



# Woodsman

*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*

*Registered Charity No.289871*

*Newsletter No.51 Spring 2001*

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2001**

**From 8pm at Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common**

### **Committee 2001/2002**

All subscribing members wishing to contribute *additional* time and energy to the Society are invited to apply for election. Prospective members or nominees please phone nominations to 444824 before 22<sup>nd</sup> May or E-mail on [RTEWalker@AOL.com](mailto:RTEWalker@AOL.com)

The current committee are: Rita Luxton, Claire Wylot (Sec.), Paul Baker, Tony Hall, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Tim Speechley, Mike Stevens, Ron Walker (Chair), Vic West and Chris Wylot (Treasurer). Hopefully one of the committee is a neighbour to whom you may confide your aspirations and concerns for the area. Since a number of current committee members are "retired", much of their time is spent holidaying abroad - no names! If you think we can help, contact Ron on the above number or call in if you're passing.

### **Planning**

The Public Enquiry into the Wycombe District Local Plan to 2011 is almost at an end. There seemed little threat to this area for a change, until suddenly a local councillor for Downley proposed as a solution to Wycombe's traffic problem, the building of a new 3,000-property village astride the M40 to the west of Booker, with an industrial development at Booker Air Park. This would effectively join Lane End to Wycombe. I hasten to add that our local county councillor together with two of the local district councillors for Booker and Castlefield wrote to this society immediately dissociating themselves from this proposal. Damage done I suspect - some developer will have it on his drawing board already. As a solution to Wycombe's traffic problems? Well it doesn't take an Einstein.....

The Handy Cross study final report has also been published - a sort of Tangled Spaghetti Junction, with it's new slip-roads (promising) and bus priority schemes and a further prospective intrusion into Green Belt to the south-west for Park and Ride. This is projected to take up to five years. If the recent lane modifications at Handy Cross is anything to go by, Wycombe should be *totally* isolated for up to six years. Can you all remember where the A40 is? Look for a local job? Work from home?

While we believe we are kept informed of all significant planning applications, a number slip by which may be more relevant than at first assumed. Please keep the Society informed if you think we have missed something. Obviously we cannot act on behalf of individuals, but we may be able to support. We do, however, commend Planning Services of WDC who are extremely helpful. We are also satisfied, from experience, that Wycombe District Council are known to enforce their planning policies. There is an Enforcement department in planning which anyone can contact if you feel aggrieved by any aspect of development which may have been over-looked.

## **Environment.**

Litter picking is not planned to take place this spring, owing to the foot and mouth regulations, which, at the time of going to press, are being relaxed. Unfortunately we cannot react so quickly to changes through communications difficulties, but will try to address the more untidy areas with small teams. Please continue to take a bag with you when you go for a stroll.

Regrettably there have been a number of anomalies regarding access to the common during this period. Unfortunately we have no control over this, though we have made several calls to the County Council. In fact Booker Common was not even on the list of controlled areas issued by the County. According to the rules, it is the duty of the landowner to regulate in such circumstances, and suitable notices were put up quickly, and sadly, just as quickly ignored by a mindless minority. I must mention that some members of this society assisted in the distribution of these notices, and should be commended for their speedy and responsible reaction. Sadly, the deer and other fauna which regularly visit the editor's garden cannot read.

It is doubly unfortunate that this terrible disease has struck just as The Countryside Right of Way Act was passed. This act, (which has been debated, it seems, forever) now on the statute-book, will not take effect for 3-4 years, though in order to evaluate, proscribe and designate, much work must be done in the countryside, not possible at this time. It allows for access on foot to areas of open, uncultivated countryside, opening up nearly four million acres of mountain, moor, heath, down and common in England and Wales. The Ramblers Association, Open Spaces Society and Countryside Agency are keeping us well informed, but it won't happen tomorrow.

On a lighter note. Are you fed up with advertising litter through your letter-box? Well if it has a stamped reply, just send it back - no, don't fill in the details. Polluter pays postage. As for "The Occupier" same thing, just put it in the Mail. Why dispose of other people's litter? The editor tried the Mail Preference route, but couldn't stop "The Occupier" coming through his box, not to mention food delivery services, Supermarket advertising, Estate Agents etc. etc. Thank you WDC for waste paper collection. Sorry mine is so heavy.

## **JCC and Air Park**

We continue to be represented at the Joint Consultative Committee by Hedley Luxton. Owing to the weather, there is relatively little flying going on at present. It was recently reported that representatives of the CAA are taking an interest in the types of flying and facilities at the air park, but we await more clarification. Let us be thankful that the facilities are not as good as those at Biggin Hill, Farnborough, Stanstead or now Manston.

Our membership of the Airfield Environmental Federation means that we receive copies of Flying Green newsletter, but the news does not improve. At a recent meeting in Montreal, for instance, of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, a reduction in noise levels for commercial aircraft was agreed - less than the AEF had hoped for - and the significance to Wycombe Air Park will be minimal for current aircraft.

## **Subscription Collections**

As ever, a big thank you to all those who trudge the streets collecting the subscriptions. The next collection for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 01 to 31 March 02 will begin in the late Autumn. Your receipt for the year should be attached. If not contact Claire on HW 535071.

Can anyone spare a few hours to collect subscriptions for next year? We need a collector for Willow Avenue (about 18 houses), and would like to split Squirrel Lane into 2 collections of about 15-20 houses each. Any volunteers? Phone Claire.

## **And finally.....**

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> May. It's your opportunity to put your views to the committee.