



Woodsman

The Booker Common & Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.49 Spring 2000

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday 22nd May 2000

From 8pm at Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common

Guest Speaker

Nigel Snell of The English Kite Society

Nigel will give a presentation on the red kite and its re-introduction. Since the kite has returned to the area, it has become a source of pleasure and excitement to many. Hopefully we may learn how to encourage its presence and visibility without discouraging other indigenous species. Commencing at 8pm, the presentation will take close to an hour with questions, so please be on time.

Committee 2000/2001

Subscribing members of the society are invited to offer themselves for election to the new committee. Please phone nominations to 444824 before 15th May. Current members of the committee are:

Rita Luxton, Claire Wylot (Hon. Sec), Paul Baker, David Crowther (Hon. Treasurer), Tony Hall, Colin Kennedy, Brian Petty, Tim Speechley, Mike Stevens, Ron Walker (Chairman) and Vic West.

Policy Statement

The policy of this society remains:

To protect and enhance the environs of Booker Woods and Limmer Common within Society resources.

To campaign against the intrusion of any development which may threaten the adjacent Green Belt and AONB.

To resist any development which may curtail the enjoyment of the freedom of access to fresh air and exercise which the Common affords.

Planning

The most significant planning in the area, is the new housing development adjacent to the motorway on the old Booker Hospital site. Although this may increase traffic in the area, and seems unconscionably close to the motorway for residential property, it was seen as no threat to the Common.

Planning for another hangar at Wycombe Air Park has been rejected on appeal, upholding WDC's decision.

Wycombe District Council are to be congratulated for adhering to and enforcing the Local Plan despite persistent increasing pressure from government for more building land, and other frivolous plans.

Environment

The bi-annual litterpicking took place on the 21st November and the 9th April. Attended by "the usual collectors", they were both successful in tidying the paths and bridleways. Again thanks to Messrs Hall and Harvey for the collection of the filled bags, and to WDC for arranging their transfer to Booker Tip. We really need a few more volunteers for all areas (do we need more publicity, or do you just not care?). Tim Speechley was out for so long on the 9th of April that he was reported missing. Well done also to those people who collected early on that Sunday and left bags of tins and assorted rubbish for collection, and to those who carry a litter bag when out walking.

The Ramblers Association turned out on the 20th February to clear footpaths 111, 112 and their junction. At that time of year there was little overgrowth, but they had an excellent morning and spent a very productive couple of hours with Ron and Colin. Thanks to Ted Swan and an enthusiastic team

Ron has replaced 17 bollards this year, some more than once, due to blatant vandalism. Our stock of recycled bollards remains viable, but the long-term prospect is a little more worrying as all are growing old and showing signs of rotting (no, don't go there). Their deterrent value, however, has encouraged substantial regeneration on the wood's edges, which will hopefully suffice to protect against future vehicular incursion. Please keep Ron informed of gaps, and whether you can help him to fill them. Volunteers welcome (444824).

Tim and Ron attended a presentation at Bassetbury Manor on the 14th February by Mrs Frances Alexander (former Chair and Mayor of WDC), and supporting team about the new Environmental Centre on the Rye which has finally been approved, utilising an existing building close to the outdoor pool, with the installation of Sustainable Technology such as Solar Power and sewage treatment. The Centre will also be a focus for educational and environmental groups with volunteer manning from midsummer next year. A very exciting opportunity to prove that Energy Conservation methods do work, and to concentrate environmental action.

Joint Consultative Committee of Wycombe Air Park

This is in the process of re-constitution since the acrimonious collapse of last year, with WDC, as landlords, both officers and elected councillors represented, and representing the public but no longer financing the group. Brian Petty remains our representative, as a member of the working party on the new JCC.

Subscription Collection

We still need backup collectors for subscriptions, having had to resort to mailshotting members in some areas. If anyone can spare an hour or two in the evenings for their local road or small area please contact Ron or Claire. Receipts attached are for the period 1st April 1999 to 31st March 2000. If you have paid, and your receipt is not attached please contact Claire or Ron. Again we thank those new collectors who have volunteered. For those who are concerned about the apparent variability in collection period; we are trying to be as efficient as possible in completing before the end of the financial year. No-one can or will be charged twice. We are currently solvent.