

The Friends of Epping Forest Newsletter



FofEF web-site - www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk

Autumn 2003

Dear Friend,

'Sustainability' PRESCOTT'S PLAN

This Spring the Deputy Prime Minister announced a new plan, 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future'.

This envisages massive house-building over large swathes of the South East including massive intrusions into the Metropolitan Green Belt.

The Plan identifies four growth areas, Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes, Ashford and the M11 Corridor, in each of which hundreds of thousands of houses are proposed. All

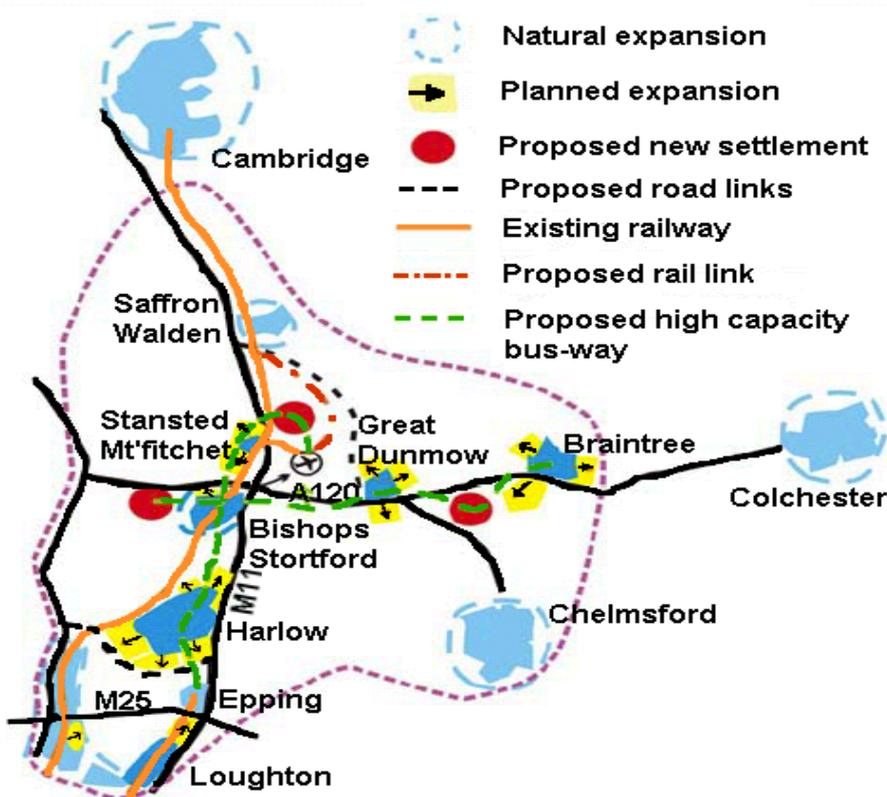
these expansions will affect the lives of those who live in the South East to a lesser or greater degree. Clearly the change in the status of the M11 as a corridor for communication to one of economic development will bear most heavily on Epping Forest and surrounding areas.

In July, the first manifestation of the change came in the form of a document called the Harlow Options Study – Draft Final Report. The document produced by the consultants, Atkins, sets out to assess the development potential of the area – roughly from Harlow to Epping, with the idea that the study should (together with similar studies of the development potential of other parts of the London – Stansted – Cambridge corridor), feed into the Regional Planning Guidance for the East of England to be drafted at the end of 2003. The RPG will be published for public consultation in 2004 and eventually approved in whatever form by Government. Local and regional plans will then have to conform to the Guidance.

The Harlow Study consultation was on a tight schedule and responses had to be in by 1st August 2003 which doesn't give a lot of time for the consideration of a document nearly an inch thick.

It looked first at estimations of the current housing development commitments for 2003 – 2021 and came out with the figure of 10,000 dwellings on sites already committed through Local Plan allocation and planning permissions, or likely to be developed as 'windfalls'.

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Please send all letters to the Secretary and Editor:
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The Study identified four alternative development patterns:

- 1) Sub Regional Urban Focus. This concentrates development on Harlow.
- 2) Incremental Dispersal. Dispersal around settlements in the Study Area.
- 3) Transport & Regeneration Led. Housing & employment in high density hubs along new transport corridors.
- 4) Satellite Development. Development in new free-standing settlements.

Numbers 2) and 4) are ruled out and the remaining two are considered against another four criteria:-

	Homes	Employment Land Requirement
a) Low Growth	20,462	153 hectares
b) Low Intermediate Growth	28,562	213 hectares
c) High Intermediate Growth	37,130	276 hectares
d) High Growth	48,270	359 hectares

a) is discounted because it takes insufficient account of the area's growth potential, while d) is ruled out because it proposes a level of growth unlikely to be achievable in the period up to 2021.

The Transport & Regeneration Led Strategy is favoured in the Study and this envisages new build homes of 18,000 and 28,000 in addition to the estimated 10,000 mentioned above in respect of existing commitments.

Homes would be built in Harlow, Lea Valley and Waltham Abbey, Ware/Hoddesdon and a new settlement on North Weald Airfield.

In the High Intermediate Growth scenario an additional 10,000 houses would be built around Harlow. The building of a new Southern Harlow bypass is proposed, taking the A414 through Roydon and round to the Hastingwood roundabout going within a few yards of Epping Long Green.

A new public transport link would be built to extend the Central Line from Epping to Harlow serving the new estate at North Weald Airfield.

Development at either level would require that a substantial acreage of land would be taken out of Metropolitan Green Belt.

The Friends response rejected all these proposals, pointing out the total transformation of the area that would result; the serious environmental damage that would be caused by the increased traffic; that successive governments had guaranteed over many years that the integrity of the Green Belt would be preserved; the serious damage to Epping Forest that would ensue; that the Central Line is already running at full stretch and would find it hard to cope with a large additional number of travellers.



The Council for the Protection of Rural Essex, Epping Forest District Council, Essex County Council and the Conservators have all made responses along similar lines.

Just prior to the 1st August deadline, GOEAST (The Government Office for the Eastern Region – John Prescott's local representatives) wrote to Atkins criticising the Study and indicating their view that it didn't make the most of the development potential of the area. They suggested a massive increase in the proposed new settlement on North Weald Airfield, extension of Harlow westwards and various other horrors. Oh, dear!

STOP PRESS

As if the above wasn't bad enough we have just received the Draft Final Report, Stansted/M11 Corridor Development Option Study on which comments have to be made by 31 October 2003. Call me cynical, but I really am beginning to suspect that these short consultation periods are a deliberate ploy to curtail/eliminate public participation.

The Government's strategy seems to be to present the public with a plethora of Studies with different time scales and overlapping recommendations with the deliberate objective of maximising confusion over what their real intention are.

An example of this is that the Harlow Option Study recommends the extension of the Central Line to Harlow, while the M11 Study suggests a high quality bus link from Stansted to Epping via Harlow. There are plenty of other examples.

We reprint one of the maps in the latest Study showing the creation of a huge conurbation out of Bishops Stortford and Stansted Mountfitchet, and the doubling of the size of Harlow which would be joined up with Epping, Theydon and Loughton.

Harry Bitten

The reports have been published on the EERA web site at: www.eelgc.gov.uk for

CAN YOU HELP?

Owing to a member moving away, we need two volunteers to deliver newsletters around Epping Town. Each should be prepared to deliver about 20 newsletters to within walking distance of their homes. Please inform the Hon. Secretary if you are willing to undertake this chore.

Jim Gimson

THE NATURAL ASPECT

Since I wrote in June for the last Newsletter, we have had, in the southeast of England, the most phenomenal dry spell - not a technical drought because there has been the occasional spluttering of rain - but I am sure, as a period, records have been broken... the driest, the hottest since... etc. Sufficient to say I cannot remember previously seeing such a long dry period or such dryness of the soil.

What has been or will be the effect of it all? Certainly 1976 was another very dry period. Then I remember seeing clay at the bottom of a 2 metre trench being completely dry! In that year trees died and there were fires raging in the Forest. This time (September) we have not had as many serious fires - yet! But trees have died. As in 1976 & 1990, they appear to be trees that were growing in damp places - but now dried-up! Normally those trees may not have needed to develop such a large root system as most other trees, but in these exceptional conditions they appear to be the first to perish.

Because of the lack of moisture in the soil this may be an autumn when fungi are not very much in evidence. Already, when the trees should still be green (Sept) many leaves are already turning colour and dropping; Maples in particular are becoming colourful and autumn appears to be coming early.

However a hot sunny summer usually means many fruiting buds are formed for the next year. So we should see 2004 providing a fine display of spring blossom

In streams creatures may have had a chance to 'migrate' before the water dried up completely, except those trapped in isolated pools. But what of that life in completely dried-up ponds, pools and ditches? What has happened to creatures such as dragonfly nymphs, newt elflings (not yet able to breath air) and the many smaller forms of life?

As the water dries-up and heats up the oxygen level is lowered. Pollution occurs and there is even less oxygen. I remember in 1976 seeing, more than once, continuous streams of tadpoles following each other around the edges of lowered ponds - always clockwise! Has anyone noticed that this year?

Of course cold-blooded reptiles, snakes and lizards, enjoy the warm conditions, but will keep out of the baking sun. A week or so ago (early Sept.) a friend took me to some small open spots in deep woodland within the Forest, where he knew there would be Adders lying-up. Out of the five



*Adder or northern viper,
probably the most common snake in Britain*

expected places we saw three fine adult males - a good score on demand I thought. Possibly we did not see females as they usually give birth to 10-15 live young during August or the first half of September. These young are some 150mm (6ins.) long and tend to stay around the mother for a short time. They will not hibernate until at least mid-October. In this warm summer I hope the Forest's reptiles have 'done well'.

Back in July and August I think I saw a greater number of young hedgerow elms than usual suddenly yellowing and dying of the Dutch-elm disease; possibly the warm conditions have favoured the elm-bark beetles that spread the fungal disease?

In the Spring moisture levels in the soil produced good growth in trees, but did the effect of that moisture last long enough to swell the fruits and seed growth? There is certainly a fine crop of Hawthorn berries this year. As local children we called the berries of the 'May' trees (Hawthorn), "ippsy-oyes" (that's how it sounded). I think it must have been a corruption of 'hips & haws'. Does anyone else remember, as children, using that or a similar name? I see 'Flora Britannica' gives, among others, a 'folk' name for the fruit as 'Hopperty-haws'.

I hope all those hawthorn fruits are not eaten before the Redwing and Fieldfare - winter visiting thrushes from Scandinavia - arrive here in mid-October.

Whilst thinking of winter visitors, we should not see all the changes in bird populations as doom and gloom. A decade or two ago an attractive *winter* visitor to the Forest's streams and brooks, was the Grey Wagtail. Although it breeds mainly along the becks and burns of north and western Britain, now, a few pairs are to be found breeding in and around the Forest. As it flies up from the waterside it may appear to be

a familiar Pied Wagtail, but look carefully when it lands and you will see that the underparts are yellow. In winter the yellow is less bright but still very noticeable on the belly and under the tail. Another attractive winter visitor that has increased in recent years - even coming to our bird-tables - is the green, yellow and black Siskin. So, there are one or two gains among the many losses.

Returning to this year's weather. The exceptional weather conditions will have effected airborne creatures other than birds; such as the migrating butterflies and moths. One of the most noticeable butterfly migrants is the Painted Lady, migrating from southern Europe and we did have plenty of those on our buddelia bushes and thistle blooms - are they attracted to purple? It was often claimed that the Red Admiral was a migrant to the UK. No doubt some are but it also breeds here now and many that you see in the late summer are such perfect, undamaged specimens they can only recently have emerged from their chrysalis cases. I noticed recently many Painted Lady butterflies in perfect 'mint' condition too. There were two migrant day-flying moths that were quite numerous this year; the Humming-bird Hawk Moth and many of the little Silver Y Moth that is a migrant in the earlier part of the year. This last moth also likes buddelia flowers. It earns its name from the little 'Y' shaped white mark on each fore-wing. A most startling occurrence was that of a Migrant Locust that was found in Upshire in September (see elsewhere in the Newsletter); was it



Hawthorn berries

brought by the winds of the unusual weather conditions from southern Europe or North Africa as a vagrant? Or did it escape from someone who perhaps breeds them as food for their pet lizard?

Insect-eating birds should also have profited from this summer's warmer conditions.

Certainly there has been a reduction of many of those species in recent years - the flycatchers, some of the warblers, the Swallows and House Martins. Perhaps we can hope that this year was a 'better' year.

Which reminds me... early in the morning of July 27th (in the beginning of the heat-wave - that seems a long time away now) I was sitting in the

garden with my first cup of coffee, and my binoculars, when I noticed that wherever I looked in the sky I could see Swifts hawking for insects. I estimated the lowest were at about 200 feet and the highest, mere specks in the binoculars, at least 2-3,000 feet up (approaching 1,000m). As it is in the first week of August that the Swifts always migrate, I assumed they had started early. But, rather than moving southwards, they appeared to be drifting NW as they fed. The wrong way! But, on closer inspection, they were merely working into the light NW wind - from whence the airborne insects were coming. Then straining my eyes through the binoculars I realised the highest birds were occasionally disappearing into the lowest 'scud' cloud, not yet

burnt off by the sun. It reminded me of those White Storks I saw soaring into clouds in Spain last September and Donald Syme's letter about thermal air-currents. I began to wonder how often do birds fly into clouds? They do not appear to like fog or mist at ground level, becoming confused if it is thick... but then clouds always look three-dimensionally different when up among them.

I find just sitting, watching, thinking and questioning - waiting for 'things to happen' or come to you - instead of chasing around, is a very rewarding and worthwhile occupation... Isn't it amazing how age conditions your thought processes! Enjoy the Autumn colours.

Ken Hoy

SOME 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Friends of Epping Forest at Suntrap

On 19th July, Ken lead a large group of Friends and friends on a walk around Fairmead on a typical - for this year - fine summers day. Afterwards, the group headed off to Suntrap for a look round the Centre and a very enjoyable barbeque.

Many thanks to Pat and Ron Andrews for their major role in organising this event and to Suntrap for the use of their premises.

A few days later, on the 23rd, Mrs Christine Cohen, Chairman of the Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee hosted a celebratory lunch to which your chairman and secretary were invited.

The lunch was held in a marquee in

the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge in the presence of the Ranger, The Duke of Gloucester and the Duchess.

Among the excellent and relevant speeches, acknowledging the vital role played by the Forest in the life of London, we would have to single out that made by the Ranger. This was made without notes and displaying a deep understanding and appreciation of what the Forest means to its users.

There was also a demonstration of cattle branding with the duke wielding the branding iron. It has to be said that the cattle, for their part, showed rather less understanding and appreciation of the matter.

WALK NEAR WRITTLE FOREST - JULY 27th

It seems unthinkable now to record that it was actually raining just before our walk started. But it soon cleared up and we enjoyed a lovely sunny countryside walk. On the way up we paused to look at an earthy bank with holes large enough to have been made by badgers but no other confirming details were discovered. We were following a walk guide written nearly 30 years ago and the walk had hardly changed in that time except the Wells and Sheds farm had been smartened up a bit.

Just past Writtle Park we had a good sighting of some deer across the field and saw plenty of slots on all the paths. After 2 hours walking we were rewarded with some real ale and sandwiches at the unusually named Viper PH.





CENTENARY WALK 21ST SEPTEMBER 2003

This wonderful summer had been going on so long it couldn't possibly last until the end of September, I thought. But it did. Sunday dawned calm, clear and warm and went on all day!

Sixty-five walkers, including Lord Murray, our President, three Verderers, the Superintendent and members of his senior staff, members of the Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee and many familiar faces from previous CWs set off from Wanstead flats.

We headed off to the forbidding wire clad footpath between the railway and the City of London Cemetery and proceeded to walk parallel to the Roding until we reached Wanstead Park. After Bush Wood we picked up a sizeable

group waiting for us at the Green Man roundabout and crossed Leyton Flats, over Snaresbrook Road and the Green in front of Forest School. We then used the pedestrian crossing over the A104 – causing a bit of a traffic hold up - and then into the Forest at the rear of the Rising Sun and over Canada Plain.

The bridge over Forest Road then lead us to the tunnel under the A406, then through Walthamstow Forest to the County Hotel. There was a group of joiners waiting for us already drinking coffee when we arrived. The Duty Manager, Des, catered for the really large number – well over a hundred – with aplomb and good humour. We responded on leaving with a round of applause, thanking the County Hotel.

Then Highams Park, Woodford Golf Course and Whitehall Plain, followed

by a quick look at the Forest's native English Black Poplar. We arrived at Butlers Retreat not too far behind schedule. More walkers joined here and some left and we headed off over Chingford Plain, passed the Cuckoo Pits and followed a scarcely discernible path through North Bury Wood to Armshouse Plain and the Owl which was already pretty full of lunchers enjoying the beautiful weather.

Thereafter, with 130 walkers we ascended Hill Wood and crossed to Paul's Nursery Green to take the Generals Walk and the Verderers Ride, pausing at the Big View and crossing Woodreden Hill. After the Farm Lane and the Green Lane we came to St. Thomas' Quarters and found the giant Beech coppard about which various theories were expressed.

After Warren Wood we entered Holly Hedge Field which the Superintendent declared had now been incorporated into Epping Forest.

The 125 finishers were met and welcomed on Bell Common by Mrs Christine Cohen, Chairman of the Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee. We then staggered off for a bath/shower/flop into armchair.

Many thanks to the County Hotel for their free hospitality on route. To Jeremy Wisenfeld, Peter Adams and Ian Cox for giving very much appreciated talks along the way, and to all the Keepers who kept track of us and saw us over busy and dangerous roads, especially Woodredon Hill and New Epping Road.

Finally, thanks to the Forest itself, which looked lovely and provided us with the opportunity of taking a full day's stroll within its boundaries.

Harry Bitten



HOUSES NOT AGRICULTURE – ENGLISH NATURE COMES OFF THE PROTECTIVE BARRIER!

As the British Association meeting in September, Dr Keith Porter, English Nature's Environmental Information Manager, said it was time to shake up the way the countryside was managed and challenged the dominance of food production. New housing at low density could be better for wildlife than arable farms.

He is reported as saying, "The example would be the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott's announcement (see *Dear Friend*) of an increase in housing provision in the South East. The first thing you see on the news is an environmentalist standing in front of a piece of countryside saying, 'We can't concrete it over'. When you actually look at what they are standing in front of, it is wall-to-wall arable - intensive farmland with virtually no wildlife to speak of. Emotive comments about concreting over the countryside and destroying our natural environment cannot apply to all the areas being considered for development."

The House Builders Federation could make their PR person redundant after these helpful comments.

Harry Bitten

HAWKWOOD SITE

In the past we have reported about issues involving the site of the old Hawkwood House and estate on the northern edge of Chingford It is situated between Yardley Hill and Pole Hill in a quiet valley and adjoins the most westerly part of Epping Forest...

The Hawkwood estate and farm was created there in the middle of the 19th century (presumably enclosed from the Forest). In 1899 the City of London bought some 43 acres of the farmland and added it to Epping Forest. Most of this was Yardley Hill. The house and estate grounds remained a private residence.

In 1930 T.E.Lawrence (of Arabia) sold his nearby land on Pole Hill to Chingford U.D.C 'to prevent it being covered with houses'. Soon after in 1930 it was re-sold to the Corporation of London, added to the Forest and opened to the Public in 1932.

In 1937, Mrs Nokes, the widow of the owner of Hawkwood House also wanted her estate preserved as an

open space and, as a memorial to King George V, she offered it, for that purpose, to Chingford Council for the people of the district, on condition it remained open. The total area amounted to some 26 acres. The Council, although it accepted the terms of the offer, found the house useful as a temporary accommodation for the Chingford County High School..

By the beginning of WW2 the nearby fields had been built upon and Yardley Primary School built down the hill from Hawkwood House. Then just after the War, the Yardley Estate was established.. Hawkwood House was demolished in 1951 and soon afterwards the whole area was included in the 'Metropolitan Green Belt'.

In 1965 the old Lodge and open land that had surrounded the House was transferred to the newly created London Borough of Waltham Forest. The Hawkwood School for the Deaf was built on part of the site.

At the end the 1970's the Borough of Waltham Forest created a plant nursery on a further large acreage (some 16 acres) of the site - this was considered compatible with the Green Belt status of the land. By 1980 the remaining piece of land had been opened as a small nature reserve and Field Study Centre for the Secondary children of the Borough - following the establishment of a Field Centre for the Primary children at Suntrap, High Beach in 1967.

The site had been left 'untended' (since the House was demolished in 1951) and in effect had been left open to the public as all fences had disappeared. Many of the local inhabitants in fact thought it had become part of Epping Forest. Consequently when the Plant Nursery and Field Centre fences were erected there was a considerable public outcry. Local public resentment has continued to the present time.

Now in 2003, the Hawkwood Lodge Field Study / Environmental Studies Centre has been moved to the site of Suntrap Field Centre (High Beach). The Lodge is now being used by another part of the Borough education service. The School for the Deaf is to be 'run-down' and eventually is to be closed. The Plant Nursery appears to be in a moribund state.

There are rumours that the Borough is looking at the possibility of 'alternative uses' for the site and the residents in the surrounding area are very concerned.

As the land has Green Belt status and was given to the people of

Chingford to use as an open space - and, the site makes a natural extension of the Forest, linking two parts, we are sure a most popular and ideal solution would be if the open area was in some way enabled to become a part of Epping Forest. This would be a way of protecting the area and would ensure its continued use for the recreation of all the people of Waltham Forest - the original intention of the last owner when she offered the site as a gift!

Ken Hoy

TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE FOREST (2)

In our most recent newsletter we set out the terms of correspondence with Mr Tony Ciabarro, Head of Highways for Essex County Council about traffic calming.

Interestingly, David Linnel, Loughton Residents' Association County Councillor and FOEF Member, picked up this item and with fellow Loughton County Councillor, Colin Fenn (Cons.) fixed up a meeting including the Friends and Mr Ciabarro and Mr Paul Hardy a Senior Member of the Highways Department on the 23rd September.

Mr Ciabarro said that they had excellent relations with the Conservators and had taken on board the notion that the Forest was a special place and that it was subject to increasing pressure from traffic. It should be pointed out here that Essex CC in the person of Mr Hardy was part of the liaison group that commissioned the Quality of Life Capital Study that resulted in the publication of the final report entitled, 'What Matters and Why in Epping Forest'.

Consequently, Mr Ciabarro indicated that they would be developing, with the support of the Conservators, a traffic model and strategy for the Forest and surrounding area which could be ready for presentation and consideration by Essex CC in 2005. The advantage of this approach is that the strategy could be incorporated in the Local Transport Plan that would make possible the availability of funds to implement the recommendations within it.

The Friends would be welcome to contribute their views on matters related to the strategy.

Meantime, drafts plans were put on the table for early action, subject to approval of the Conservators, for the 'calming' of the A104 from the County Boundary (south of the Warren Wood PH) to the Wake Arms roundabout. The plan fleshed out the items mentioned

in Mr Ciabarro's letter reproduced in the Summer edition of the newsletter.

These included the introduction of the 40mph speed limit on Rangers Road and the extension of the 40mph speed limit on the A104 from the County boundary to a point north of the Forest HQ at the Warren. The metre-wide cycling lanes would be reinstated along either side of the A104 and the associated elimination of the central hatched area with the substitution of a single white line emphasising that the road is a two-lane only route.

The A104 would be de-restricted from the point north of the Warren to the approaches to the Robin Hood and to the Wake Arms where the 40mph limit would apply. Anti-skid surfaces would be installed at these points. Speed reduction objectives along the A104 would be facilitated by works at the Rangers Road junction, at the Warren, at each of the pedestrian/equestrian main crossing points and at car parks/gateways. These works would take the form of 'soft' (my word) islands with collapsible bollards, lane shaping, road markings and signage. It is believed that these methods, with their continuous/successional reminders to motorists of the need for caution, will result in a general reduction in traffic speeds and therefore fewer accidents.

It was explained that there are policy difficulties in continuing the 40mph limit along the whole of the A104 but we were assured that it would be possible to review the scheme in the light of observed effects.

We await with great interest and expectations the announcement of the approval of these proposals and are grateful for the Highways Department and Essex CC's readiness to assist in the protection of the Forest. We are also glad to have the support and the interest of the two County Councillors from Loughton.

Harry Bitten

A FOREST VISITOR?

The telephone call was an invitation to view a "large cricket—like creature" in a garden adjoining Forest land at Copthall Green in Upshire. The beautiful insect with coppery-pink legs and pronotum, pale green and brown mottled wings and short antennae was clearly a grasshopper of some sort but at 6½ centimetres from head to wing tip, not one familiar on Copthall Green.

A phone call to your Chairman narrowed the field to either a desert or migratory locust and a visit to Dr. Jeremy

Dagley confirmed the latter: a male in the solitary phase of its life cycle.



Migratory locust (Locusta migratoria)

The normal distribution of this locust covers the southern half of Europe and Asia and the whole of Africa. Migrants generally come from the Danube Delta where periodic outbreaks occur via Central Europe and Northern Germany although periods of several years often elapse between one record and the next.

Besides migrating under their own steam, they can hitch lifts on consignments of vegetables and sometimes escape from captive breeding programmes.

On the way home from the Warren, I remembered that a near neighbour has a number of exotic pets. Had I disrupted the work of the Forest Ecologist and caused him to spend his lunch period slaving over a hot computer on behalf of a locust who had escaped from being a lizard snack by hopping over the garden fence? But no - locusts are not on the menu at Copthall Green House. So, it might have dropped off a Sainsbury distribution lorry but I prefer to think of those extraordinary legs and fan-shaped wings making their way from the Black Sea to Epping Forest.

If anyone knows of a captive-breeding programme nearer to home from which it might have made a bid for freedom, do feel free to prick the bubble and we will inform the Anti-Locust Research Centre who will have been made aware of its presence.

Sue McKinley

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs Bitten,

According to some smart new City of London notice boards, the patch of Woodland behind the War Memorial in Wanstead High Street is to be restored during the coming months, and it is noticeable that much work has already been done there over the past months.

As a once enthusiastic user of the wood, I am very pleased to see this.

Our local Cub Pack (19th Epping Forest South based at Wanstead United Reformed Church) have played here since they were founded in 1946, though latterly the wood has become so overgrown and neglected that this had to be stopped. It was ideal for tracking, nature study tree-climbing and exiting games, (though bird watching was not practical because of the number of boys!) and the only disadvantages were dog-dirt and mosquitoes. As the sun began to set, it became a magical place, and the boys were always keen to go there. They went on a litter pick, guided by the Forest Keeper, and found a bicycle, and spent a morning with the Volunteers clearing undergrowth.

The notice refers to the wood as 'New Wanstead', but many older Wanstead residents know it as the Tar Fence, (shortened to The Tarzy) after someone had illegally fenced part of it in and angry locals tore down the fence in protest. (See Wanstead through the Ages by Winifred Phillips (Eastment) p.116, 4th edition, p69, first edition.)

It would be good if this wood could have its original name back when it was restored.

There can't be many High Streets that have their own patch of woodland!

**Yours sincerely,
Mrs M P Ince**

Reply from Robert Levene

Dear Mrs Ince,

Many thanks for your recent letter which Peggy Bitten has kindly passed to me.

I found this very interesting as having lived in the area for about 20 years and locally for much longer, I had never heard of Tarzy Wood.

As your letter coincided with the 'Wanstead In Town without My Car Day' where the Friends had a stall, I took the opportunity to ask a few people about this.

Several of the 'older' generation knew the name and story, but no-one younger than about 60 -65 had ever heard it.

I also spoke to the former Ward Councillor, Tony Loffhagen who knew it well as Tarzy Wood.

Thanks again for your letter and please do introduce yourself to me if you join in the work groups on 29th & 30th November.

**Yours sincerely,
Robert Levene**

THE 'ENGLISH' OAK TREE

Spanning from the time of the Druids, down to "Hearts of Oak", Rule Britannia and a stamp issued in 2001 depicting an Oak tree to represent 'England', the oak tree has deep connections with what we might call our 'folklore' ... but whose folklore? The Oak was revered before the beginning of 'the English'; certainly in 'pagan' times.

The Druids who were Celts, had strong connections with oak leaves, as did the whole European-wide Celtic culture. Although many of our old relic pagan traditions have been 'Christianised' the oak is still associated with ancient folk mythology. Still remembered from pagan times is 'Mayday' and the 'Green Man' covered in oak leaves, the numbers of 'Gospel Oaks', and kissing under the Mistletoe - a relic of the Druid fertility cult (as the mistletoe berry with its milky white fluid is between two splayed leaves).

As far as I know, mistletoe does not grow on Epping Forest oaks, in fact I don't remember seeing it growing anywhere within the Forest. I remember, some 60 years ago, seeing some growing on an Elm along one of the Green Lanes. It is most frequently a parasite on, apple trees, Poplars, Limes, and famously the Oak - although I cannot recall ever seeing it on an Oak anywhere.

The Oak tree's connection with our Forest is of course ancient. Pollen evidence in the mud of a Forest bog tells us that it was one of the more numerous trees in the Forest over 4,000 years ago. A thousand years ago its acorns provided a measurement of the value of woodland in the Domesday Survey by an arbitrary calculation of how many pigs (swine) the woodland's acorns could support in the autumn. In Epping Forest 'turning-out' pigs became a common right - the 'Right of Pannage'.

The bark was stripped when young oaks were felled and especially when the poles of coppiced oak woodland were harvested; although there is little evidence of this practise in Epping Forest. The bark was a most valuable product of the Oak as it was used in the process of tanning leather. In 1851 an account of the annual incomes from the Royal Forests, shows that in the case of Waltham Forest (it must have been just Hainault, not Epping, as Crown timber & wood rights only existed in Hainault) the income was £874. This was derived from "oak trees, saplings, bark and fagots" (fagots: bundles of branches used for fuel). After timber, bark provided the greatest income.



Fairmead Oak, photographed 1930

Of course, Oak trees had for centuries provided timber where the crooked branches of the oak were used for the cruck-frames of timbered houses. Such branches were also selected in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries by carpenters needing the shaped timbers for ship building.

Once when I was helping school children to distinguish the differences between trees in winter, a small nine-year old girl made a childlike but apt comment that I will never forget, she said, "Oh I see, the branches are all elbows and knees". Have a look and see what she meant!

Today the 'English' Oak, together with the Beech, Birch and Hornbeam, is one of the four tree species that constitute more than 90% of the high canopy trees of Epping Forest.

Older members will remember the Fairmead Oak; an old pollard that grew on the slope of Hill Wood at the northern end of Fairmead Bottom. It was a great skeleton, with some of its lower arms propped up, dead since the early 1900's. It was destroyed by vandalism about 1952. It had been the largest Oak in the Forest.

Today, most conspicuous is the 'Blasted Oak' that is still standing on Woodford Golf Course since it was struck by lightning some eighty years ago.

Still alive is another fine Oak, the Bedford or Grimston's Oak. It stands at the junction of several rides just north of Connaught Water. Estimates of its age vary, but did it stand there prominently on Magpie Hill overlooking Henry VIII's great open Deer Park -



Bedford or Grimston's Oak, photographed 1920



Sessile Oak: The leaves have stalks, the acorn is without a stalk



Pedunculate Oak: Leaves with little or no stalk, the stalked acorns are half grown. photographed in June.

when Chingford Plain was joined to Fairmead Bottom? - Maybe!

Oak trees are often found as parish boundary markers. One still stands at the South-west corner of Lords Bushes, where ancient Monkshams Lane joins Knighton Lane. Long known as 'The Pulpit Oak' it is on the boundary between Woodford & Buckhurst Hill (part of the Manor of Chigwell).

Some 170 years ago an avenue of Oaks was planted across Theydon Green by the Lord of the Manor. Even now, although fine sizeable trees, as Oaks they are not that old!

So, the schoolchildren who have helped us plant acorns in the Coopersale Fields might, in their old age, see a young Oak Wood growing there! After all, the oaks growing at the southern end of The Lower Forest (north of Epping and once called 'Epping Plain') are now 60 years old. The area was largely clear of trees as recently as the 1940's when one of the past Verderers regularly walked there pushing acorns into the ground with his walking-stick!

For those clever pedantic ones or those of you who want to delve further in order to thoroughly impress your friends - there's more. I mentioned earlier the four commonest forest trees, the Hornbeam, Beech, Birch and Oak... well, there are actually six species, because there are two species of birch and two species of oak.

The two very similar species of birch in the Forest are, the Silver Birch and the Downy Birch. The latter has downy twigs and buds and grows more commonly in the northern parts of the Forest. And, there are two very similar species of oak; the so-called 'English' Oak, (the Pedunculate Oak), and a few specimens of the Sessile Oak in Epping Forest. Once you know the differences they are easily separated.

As their names indicate the Pedunculate Oak - the common oak throughout the Forest - has its acorn growing on a stalk, a 'peduncle'. The Sessile Oak has hardly any or no stalk at all below the acorn. But just to make it confusing with the leaves differences are reversed ... the Pedunculate tree

(meaning 'stalked' acorn) has very little stalk on its tapering leaf. The Sessile Oak (meaning 'stalkless' acorn) has leaves with very marked stalks! Easy - if you can remember the right way round... the names apply to the acorn.

The easiest place to find a Sessile Oak (and test yourself) is to look at a tree on the left as you enter the northern of the Jack's Hill car-parks. There is another very fine specimen growing on the bank of the old wartime 'anti-tank ditch' halfway between the end of Long Running and Ambresbury Banks. Using a map, there's a nice little task of exploration for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon!

Ken Hoy

THE FAIRLOP OAK

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM
THE LEYTON AND
LEYTONSTONE EXPRESS AND
INDEPENDENT - JULY 7TH 1883

The following extract from the Gentlemen's Magazine for July 1805 will be read with interest just now:-

June 25, 1805. This evening, about 8, the well-known and venerable oak called Fairlop Tree in Hainault Forest in Essex, was discovered to be on fire. A party of about 60 went from London in several carriages and amused themselves during the day with playing at cricket and various other sports. They made a fire near it, and about two hours after they left the spot the fire was discovered by one of the foresters. A number of person who resided within a short distance of the spot went with pails and procured water to extinguish the flames but without effect, the main branch on the south side, with part of the body, being consumed. It continued burning the next morning when little hopes were entertained of saving any part of it. This celebrated tree measured 78 ft round the body and several arms from 10 to 12 ft. It shaded one acre of ground and is supposed to be three hundred years old.

Just one year later, in the number for July 1806, there appears an engraving shewing the venerable tree in its then actual condition - one half of it on the ground and the giant arms of the other half still spreading. Its exact position is described as being 10 miles from London, 4 from Wanstead Hall, 3 from Ilford and 2 from Chigwell.

SAMUEL PEPYS



The 26th May this year was the 300th anniversary of the death of Samuel Pepys; he died aged 71. A high ranking civil servant in the Admiralty, he wrote his famous diaries between 1660 and 1669. In 1669 they ended abruptly due to his weakening eyesight. He wrote them in a form of shorthand and they were not deciphered and published until 1819

The diaries provide an insight into the life of high society in Restoration England but also give an idea of the social conditions of London in the period that of course includes the Plague and the Great Fire.

Browsing through a copy of the diaries I found a few of his comments that indirectly reflect on our part of Essex and also on the understanding - or lack of understanding - of natural history at that time.

For instance, when dining "*with my Lord Crewe*", Pepys relates a tale told him of serpents; where in "*the waste places of Lancashire they (the snakes) do grow to great bigness and feed upon Larkes*" As "*...the Lark is soared to the highest, they crawl until they come to be just underneath them; and there place themselves with their mouths uppermost, and there, as is conceived, do eject poyson upon the bird; for the bird do suddenly come down again in its course of a circle, and falls directly into the mouth of the serpent; which is very strange*"

More bizarre is another after-dinner story he heard told of fishermen withdrawing their nets from under the ice when often swallows are brought up in the mud "*... and brought to a fire will come to life*"

This is a version of the old myth that Swallows spend the winter in the mud of ponds. Something even the great observing naturalist Gilbert White, 100 years later, hesitated to completely disprove, as he watched Swallows preparing to migrate, but still referred to them as "*migrating or hiding*"!

Two of Pepys' closest associates at the Admiralty were Admiral Sir William Batten and Vice-Admiral Sir John Minnes. Sir William lived in Walthamstow and Sir John had a house in Loughton and Pepys seems to have visited them both. He also dined with Sir William Hicks who lived at 'Rookwood', Leyton (Ruckholt Manor). Pepys complains of the meanness of the dinner which was, beef, shoulder (of lamb?), umbles (offal) of venison and a few pigeons! I think 'umbles', was not considered a very prestigious dish as it is the origin of 'eating humble pie'. Pepys assumes, as Sir Wm Hicks was Ranger of the Forest, that the meal had cost him little. On the other hand when in September 1663 he had dinner with "*my Lord Mayor and the Aldermen*" it was a "*very great dinner and most excellent venison*", from the Forest no doubt. But it seems when Pepys visited the Forest of Waltham (Hainault & Epping Forests) as Secretary to the Navy, he was more concerned with the quantity and quality of the timber that could be extracted from the Forests - particularly Hainault where the Crown owed the timber rights. He journeyed down to hasten the delivery of timber to repair the ships of the Navy damaged in the battles with the Dutch that were occurring at that time. The timber was taken to Barking Creek and then floated as rafts to the dockyards of Woolwich and Deptford, presumably using the tide.

Frequently the time taken and the distances involved when Pepys is travelling about are interesting. On the 24th Feb. 1660, the day after his 27th birthday "*...I rose early and took horse at Scotland Yard ... I rode to Mr Pierce's: we both mounted, and so set forth at seven of the clock: at Puckridge we baited, (halted to rest & take food) the way exceedingly bad from Ware thither. Then up again and as far as Foulmer, within six miles of Cambridge, my mare being almost tired: here we lay at the Chequer ...*"

The next day, on the 25th Feb 1660: "*... "we two come to Cambridge by eight o'clock in the morning"*. After visiting friends "*at the Three Tuns where we drank pretty hard and many healths to the King etc.*", he then visited his old college and had supper there. On the 27th February ... "*Up by four*

o'clock: Mr Blayton and I took horse and straight to Saffron Walden, where at the White Hart we set up our horses". Then he writes, after being shown around Audley End House, "*...we took our leave, the road pretty good but the weather rainy to Epping.*" After spending the night at Epping, on the 28th Feb. he writes, "*Up in the morning. Then to London through the forest, where we found the way good, but only in one path, which we kept as if we had rode through a kennel all the way.*" One dictionary definition of 'kennel' is 'a gutter - a water course in a street'. This must be Pepys's meaning, although after the previous day's rain Pepys's judgement of finding "*the way good*", reflects on how "*exceedingly bad*" the condition of the roads could be!

The route he took through the Forest was to the Wake Arms, then to The King's Head at High Beach (along the Wake Road), down into Fairmead Bottom, up past the Rein Deer Inn (The Warren) and on to The Roe Buck at the top of Bucket Hill (Buckhurst Hill). This was the old 'London Way from Eppinge' - also followed by Daniel Defoe some decades later. In the 1660's the 'new road' would have been the road through Loughton that was built earlier in the 17th century to link Loughton to Epping. Travellers on foot or horseback seem to have used the 'Old Road' through High Beach as a more direct route on higher, dryer ground - except for Fairmead Bottom.

On his outward journey Pepys must have travelled along the route of the modern A 10 to Ware and then to within six miles of Cambridge in one day - and he remarks that his mare is tired! He also rides from Cambridge to Epping in one day.

Also notable in the Diaries is the fact that the Thames is used so frequently. He travels by water from the City to Whitehall and Westminster, he also used the Thames when he frequently needed to visit the docks at Woolwich and Deptford. And went by water to Greenwich, both professionally and for pleasure - family pic-nics. He sent his family to Greenwich for safety during the Plague and always visited them by water until his boatman's family caught the disease; thus presumably he had his own boatman.

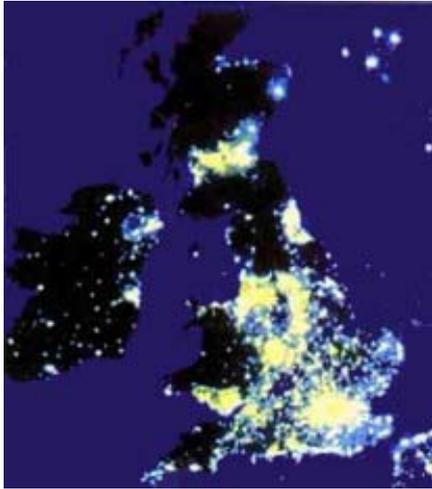
Such journeys, of necessity, must have taken the tides into consideration.

My copy of the Diaries is a Victorian edition that claims to be "suitably edited". I am sure a full version is even more interesting!

Ken Hoy

NIGHT BLIGHT

One of the themes running through our objection to planning applications is that of light pollution. Whenever possible we ask for no extra lighting or at least for less intrusive lights with toppings to prevent upward spill into the night sky. I'm sure you've seen the awesome picture of England taken from space in



the middle of the night which clearly shows a very detailed map outlining England and all its cities, towns and villages. So the following might be good news:

MPs call for action on light pollution by Robert Uhlig, Technology Correspondent.

The Government was accused by MPs yesterday of depriving millions of people of a good night's sleep, wasting energy and denying many the sight of stars at night because it had failed to tackle the menace of light pollution.

Calling for legislation to allow action against neighbours who install excessively bright outdoor lighting, the report by the select committee on science and technology accused the Government of an "inconsistent approach" to light pollution.

The Labour-dominated committee said there was "no doubt that light pollution is getting worse: astronomers and the general public mourn the loss of the night sky".

It questioned the Home Office's contention that bright public lighting reduced crime and criticised ministers for "failing to take the issue seriously".

According to the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England, sky glow increased by 24% from 1993 to 2000. It is caused mostly by badly designed street lights spilling light up to the sky, security lights used by businesses and homes, and floodlights at sports and entertainment venues.

The report said obtrusive light should be made a statutory nuisance.

Item taken from the Daily Telegraph 2003

BADGERS ARE IN TROUBLE

They are digging up lawns in order to find worms, their staple diet. Because of the dry weather the worms have gone deeper in the soil. The badgers are desperate to find their food and gardeners are complaining about the damage they are causing.

As conditions during 2002 & 2003 are so extremely dry, the National Federation of Badger Groups is very concerned; reports suggest few badger cubs have been reared in these two years. This year 50 setts in Oxfordshire have produced only 12 cubs between them. The NFBG suggests if you are watering your lawn and you have badgers! do it last thing in the evening to bring the worms up when the badgers are looking for them.

We have taken this information from the Newsletter of the Epping Forest District Badger Group. If you are interested in the Group, phone, Paul Cook, 020 8508 1593. Their web-site is: www.eppingforestbg.org.uk

BEWARE! AMOROUS DEER

From early October into November is the time of year when the Fallow Deer are mating. A time, known as 'the rut', when the does come into 'heat' and the bucks are fighting each other to gain does or defend a 'harem' of females that they have already collected. These activities are the cause of great restlessness in the deer population and much movement of deer. The young or unsuccessful bucks are moving around searching for does and being chased off by the stronger bucks. Consequently there is a greater danger of deer running across roads causing accidents. So, be extra careful when driving at night through the Forest or the surrounding rural roads, especially at dawn and dusk when the deer are most active. Some casualties have occurred already this year!

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Recommendations in the two documents mentioned above could cause most profound changes to this area, to near Essex and particularly to Epping Forest through increased traffic, pollution etc.

The expansion of Stansted Airport would be one of the "key drivers" – as the jargon goes – of these changes.

We have had a specific assurance from the Department for Transport that despite some misleading Press speculation to the contrary, no decision has yet been made in regard to airport expansion South East. They have already received over 400,000 responses to the consultative on the subject published in June.

There is still time, if you are opposed to the expansion of Stansted Airport, to let your views be known.

Write now to Alistair Darling MP Secretary of State for Transport. Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DR.

Copy your letter to your MP!



STANSTED EXPANSION MARCH

Harry and I joined the latest Stansted Expansion march/rally and BBQ on Sun 28th Sept, at Duton Hill where the event was launched by Terry Wait. He said:

'Stansted is the very last place that should be developed - the very, very last. Decisions are being taken now which will radically affect future generations. There will be no going back. There will be no restoring these communities. Our heritage will be gone forever'.

Many thanks to Leyton MP Harry Cohen who has written to Alistair Darling asking for a copy of their reply to our letter about Stansted.

Ed.

We look forward to seeing many you at the Forest Supper in November and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ed.

FOEF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 13th, Thursday, 10.30am.

A walk over Warren Hill and Powell's Forest. Meet in the Nursery Road car park, Loughton. Take the road from the Robin Hood (PH) to Loughton (Earl's Path) and turn right into Smarts Lane, first right again into Nursery Road. Car park is on the right after 200 yards.

Leader: Seymour Moss GR 418 963

November 28th, Friday Forest Supper at Sir James Hawkey Hall, 7.30 for 8.00.

December 13th, Saturday, 10.30am.

A Christmas Walk from High Beach, followed by wine and mince pies. Meet in the main car park at High Beach near Carl's tea hut. (See October walk)

Leader: Harry Bitten, GR 412 983

January 24th, Saturday, 10.30am

Woodford Wood and Higham Bushes. A walk looking for ancient woodland. Meet at the Junction of Keynsham Avenue and Chingford Lane, Highams Park.

**Leader: Verdereer, Peter Adams.
GR 393 926**

February 26th, Thursday, 10am

Going back to Genesis. A circular walk from Theydon Bois via Epping Thicks and Ambresbury Banks. Meet on the corner of Theydon Bois Green, opposite the Queen Victoria PH. Parking around the Green or it is a two minute walk from Theydon Bois railway station.

Leader: Alan Everett, GR 452 991

March 28, Sunday, 10.30am

From Queen Elizabeth to Sylvia Pankhurst. A walk from the Hunting Lodge to Whitehall and Hatch Plains, taking in a visit to a memorial connected with the Pankhurst family. Meet in the car park opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, Rangers Road, Chingford (5 mins. walk from Chingford Railway and Bus Station).

**Leaders: Sylvia Ayling and
Harry Bitten. GR 397 947**

April 23rd, Friday, 1.30pm.

Along the River Ching. A walk following the Ching southward, as far as we can get in the time. Meet in the car park at Connaught Water (Chingford Station is about 10 mins. walk away.)

Leader: Irene Buchan, GR 405 951

Advance Notice

Forest Supper 2004 (not 2003)

November 25th Thursday (not Friday)

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EPPING FOREST INFORMATION SERVICE

Thursday, 30th October, 8pm.

A lecture on garden birds given by Mike Toms of the British Trust for Ornithology. Venue: Methodist Hall off High Road, Loughton.

Sunday, 9th November, 10.30am.

Guided Walk 'Autumn Fruits'. Led by Tricia Moxey. Meet in the car park opposite Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge.

Saturday, 22nd November, 10am.

Guided Walk (3 hours) 'Winter Farmland Birds'. Led by Dr Jeremy Dagley. Meet by the Black Barn at Home Farm, Fernhall Lane, Upshire.

Sunday, 7th December, 1.30 –

3.30pm. Christmas activities at the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge. Groups of up to 10 children. Booking essential.

Saturday, 13th December, 11am –

3pm. Looking for Father Christmas. A self guided trail through the Forest leading to Santa in his grotto. Start at the Epping Forest Information Centre.

Sunday, 14th December, 10.30am.

A Christmas walk through Wanstead Park. Meet at the end of Warren Road, Wanstead. Mince pies and a hot drink will be served in The Temple at the end of the walk.

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21

December, 1pm – 4pm. Victorian Father Christmas. Visit Father Christmas in his cosy kitchen at Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge.

Sunday, 11th January 2004, 10.30am.

Guided four-hour walk around Copped Hall. Led by Forest Keeper, Michael Collins. Meet at the gates to Copped Hall Lodge, Crown Hill, Upshire.

Saturday, 17th January 2004, 1pm – 3pm. Indoor Victorian games at The Temple, Wanstead Park.

Sunday, 25th January 2004, 1.30pm, 2pm & 3pm. Exploring Tudor printing at Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge.

Thursday, 5th February, 2004, 8pm.

Future of the Green Belt. Lecture by Jeremy Wisenfeld, Superintendent of Epping Forest. Venue: Loughton Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton.

(For further information on the above events ring 020 8508 0028)

EPPING FOREST CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, 2nd November, Pole Hill

Sunday, 16th November, Sumners Farm, Epping Long Green

Sat & Sun, 29/30th November, New Wanstead Wood, Nr Snaresbrook Station

Sunday, 7th December, Earls Path Pond

Sunday, 21st December, Christmas task at Hangboy Slade

Sunday, 28th December, Wake Valley Bomb Crater Pond

2004

Sunday, 4th January, Sunshine Plain/Wake Plain

Sunday, 18th January, Walthamstow Forest

Sunday, 25th January, Conservation Path/Long Running

Sunday, 1st February, Brick Yard Pond

(For all the above events, meet at the Warren, off Warren Hill, Loughton, 9.30am)

And it's not all work!

Pub nights: November 19th, December 11th and January 8th.

For information, ring Pat Holder 020 8505 4876

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST (EPPING FOREST LOCAL GROUP)

October 30th, Thursday, 8pm Garden Birds. A talk with BTO expert, Mike Toms. Meet at Methodist Church Hall, Loughton.

December 6th, Saturday, 10.30am Bring & Buy (and EWT cards). Meet at 2 High View Close, Loughton.

January 18th, 2004, Sunday, 10.30am Winter Birds in the Lea Valley Walk. Meet at the Fishers Green Car Park, off the Crooked Mile, Waltham Abbey.

March 25th, Thursday, 8pm Wildlife Patrol. Find out about the work of the Wildlife police officers from PC Rob Harris. Meet at the Methodist Church Hall, Loughton.

FRIENDS OF SUNTRAP

December 6th, Saturday, 10am

Try part of the new Suntrap Orienteering Course. One of the check points will be at Suntrap for refreshments. Meet at Fairmead Road Car Park. GR 408 967

ITEMS FOR SALE

We now have a stock of lots of new sale items, which will be on sale at the Forest Supper and would make excellent Christmas presents. They will also be available from Seymour Moss on 020 8529 0620.

Mugs	£4	Fleeces	from £15
Pens	50p - £1	Sweat Shirts	from £15
Greetings Cards (pack of 5 (L) or 8 (S))	£2.50	Caps	£5
Christmas Cards (pack of 10)	£3	Tea Towels	£3
Tree Poster	£1	Epping Forest Maps	£1.50
Torch Key Rings	£2	Books:	
Fridge Magnets	£2	Getting to Know Epping Forest	£6.95
Metal Lapel Badges	£2	Short Walks in Epping Forest	£2.40
Spy Scopes (Monocular)	£3.50		

REMEMBER

Members wishing to receive the Newsletter by e-mail should contact Seymour Moss at seymour@moss40.freeserve.co.uk.

Please send your request by e-mail to ensure we get your address correct

F of EF E-MAIL AND WEB ADDRESSES

Ken Hoy: kenhoy@care4free.net

Membership Secretary (Seymour Moss):
seymour@moss40.freeserve.co.uk

FofEF web-site: www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk
or <http://members.aol.com/friendsef/foef.htm>

SIR JAMES HAWKEY HALL

Thanks go to all the members who lobbied Redbridge Councillors about the increased charges from 2004. The upshot is that the Halls Letting Service has contacted me to say that they can't change the charges for Fri to Sun, as that is the prime time for social and commercial hires but that they could offer a reduction on Mon to Thurs charges from £600 - £463.50. So we have changed the booking for the Forest Supper in 2004 from Friday 26th to Thursday 25th. (This will mean of course that we shall have to add an extra £1 to the ticket prices for that year). We are still looking for alternatives for 2005 - any suggestions?

FOREST SUPPER – NOVEMBER 28th 2003

Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green (7.30 for 8pm)

The caterers for our Supper this year are again the Magpies Nest of Bell Common, Epping. We have changed the menu slightly to cold ham and salmon with potatoes and salads. Usual choice of two sweets, followed by coffee. We will supply wine and glasses; plates and cutlery.

There will be the usual quizzes, goods for sale including new Christmas cards, mugs, greetings cards, sweatshirts, fleeces, **Ken's new Book** and of course good company. We have invited local M.P.s, Verderers, Chairman and Deputy of the E.F. & O.S. Cttee, the Supt. of EF, the Chairman of L.G.B.C. and C.P.R. Essex and many others connected with the management of E.F. Hopefully there will be opportunities to meet and chat with them and other Friends.

If you can, please donate a gift for the RAFFLE. We regard the Forest Supper as our annual social event and we don't aim to make a profit. However, the income derived from the raffle makes the difference between profit and loss. You all made a wonderful contribution last year, so please help us to bridge the gap once again.

Tickets are £13.50. We apologise for the increased price but our costs have risen and, following some requests after last year, we are changing to real crockery! Last year there was such a magnificent response to the raffle that we actually made a profit, so we pin our hopes on a repeat performance! It will again be a **ticket only** event. Tickets will be issued on a first come first accepted basis. As in previous years we expect the demand to be high and suggest that requests are submitted as soon as possible, and before Saturday Nov 22nd. Please complete the booking form **on the back page of the newsletter** and send with your payment and **S.A.E.** to:

Hazel and David Shukla
(who have agreed to take on this task) at:
6 Knighton Drive, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0NY

REMEMBER – ADMISSION BY TICKETS ONLY

**CHRISTMAS
CARDS OF
EPPING
FOREST**



Near Sunshine Plain



Monkham's Lane Lords Bushes



Sunshine Plain



Pole Hill



Wake Valley Pond

We now have this season's Christmas cards that depict five different attractive Winter scenes of Epping Forest. They are available in packs of 10 cards (2 of each view) at £3.00 per pack. You will be able to purchase the cards at the Forest Supper on Friday 28th November or arrange to pick up supplies by phoning Seymour Moss, on 020 8529 0620, at 47 Long Deacon Road, Chingford, E4 6EG, or, Peg Bitten, 020 8529 8594.

If you wish packs to be sent by post please send a cheque for £3.75 (£3.00 plus 75p p+p) per pack to Seymour made payable to F of EF.

Forest Supper Booking Form

Please provide ticket(s) for the 2003 Forest Supper @ £13.50 each (please list all names below):

.....

I would like, if possible, to be seated with: ----- Number of vegetarians, if any

Name ----- Telephone No. -----

Address -----

I enclose my payment for £..... **TOGETHER WITH STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.**
(cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the Friends of Epping Forest)

Please return completed application form before Saturday 22nd November to:
Hazel and David Shukla, 6 Knighton Drive, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0NY
Don't forget to bring your ticket – there's a prize for the winning ticket number.