



Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.58 Autumn 2003

Annual General Meeting

The Chairman, Rita Luxton, welcomed those who had made the effort to attend.

An average attendance enjoyed a very comprehensive presentation on Flora and Fauna of the local area by BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford Wildlife Trust) from an enthusiastic Maurice Young. Maurice who manages volunteers in two local sites, showed and interpreted a large number of excellent slides of wildflowers, rare orchids, insects, butterflies, birds and animals, ending with dormice.

The minutes of the previous year's AGM were agreed.

Tony Dunford reported on Membership and Subscription. Tony has bravely undertaken the management of the collection of subscriptions, but due to health problems had been unable to get our collectors working as early as normal. Nevertheless the vast majority of subs has now been collected and this is reflected in the accounts. Tony hoped to start the 2003/4 collection much earlier. All collectors were thanked for their hard work.

Tim Speechley pointed out that a very labour intensive aspect of membership was the practice of giving individual receipts for all subs and donations, usually attached to the following "Woodsman" newsletter. The committee decided that in order to substantially reduce the work involved receipts will, in future, only be given at request on collection of subs.

Hedley Luxton reported on the audited statement of accounts. We are solvent.

Mike Stevens, our long-serving member and representative from Hornes Lane retires. We thank him for his contribution over many years.

The remaining serving committee was re-elected en bloc.

Tony Dunford from Limmer Lane is Membership Secretary. Tim Speechley is secretary. . The other members of your committee remain as follows:

Colin Kennedy (planning), Vic West, Paul Baker, Ron Walker and Tony Hall, with Hedley Luxton as co-opted member to the JCC of the Air Park. We would be pleased to welcome new members with fresh ideas on to the committee. The committee meet six times a year (including the AGM), at Booker Memorial Hall to discuss policy and implementation, normally on the last Monday of a month. The next committee meeting will be on the 24th November. Any members wishing to contribute time and attend are welcome.

Rita paid tribute to Allan Duggin who died earlier this year. The Society was almost his creation, and he had been chairman for over 20 years, with seemingly boundless enthusiasm to protect the local environment. He had countless contacts in many walks of life, and used them to our advantage.

ADRIAN PRIST

Policy Statement

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.

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

Bearing in mind our limited resources, our strength is chiefly in credulity as a genuine long-time environmental society, with no particular "nimby" axe to grind.

Planning

Colin Kennedy reported on the current plans for the United Biscuits, and football ground at Sands, and that there appears to be far better management of planning by our local council officers, so that most situations are controlled before they become a threat to the Common.

However, despite our objections, Bucks County Council have now granted themselves planning permission for a Bio-degradable waste collection and treatment centre at High Heavens. To repeat previous reports, the treatment bins will be 22 concrete and metal bins, each 15m x 7m x 3.6m high. BCC deems this "not obtrusive" on what is Green Belt and AONB. One wonders if the council-tax-paying flat-dwellers of Bucks feel they ought to contribute to this expensive treatment method of what is, after all, *bio-degradable*, together with the associated transport costs and pollution. It's difficult to contemplate using energy to destroy bio-degradable material. Perhaps someone has lost the plot.

Environment

Our bi-annual clearing was carried out by "the usual suspects" on 6th April.

Please we need much more help. Due to the very clement summer, there has been much use and abuse of the common. **The next collection is on Sunday 26th October at 11 am.** This is the day the clock goes back. That gives us all the extra hour to do something *really* useful. Bags are provided. Please bring your own protective gloves and boots.

Finance

As a result of the Gift Aid claim prepared by Claire Wylot, our previous Financial Secretary, we received a refund of £113 from the taxman.

Collection of Subscriptions

As mentioned above, it is hoped that the collection of subs for 2003 - 2004 will commence shortly, probably in November. May we remind you that the current rate is just £3 per household for the year though any additional donations to the fighting fund are gratefully received and the extreme generosity of some members is very much appreciated.

In order to optimise income, members who have not already done so will be asked to complete Gift Aid forms, and to return them to their collectors.

WE DO NEED MORE COLLECTORS. IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT:-

Rita Luxton Chairman 01494 436807

Tim Speechley Secretary 01494 638090

Tony Dunford Membership Secy 01494 523058

ADRIAN PRIEST