friends of Sutton Downs started 2026 with community spirit and tree love! Orchard trees hung with fairy lights and lanterns set the scene for a new year's wassail, beneath a clear and starry night sky on 4th January, led by the Hope & Anger Singers. With the frost hard on the ground, a mulled apple juice and hunk of cider cake was a warm and welcome treat thanks to Gemma and her team of helpers. Wassailing is an old English tradition of singing to honour fruit trees and wish for their health and good produce during the coming year. Children from local families hung toast on the trees and sprinkled them with cider. Bringing together so many friends from over Seaford, by the end of the event, with a full moon rising, we all left with smiling faces.



Friends of Sutton Downs with Plastic Free Seaford & Wave Active receiving funds from Seaford Rotary.









More Good News

♥ FUNDING

We've reached our target thanks to two successful funding bids - one from **South Downs National Park Community Pitch** and the other for £500, submitted together with Plastic Free Seaford, from **Seaford Rotary**. These will enable us to install water features along the wall overlooking the playing field and design improvements to the rain garden.

♥ A WATER REFILL STATION

We're teaming up with **Plastic Free Seaford** to install a water refill station on the edge of the playing field to make staying hydrated during sport activities easier for everyone on and off pitch and to reduce plastic waste littering the grounds. We're grateful to **Wave Active** for a commitment to the long-term maintenance.

♥ NEW BENCHES IN!

Benches in the meadow and orchard were crafted from the seasoned wood of a storm-fallen oak, by Andrew Coates Woodland Products and Services at Wilderness Wood. We hope you enjoy them!

Protect the Downs Recreation Grounds - Call for Action !

Please support our submission to designate the grounds of the **Downs Leisure Centre as a Local Green Space (LGS).** Getting the grounds designated a LGS (including the playing field, memorial garden, children's play area, orchard and verges) means they will have the same protection as Greenbelt. The consultation on the Lewes Local Plan includes a call for sites that invites residents to nominate greenspaces and give evidence of their importance for **recreation**, or **local significance such as its beauty, history, tranquility or richness of wildlife**. We believe the grounds of the Downs are worth protecting and tick all the boxes. If you agree please submit a response by post, email or online. The consultation closes on **28 February**.

Go to https://planningpolicyconsult.Lewes-Eastbourne.gov.uk/LDC_LGS

♥ **Thank you to Everyone** who took part in our recent survey in the leisure centre - your feedback guides our next steps to make the Downs as a greener place to work, live and play.

♥ **Thank you also to our partners, sponsors & friends at** Plastic Free Seaford, Gemma McFarlane, Hope & Anger Singers, Seaford Rotary, Wave Active, Andrew Coates, South Downs National Park

Lewes District Council · Trees for Seaford · Community Fund · Ouse Valley Climate Action · Brighton Permaculture Trust · Sharing Skills

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