



Woodsmen

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 *Newsletter No.64 Spring 2006*

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 23rd May 2006

From 8pm at Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common.

Guest Speaker

Neil Harris from The National Trust

(Countryside and Gardens Manager for West Wycombe, Hughenden and Bradenham)

The Allan Duggin Award (for contribution to the Environment)

goes this year to Natalie Sargent.

Committee 2006/2007.

All subscribing members of the society are invited to apply for election to the committee. Please phone nominations to 436807 (Rita) before 20th May. Current members of the committee are:

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

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

The following members of the Society are invited to join the committee.

Charles Pugh from Highwood Avenue and Simon Fraser from Rydal Way. The committee would appreciate your support for new ideas and a more youthful approach.

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

Future planning has highlighted the intended removal of the Wycombe Wanderers football ground (Causeway? Adams Park?) from Green Belt. Objective? Who can say? If the Team moves, the site becomes available for development of any kind.

Notices have been erected at strategic points at either end of the bridleway hopefully to deter rat-racers. It has been a long and convoluted process - let's hope it is successful. We *all* would like to enjoy the peace of the common.

Regarding the extension of operation of plant at High Heavens, please remember that this is mainly still Green Belt and future development as an incineration site may be envisaged, since it is obvious that we are not coping with land-fill regulation.

Environment

Rita organised a small team of labourers to tidy the triangle below the Squirrel pub, which became more than a little unruly last year. Some serious clearing of nettles, seeding and planting was undertaken, and a couple of strips rotovated. Unfortunately the late spring has been unkind to growth, with little visible results so far. (but you can see where we've been).

Paul Baker took a team out on 5th March to try to push back the blackthorn encroaching on the common. After several burns and much hacking, the results are also encouraging. You can certainly see where *he's* been. A few bollards were replaced adjoining the bridleway. Replacement of those by the road side now falls outside our responsibility, while those on the cricket common belong to the estate, although Paul has made enormous efforts to maintain these last in situ.

While we had a litter collection just before Easter, with about 15 volunteers and about twenty to twenty-five bags collected, we would encourage walkers to take a bag with them to discourage accumulation of waste. If there's litter there, someone is sure to add to it.

We would particularly like to commend the Mars-Bar-Eater (at least one a day - they shouldn't last much longer), the Marlboro/Mayfair smoker (at least one packet a week), the strong lager drinker and the "health" drink bottle throwers for their contribution to the weekly mess. A Highly Commended for the moron who continues to collect dog mess in plastic bags and decorates the trees with it. We think they may even be bringing it from home. Please - if you know who is doing this, inform a member of the committee. This is a serious health hazard, and the perpetrator is obviously in need of psychiatric help. Up to 50 bags were collected on the last litter-pick. As for the tissue thrower (at least two a day) we're sorry for your trouble, but take your germs home with you, please. Again we are grateful for the co-operation and support of WDC and their contractors who have picked up our collections at a difficult holiday time this year.

Through the good offices of our local councillor, and Mayor, Darren Hayday, arrangements have been made to supply a further three doggy bins - one of which the society is buying - to be put up on the common environs. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of dog mess.

Communication

Our community PCSO is Helen Fitzpatrick on 01494686207 or 07968079817 who is sympathetic to our problems but can't work miracles, or on Email helen.fitzpatrick@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

You can of course contact the society on E-Mail at rtewalker@aol.com or through WDC or BCC web pages. Members who would like to be kept in touch by this method are invited to send their Email addresses. Hopefully we can keep you up-dated more quickly. Since we only meet six times a year, please appreciate that we cannot be in touch with all members immediately... Or come to the AGM. We need to know what our members want.

Subscriptions for 2005/2006.

Subs have been collected this year, and hopefully we intend to get round again in October. The committee would like to thank those members of the society who have contributed, and a special thanks for those who augmented the agreed £3.00 annual contribution. When there is no perceived threat to the local environment, the contribution may be deemed unnecessary, but we continue to make an effort on your behalf to make the Common more universally usable, attractive, and hopefully fend off any future prospectors. (See **Environment**)