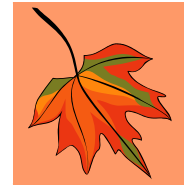


Woodsman



The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 *Newsletter No.68 Spring 2008*

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in The Booker Memorial Hall on Tuesday 20th May 2008 at 8.00 pm.

(Open to members and non-members)

The Guest speaker will be Richard Hearn with his history of

Local Furniture making from the 1800s.

Richard, whose grandfather established a successful business in 1840, is the fifth generation of his family to be involved in this crucial High Wycombe industry.

He will be sharing his memories and displaying artefacts associated with the furniture trade centred on High Wycombe.

The Alan Duggin Memorial Award will be presented at the meeting to encourage young people in conservation.

Election of Committee 2008/2009.

All subscribing members of the Society are invited to apply for election to the committee. Please phone nominations to 436807 Rita Luxton before 15th May. Current members are:

Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Simon Fraser, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Charles Pugh, Tim Speechley (Hon Sec), Ron Walker and Vic West.

Brian Wilson (Hon Treasurer), Hedley Luxton (JCC Rep), Jeff Harvey and Katherine Belcher (IT) are co-opted members.

Planning

Notably the agreement to transfer Adams Park out of Green Belt and the two fields on the extreme south west of Sands into Green Belt (is this a first). Why this should have any bearing on increased seating at the venue escapes us.

High Heavens. With the decision to re-site a further composting facility away from High Heavens, and the reduction of treatment capacity comes some slight relief from traffic associated with the same. So far we are not threatened with an incinerator, fingers crossed. The development of the domestic recycling area goes ahead apace, well-planned and hopefully successful.

The final greening of the former tip has taken place. An excellent effort with a huge variety of thousands of indigenous trees having been planted, together with a variety of wild-flowers, is an example to others that such landscaped recovery is possible. It's been a long wait, but worth a visit.

Apparently the "plan" to develop at the Air Park was little more than replacement and modernisation of current facility.

A number of developments have taken place in close proximity to the Common, but nothing that impinges on what we have come to accept as our "fresh air" policy.

Environment

Any complaints regarding odour from High Heavens should still be passed to 01296382307 BCC Waste Management. There has been a vast improvement in operation over recent months with few complaints. Sadly the planned covering of the current maturation area has run out of money, but hopes to go ahead in the next financial year.

Besides the arrangement and collection made by Jeff Harvey for the grass-cutting of the common, we have also had a kind offer from the Air Park to take up some of the cutting. Many thanks. As a result, the cutting fund has almost an extra year's worth.

Acting on behalf of the society, Jeff has also arranged for the repair of the metal framed seats on the cricket common. The current rotten wood will be replaced by metal, to hopefully extend their life and protect them from vandalism. Those memorial seats which have lost their dedication plaques will have them replaced. Currently we have only one plaque. Please contact a member of the committee if you require a replacement, preferably with full details as original.

A number of bollards have been replaced in the Ferniefields area. To be continued. Since we are only covered by insurance in the common area, bollards adjacent to public highways can no longer be replaced.

Communication

The good news is, we now have a Web site on line at www.bcwps.org.uk. You can contact the society by E-mail. Katherine and Paul have put in masses of their own time on this facility. We feel it's about time, but we seriously need feedback on accuracy of information, what you would like to know and what more you need from the site. On the site you will find a list of contacts.

Members who would prefer to be kept in touch by Email are cordially invited to send their Email addresses. Hopefully we can keep you up-dated more quickly, and we don't have to print/deliver your copy of The Woodsman. Since we only meet six times a year, please appreciate that we cannot be in touch with all members immediately. Hopefully the web site will alleviate some of the contact problems. The local "Link" Magazine is also proving popular in keeping BCWPS members up to date.

As your JCC representative, Hedley is still interested in any obtrusive activity from the airfield for the record. Dates, accurate times and identity of the aircraft. They are an Air Traffic Control.

Membership Subscriptions for 2008.

See the balance sheet at the AGM. Again our collectors are on the ball and Brian has done his usual sterling job. If we have missed you, please send your membership to the treasurer. Contribution is still only £3.00 pa. We would like to make our collection method more efficient but banking costs for such a small group are not viable, and it does allow the collectors to contact members to see what they want from the society. Well done the collectors.

Members.

We have decided to distribute a few more copies of the Woodsman than usual this year in order to attract members who are either unaware of the society and its aims, or those who have just moved in to the area.

Litter picking

Poor turn-out for picking on 16th March - yes it was a miserable day, but the diehards did it. Again not a lot of litter.

Besides the constant efforts of those thoughtful walkers who do pick up, we suspect this has much to do with the current publicity regarding the disposal of bio-degradable waste e.g. apple cores, but it's also likely that it is becoming as socially unacceptable as was drink driving, smoking, etc. (Sewage is bio-degradable but we stopped throwing it down the streets a few centuries ago). There are a lot more of us and it's just not tenable. I really shouldn't have to remind the users of our lovely common that tissues are not bio-degradable, nor is whatever is within them (lord knows). And you will not die of dehydration without your "healthy" drink while on an hour-long stroll or even a half-hour jog in the woods. I'll let you all into a secret - it's the way the French get rid of their plastic; they wrap it round "Spring" water and "Glacier" water and send it to the British at great cost to dispose of it for them. Education is still needed. All litter is ugly.

Most unusual item found this year? Pregnancy testing kit - used. Thank you.