



# Woodsman

*The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society*

[www.bcwps.org.uk](http://www.bcwps.org.uk)

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 77 Spring 2013

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## 2013 AGM

***The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held in the Booker Memorial Hall on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00pm. The AGM is open to members and non-members, and we look forward to welcoming you to the meeting.***

### Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker this year is Rachel Sanderson, Commons Project Officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board. Rachel will talk about the historical development of commons, the rules that govern them and the ways in which societies such as ours can help to preserve them.



Please see over for further AGM details

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### From the Chair



It was the proposal to build a motorway service station on our doorstep that encouraged me to join the Society back in the early 90's. Today there is no equivalent single threat to the local area but the society still has an important role to play in helping to preserve and enhance our countryside and in particular the common.

Examples of our work include the bi-annual litter blitz, managing the grass cutting and maintenance of the bollards that surround the common. Of course we must not forget about possible larger threats to the area so the committee continues to monitor planning applications, is represented on the Air Park Liaison Group and attends other local meetings.

With your help we would however like to do more. In the past few months the Chilterns Conservation Board and the Woodland Trust have very kindly helped us to identify where we could be more proactive - making the pathways more accessible, opening up specific features and organising structured walks to name just three. You can help us as participants, contributors and volunteers and we would very much welcome your input and ideas to include in the plans as they are developed. One simple thing you could do as a start is give us your email address so that we can communicate with you directly. All you need to do is send us an email to [contact@bcwps.org.uk](mailto:contact@bcwps.org.uk) giving your name and address and we will add you to our mailing list.

I hope to see you at the AGM.

Brian Tranter

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## *New Members*

Do you have friends and neighbours who are not already members? If so please tell them about the society and suggest they join us. They can do so by sending an email to [chair@bcwps.org.uk](mailto:chair@bcwps.org.uk) with their name and address or by calling Brian on 01494 449035 and we will be happy to welcome them.

## *Commons Diary*

Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - Bank holiday Car Boot Sales  
Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> - Summer Party on the Common  
Monday August 26<sup>th</sup> - Bank holiday Car Boot Sale  
Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Litter Blitz

### *Booker Common's History Revealed*

The Common today is the place where we live, and where we walk. It is a cherished, heavily wooded place where nature meets the modern world and woodland birds sing in competition with the hum of M40 traffic and the drone of light aircraft. Unlocking clues within the landscape, and gleaning evidence from maps, manorial court rolls and other documents, Frances Kerner's recently published article Booker Common, A Tithing Revealed c.1700-c.1800, explores in fascinating detail the past history of the Common. She shows how it was managed to supply large quantities of valuable timber, wood fuel and grazing for cattle. She describes how the common was governed; how it was continually threatened by encroachment; and how it supported a community of small tenanted farms, cottage households and supporting business. The article is published in Records of Buckinghamshire Volume 52 (2012).

### £500 Grant



The Society is very pleased to have been awarded a grant of £500.00 by the Chilterns Conservation Board toward the cost of a steel shed. This will give us a convenient and safe storage space for the equipment used by our working parties. The grant was made possible thanks to the Chilterns Commons Project and the Heritage lottery fund.



### 2013 AGM

The AGM will start at 20:00 and after some brief opening remarks our guest speaker will give her presentation. We will follow this with the formal items including the treasurer's report, committee elections and finally time for questions and comments. Tea and coffee will be available at the end of the meeting.

### Election of the Committee and officers for 2013/2014

The AGM is an opportunity to elect new members to the committee. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please email [chair@bcwps.org.uk](mailto:chair@bcwps.org.uk), call Brian on 01494 449035 or simply come forward at the AGM. We are particularly keen to encourage younger members to join the committee but any interested member would be very welcome.

The present committee members are:-

Brian Tranter - Chair (Elected by the Committee in December 2012)  
Simon Fraser - Treasurer  
Tim Speechley - Secretary

Paul Baker	Jeff Harvey	Charles Pugh	Vic West
Katherine Cox	Rita Luxton	Ron Walker	

Hedley Luxton – Co-opted member

Ron Walker, a longstanding member and a past Chair is, unfortunately for us, going to be leaving the area later this year. He has therefore decided to step down from the committee leaving us with a vacancy to be filled at the AGM.

The three officers and the other current committee members are all willing to continue for a further year if re-elected.

*You can find us on the Internet at*  
***www.bcwps.org.uk***