

Trevor Phillips Ron



Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.62 Spring 2005

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday 16th May 2005

From 8pm at Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common.

Guest Speaker, Roger Wilding
(Local Site Co-ordinator for the Wycombe Wildlife Group)

A presentation on local flora and fauna, and discussion of an action plan to regenerate the Common in the triangle below the Squirrel Public House by the re-introduction of Native Wild Plants.

The Allan Duggin Award

To be presented this year to the Focus Group from Amersham and Wycombe Students for their work over the past three years in various nature reserves as a part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Committee 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.

All subscribing members of the society are invited to apply for election to the new committee. Please send nominations to 436807 (Rita) before 14th May. Current members of the committee are:

Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Tony Dunford (Membership Secretary), Tony Hall, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Tim Speechley (Hon. Secretary), Ron Walker and Vic West.

Chris Wylot (Hon. Treasurer) and Hedley Luxton (JCC Rep) are co-opted members.

Note: Hedley is also representing this Society at Booker and Cressex Community Planning Steering Group which meets monthly. He would also appreciate some support at these meetings. See below...

The committee wish to point out that fresh minds and attitudes are desperately needed if the society is to continue. New members will be welcomed with open arms. We need fresh blood.

Aims of the Society

To undertake practical conservation work by volunteers on the Urban Commons within the Society's resources.

To act against any intrusion or development within the local Green Belt or AONB which forms a boundary on the western side of the town.

To campaign against developments likely to increase ambient noise or air pollution, and where possible reduce them.

Planning

Apart from the removal of the "speed humps" on Cressex Road, the only significant planning that may impact the area is the revision of the Household Waste Recycling Centre at High Heavens. This is planned to take place soon. The amenity will be enlarged and the access altered to alleviate queuing, with heavy plant for changing containers separated from the public. The changes will take 4-6 months to complete, with a temporary and contractor's facility being set up during this time on the old travellers' site opposite. This will mean lifting waste to containers, which some may find inconvenient. Obviously, the primary objective of the temporary area is to protect us from fly tipping. No increase in traffic is anticipated, since a new improved facility at Beaconsfield is expected to reduce High Heavens turnover.

Further planning is expected soon to improve the vehicle recovery facility at High Heavens, to conform with new anti-pollution regulations.

Environment

The bi-annual litter picking took place in October and April. Attendance was again poor, but "the usual suspects" turned out. Not so much waste about; we heartily commend those walkers who take an empty bag with them when they use the woods and pick up litter as they go.

As indicated above, WDC have initiated a Booker and Cressex Community Planning and Steering Group, which meets in St Birinus' Church Hall and was attended by Hedley and Rita and occasionally Ron Waiker, where residents are invited to air their views on the local area. Subjects covered included parking, road humps, Cressex school crossing, vandalism, services etc. As a result of the meetings, a steering committee has been set up to try to resolve some of these problems. We are represented on the committee, but all residents of the area are welcome to participate. To contribute your opinions and ideas, contact the steering committee chairman Mr Ernie Jones (01494 535384). Make it a place you are proud to live. Meetings are often attended by your elected representatives (Bucks and WDC).

Police Community Support Officer

We now have an additional uniformed presence on our streets. Our (PCSO) is Helen Fitzpatrick, who patrols Booker, Cressex, Castlefield and Sands, usually on a bicycle. Her role is to challenge unlawful and antisocial behaviour, reducing crime and the fear of crime, working closely with Wycombe District Council and partner agencies to tackle "quality of life" issues such as graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. While the main number for reporting non-emergency police issues is 08458 505 505, you are welcome to discuss minor matters with Helen on her patrol, or phone her on 07968 079 817 or 01494 686207 (of course she is not *always* on duty, and also prefers to stay out of the office!) or E-mail: helen.fitzpatrick@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Subscriptions for 2004/2005.

Due to administrative difficulties and a general lack of volunteer collectors we have been unable to collect subscriptions for the year 2004-5, so it has been decided to have a "subscription holiday" for one year only. Collecting for 2005-6 is planned to start in October and we do need additional collectors. If you can help please phone Rita Luxton on 436807, Tim Speechley (638090) or Tony Dunford (523058).

Finance

Report at meeting. We are solvent.