

Booker Common & Woods Protection Society

(Registered Charity : No.289871)

If you have paid your Annual Subscription and /or have donated to the Fighting Fund in 1994/5 and no receipt is attached, please telephone H.W. 01494 525665 or 521994

If you are not already a member of the Society and would like to help us to protect your environment why not support us? The minimum annual subscription is £3.00 per household, but extra donations are essential.

Receipt for 1994/5 Fighting Fund donation

Receipt for 1994/5 Annual Subscription

This Society operates in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission who scrutinise our audited accounts

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on
Monday 22nd May 1995
Commencing at 8:00pm until 9:30pm
at
Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common
(Off Limmer Lane)

GUEST SPEAKER
Steve Rodrick

Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
(AONB) Officer

Steve Rodrick has been appointed as the first Officer for the Chilterns AONB. He has a B.Sc (hons) in Ecological Science from Edinburgh University and spent most of his working life in Scotland, most recently as the Project Manager for the Rural Stirling Partnership and before that, Director of the Central Scotland Countryside Trust. His primary task will be to oversee the implementations of the 'Framework for Action', the management plan for the Chilterns AONB prepared last year. Steve will also be directing the preparation of twenty-two Zonal Management Plans which will form part of the Framework. Completion of this task over the next 3 years will involve close liaison with local communities and societies such as the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society.

AGENDA

8:00pm Guest Speaker

AGM Routine Business - will be condensed to allow maximum possible time to put questions to Steve Rodrick.

1. Hon. Secretary, Gaynor Taffurelli will present the Minutes of the 1994 AGM for approval.
2. Chairman, Allan Duggin will review the Society efforts to preserve the local Green Belt/A.O.N.B.
3. Hon Treasurer, David Crowther will submit the Audited Accounts for approval.

AGENDA (Contd.)

4. Field Organiser, Ronald Walker will give a short report on the practical conservation work by the Society volunteers in Booker Common Woods.
5. Vote of thanks to the outgoing 1994/5 committee.
6. Election of members to the new 1995/6 Committee and to offices of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer
7. Confirmation of existing basic policies of Society.
8. A.O.B.
9. 9:30pm : Meeting closes.

NEW COMMITTEE 1995/6

Subscribing members are invited to offer themselves for election to the new year's committee. Please phone nominations before 15 May 1995 to High Wycombe 525665. The present list of candidates for the new committee are:

Mesdames: - Rita Luxton, Gaynor Taffurelli (pres. Hon Secretary), Claire Wylot.

Messrs: - Paul Baker, David Crowther (pres. Hon Treasurer) Allan Duggin (pres. Chairman), Rodney Forrest, Tony Hall, Brian Petty, Tim Speechley, Mike Stevens, Ronald Walker, Vic West, Jeff Woodhouse.

THE OBJECTS OF SOCIETY is the preservation of the local countryside for the benefit of the public. For the past 13 years this has involved:-

- i) practical conservation work by Society volunteers in Booker Common Woodland
- ii) Opposition to any further building development within the adjacent Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which are not strictly within the terms of exceptions permitted under the agreed planning policies.

17 July 7pm
WDC

NEWSLETTER No. 37 - MAY 1995

529 261 A/c News

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION PROJECT 1994/5
by Ronald Walker (Field Supervisor)

The past year's field project, another success story, was the continuing maintenance programme of the areas restored with new tree plantations in earlier years by the Society's volunteers, and the clearance of overgrowth from footpaths.

The trees at the north end of the Common were all 'strimmed' and weeded by an unpressed volunteer, Peter Hughes, whose efforts were a conspicuous success - well done Peter. Again there has been little loss, and the four year old beeches are soaring past 12 feet already. The cherries are way past that, but the small fancy apples and roses have not been a success. They were probably too small to compete, and too close to the paths. Only a few remain, and they are very fragile. Three wayfarers were shifted onto the common to replace those lost, and have come on strongly. The few chestnuts have prospered if you know where to look (please note that these were grown from seed - does anyone else want to try?). Best of all, as usual, are the field maple.

A minor catastrophe occurred when the Society's strimmer was stolen from Ron's garage. This is such a robust tool that it is almost indispensable. However, a very sympathetic insurance company contributed very largely towards its replacement, when presented with our log record of use and a press photograph. Many thanks no advertising, but Ron will tell if asked.

Look forward to a litterblitz in the near future. More about this in the letter. Again I congratulate all the dog walkers who take a litter bag with them when they go out, reducing the need for collection, and probably deterring the litterers. If there is rubbish there, be sure someone will add to it. Dumped and burned out cars are being dealt with almost immediately, but I will shortly need some help to drag out a disassembled motor cycle.

The variety of butterflies appears to be on the increase and hopefully we will see the fritillaries again this year as there are violets out already. Green woodpeckers, pheasant, deer and rabbits are finding their way into my garden regularly, so let's keep the environment tidy for them. They weren't there ten years ago proving that the effort has been worthwhile.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

You can help Wycombe Air Park Management enforce its voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures by reporting any blatant infringement direct by phone HW 529261. But it must be done immediately giving time of the occurrence and as many details of the aircraft as possible. This will enable the Management to correct the pilot and ensure a better performance in the future.

A courteous phone call will ensure a courteous response.

GREEN BELT/AONB FIGHTING FUND

The high cost of participating in the lengthy MSAs Public Inquiry has depleted the Fighting Fund. Donations are required to top up the Fighting Fund during the coming year. Commercial pressures to develop your local Green Belt/AONB will continue. The Society must oppose all comers both before and during Public Inquiries.

During the past few days we have heard that Bucks County Council is considering installing a Waste Transfer Station at Booker where waste will be compacted into large containers and transported direct by road or by rail to the brickfield voids at Calvert in North Bucks.

The Society will certainly oppose this extraordinary idea.

M40 MSAs MULTIPLE PUBLIC INQUIRY A Personal Overview in Retrospect by Allan Duggin (Chairman)

Public Inquiry proceedings opened on 8 September 1994 with the Pre-Inquiry about five potential MSA sites: Waterstock; Wheatley; Tetsworth; Stokenchurch; Booker. Proceedings were eventually suspended at the end of March this year until 6 June 1995 when the case will be heard for two more separate MSA sites near Lewknor.

None of the evidence presented so far has changed my personal view that Mobil should never have been granted permission for a second Appeal for an MSA at Booker. The Secretary of State for the Environment decided in his letter of 1 July 1991 that Booker was unsuitable for an MSA site. As a consequence your Committee has formally requested that Mobil repay our considerable costs.

The effect of a multiple Inquiry for this Society resulted in exaggerated costs to this Society. The bitter and deadly competition between the five MSA Appellants led to them emphasising every weakness in their competitors case in public. Therefore it would be ungenerous of any member to carp at the cost of providing Mobil's competitors with our considerable quantity of evidence against Mobil. (I recall that after being cross-examined by Mobil's lawyer at their 1990 failed Appeal, he said that he was always wary of third party - the locals - evidence because it was difficult to compete with local knowledge).

Our argument remains that the proposed Booker MSA site is the only one of all seven competing MSA sites which is: Green Belt; AONB; designated 'Ancient Woodlands' on 3 sides; and sited at the end of an Aircraft runway (your Society presented a witness who had crash landed on the proposed MSA site after engine failure).

My personal opinion is, after hearing all the evidence, that yet again the argument was won against having an MSA at Booker by Wycombe District Council who were supported by the Society's local knowledge and evidence, and by the Society's highly expert Legal Advocate in his cross-examination of Mobil's witnesses.

But even if the argument is won, the question is - will the political argument be won? We have seen it all before where political interests override the winning argument and even basic logic.

LITTERBLITZ

PLEASE HELD CLEAN UP LITTER
AROUND THE COMMON WOODLANDS

On Sunday morning 4 June 1995 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Assembly Points:

- i) On the Green below Squirrel Pub - Squirrel Lane
- ii) Arundel Road entrance to Booker Woods - routing down to the Lane End Road Party
- iii) At Rydal Way and route along Lane End Road and Hornes Lane.

Plastic bags are provided and filled bags of litter will be collected.

Strong gardening gloves should be worn along with strong footwear.

It is your own back yard. Please phone HW 525665 and offer your help to keep it tidy.