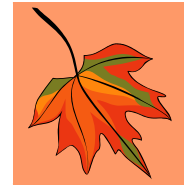


Woodsman



The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.70 Spring 2009

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in The Booker Memorial Hall on Tuesday 19th May 2009 at 8.00 pm.

At the beginning of the evening, the Alan Duggin Memorial Award will be presented to the John Hampden School Eco Club. This award is given annually in co-operation with the Wycombe Ranger Service to encourage young people in conservation.

The meeting will continue with a talk by Chris Ryde of the Wycombe Ranger Service on the subject of local fungi.

(This meeting is open to all)

Election of Committee 2009/2010.

Subscribing members of the Society are invited to apply for election to the committee. Please phone nominations to Rita Luxton 436807 before 15th May. Current members are: Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Katherine Belcher, Simon Fraser, Jeff Harvey, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Charles Pugh, Tim Speechley (Hon Sec), Ron Walker and Vic West. Brian Wilson (Hon Treasurer), Hedley Luxton (JCC Air Park) are co-opted members. We think we have a cross-sectional representation of Common residents. If you think we're missing someone, please propose an option or even *volunteer*.

Planning

High Heavens.

The good news. The household waste re-development commences in July, and should be completed by September. Access to the "skips" should be easier, and movement in and out of the site facilitated. We hope this does not disrupt your gardening plans since access will be curtailed during that period.

The management and operation of the composting facility seems to be well under control with no reported odour pollution for over the past six months, and a maintenance programme planned and well effected. Somehow, however, it seems that we, through BCC, are still paying for the development of this resource. OK it's our rubbish, but have we a "green collection" at Booker? That's right, no!

Covers for the current clamps are now financed, and after further consultation are going ahead to further impound smells. Complaints regarding odour from High Heavens should still be passed to 01296382307 BCC Waste Management.

And now BCC intend to incinerate waste in accord with common EU policy. (*No*

not quite that bad). The current “plan” will incorporate an intention to apply for permission for a bulk transfer station at High Heavens. This will entail hauling rubbish into High Heavens, compacting it, and sending it out in much larger and heavier vehicles to wherever the incinerator is to be sited. It appears that BCC still look upon Booker as a rubbish tip. We feel we have done our share for the county, and it’s someone else’s turn. Not bad planning within a few hundred metres of a brand new £12 million school, eh?

Environment

The Society continues to tidy the triangle below Squirrel Lane. The fallen trees have been cut back and some burning was done. The heavier stuff was left to break down for the bugs. Volunteers are needed to keep the lower half cut to encourage grass, and removal of the perennial hogweed on the higher triangle, where we are again trying to encourage wild flowers.

Communication

We are aware that we have lost the web site. Work in progress.

Membership Subscriptions for 2009.

See the balance sheet at the AGM.

Members.

Through the efforts of our collectors, there has been an increase in membership. Membership is still only £3 per household p.a. Please support your Society - if you have any concerns or questions, come and air your views - together we must protect the environment in which we live. If we don’t know what you want, we can’t represent you.

Litter

The “usual suspects” (16) turned out for the litter pick on 22nd March . (Some of us can’t yet afford Mother’s Day flowers). Sadly the worst of the litter was obviously on roadsides not readily accessible to pedestrians - the wood-walkers picking up regularly, deterring the moron fringe from adding to and it accumulating. (We wonder how motorists might react if pedestrians threw rubbish into the roads?)

One of our number was asked if he was “on community service”. Not surprising really, knowing what he looks like! We like to think we are all on community service.

Generally speaking, there was not a lot of litter. Seems WDC are doing a regular and effective roadside pickup, and thanks to them again for their prompt reaction to “dumping” and for the prompt recovery of our collection.

We presume someone thought it was funny to deposit a pile of rubbish at the bottom of Squirrel Lane, next to our notice exhorting people to take their rubbish to the tip. Since WDC identified the address from where the rubbish was dumped, we may all hopefully soon be able to share the joke.

Again may we remind users of your lovely common that tissues, though eventually bio-degradable, contain your germs and your viruses and really ought not to be shared (anyone been to Mexico recently?). Also no-one in UK has yet died of dehydration while on a half hour jog - water bottles. While one of our more popular confections may help us to work, rest and play (even campanology apparently), the wrappings only serve to litter, and weigh a lot less than the contents - same old. Someone is still smoking? Lots of (rich?) people are drinking high alcohol liquids. Can’t you do that at home?