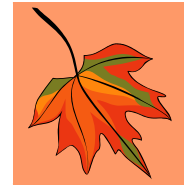


Woodsman



The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.67 Autumn 2007

Annual General Meeting 18th May 2007

Sam Dixey-King who was well supported by family and friends, was the recipient of this year's Allan Duggin Memorial award. Sam was nominated by the Wycombe Ranger Service and the award was again presented by Julie Hopton.

Chairman, Rita Luxton, introduced and welcomed those involved, and the presentation was well photographed. Sam has been working with the Ranger Service on a variety of interesting projects, and was highly commended for his enthusiasm and adaptability.

The Guest Speaker, Liz Manley, from Chiltern Woodlands Project was then introduced by Rita. Liz gave a digitally illustrated presentation of the work of the Project promoting and encouraging good management of the Chiltern woodland. Specific reference was made to a Heritage Lottery Fund project "Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns". This involves, with the help of volunteers over a very wide area, the photographic recording, and measurement of "special" trees in terms of size, shape, age, and landmark or historical significance. Pictures of a number of these were shown, and it was emphasised that this was a project to record rather than conserve or manage, the which aspects are carried out by another wing of the charity.

Having thanked Liz for a most interesting presentation, the business of the AGM then commenced with Rita welcoming society members.

The minutes of the 2006 AGM, copies of which had been distributed, were agreed.

Ron Walker described the most significant planning proposal for the area, the further development at High Heavens, where a huge new building will be constructed in an attempt to confine the smell emanating from the composting complex. There will also be major improvements to the access of the domestic disposal site.

Hedley Luxton reported on Membership and Subscriptions and the audited statement of accounts for the year was distributed. In a nutshell we had received more income than in the previous year, but this has been as a result of better collecting rather than an increase in membership. As always, we need more volunteers to help collect subscriptions and also to actively attract more members.

The current committee were re-elected "en-bloc":

Chairman	Rita Luxton,	
Members	Paul Baker	Booker Common
	Vic West	Barbers Wood Road
	Tim Speechley	Rydal Way
	Colin Kennedy	Booker Common
	Ron Walker	Barbers Wood Close
	Charles Pugh	Highwood Avenue
	Simon Fraser	Rydal Way
	Hedley Luxton	(Hon. Airfield JCC Representative)
	Brian Wilson	(Hon Treasurer).

The Meeting closed at 2120

Planning

No significant planning is reported since the AGM. Unless you know better? If you feel that the Society should know, please inform any member of the committee.

Environment

Paul Baker and party have been active in clearing the blackthorn and other intrusive vegetation at the corner of the bridleway, assisted by another local activity. A few bollards were replaced along the bridleway close to Ferniefields, more to follow.

Minor littering continues on the common. This follows the usual pattern of the Mars bar eater who can't seem to carry the empty wrapper home, the "healthy" drinker who can't carry his water bottle home and the unhealthy drinker who can't seem to make it home without his fix - or maybe is just concealing the evidence. One also wonders what someone is constantly doing in the woods with a handful of tissues ... perhaps it's best not to speculate. No it's not bio-degradable. Very sadly someone has failed to find the dog bins and has started to leave bags of dog's waste on the common again. If you know who it is, we will try to arrange a bin for their front garden, but suspect it will make no difference.

The Squirrel triangle was cut down again after a less than fruitful season. We intend to persevere with a little cultivation. All volunteers welcome. This activity generally takes place at weekends and lasts no more than a couple of hours, since most of the participants can't manage much more physical labour.

Communication

We are investigating the production of a Web Site for the society. Meantime you can still contact the society on e-Mail at rtewalker@aol.com

Again we thank "The Link" for the publicity and reporting of the Society's operation and activity.

All complaints regarding odour from High Heavens should be passed directly to 01296382307 BCC Waste Management.

Airfield complaints should be passed to Hedley Luxton.

Rita and a few members of the Society continue to liaise with the Chiltern Woodlands Group and other local societies. A group recently visited Lane End to find out how they intend to manage Moor End Common.

Common Grass cutting.

It will be obvious to local residents that grass cutting on the common, previously organised by the Cricket Club was becoming erratic. Special thanks then to Jeff Harvey for organising a collection to maintain the cutting. As a result of his efforts, generous contributions have been received from local individuals, the Village Hall Committee, the Horticultural Society, BCWPS and the landowner Sir Edward Dashwood. Sufficient fund have been donated for the maintenance of the greensward for this and at least one future year preserving the appearance of this lovely corner of the common. The surplus money from Jeff's collection will be held in a BCWPS account till required.

BCWPS would like it to be known that although they do not accept responsibility for the cutting of the common, holding the money will allow residents to know where and how much it is.

Litter picking

The next collection will be on Sunday 8th October. Volunteers meet at 11a.m. below The Squirrel Pub, at the south end of Rydal Way, or at the pylon, south end of Highwood Avenue. Stout footwear and gloves are essential - an insurance requirement. Waste bags will be supplied. All are welcome.