

Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.65 Autumn 2006

Annual General Meeting 23rd May 2006

The hall was unusually full by 7.30pm, mainly with supporters of Natalie Sargent. Natalie is this year's winner of the Allan Duggin Memorial Award, again presented, (for the third time) by Julie Hopton of the Wycombe Rangers Service. Chairman, Rita Luxton, introduced and welcomed those involved, and the presentation was well supported and photographed. Obviously a popular choice.

The guests for the Award presentation then left, and our Guest Speaker, Mr Neil Harris, the National Trusts Countryside and Gardens Manager for West Wycombe, then made his presentation, illustrated with slides. This was an excellent, widely scoped introduction to the variety of managed environments for which the National Trust is responsible, and was obviously appreciated as reflected in the number of questions which Neil fielded at the end of his talk.

The Chairman Rita thanked Neil for coming and his patience in answering our questions.

The business of the AGM then commenced with Rita welcoming society members.

The minutes of last year's AGM, copies of which had been distributed, were agreed.

Colin Kennedy reported on Planning, referring to a possible large change in local infrastructure, specifically an Aylesbury to M40 by-pass of High Wycombe, possibly joining at the bottom of the Stokenchurch escarpment. .

Paul Baker introduced the new membership methodology.

Hedley presented the accounts, copies of which had been distributed.

Ron Walker gave a brief presentation on the local environment, with Paul adding a rider on the common clearance.

Committee.

Tony Hall and Tony Dunford did not seek re-election. Rita thanked Tony Hall for his many years of excellent and effective contribution to the Society since its inception.

The following new members were elected to the committee:

Simon Fraser Rydal Way

Proposed: Paul Baker

Seconded: Hedley Luxton

Charles Pugh Highwood Avenue

Proposed: Hedley Luxton

Seconded: Ron Walker

Hon Treasurer: Brian Wilson

Proposed: Brenda Walker

Seconded: Vic West

The following current committee members were re-elected "en-bloc":

Chairman

Rita Luxton,

Members

Paul Baker Vic West Tim Speechley Colin Kennedy

Ron Walker

Hedley Luxton (Honorary Airfield JCC Representative)

AOB

Geoff Harvey asked if anything could be done to stop the graffitiers.

The Meeting closed at 2115

Planning

No significant planning is reported since the AGM.

Environment

At last we have dog bins on the common and at the Squirrel triangle. We only have to encourage their use. With thanks to Darren Hayday and WDC. We paid for one.

The bi-annual litter collection took place in May. The usual volunteers turned up, and the number of bags was again fewer than last year. An increasing number of "walkers" are carrying litter bags and collecting as they go, which makes it so much easier for the bi-annual groups. This may also be a deterrent, since no-one wants to be seen to be the first to foul. As usual, however, we have the determined Mars bar eater, the suicidal smoker, the sad persons who can't make it home from work without a serious alcohol hit and the designer water carriers, all of whom managed to carry the full container or wrapper into the common but find the empty too heavy to continue home with.....or perhaps it's simply guilt, they want no-one to know. So "empty/lighter" does not register.

Sadly, however, this year has seen the advent of more disgusting littering than even plastic-bagged dog mess. Used disposable nappies - three one day over the spring holiday, then another a couple of days later - regrettably an example of the exception proving the rule? Words fail. Not so surprisingly, they were closely associated with an empty vodka bottle and four empty beer cans.

The seeding of the Squirrel triangle wasn't altogether successful, but there was a flash of colour for a few weeks, though the tree planted also failed due to the dry weather - remember the dry weather? We will try again.

The rat-runners on the bridle path are less frequent since the signage was added. Long may it continue.

The Society, in association with the Hall Committee and the Horticultural Society, has contributed to another lockable post for access to the common. This was ordered and installed by Hedley.

Apparently those responsible for the local graffiti have been identified, and action is being taken to deter.

Communication

We have a new local community policeman, though his presence may have been somewhat obfuscated by the presence of so many others over the past month. He is Dan MacCulloch and can be contacted through Windsor CC 0845 8505505.

A community notice board has been erected at the Tumpike - access via "Impression" hairdresser.

You can contact the society on E-Mail at tewalker@aol.com or through WDC or BCC web pages.

Members who would like to be kept in touch by this method are invited to send their Email addresses. Hopefully we can keep you up-dated more quickly. Since we only meet six times a year, please appreciate that we cannot be in touch with all members immediately. The "LINK" Magazine has proved useful in disseminating local information, including a news item from BCWPS.

The attendance at the AGM was small even by normal standards. The Committee need to know what you want for and from your Society. It really does have a purpose, the protection of your very own local environment. We believe that most areas of the common are now covered by a local committee representative.

All complaints regarding odour from High Heavens should be passed to 01296382307 BCC Waste Management.

Membership Subscriptions for 2006/2007.

The committee has elected Mrs Betty Duggin an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Subs for 2005 were collected late due to a technical hitch; we intend to get round to collecting 2006 subs before Xmas. The committee would like to thank those members of the society who contribute, with special thanks for those who augment the agreed £3.00 annual contribution. We are currently solvent.

Litter picking

The next collection will be on Sunday 8th October. Meet below The Squirrel Pub at 11a.m., at the south end of Rydal Way or at the pylon, south end of Highwood Avenue. Stout footwear and gloves are essential. Waste bags will be supplied. All welcome.