



# Woodsmen

*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*  
Registered Charity No.289871                      Newsletter No.55 Autumn 2002

## **Annual General Meeting**

An average attendance enjoyed a presentation on The Environmental Centre at Holywell Mead with visual aids by Frances Alexander. It was the customary enthusiastic delivery by the former Chairman of WDC and Mayor of High Wycombe. We hope to encourage and participate in the Centre's success.

## **Committee**

As notified, the Chairman retired.

Rita Luxton was elected to the Chair. Ron Walker was re-elected to the committee.

Tony Dunford from Limmer Lane was elected to the committee. Tony has considerable experience of environmental groups, and will obviously be a great asset to the society. He is also a Trustee of the Holywell Mead Environmental Centre.

The bad news is that in July we lost both our secretary and treasurer Claire and Chris Wylot due to relocation. Claire has been a pillar of the committee since 1987, and Chris has controlled and reported on our finances for the past two years. It's fair to say that Claire's drive and enthusiasm will be sorely missed, and we wish them both well.

Tim Speechley takes over as secretary, Tony Dunford as Membership Secretary.

The other members of your committee remain as follows:

Colin Kennedy, Vic West, Paul Baker, Tony Hall and Mike Stevens, with Hedley Luxton as co-opted member to the JCC of the Air Park. We would welcome more female representation on the committee.

## **Policy Statement**

We make no apologies for repeating this. It reminds members of the Society's objectives and what they are contributing towards. If the committee are not doing what you expect of them, let them know.

1. To protect and enhance the environs of Booker Woods and Limmer Common within Society resources.
2. To campaign against the intrusion of any development, which may threaten the adjacent Green Belt and AONB.
3. To resist any development which may curtail enjoyment of the freedom of access to fresh air and exercise which the common affords.

## **Planning**

Here is the latest attempted intrusion. Bucks County Council have applied for planning permission for a Biodegradable waste collection and treatment centre at High Heavens. And we thought the site was closed. The treatment bins will be 22 concrete and metal bins, each 15m x 7m x 3.6m high - yes that's the size of an average bungalow. BCC deems this "not obtrusive" on what is still Green Belt and AONB. There appears to be no plan for what is to happen to the product of the treatment plant, except an obscure suggestion that local farms *may* use it, if not it will be used for "landscaping" of the previous tip area. *This is quite different to the plan for raising the level of the site, which was, rejected only a couple of years ago.* Having started to get rid of the dangerous stockpile of freezers and refrigerators, we are now to be subjected to smelly lorry-loads of waste from all over the county, both coming and - possibly -

going? In principle the society does not dispute the requirement for some method of waste compacting, but what's wrong with a hole in the ground for biodegradable waste, rather than an expensive treatment? And why at High Heavens again? The society has objected.

We still await the inspector's report on the Wycombe Plan with particular regard to Sands green fields.

### **Environment**

Some of you may have seen the effort by Lynn Andrews (no that's not Lynn) to enhance the common with a rustic chair. It has been welcomed by those shorter of breath, and is an attractive and novel attempt to make the woods more hospitable. So far it has survived the depredation of the moronic fringe. Thanks Lynn.



Litter was cleared on a re-scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> November collection. The re-schedule was due to the inclement weather which brought down some old trees and branches on October 27<sup>th</sup>. It is difficult to inform volunteers when such cancellations become necessary, but "the usual suspects" turned up and Jeff Harvey did the final collection. Due to fly-tipping, he had almost to fight for space in the re-collection area we agreed with WDC. The waste situation is not improving, but we think our contribution to the common bollards may have helped to protect the grassed area, and the council collectors are very aware and supportive of our local problems. The problem of car dumping has been addressed, with new legislation allowing councils to remove them more quickly.

### **Finance**

As a result of the Gift Aid claim prepared by Claire and Chris, we received a refund of £113 from the taxman. We are currently solvent.

Sadly this year has seen the loss of a number of enthusiastic and active members, notably Norman Hackett, Tony Steele and Dave Watson. Our condolences go to their families.