



# Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

[www.bookercommon.org.uk](http://www.bookercommon.org.uk)

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 87 Spring 2018

## **37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**8:00pm, Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Booker Memorial Hall**

*Our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held in the Booker Memorial Hall on Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00pm. The AGM is open to members and non-members and we look forward to welcoming you to the meeting.*

### **AGM Agenda**



The AGM is an opportunity to find out more about the society and give us your views on our activities. The committee has prepared the following agenda. If you would like something else to be included please email me at [chair@bookercommon.org.uk](mailto:chair@bookercommon.org.uk) or come along and raise it during the meeting. If you would like a copy of last year's draft minutes before the meeting it is available on our website, [www.bookercommon.org.uk](http://www.bookercommon.org.uk), or please contact me. Copies will be available at the meeting.

- Welcome and introduction of Guest Speaker
- Guest Speaker  
Jacky Akam - Chilterns Conservation Board
- Minutes of 2017 AGM.
- Reports and plans
- Discussion / Questions
- Election of Committee and Officers
- Any Other Business.

### **Guest Speaker**

We are very pleased to welcome Jacky Akam, Landscape Partnership Development Manager at the Chilterns Conservation Board as this year's guest speaker. Jacky will talk about a major new scheme by the Board called **Chalk, Cherries and Chairs** for which she is leading the development, funded primarily by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help improve and look after wildlife habitats, the Chilterns landscape and our local heritage. There will be time for questions after her talk.

### **Election of the Committee and Officers for 2018/2019**

**We would be very pleased to welcome new members on to our committee.** If you would be interested in becoming a committee member, please email [chair@bookercommon.org.uk](mailto:chair@bookercommon.org.uk), call Brian on 01494 449035 or simply come forward at the AGM. We are particularly keen to encourage younger members to join the committee but any interested member would be very welcome.

The following existing committee members are willing to continue for a further year if re-elected

Brian Tranter (Chair)	Jeff Harvey	Phil Stagg*	<b>Co-Opted Members</b>
Tim Speechley (Secretary)	Sally Blackman	Tony McMahan	Steve Blackman
Simon Fraser (Treasurer)*	Sally Jay		Akosua Ofori

\*Simon Fraser has decided to step down as Treasurer and Phil Stagg has volunteered to take his place.

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## Commons Diary

Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> - Bank Holiday Car Boot Sale in aid of Booker Memorial Hall  
Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> - Bank Holiday Car Boot Sale in aid of Booker & District Horticultural Society  
**Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> – AGM**  
Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> – Booker Show

### A Plaque for the Coronation Trees and a New Bench

After more than 60 years a plaque has been installed to show the location of the trees planted to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Unfortunately, only 3 of the original 6 trees that were planted remain but they are no longer anonymous.

Six trees were planted in March 1954 by the Booker Coronation Committee to celebrate the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The three firs near this bench remain (2018)

### If you go down to the woods today....

Many walkers may have bumped into us, perhaps playing, exploring, finding insects, building dens or maybe enjoying a sing or a marshmallow around the campfire - and you are probably wondering what we are doing down in the woods. With kind permission from the Dashwood estate, our children have a very special opportunity to enjoy 'Forest School' in Booker Hill Woods.



A few different schools have the wonderful chance to spend a few hours in the woods - I work at Mapledean Nursery School and our children visit on Tuesdays. You may also see Chiltern Gate School regularly through the week. Mapledean's children are aged 3 and 4, and many of them have never even visited the woods despite living locally. At forest school we teach the children how to keep safe - they have a boundary to work within (you may have spotted little red hands to remind them where the boundary is) and know what to do if they get lost - if you hear us calling "1-2-3 Where are you?" we are practising this in the woods. We teach the children 'X-factor' - or standing still with arms crossed when they see a dog off the lead - we know most dogs are very friendly, but it's important for the children not to run up to them.

We do allow the children to carefully climb the fallen tree, and get muddy, or perhaps look for bugs or make wonderful things from sticks - being outdoors awakens the children's imagination, their play is open-ended and stimulating and you will often see them very engrossed in what they are doing. Children today don't get these opportunities to play and explore outside as we did when we were young. They are often on tablets or phones, glued to the telly, and not allowed to play outside due to fears of safety - the forest school experience helps many children to develop confidence, physical skills, self-esteem and learn about risk.

Most importantly, we teach them about nature and caring for their environment - through enjoyment and first-hand experiences, they learn to appreciate the woods and animals, they ask questions, they observe and through this experience develop a love for nature - and so we hope the future generation will wish to help protect it too.

Vicky Wetherell  
Forest School Leader at Mapledean Nursery School

### Litter

Thanks to everyone who helped with our **Spring Litter Pick** and also everyone who regularly picks up litter as they walk on the common. Unfortunately, the amount of litter thoughtlessly dropped on and around the common is growing. Your help to remove it is appreciated by all of us who care about the common.

### Fly Tipping

There has been an increase in the number of incidents of Fly Tipping. If you see anyone dumping rubbish of any kind on or around the common please report it to the police including as much detail as possible so that the perpetrators can be caught and prosecuted.