

# BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity: No. 289871)

NEWSLETTER No. 20 ——— APRIL 1987

Mr & Mrs R Walker  
Broadhurst  
Barbers Wood Close

## NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

Wednesday 20 May 1987 at 8pm.

at BOOKER MEMORIAL HALL  
on Booker Common

Please do attend and help protect your local countryside by supporting this local Conservation Society.

The Society's environmental policy for the ensuing year is decided by consensus of opinion of members attending the Annual General Meeting.

The Society's object is to protect the public's continuing peaceful enjoyment of the local Commons, and their legal right of "Air and Exercise". It follows that any activity in the vicinity which may knock-on to the detriment of peaceful enjoyment comes within the province of this Society.

Within these parameters it is open to all members to raise any issue for discussion under item 5 of the following Agenda.

So, if members have a strongly held point of view the place to state it is at the Annual General Meeting and accept the verdict of the majority in democratic fashion.

### A G E N D A

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (21 May 1986) by Hon. Sec.
2. ANNUAL REPORTS (on past year's activity) by Chairman and Hon Treasurer. (VOTE on Audited A/cs)
3. MEMBERS VOTE the ANNUAL Subscription for 1987/8.
4. QUESTION TIME on Reports in item 2 above.
5. PROPOSALS for future Conservation activity including any matter affecting the environment of the local countryside.
6. VOTE OF THANKS to outgoing Committee (1986/7)
7. ELECTION of COMMITTEE for 1987/8 and of offices of Chairman; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer.
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### NEW COMMITTEE for 1987/8

Subscribing members are invited to offer themselves for election to the new Committee, but are asked to undertake to serve for at least one year.

If we are to have a vigorous Society a regular infusion of new blood is essential. If any member feels vigorous please phone High Wycombe 25665 before 13 May 1987 and their name will be put forward.

Candidates offering themselves for election to date are:-

NEW BLOOD: Mesdames: Margaret Kelleher and Clare Wylot. Messrs: Graham Jenner and Vic West.

EXISTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mesdames: Rita Duxton; Irene Pearce; Gaynor Taffurelli (present Hon Sec.)  
Messrs: Paul Baker; Syd Codling; David Crowther (present Hon Treasurer); Allan Duggin (present Chairman); Rodney Forrest (Rep. Cricket Club); Tony Hall; Andy Morgan; Frank Pearce (Rep. Memorial Hall) Ronald Walker; David Wilmot.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

### PLEASE HELP SPRING-CLEAN

### The WOODLANDS on the COMMON

on SUNDAY MORNING 26 April 1987

START TIME 10am (until 12 midday)

(If you can't manage 10am - join later down the route)

BOOKER COMMON and its 'ancient woodland' is your own local amenity so please help keep it in good order. The day's task is to pick up the litter. Plastic bags will be provided.

ASSEMBLY POINTS (and Group Organisers) are:-

Group 1 (Rita Duxton). Start at Arundel Road and Highwood Avenue entrances to the Woodland, and work along Bridleway 102 up to Group 2 start point. If time permits move across to Lane End Rd/Homes Lane.

Group 2 (Allan Duggin). Start below Squirrel pub and clear both sides of Bridleway 106 up to the Cricket Pitch. Then if time permits move across to Homes Lane/Lane End Road.

Group 3 (Rodney Forrest). Start from the northeast corner of the Cricket Pitch by Bridleway 106 and clear the rubbish along the woodland up to Homes Lane. Then if time permits move across to Homes Lane and Lane End Road.

Group 4 (David Wilmot). Start at Rydal Way and clear both sides of Lane End Road, and continue along Homes Lane until meeting clearance parties working from the other direction - otherwise clear up to Saxon House.

NOTE: Only if Tree Felling operations have been completed along the western section of Lane End Road will the combined clearance Groups deal with this section.

RUBBISH COLLECTION VEHICLES. Jeff Harvey and Ron Walker will collect your bags of rubbish and take them to Booker Tip. Please leave your full rubbish bags alongside: Bridleway 106; Homes Lane; Lane End Road; and in the open area at the end of Highwood Avenue.

MEMBERS whose front or back gardens adjoin the woodlands are asked clear litter immediately opposite their properties. If they are unable to join the organised parties on Sunday 26 April, it will be a great help if they do this a few days before.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. In your own interests please wear suitable clothing (i.e. protective footwear; thick garden gloves; waterproofs etc.) In event of cuts etc it is advisable to have a tetanus jab. But please always inform the nearest Group Organiser of any accident - however slight. Children may join in only if accompanied by a parent or other designated adult.

## THE GREEN BELT

FOR 30 YEARS Green Belts have played an important role in planning in this country.

THE PURPOSE of the Governments Green Belt legislation is:

- To check the unrestrained sprawl of built-up areas.
- To safeguard the surrounding countryside from further encroachment, and assist in Urban regeneration.

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S objectives (published in their 'Plan for High Wycombe Area - May 1986') are:-

- To provide for a high degree of permanence both in the definition of the boundary and in the policies operated within the Green Belt.
- There will be a presumption against inappropriate development within the Green Belt.
- The Council will encourage initiatives that will enhance the countryside. (This they have done for us)

THE GREEN BELT at BOOKER: The land between the existing built-up area adjacent to Booker Common and to Lane End Village is designated Green Belt.

Society members have expressed concern that in recent months there have been FIVE Planning Applications to build in the Green Belt adjacent to Booker Common. The obvious danger is that once an application slips through the net unobserved, it provides a precedent for yet more building. In the long term this could result in a concrete jungle between Booker Common and Lane End Village.

This Society has supported the objections made by individual members by means of formal letters opposing the applications. Other affiliated environmental Societies have formally supported our objections in every case. Wycombe District Council has so far refused consent in every case.

## THE GREEN BELT (CONTINUED)

OVER-RIDING CONSENT: But continuing vigilance is essential because every unsuccessful applicant has the right of appeal to the Minister for Environment - and some of these are successful.

EVER INCREASING PRESSURE can be expected because values of land for building in the south east are rocketing. So, we must not be too surprised if property developers seek loopholes in the Green Belt legislation.

OBJECTION PROCEDURE: Don't leave it to somebody else, or hope it will be alright on the day - it won't! If you have a care for the countryside then it's up to every individual to object to any building encroachment on the Green Belt. In such cases write to The Planning Officer, Wycombe District Council. It is too late to complain after a plan has been approved.

## 1987/8 CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Plans for the new year Conservation Programme will be discussed and recommended at the Annual General Meeting. Please do attend to give your views and hear other people's views.

As before, the programme will be dependent on the total number of workdays likely to be provided by volunteers at weekends; Also on the finance likely to be forthcoming to pay the cost of materials.

## WYCOMBE AIR PARK

A full report concerning the increased Flying Activity was given in the previous Newsletter No. 19. Limited space in this Newsletter precludes a further Report. But the latest position will be given at the Annual General Meeting. So if the increased Flying Activity is of concern to you, please attend the Meeting to discuss what can be done about it.

### BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1987

Our Expenditure Paid For The Following:-

	£
Restoration & Conservation Works Phase 3	1820.33
Maintenance, Repair And Replacement Costs	24.46
Other Environmental Projects i.e. Green Belt;	
Area Of Outstanding Beauty; Booker Airfield;	
Planning Applications; Funfair on Booker Common	176.96
Combined Personal And Public Liability Insurance	33.50
Members Newsletters: Printing Costs	105.10
Committee Documents: Printing Costs	19.71
Affiliation Fees To National And Regional Conservation Societies	44.15
Meeting Room Hire	21.00
Badges For Young Conservationists Scheme	13.50
Legal Costs	5.63
Administration Costs (Including Stationery, Postage Photocopying, Metered Telephone Calls etc.)	136.38
We Received More Than We Spent By	508.67
	2909.39

Our Income Came From The Following Sources:-

	£
Members Subscriptions	438
Donations From - Members	134.30
ASDA Superstore	1200.00
Sir Francis Dashwood Bt.	100.00
Others	36.00
	1470.30
Grant From Bucks County Council Towards Costs Of Phase 3 Restoration And Conservation Programme	925.00
Bank Interest Received	50.99
AGM Raffle	13.00
Sale Of Badges To Young Conservationists	12.00
	2909.39

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 1987

Our Accumulated Funds:-

At The Beginning Of The Year Were	(7.72)
We Received More Than We Spent By	508.67
	500.95

Our Assets Are:-

Money In The Bank	715.95
Less: Subscriptions And Donations From Members For Future Years Already Received.	215.00
	500

#### AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the above accounts and in my opinion they give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of Booker Common and Woods Protection Society At 31st March 1987.

J. G. Caldwell A.C.A. 79, Beaconsfield Road, Surbiton Surrey.

7th April 1987.