



Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
For the Common Good®

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 96 Winter 2022

The Changing Face of Booker



Developments for Booker detailed in the 'Wycombe District Local Plan' are progressively being realised. In the areas shown in white, planning permission for 50 dwellings at the top of Horns Lane and 39 on the land off Clay Hill have been approved. Applications for 10 industrial units on the horse paddock adjacent to the motorway and the creation of a huge permanent film studio on the corner of the airpark have also been submitted.

The full impact of these plans and others in the area outlined in white yet to be submitted are uncertain, but at the very least they will result in more traffic on what are already badly congested roads.

Regrettably since taking the land out of 'Green Belt', the Council are clearly determined to develop these areas right on the edge of the Chilterns AONB and are pushing ahead with their plans. We may not be able to stop them, but we can try to limit the impact and we encourage all our members to make your views known to your local councillors and through the Council planning website.

...and in the Woods

Closer to home the woods continue to change. Over the past 2 years many trees have been felled, clearing some areas and removing diseased ash.

Also, the churned and muddy footpaths caused by the large machinery and the heavy rain not only looks bad but is making access to some popular parts of the wood very difficult. This is however temporary, and come the spring when the work is complete the paths will be reinstated by the contractors as part of the planned restoration work. This will also include more replanting.



Then it will be time to focus on supporting nature as it recovers. To re-establish markers for the Woodland walk and to help return the woods to its natural beauty. To do so help will be needed so let us know if you would be interested in joining a work party.

Your contribution to the restoration will be appreciated by all.



Commons Diary

(To be confirmed)

Sunday March 12th – Spring Litter Blitz

Monday May 1st - Car Boot Sale

In aid of Booker Memorial Hall

Monday May 22nd – Society AGM

Monday May 29th - Car Boot Sale

In aid of Booker and District Horticultural Society

Student Volunteers

Our biggest work party for some time was a group of 15 enthusiastic hard-working students from Bucks New University, organised by the Student Union. They took on two projects, pruning the trees that line the edge of the common by Willow Avenue and clearing around the old apple trees at the corner of the long amenity grass.



The trees along Willow Avenue need regular pruning to maintain the clearance beneath them, for walkers and for the grass to be mowed. For many years this work has been carried out by a local resident, so not only did the students help us with the trees but they gave one of our regular contributors a well-deserved break.

Uncovering the apple trees is a project we have attempted in the past, but our efforts were reclaimed by nature and the trees disappeared back under brambles, weeds and bushes. Working with hand tools and brush cutters the students did a remarkable job uncovering the trees once again. Hopefully this time we will be able keep the trees clear and with some



more help uncover other parts of what we believe was once an orchard. A freshly picked apple can then be an added treat when visiting the common.

We are on the Map



We are very pleased to report that the Oak tree planted on the common to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee has been official recognised as part of the Queens Green Canopy.