

Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter No.75 Autumn 2011

30th AGM

The 2011 AGM took place in the Booker Memorial Hall on Monday 16th May. The chairman welcomed the well-attended meeting.

This years Allan Duggin award for conservation was presented to The Wycombe Wildlife Group and accepted by Roger Wilding. Roger detailed the WWG's achievements since formation 22 years ago. This award is presented annually in recognition of work to encourage young people to be aware of the environment and conservation thereof. *If any member is aware of a deserving cause for next year's award, please inform Rita Luxton or a member of the committee.*

At the meeting the recently elected Wycombe District councillors, Brian Pearce and Simon Parker introduced themselves and pledged support to the Society.

The retiring Treasurer, Brian Wilson then reported on the Society's financial viability, and was given a vote of thanks. Brian has been responsible for the collation of membership lists and collection of membership contribution for some years and has handed over an efficient operating system.

Other members of the committee were then elected or re-elected, Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Catherine Cox, Simon Fraser (Treasurer), Jeff Harvey, Charles Pugh, Tim Speechley (Hon. Sec), Ron Walker and Vic West.

Committee membership is still required for fresh ideas. *Please volunteer.* Duties are not onerous; a committee meeting six times a year, which results in a little organisation and labour.

Charles Pugh has since been elected member for Planning.

Planning

Those of you who participated in the GASP offensive against the proposed development on Wycome Air Park should be proud of your effort. This was a major achievement against serious odds. Being a member of BCWPS showed its worth in what we are here for - *a voice for local people.*

Be aware of another assault on Booker, of a Waste Transfer Station which will hugely increase HGV movement in the Cressex area. The committee have expressed their objection to Bucks County Council. Individual members are encouraged to express their opposition to BCC of this scheme, which will have a large negative effect environmentally.

Subscriptions for 2011

Your friendly collector will shortly be calling to collect annual subscriptions to the Society and any contribution to the Fighting Fund would be welcome. Money from our fighting fund was used to produce printed leaflets, distribution and banners etc. and the support of GASP. Money well spent to save our Green Belt - A good investment? Subscriptions remains at £3.00 Per Household.

New Members to the Society are always Welcome - If you live in our area why not join, have your say, try to improve your environment.

Environment

On 25th June, Wycombe Wildlife Group took members of the society on a ramble through Booker and Limmer Common identifying over 100 different species, which though quite common showed a large diversity.

We were also advised on the cutting of the triangle below the Squirrel which was quite attractive earlier in the year. Selective cutting and mowing was carried out by Ron Walker, Malcom McLelland and Hedley Luxton, hopefully to reduce the hogweed and nettle.

The Society has replaced several Bollards on the Bridleway and around the Common. This is an on going job as the Bollards are decaying.

Feeding the Birds

Members should be aware of the avian pox which appears to be affecting wild birds in the area. Although little can be done to treat the birds, the best advice appears to be to clean bird baths daily and disinfect perches and feeders. Optionally, a reduction in feeding at this time might reduce contact between sick and healthy birds. It is important if you keep caged birds (Chickens etc.) to keep them clean and check their health regularly.

More information can be obtained from the RSPB.

Litter Pick

This autumn's litter pick will take place on Sunday 9th October commencing at 11am.

Bags are supplied.

Pickers must wear appropriate footwear and gloves.

Meet below The Squirrel, at the south end of Rydal Way and at the pylon end of Highwood Avenue.

The majority of litter is on the roadside, so be VERY careful.

Contact the Booker Common and Woosd Protection Society

Telephone: 01494 436807 E-mail: rita.luxton@bcwps.org.uk