

# Woodsman

*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter No.76 Spring 2012

## The 31st Annual General Meeting

Will be held in Booker Memorial Hall on

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 8.00 pm.**

Our Guest Speaker will be Mrs Barbara North with her presentation of  
**Local Fauna and Flora**

The meeting will include The Allan Duggin Memorial Award

*This award is given annually in association with Wycombe Ranger Service as a recognition of work to conserve the environment. This years nominee is Derek Sawyer, who has for several years been a volunteer as warden in several local woodlands, joined working parties, helped in school visits and butterfly surveys. Derek has an infectious enthusiasm that has encouraged others in conservation and has proved invaluable in his assistance to the Ranger Service.*

Also a Special Chairmans Award

*On retiring the chair Rita Luxton will present a personal Award to Margaret Simmons in recognition of her voluntary conservation work in creating and maintaining Pann Mill Garden for over 25 years.*

### *Agenda to include*

**Finance - Review of Membership Subscriptions and Accounts**

**Update on Local Planning Issues - Air park, Waste Transfer Station**

**Environment - Volunteers work on the Common and Woodland**

### **Election of Committee 2012/13**

All members of the Society are invited to apply for election to the committee. Please phone nominations to Rita Luxton on 01494 436807 . Serving members are: Rita Luxton (Chair), Paul Baker, Katherine Cox, Simon Fraser (Hon. Treasurer), Jeff Harvey, Charles Pugh (Planning), Tim Speechley (Hon Sec), Ron Walker, Vic West.

We desperately need new committee members, since the current crop are somewhat long in the tooth. The chairman, after 10 years of crucial work would like to resign to purely committee duties. Commitment is for six meetings a year, the duty is less than onerous, but the opinions are crucial. If you think we're missing an angle, please propose an improvement, an alternative, or even *volunteer* to serve on the committee. We need your help.

*All Members and Local Residents Welcome*

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## BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### Membership Subscriptions

We have collected subscriptions for this year but if we have missed you or are new members wishing to join please send your subscription to

**Simon Fraser (Hon. Treasurer), 9 Rydal Way, Sands, High Wycombe, HP12 4NS**

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... E-mail.....

Amount £.....

Gift Aid Yes / No (If you pay tax we can claim back the tax)

# BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 289871

Chairman: Rita Luxton, Tel: 01494 436807

Secretary: Tim Speechley, Tel: 01494 638090

e-mail: [rita.luxton@bcwps.org.uk](mailto:rita.luxton@bcwps.org.uk)

**Booker Common and Woods Protection Society (BCWPS)** was formed in April 1982 to conserve and protect the rural environment of the area, which comprises of the open Commons of Booker and Ferniefields, Booker Woods, Newmer Common, Sunters Wood, the surrounding Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Beauty in which we live. The Committee of local members meet every 2 months and an Annual General Meeting is held at the Booker Memorial Hall in May each year.

## Why do we need a Protection Society?

**Practical Conservation** - The society initially cleared 60 tons of rubbish from the woodland in order to plant indigenous trees. After the 1990 hurricane winds had felled many of the mature beech trees the society planted 1300 trees in 1991 in the woodland areas. Wild flowers have been planted, hedges restored, paths strimmed and the open grass areas maintained.

Twice a year the society calls on its volunteers for a litter blitz clear up of the commons, woodland and verges.

The society has installed 465 bollards, lockable rails and notice boards at the edges of the woods and footpaths to discourage fly tipping and the dumping of rubbish and continues to replace and maintain them.

**Opposition to Development in local Green Belt and ANOB** - There is continued pressure on open spaces and the society monitors local development. The society has objected to many planning applications that would have had a detrimental effect on our environment. In addition to commenting on Local Authority plans in our area, waste and transport strategies and environmental plans the society has:

- ◆ Fought against two proposals (in 1990 and 1995) by Mobil Oil to build a Motorway Service Area on GreenBelt/ANOB land adjoining the Lane End Road. This opposition needed a great deal of work and time attending the public Inquiries. It was due to these expenses that our 'Fighting Fund' account was set up.

- ◆ Objected to a Council Plan that would allow future development of AONB fields at Sands. Local residents were gagged from objecting by reason of covenants attached to their properties. the society acted on their behalf with success.

- ◆ Took action to open up the footpath at Newmer Common that had been deliberately blocked establishing the 'right of way'.

- ◆ Objected to a number of planning proposals to extend the High Heavens Tip and a clinical incinerator, all of which have been refused permission over the years.

## AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

**To undertake practical conservation work by volunteers on the Urban Commons within the Societies resources.**

**To act against any intrusion or development within the local Green Belt or Area of Natural Beauty which forms a boundary on the western side of High Wycombe.**

**To campaign against developments likely to increase ambient noise or air pollution and where possible to reduce them.**

- ◆ Gave financial support and encouraged local residents to come together in a united campaign to defeat the Stadium and Housing proposals on Booker Air Park which would have changed the Booker Community into Urban Wycombe.

**Campaign against Noise and Air Pollution** - As a result of consultation the Shooting grounds off the Lane End Road erected a 20-foot earth screen and trees were planted to minimise gun shot noise. The society is represented on the Air Park Joint Consultative Committee which monitors air craft noise levels and air craft movements.

**What has it got to do with you?** - If you have received this newsletter but you are not a member or know your neighbour is not please join or encourage others. Our membership is your local voice as a Residents Association.

**How can you Help?** - It is the responsibility of each of us to look after the environment for the next generation, the more members the society has the greater the influence can be but we need your comments and help on how we maintain it.

- ✓ Become a member, annual subscription is only £3.00 per household per year. (contribute to the Fighting Fund if you wish). Keeps you up to date with what may effect the local area and gives you a voice.

- ✓ Join the Committee, you do not have to take on any responsibilities we need your opinions.

- ✓ Volunteer to collect annual subscriptions and or distribute newsletters.

- ✓ Volunteer for practical maintenance work.

*It is your environment, help to preserve it, do not leave it to someone else.*

*With your help we can make a difference.*