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# Woodsman

*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*  
Registered Charity No.289871      *Newsletter No.57 Spring 2003*

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**at 8 pm on Tuesday 20th May 2002**

**in Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common**

**including a presentation on**

**The Flora and Fauna of the Local Area**

**By Guest Speaker Maurice Young,**

**Manager of the local Wildlife Trust Volunteers**

### **Committee 2002/2003**

All subscribing members of the society are invited to offer themselves for election to the new committee. Please phone nominations to 01494 436807 before 16th May. The members of the committee are:

Rita Luxton (Chair), Tony Dunford (Membership Sec), Paul Baker, Tony Hall, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Tim Speechley (Sec), Mike Stevens, Ron Walker and Vic West.

Hedley Luxton (Booker Airfield Joint Consultative Committee Rep) is a co-opted member.

The committee needs fresh minds if the society is to continue. We need to know what you the members want.

If the committee are getting it wrong, they can't know if you don't tell them.

Check the policy statement below.

Is that what we are doing?

How can we do it better?

### **Policy Statement**

To protect and enhance the environs of Booker Woods and Common and including 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 that may curtail the enjoyment of the freedom of access to fresh air and exercise which the Common affords.

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY – YOUR OPINION COUNTS**

## Environment

The spring tidy was carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The usual volunteers turned out for a relatively small bag count. Jeff Harvey kindly lent his vehicle for the final collection., and Ron Walker was delighted to be challenged by no less than three civic-minded drivers while emptying at the collection point from where WDC collect our bags. One wonders if he would have been challenged after dark. It seems silly to be dumping in broad daylight on a Sunday, but none the less, it was good that a number of people took time to check. There were a few wheels and tyres as usual, but it appears that WDC contractors are busying themselves with the roadside collection, so the actual bag count was only about 45. However, the number of empty vodka bottles collected implies that someone has a serious drink problem.

It's difficult to inform everyone when the next collection is to be held - any suggestions, bearing in mind that the newsletter comes out only twice a year. The practice of posting the trees does help, but again we have some sad common users who tear down the notices or set fire to them on the trees. Of 14 notices, only 9 were recovered this year.

Rats have been seen in the woods recently, so it is imperative that we continue to pick up rotting food waste in order to discourage them. Please don't put down poison, which may be carried into the woods and be picked up by dogs or even kites.

Some strange person continues to bag dog faeces and throw it into the bushes and up trees. This is an extremely unhealthy practice, and anyone who knows who is doing it should inform a committee member. The perpetrator is obviously in need of counselling and probably therapy.

The display of bluebells continues to expand every spring and the open areas between our older trees has encouraged a greater diversity of plants, there is some unusual self-seeding. There is always a fear of non-indigenous plants introducing themselves, but if they are not over-bearing and look attractive, let nature take its course.

## Gift Aid

If you have not filled in a Gift Aid Form for your annual subscription (this replaces Deeds of Covenant) please request a form and return the completed form to a member of the committee this will enable the society to reclaim tax as a gift of charity.

## Subscriptions for 2002/2003

Due to the lack of voluntary collectors not all members have paid their subscriptions, if you wish to pay for this year and continue to support Your Society please contact a committee member.

### Notice

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Alan Duggin, founder member and long-time chairman of this society. Alan was the eco-warriors' eco-warrior, when it was unfashionable. Largely as a result of his efforts, we have this society and the common for recreation, and a less developed environment than might have been the case.

**THE YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU –  
Collectors, Committee Members, Volunteers for clear ups.**

**We also need your opinion on local matters that are relevant to the aims of the society.**