

# Woodsman



*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*  
Registered Charity No.289871 *Newsletter No.66 Spring 2007*

**The 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in The Booker Memorial Hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 pm.**

**The Guest speaker will be Liz Manley of Chilterns Woodland Project.**

**The Alan Duggin Memorial Award will be presented to Sam Dixey-King.**

## **Election of Committee 2007/2008.**

All subscribing members of the Society are invited to apply for election to the committee. Please phone nominations to 436807 Rita Luxton before 15<sup>th</sup> May. Current members are:

Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Simon Fraser, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Charles Pugh, Tim Speechley (Hon Sec), Ron Walker and Vic West.

Brian Wilson (Hon Treasurer) and Hedley Luxton (JCC Rep) are co-opted members.

## **Planning**

Another planning application has been made for High Heavens, one of the objectives being to obviate the smell coming from the green waste composting plant which has been making locals' lives a misery for the past couple of years. This society opposed the original installation on the grounds of its situation, but it went ahead anyway (it's called a consultative process). Reports in the press implied that "residents were pleased that something was being done about it". Relative to the sensation of stopping banging one's head against a brick wall, that is true; but the cost and visual implications are worrying, and truth to tell, as with all other efforts to stop the smell, may well fail. A number of options have already been tried, failed, and are now running away with budgets. We are wholly in favour of the objectives of policy, but development elsewhere, please.

The second part of the application is to update the Waste Recycling facility. In view of the persistent dumping of rubbish in the area, we are totally in favour....bring it on.

The application has been opposed, because of the first part.

BCC, however, have recently announced a change of policy, and now intend to burn rubbish for energy. Any bets on where *that* planning application will be made for? If the current planning application for new composting building and the huge tent for what is called "maturation" go ahead, you can be sure that they can both be readily adapted to "incinerator building" and "waste reception storage." The current clamps could be used to store the residue of the incineration, until the subsequent application to re-open the landfill to dispose of same is approved. Paranoid? .... moi?

This is a site, in Green Belt, which was supposed to be closed - when?

There was also a move afoot to re-name the site The Green Centre, but that obviously stank as well .... to H\*\*\* H\*\*\*\*\*.

No other applications are reported which appear to impinge on this society's policy, however, if you feel we may have missed something, please get in touch.

## **Environment**

So it's boring to read the same old stuff about the environment every Spring letter - just as it is tedious to write repetitively. Well, it is spring! Yes, the bluebells are better again this year and spreading, so we couldn't have done too much harm sixteen years ago when we scraped the woods and put in all those trees. What's wrong with the escaped daffodil or two, and wasn't that a snakes-head fritillary along the top path last week? More primroses coming through, and who cares about the odd escaped pansy or primula?

Rita and team have been making huge efforts to recover and enhance the Squirrel triangle - let's face it, the nettles are nearly all gone, and we did get a good bit of colour last year; the poor oak that we planted last year suffered too much from the drought, and was replaced by a chestnut - fingers crossed.

Unless my ears deceive me - more birds? Kites moving in?

A few bollards were replaced along the bridleway. This will be an on-going programme, since a good number of the posts are now rotting, but only away from the highways since our main road insurance is no longer covered by WDC. We must admit that having put in the posts long ago, natural re-growth has mostly covered the endangered areas and is now a serious deterrent to intrusion.

Paul's excellent effort to maintain access to the grassed area of the common continue. His pyrotechnic skill is much admired.... but, global warming Paul? That's not what is meant.

Sadly, in spite of the installation of three more dog bins, someone continues to wrap up dog faeces and leave the bags in the woods. If they would care to contact a member of the committee, we may be able to arrange another bin closer to your home - say, in your next-door neighbour's front garden? OK?

Also sadly, traffic appears to be increasing on the bridle path again, perhaps they just can't read.

### **Communication**

You can contact the society on Email at [rtewalker@aol.com](mailto:rtewalker@aol.com) or through WDC or BCC web pages. A new member is currently working on a Web page for this Society.

Members who would like to be kept in touch by Email are cordially invited to send their Email addresses. Hopefully we can keep you up-dated more quickly, and we don't have to print/deliver your copy of The Woodsman .. save a tree. Since we only meet six times a year, please appreciate that we cannot be in touch with all members immediately. The "LINK" Magazine is proving popular in disseminating local information, including news from BCWPS.

All complaints regarding odour from High Heavens should be passed to 01296382307 BCC Waste Management. Odour Record Forms may be obtained from WDC, or online at WDC website.

Hedley would also be interested in any obtrusive activity from the airfield for the record. Dates, times and if possible identity of the aircraft would be useful.

### **Membership Subscriptions for 2007.**

Collected. See the balance sheet at the AGM. Thanks to Brian Wilson for excellent records and to collectors who have made that extra effort this year. Hopefully, we can make contribution methods easier in the near future. The annual contribution remains at £3.00.

### **Members.**

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Val Soden. Val was a founder and active member of the Society and a huge contributor to subs collection and supporter of the committee.

### **Litter picking**

Good turn-out on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Not a lot of litter, but that's partly due to those walkers who carry a bag daily. But much education is still needed. No - tissues do not bio-degrade, nor do Mars bar wrappers, beer cans, cigarette packets or designer water bottles. Another good pick-up by WDC in spite of the Easter holiday overlap. Thank you.