



Woodsman

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

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 98 Winter 2023

The Allotments



Tucked away behind the houses on the south side of the Common are a group of allotments. It is not clear when they were first set up, possibly between the wars, but whatever the exact date, for the best part of a century they have been in use.

Regrettably, in 2019 when the green belt map was redrawn by Buckinghamshire Council, they decided to remove the allotments from green belt protection.

Wayne Jeves, a local resident and committee member describes what being a Booker allotmenteer means to him and why they should be protected.

Allotment Ownership

Knowing the value of an outdoor space, I believe that owning an allotment has huge benefits for your mental health and wellbeing, along with the added benefit of growing and consuming your own produce.

I am fortunate to own an allotment on the space behind the residences on Booker Common. This space over the years has provided not just myself but my family an opportunity to grow and produce some great food.

The space is also teeming with nature including deer, foxes, rabbits, pheasants, partridge to mention a few, along with a one-eyed black cat! with numerous bee hives located around the allotments pollinating a myriad of colourful plants.

My grandchildren cherish the time spent in this space and love to get down and dirty with the worms and bugs in the soils, much to their mothers' annoyance.



There is of course another side to the allotments, they are hard work!! With this comes a problem, the space, in some areas has become rather overgrown and unloved. This creates a great habitat for some species but not the purpose it was intended for. I write this letter knowing that periods of lengthy inactivity from the allotment owners, will only shine the focus of the land owner (West Wycombe Estate) to question the allotted land as a communal space and possibly repurpose its use.

The estate has from time to time plots available, so please help myself and others maintain and preserve this vital community space for years to come.

Enjoy a walk

A group that regularly uses the open space and footpaths on Booker Common is 'Simply Walks'.

Every Tuesday three groups meet outside the Judo Centre by Fernie Fields. At 10:00 one group heads out for a hearty walk while two further groups, made up of those who prefer a gentler stroll, start at 11:00 and 11:30. Walkers set their own pace and with trained volunteer leaders there to help and guide no one is left behind or feels left out. All walks finish by midday in time for coffee at the Judo Centre.



Details of how to join can be found on-line by searching for 'Simply Walks Bucks'

Commons Diary

(To be confirmed)

Sunday March 17th – Spring Litter Blitz

Monday May 13th – Society AGM

Monday May 27th - Car Boot Sale

In aid of Booker and District Horticultural Society

Gas Cannisters

Once again, our volunteers turned out to clear the common and surrounding lanes of litter and other rubbish. The usual collection of cans, bottles and take away packaging thoughtlessly dropped or thrown from cars was collected along with an ever-increasing number of nitrous oxide gas cannisters.

At the time of writing the law has been changed to make the possession of nitrous oxide, for the purposes of inhaling it, an offence. Hopefully this will reduce the number of cannisters regularly collected from around the common. Time will tell!



Not Yet a Member

Please help to protect the common by joining us.

We ask for a small annual subscription of just £4.00 per household which can be paid directly to our bank account.

Booker Common and Woods Protection Society, Acc No 20177806, Sort Code 20-40-71

Further details are on our website <https://bookercommon.org.uk/join-us/>

www.bookercommon.org.uk