



Dear Friend,

Autumn being the season of lists and mature consideration, I thought I'd try to sum up some of your committee's activities during 2006 for your edification!

There was, or will be, a walk every month with a good spread over the whole Forest plus a couple of awaydays. Starting points in order of months were, Earls Path, Snaresbrook, Chingford, Broadshood, Leigh-on-Sea, Sewardstonebury, Uphire, Hatfield Forest, Wanstead Flats (Centenary Walk, jointly with West Essex Ramblers), Jacks Hill, Fairmead Bottom, Lodge Road. Over 400 people attended these walks so why not join us?

We previously commented on the East of England Plan, which proposed massive development in the region including a major expansion of Harlow and building (housing and commercial development) over North Weald Airfield. All this has severe implications for the Forest in terms of traffic generation and general disturbance. The next stage was a kind of public enquiry called Examination in Public (EIP) at which neither the friends nor the City

Corporation were invited to appear; you have to be invited!

The EIP reported a couple of months ago and recommended that there should be an increase in the housing provisions for the area (which was very helpful, I don't think!) but that expansion of Harlow should be restricted to the east, west and south. The huge 'rope makers' expansion to the North was ruled out. As I read the report it appears to recommend a go slow in respect of the North Weald Airfield.

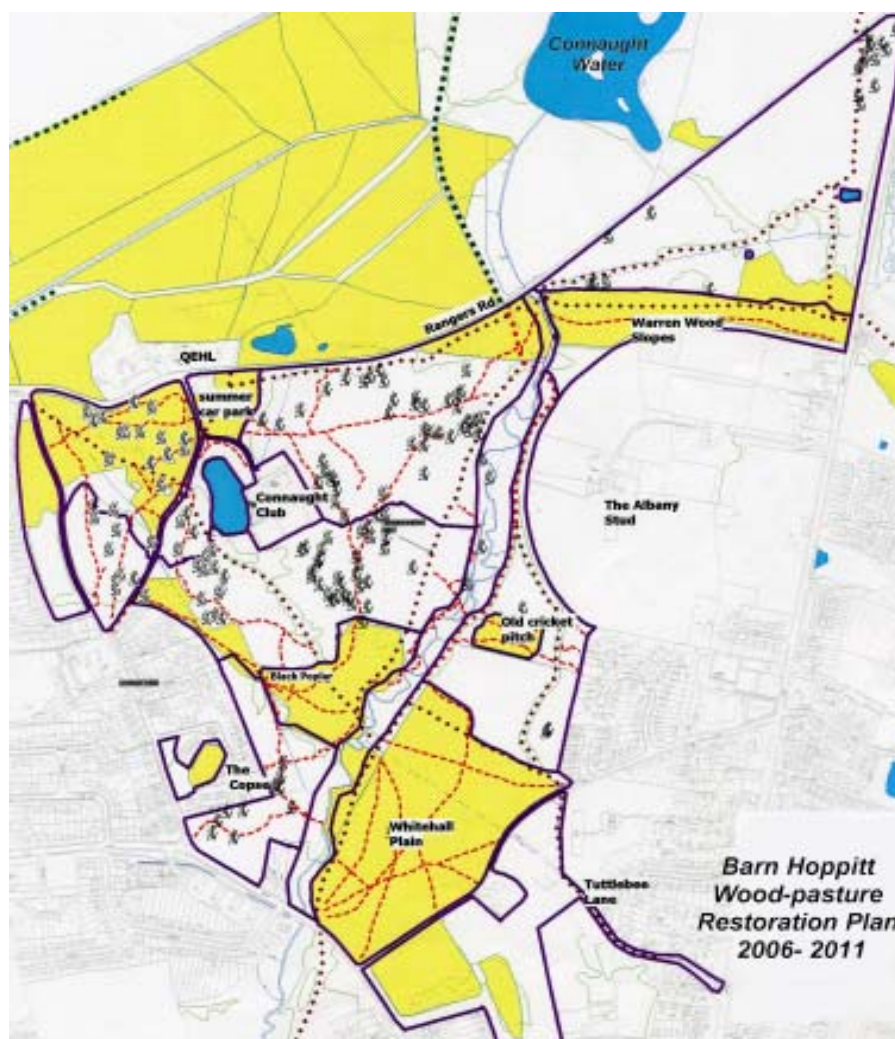
The drill now is that the Secretary of State will consider the EIP Report and

issue a further report probably late this year. Then there will be a two months period when the public have the opportunity to comment on that document. No rest for the committee!

The Conservators have issued three Integrated Site Plans (ISP), which are designed to bring together management objectives for specific and discrete areas of the Forest. The first of these was for Lords Bushes. The second was for Wanstead Flats on which we commented (see report in Autumn 2005 Newsletter). Currently we are preparing a response to the third, the Wanstead

In this issue

Dear Friend	1
Natural Aspect	2
Commoners Register	4
Friends 2007 Calendar	5
Summer Temperatures	5
Letters	5
FofEF Stall	5
Early History of the Friends of Epping Forest	6
What is happening to our Horse Chestnut Trees?	8
Date of Lodge Road Bog	8
Walk Reports	9
Dates for Your Diary	11
Newsletters by e-mail	13
Forest Supper	13,14



Park ISP, for the end of this month (October). In our comments we try to bear in mind both the perceived requirements of the particular site, the needs of the public who use the area for recreation and the overall effect in the Forest! Quite recently the Conservators have produced a Barn Hoppitt Wood Pasture Restoration Plan. This is an area of 71 hectares (177 acres) bounded by the Epping New Road, Rangers Road and Whitehall Road. Barn Hoppitt itself is the enclave in the Forest occupied by the Connaught Club. We were under the impression that as these successive sites were identified and had plans devised for their management, they

would be subject to a public consultation exercise. However, it was decided that the Barn Hoppitt Plan was not the same as an ISP and that there would be no consultation. Fortunately the Friends have an opportunity to respond and our comments will be made shortly. Full details of our comments on all these matters are available on request.

Our response on the Grazing consultation was sent to the Conservators and fully reported in the autumn 2005 Newsletter. In the update in the recent summer newsletter it was explained that at the May meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee a decision was taken to

accept the Grazing Strategy proposals and go forward with a bid for the necessary funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Some Verderers present pointed out that the strategy if adopted and carried into effect would lead to very great changes in the Forest scene and that these had scarcely been considered by the Grand Committee.

It was therefore agreed that the Strategy should meanwhile be referred to a sub-committee for further consideration. We have proposed a further comment on the matter for the Sub-Committee meeting, which is due to take place on the 19th October.

Ed.

NATURAL ASPECT

When walking along Forest paths in the late summer you cannot fail to notice the quick new growth of bramble 'runners' that are always straddling the paths and blocking your way. If you have been blackberrying you will know how high brambles can climb – the biggest and most luscious berries are always just out of reach (no-one else could reach them either!). Of course the 'runners' are 'searching' for somewhere to root or something to climb up and the thorns as well as being protective for the plant are the means of gaining support and height.

Many plants have developed adaptations to aid a climbing habit. Gardeners are of course familiar with the twisting climb of the sensitive tip of the Runner Bean – and many unfortunately may also be familiar with the Convolvulus. Both twist to the right and climb up in an 'anti-clockwise' direction. Honeysuckle and the hop twist to the left - 'clockwise'.

There are two other attractive hedgerow climbers with similar names, the Black Bryony and the White Bryony, that are quite unrelated. Black Bryony is the only member of the yam family to grow in Britain, while the White Bryony is the only member of the cucumber or gourd family to grow wild in Britain. The long strings of both, decorated with berries, can be seen now in late autumn often scrambling over the bushes at the edges of the Forest plains

Both had shiny green berries that have now become bright red when ripe and both are equally poisonous - fatally so if enough berries are eaten. It is said that just 15 will kill a child and no more than 40 are likely to cause death in an adult in the case of White Bryony (Cornevin). All parts of both plants are

poisonous, especially the tuberous roots – in fact the Black Bryony is sometimes called 'the Devil's turnip.' It is called 'black' because the root is very dark whilst the White Bryony has white roots.

Black Bryony climbs with a leftwards or 'clockwise' twist. Its glossy leaves are heart shaped and pointed. White Bryony leaves are quite different being five-lobed. The latter climbs by growing long tendrils from the base of the leaves

These start to 'corkscrew' tightly and then halfway along their length they change and twist in the reverse direction. Eventually, when making an entwining contact with a supporting branch or twig the tendril gives the plant a form of 'sprung suspension'.

Another means of climbing is employed by Old Man's Beard or Traveller's Joy – the wild clematis that grows over bushes and hedges wherever there is a trace of chalky

boulder clay in the soil. In this case the plant climbs by twisting its leaf-stalk around neighbouring vegetation. The name Old Man's Beard arises from the grey fluffy, hairy seed-heads that are very noticeable now as leaves begin to fall. If you are walking in the Forest buffer lands around Upshire or Copped Hall it should be quite obvious in the hedges. It also grows on the top of Yardley Hill. This incidentally is another poisonous plant – not likely to be eaten but it can cause blistering. 'Devil's Hair' is another name that refers to its poisonous qualities and fluffy seeds.

Other common plants with red berries are the Cuckoo-pint and Woody Nightshade. From just a tongue-tip-taste of the berries you will know why the latter is also known as 'Bittersweet'; at first bitter with a sweet after-taste. Although not necessarily deadly poisonous, if eaten both can have very unpleasant consequences.



White Bryony berries in November, entwining a hawthorn twig



Giant Horse Mushroom found in fields near High Beach

I always think it wise to say, the only wild berries worth eating are blackberries. Certainly children should be told to regard all else as poisonous!

At this time of year it is worth adding a word about fungi. Unless you are sure you know what you are doing, I would always say, do not eat them. Even the wild edible mushroom has a close relative that is poisonous enough to cause severe sickness. The Yellow Staining Mushroom is identical except when cut or marked with the thumb-nail; then it immediately displays a yellow stain. If you fail to notice that, it has a very unpleasant warning smell when in the frying pan – the juice is inky black and smells strongly of carbolic. That prevented me eating it the first time I found it!

I think my favourite is the giant Horse Mushroom, when fully developed they can be as large as a dinner plate – but by then they are full of fly maggots. They are not likely to be found in the Forest but can sometimes be found in the fields of the Buffer-lands.

The deadly poisonous Deathcap fungus grows quite widely in the Forest. It is said to be responsible for 95% of deaths by fungus poisoning and is a close relative of the white-spotted, red Fly Agaric that is easily recognised when growing under birch trees – sometimes called the 'magic mushroom' because its poison has hallucinogenic qualities. It is very unwise to experiment with this attractive fungus as the toxin varies in strength with the growing conditions.

'The Cep' is a popular edible fungus – as long as you are sure you can recognise it! - as there are other similar members of the Boletus family that are

not pleasant to eat and some that are poisonous.



Fly Agaric under birches at High

The cliché 'better safe than sorry' is very appropriate when thinking of eating Forest fungi. Just a few species are worth eating and you must be sure you know them. Most fungi growing in the Forest are worthless to eat, many will make you sick and ill, and there are two or three species that may kill you. The symptoms appear well after being ingested when it is too late for effective treatment.

Ending more cheerfully, you will read this in early November when usually the colours of the beech trees are at their best. The beeches in the central and northern parts of the Forest will be the last to show the best autumn colours – the oak is later but by comparison very drab. Fine sunny days, when the colours are quite startling, are very few... so don't miss it or you will have to wait another year.

Finally – some interesting information about birds.

Apart from the Blackbird that gained a great deal of media attention by flying from Norfolk to Finland in a very few days last March, there have been some interesting tendencies shown in some preliminary results of recent bird-ringing surveys.

These seem to suggest that recent bird population decreases are more likely to be the result of lower reproduction rates, rather than a lower rate of survival of adult and juvenile birds from one year to the next. This may be a mismatched synchronisation between bird breeding times and the ever earlier hatching of their caterpillar food supply due to climate warming.

Although there is great variation between years, the same pattern of variation seems to apply to a lot of species – mostly affected in the same way each year.

This was particularly so with the three members of the Swallow family (Swallow, House & Sand Martins) in spite of the fact that each species winters in different parts of Africa. Here the adult survival rate varied yearly between 20% and over 50%

Over the last ten years there seems also to be a marked difference in woodland bird populations between the southeast and the north of England – especially the northwest. There was an average 12% population decrease in the southeast compared with a 26% increase in the northwest. This decrease has certainly affected Epping Forest.

Another tendency (perhaps to be expected) was that migrants travelling beyond the Sahara appear to have a lower survival rate than birds that remain resident in England. Something like 35-40% survival, compared with a 50-60% chance of surviving to next year for the residents.

There has been confirmation of another tendency; Common Buzzards and Peregrine Falcons seem to be expanding south-eastwards across England. Buzzards being seen regularly now in SW Essex.

Of course, all these suggested conclusions are based on very small amounts of information and obviously a lot more research is required.

Don't forget the birds this winter. If you feed them, do it **regularly** – local populations can come to depend upon you supplying them.

Ken Hoy

COMMONERS REGISTER

The question of the grazing of cattle on the Forest and the attendant problems is a matter, as you may have noticed, that is taking up a little of the time of your committee!

But this subject, in one form or another, has cropped up many times before! I have just been looking at a little booklet describing the Epping Forest Commoners Appeal in 1893, this being a description of the battle conducted by the Commoners Defence Association for the protection of the poor cottagers ancient rights.

When the Epping Forest Act was passed it contained the provision that 'All rights of pasture and of common of mast or pannage for swine as they exist at the passing of this Act, shall continue, without prejudice, nevertheless, to the provisions of this Act (which rights are in this Act comprised under rights of common)'.

The fourth Schedule to the Act covers the methodology relating to the Register of Commoners. Nowhere in the legislation is there any mention of a property qualification requirement in order for placement on the Register.

However, sometime after taking possession of the Forest in accordance with the Act, the Corporation made a new regulation, subsequently rigidly enforced by the City Solicitor that no claims to commoners rights would be recognised unless the claimant held half-an-acre of land.

This ruling effectively disqualified most of the 'poor cottagers' from the Register of Commoners and therefore abolished their ancient right to turn out the odd cow or two onto the Forest. It also meant, of course, that they were unable to take part in the election of Verderers.

The Commoners Defence Association was formed to resist the

Conservators ruling and campaigned vigorously for it to be dropped.

Since the 1878 Act and the Schedules say nothing about property qualifications in relation to registration as a commoner, the Conservators sought in proposed legislation of 1884 and 1889 to place the nomination of Forest Reeves (?) and the formulation of the Commoners Register in their own hands. The Defence Association saw in these proposals a 'cunning plan' to exclude the Cottagers from the Register. In this, they were supported by the redoubtable Mr Deputy Bedford and local MP Mr AC Morton and the proposed legislation were dropped.

In 1891, the City Solicitor gave notice that he would revise the Commoners Register and indicated that no claims for inclusion would be considered from persons holding less than half-an-acre.

In due course, the Defence Association wrote to the Lord Mayor in very respectful terms complaining that none of the poor Cottagers owning less than half-an-acre had been admitted to the Register.

On the other hand, many, if not all, residents living in new or recently built houses with half-an-acre (and most unlikely to be interested in owning a cow and turning it out on the forest) had been placed on the Register. The letter produced no result!

The City endeavoured to tie the property qualification into the ancient requirement for a Commoner to hold land to maintain his animals during the Fence month. The Fence month, June/July was when animals grazing the Forest were deemed to be inimical to the well-being of the young fawns growing up during that period.

However, the chase, as the sport of Kings, had declined from around the time of the Hanoverians and the Fence month had not been enforced for many years.

The City, one assumes, did not have any real animosity towards the Cottagers or desire to withhold from them the means to relieve their poverty a little. In fact the City made a special Act of Grace provision to enable some of its Cottagers to continue turning out their cattle on the Forest, without admitting them to the Commoners Register.

So why were the Conservators so anxious to exclude the poor Cottagers from the Register of Commoners and thus from legally turning out an odd cow or two onto the Forest? We have to bear

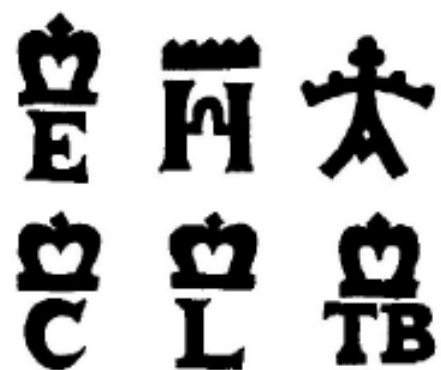
in mind that in the late 19th Century there was a massive increase in the development of housing around the Forest. Large areas of former agricultural land at Leyton, Leytonstone, Stratford, West Ham and Walthamstow were being transformed into housing for workers escaping from crowded conditions in the inner city and from agricultural depression in the country.

If Loughton Cottagers were allowed to get their names on the Register of Commoners what was to stop the thousands of clerks, factory and shop workers now occupying terraced housing or semis in the inner suburbs from doing the same? Nothing as far as I can see. Something had to be done otherwise who knows whom they might have elected as Verderers! The protests seem to have fizzled out as the poor Cottagers of Loughton disappeared under the same tide of bricks, mortar and concrete that engulfed the inner London Forest parishes.

The position remains the same today; the property qualification of half-an-acre still exists as an apparently accepted ruling without, as far as I know (perhaps someone will tell me), any real legality.

I wonder whether the City Solicitor, would consider, as an Act of Grace, the inclusion of members of the Friends on the Commoners Register, on account of their good intentions and keen interest in the Forest!

Harry Bitten



Traditional cattle marks for some of the Epping Forest Parishes

A Memorable Snippet, that surely is as appropriate today as it ever was, is a quote from the 1890's when Edward North Buxton is referring to public criticism (of the Conservators) that:

"compels the Conservators to justify to themselves every step which they propose to take, and to redouble their vigilance"

(mentioned in Verderer Richard Morris's booklet *The Verderers of Epping Forest since 1878*)

FofEF Stall (continued from page 2)

One of our activities, which is most important in raising and keeping the Friends profile before the public, is attending and running a stall at local social events. Probably the most significant of these is the Forest Festival held on Chingford Plain this year although Chingford Village Festival runs it a close second. Unfortunately the latter did not happen this year owing to the indisposition of Mrs Irene Bull who organises the event! It is indicative of the importance of individuals when one person's absence results in the cancellation of a really large scale and significant event.

The Forest Festival was, of course, a great event and would have been even better if there hadn't been gale (not to say hurricane) force winds howling down the Plain, on what was otherwise a fine day, blowing gazebos over and re-distributing stall holders literature all over the Plain.

We also had stalls at two events at Wanstead at the most recent of which we gave our new Magic Marquee gazebo (www.magicmarquee.com) an airing. It is very light and easy to erect and should do us very well in the future. Moreover it was admired by a number of other stallholders present who observed the speed of erection compared with the older versions.

If any member would like to join us in these stall running exercises we'd be very glad to hear from you.

Ed.



LETTERS

I have recently received a letter from Julie Small who used to live in Forest Road, Loughton. Julie and her late husband, Roger, were Secretary and Chairman of the Epping Forest branch of the London Natural History Society in the 1960's & 70's.

Many members with long memories will no doubt remember them both for the natural history rambles and meetings that they organised in those days.

Julie and Roger were also founder members of the Friends of Epping Forest as they represented the London Natural History Society at the inaugural meeting of the FoEF in Lopping Hall on February 16th. 1969.

Julie moved to Kent some time ago but still reads our Newsletters with great interest and pleasure and remembers the Forest with considerable affection.

She sends warm greetings to all her old friends and wishes us well.

Ken Hoy

A letter from Alan Mattingly, former General Secretary of the National Ramblers Association:

Dear Secretary,

I enrolled as a Life Member of the Friends some years ago and have always enjoyed reading the Friends newsletter.

I don't pay a subscription annually, so please find enclosed a small donation to support the work of the Friends. There's no need to acknowledge it.

The Friends do marvellous work in protecting the Forest. The pressures on the Green Belt seem to be growing in intensity, so I wish the organisation all success in the years ahead.

I'm currently living for most of the year in France, but please continue to send the newsletter to my address in London.

*Best wishes, yours sincerely,
Alan Mattingly*

FRIENDS 2007 CALENDAR

A member of the Friends of Epping Forest has produced a new calendar for 2007 featuring 12 different seasonal scenes of Epping Forest. This will cost £5.95 per calendar (plus 75p postage and packing). If you wish to obtain a copy this calendar it will be on sale at the Forest Supper and in local bookshops. There should also be a reader offer running in the local Guardian newspaper. Alternatively, send a cheque for £6. 70 (including p&p) payable to: Nik O'Flynn, 13 Lytton Road, London, E11 1JQ.

Robert Levene



Example of picture from the calendar

SUMMER TEMPERATURES - THE OFFICIAL FIGURES

THIS SUMMER was the longest continuous period of hot weather experienced in this country since records began. A study for the Met Office found that the five months from May to September were warmer than any equivalent summer since 1659.

Figures, based on the Central England Temperature records that date

back 350 years, show that the average temperature from May to September was 16.2C. This is two degrees higher than the average for this time of year. The previous record of 15.9C was set in 1947.

The 2006 period also included the warmest month ever, July, and provided the country with a record temperature for a September. The figures strongly back the argument that man-made global warming is having a considerable impact on the British Isles.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

There has often been confusion about when and how we began. Perhaps it is time to put it on record... so if you have ever wondered, read on...

It started on a sunny Sunday afternoon in November 1968 in the car park of the Wake Arms PH. and arose from a remark by Sir William Addison.

At that time serious damage in the Forest caused by horse-riding was widespread and so many letters had appeared in the local newspapers complaining about the damage that the Conservators were anxious to deal with the problem. They were considering taking powers to license and restrict horse riding.

In response to an approach from Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest, (following representations to him by horse-riders) the Superintendent, Alfred Qvist, arranged for a coach to be at the Wake Arms car park at 2-0pm. on this Sunday afternoon. The coach was to take The Superintendent, the Verderers, Sir John & the horse-riding representatives, and, several people who had written complaining letters to the local paper, around the Forest to see whether any damage actually existed and how serious it was.

The Superintendent asked me to direct the coach to the places where I knew damage could clearly be seen. (as I had written to the local paper and regularly took Waltham Forest school children out into the Forest).

Among the assembled people there was a strange difference in foot-wear. Many folk were wearing shoes and many others wearing 'wellies'... not surprisingly this dichotomy seemed to illustrate whether the wearer believed there was damage to be seen or not!

After struggling through several areas of deep mud near Whitehouse and Almshouse Plains, MP Sir John was 'caught' washing the mud off his shiny black shoes in the stream near Grimston's Ride. This incident reduced the tension between the two 'sets of opinion' when there was general laughter. He took it well!

However, as we left the woodland, embarrassment and triumph became the two differing emotions experienced among the group, when a young horse-rider appeared riding across Fairmead Bottom in a restricted area well off the designated Ride.

After visiting several other damaged areas the coach finally returned us all to the Wake Arms.

In the car park various people congregated around William Addison, the senior Verderer (later Sir William). In the discussion about what we had seen, William Addison expressed a desire to see the focus of opinion that was concerned about damage in the Forest, organised into a body that could eventually represent all the users of the Forest.



*Sir William Addison (1905-1992)
Verderer of Epping Forest*

He privately expressed a view that as the Conservators wished to avoid becoming involved in any conflict... but rather to 'hold the ring', there would initially need to be a counter-balancing pressure group of Forest users to that of the organised horse-riders.

Among the several individuals who formed this 'car-park-group' were John Heywood, from Woodford Green Athletic Club, Harold Lee from the Orion Harriers, and John Greenwood (who said he represented 'a person who just walked his dog in the Forest'). Among the others were Misses Arnold & Flack from the Ilford Ramblers, and Colin Lowson, an art teacher who organised a painting group using the Forest, and, myself - on behalf of the children attending the two Waltham Forest Field Study Centres.

A few evenings later these individuals and a few others, met at the Suntrap Field Study Centre and it was decided to proceed by forming an ad hoc committee to call a wider representative meeting.

It was proposed to begin by organising a meeting in Lopping Hall, inviting as many people as possible who were secretaries and chairmen (in those

days!) of local organisations who used the Forest and were likely to be affected and concerned about the problem of damage to the woodland floor.

The Superintendent and the four Verderers were also invited to the meeting. Superintendent Alfred Qvist & Mrs Qvist and Bernard Ward & William Addison (Verderers) accepted the invitation and were present.

Thus a total of 27 people representing eleven organisations met (perhaps appropriately) in the historic Lopping Hall, Loughton, on February 11th 1969. Apologies and requests to be 'kept informed of further developments' came from a further thirteen local organisations. The 'organisations' varied from Natural History Societies, Historical Societies, Amenity Societies and Photographic Societies to Ramblers Associations, Athletic Associations, Cricket & Golf Clubs and Public Schools.

Among the locally well-known signatures on the 'attendance sheet' were those of Roy McKenzie-Smith, Miss Marjorie M Smith, Julie & Roger Small, Jean Usher, William Nursaw, R.A. Warren, John Greenwood & Harold Lee

In the discussion it was thought that an organisation should be formed and initially consist of representatives of various interested societies and amenity bodies such as those present, (and others that were suggested) - and it should be organised in some 'federated' form and called the '**Friends of Epping Forest**'

From this inaugural meeting John Heywood agreed to serve as secretary and Ken Hoy as chairman. A Steering Committee of six was elected to prepare a Constitution, including Aims & Objects and Rules of membership.

It was hardly by coincidence that also in November 1968 the Minister of Education & Science had asked the Eastern Sports Council to comment on the conflict between the horse riding interests and the Administrators of Epping Forest. The Conservators and the British Horse Society both agreed to accept the help of the Eastern Sports Council in finding a solution.

Very soon afterwards, on the 19th February 1969, I received a phone call from Miss Bradley, who was Secretary of the Eastern Sports Council.

She was organising a meeting between interested parties into the 'problem of damage caused by horse riding in the Forest'... would the newly formed Friends of Epping Forest be prepared to attend?

The Minister's representative appointed to chair the meeting was Colonel Sir Arthur Noble. The meeting took place in the Council Offices in Loughton on 8th May 1969 and included representatives of Essex County Council, the Essex County Sports Association, the Lee Valley Regional Park Association and the 'interested parties'. These included representatives of the Epping Forest Rider's Association, the British Horse Society, Mr Don Creswell of the Ramblers Association, the local British Naturalists Association, The Friends of Epping Forest, and the Conservators of Epping Forest.

Following visits to the Forest, the subsequent report from Sir Arthur concluded that excessive damage to the Forest floor was occurring. It recommended that the Conservators continue to construct their system of surfaced rides, and that they take powers to restrict riding where and when necessary to protect the Forest and that a system of licensing and registration, dependent upon accepting a 'code of practice', be introduced to identify riders

A further recommendation was that future problems should be solved by joint consultation between the Epping Forest Committee (Conservators of the Forest) and the Friends of Epping Forest, representing all users of the Forest.

But a more serious threat to the

Forest was eventually to bring greater worries! A year later, in early 1970, I was approached by Colonel Chappell, a Verderer of Epping Forest, who was very concerned about the threat of the 'D-ring Road' or 'Ringway 3' planned to cross the Forest at the Wake Arms round-about and continue on towards Theydon and Abridge! He knew there were ultimate limits to the City of London's opposition to Government pressure and saw the value of arousing the interest and support of public opinion.

Then apparently in July, 1970 the Conservators learned that five possible routes for an orbital ring-road through the Forest were under consideration. A route north of Epping (that the Conservators favoured) was not acceptable to the Government and the Conservators eventually had to accept the least damaging option: Bell Common Cricket Ground (the present M25 route)

But protracted private negotiations between the Government and the Conservators were still continuing and this route was not yet officially published. However rumours were quietly beginning to spread..

The late John Griffiths, of the British Naturalist Association (BNA) with others was also concerned about the threat. And, in early 1973, I received a phone call from Doreen Boardman inviting the Friends of Epping Forest to a meeting at the house of John Oxenham,

Chairman of the Epping Forest branch of the BNA. A meeting that also included some members of the recently disbanded Epping Forest Association. (This Association had publicly supported the Conservators earlier in the 1960's, in trying to get the best solution for the Forest when it was proposed to take the A406, North Circular Road, through the middle of Walthamstow Forest)

Long term members of 'the Friends' will recognise the names of some of the people who were involved in that historic meeting. As well as John & Mrs Oxenham, those present included Doreen Boardman, Pat Duffield, Judy Miller, Fred Wetton, Clifford Pyne, John Greenwood, Harold Lee and myself.

As a result of the meeting it was suggested that the **Friends of Epping Forest** should be re-formed on a 'mass basis' – individual membership rather than the existing federated form. John Oxenham agreed to be Chairman; Pat Duffield, Secretary; Fred Wetton, Treasurer and I agreed to be Vice-Chairman.

Briefly our aims & objects were:

- a. To provide a consultative link between the administrators of Epping Forest and members of the public who have at heart the preservation of the Forest as defined in the Epping Forest Act 1878.
- b. To promote measures likely to be of benefit to Epping Forest and to take action against measures which could be detrimental to it and/or impair the amenities it provides (later these objects were slightly amended and amplified when we became a charity)

Eventually, in November 1973, the Ministry of Transport published a report where the planned ring-road, then called the M16 (later M25), was shown to cross the Forest ridge in a short 'cut & cover' tunnel under the cricket ground and an interchange with the A11 (now B 1393) immediately to the west of the tunnel.

We decided to begin a campaign against the detailed plans for the proposed M16 / M25 and to immediately increase the recruitment of members.

But others also were very alarmed, particularly the Upshire Preservation Society as the proposed motorway was to go right through the village - but that begins another long story!

... to be continued.

Ken Hoy



Route of the M25, looking towards the Epping tunnel from the Copped Hall Track - before & after construction

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR HORSE CHESTNUT TREES?



Horse Chestnuts, Woodford Green - under a stressed & diseased tree, Oct 2006

Horse chestnuts are such a magnificent feature of the Greens at Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and elsewhere that it is difficult to imagine these parts of the Forest without them. But is this something we may have to countenance? Over the last twenty years or so these trees have begun to deteriorate at an increasing rate. A number have died and many are in a far from good condition.

Horse chestnuts come from the moist river valleys of southeast Europe and yet they have been planted close together in lines in relatively free draining gravelly soil along the edges of busy roads. The long series of dry years together with the far from ideal locations in which they were planted has certainly stressed these trees. There is some contention in the scientific world as to what is causing the problem.

The factors mentioned above cannot have helped matters, but the trees have been growing where they are for a long time. Global warming is put forward as a factor and this also cannot be ruled out. However, some trees survive much better than others and some even recover. The third suggestion is that successive infestations of the caterpillars of a leaf miner moth are weakening the tree. This is just about plausible, except that the symptoms do not match those we have experienced.

Perhaps the best single option is the unfortunately, but appropriately, named 'bleeding canker'. This is a disease, very similar to the one that caused the Irish potato famines. The fungi (*Phytophthora*) thrive in wet soils and enter the tree through the roots where the damage is done. Dry weather, global warming and free draining soils do not sound like ideal

breeding grounds for the fungi. Nevertheless, given the generally stressed state of the trees, perhaps they are not able to resist the fungi in the way that they normally would. Fortunately this disease does not always kill the tree.

Young trees and those that are growing vigorously seem to be less susceptible, but the future does not look rosy. The disease used to be limited to Southern England but in the last few years it has occurred much further north. The horse chestnut is introduced from overseas but it is not invasive and certainly has a place in the landscape. Whatever is the cause of its decline let us hope that it is not as devastating as dutch elm

disease. Despite the fact that young trees seem to be less susceptible to the disease, replanting with chestnuts may not be the best solution. We probably need to wait until a few years until we are clearer as to the cause and can better see how it is going to develop.

Peter Adams, Verderer

DATE OF LODGE ROAD BOG

The 'Lodge Road Bog' is one of the two bogs that I think we might presume were formed when dams were built across two streams and a track that became Lodge Road - the road from the B 1393 (old A11) leading to the entrance to Copped Hall - was first constructed.

This road is now just a track as it has been closed as a road for some years.

In an investigation made in the early 1970's, bored cores were taken from the sediment of one of the bogs. The cores were dated by methods (Carbon 14) then available and an analysis made suggesting what vegetation cover existed at various times - as indicated by the pollen grains found at different depths in the 'mud' layers.

The project also suggested a date for the early formation of the bog - possibly created when the track, damming the two valleys, was first made. The result produced a date that was over 4000 years ago - early Bronze Age times.

Another significant result of the work was a quite dramatic change in the record provided by the pollen deposits. It suggests that a relatively sudden change in the tree cover occurred some 1,200 to 1,300 years ago (circa A.D 700-800 during the Anglo-Saxon period).

The pollen deposits of the Small leaved Lime tree that had previously been dominant disappeared in a comparatively short time, 50-100 years. The pollens present in the higher (later) layers showed that the present community of trees eventually began to take over during the following century - some 1200 years before the present.

The date suggested by these 1970's results was far later than that previously known of lime tree decline from sites in other places in lowland England and consequently some doubts were raised about the accuracy of the dating techniques then used.

As more accurate techniques (AMS radio-carbon) have become available a new programme of research was suggested based on fresh borings. Those who attended our AGM will recall that our speaker, Dr Michael Grant who carried out the research, explained the methods he used and the background to the research and the possible results (The Friends of Epping Forest provided part of the funding for the research).

Dr Grant also wrote about the project in our last summer Newsletter.

We have now received his Report entitled *Re-evaluating the concept of woodland continuity and change in Epping Forest: New dating evidence from Lodge Road.*

The new research seems to raise more questions than it answers. The dating of the early (lower) deposits is inconclusive so that we are now unsure of the dated origin of the bogs.

What does seem to be reasonably certain from the research is the decline of the Small-leaved Lime tree (in that part of the forest) now must be considered to have occurred around the 1st century AD - in the Roman period - not 6-700 years later in the Anglo-Saxon period.

We can only speculate about the cause or causes of the decline, but the existence of the Iron Age hill fort, Ambresbury Banks, half a mile away could now have some possible connection with the lime decline or the origin of the bogs.

It is generally accepted that the hill fort was formed 500-400 BC and not used after the 1st century AD.

There are several scenarios that could be suggested that might fit the new facts. The Report does make some 'suggestions' and 'possibilities', but others could be equally valid.

We must await further analysis and discussion, and even further research before firm assumptions can be made.

Ken Hoy

WALK REPORTS

Mid summer's eve walk

The sun was still shining down like a warm afternoon as we met on the corner of Hornbeam lane at 7.30 Saturday 24th of June, and some of the thirty odd walkers gathering there were already glistening slightly, having walked from the nearby bus terminus and train station in Chingford.

We had planned an anti-clockwise circuit around the fields of Yates Meadow and the open glades of Yardley Hill first, to take in the views of Middlesex and the West, before circling down to Daisy plain, and climbing Pole Hill to look over London and the South-East, during the good light, but the cool canopied footpath leading into Hawkwood seemed a better bet, so we set off clockwise instead, skirting the golf course, and emerging back in the sunlight at the summit of Pole Hill without the exertion of climbing it from the valley.

Standing between the 182 year old tall granite obelisk, and the later Ordnance Survey's cheaper concrete version, both claiming (within a few metres) to be the true Meridian line of zero longitude, from where all time and space is calculated, we paused and looked over London and Greenwich meantime...(sorry) and as one of the highest places in Essex at 300 feet from sea level, we could also swivel across London from the Dartford bridge to Alexandra Palace, with our feet astride the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Some of our observations also centered on the site's previous owner, T.E. Lawrence-of Arabia, who rescued the surrounding land from developers by buying it in the 1920s and transferring it to the Corporation 75 years ago. One of our more elderly walkers who was aged six at the time Lawrence was there filled us in with some more nuggets, as does Ken Hoy in his book 'Getting to know Epping Forest', where he urges anyone who has not been there 'to go.' (I would also urge anyone who hasn't got his book 'to get it'- £6.95.)

Continuing North from the obelisk we identified the remnants of Lawrence's fruit trees, and just behind them the old Victorian clay brick excavations, currently providing ideal surf-boarding facilities for local youngsters. Down through the shaded footpaths of the Oak, Beech, and Hornbeams we turned into the top of Daisy Plain, and winding our way around the old boundary grounds of Hawkwood House, we crossed the bridge at Yardley brook and climbed to

the ridge of Yardley Hill in relative coolness as the sun lowered, and here we stopped again to take in more westerly views from Canary Wharf to Middlesex.

Along the ridge onto the crest of Yate's Meadow we also had some good views of the surrounding forest, including the circular route we had just taken, and responding to the racket and wood smoke wafting over the hedge of Gilwell Park behind us, we did an impromptu diversion past the camp-fires (and burnt sausages) of the Boy Scouts Association Headquarters, which rekindled (ouch) some old memories for some, and gained us our final view North-West over Hertfordshire.

Rejoining Yates Meadow we slipped down the hill and through the stile into the rabbit field, to emerge into Bury Road opposite our meeting place; only five minutes adrift, but with new friendships for some, and lifts back to the station for others.

Peter Read

Buffer-land Walk, July 2006

This summer's Buffer land walk took place at the end of a spell of scorching temperatures, so had been planned with wooded Green Lanes and the shady side of hedges much in mind. In the event, one day of thundery

downpours had cleared the air and left us with perfect walking weather to take advantage of the Open Access policy on Buffer-lands and see the countryside from unaccustomed viewpoints.

Twenty three people set off from Upshire Village Hall and managed to walk past the Horseshoes Pub garden to enjoy the view of the Forest ridge rising from the Lea Valley. The field crossed by this public footpath is not actually Buffer-land but runs parallel to Rugged Lane which has severe drainage problems (really!) and being a bridle-way would have been difficult to walk. Our downhill walk brought us to an excellent example of right-of-way handiwork (Epping Forest Country Care?) in the form of a squeeze gate and bridge on to Sergeants Green Lane, thence to Blind Lane which took us up toward Woodredon Estate. Unfortunately, almost any circular walk on the Warlies / Woodredon / Copped Hall Buffer-lands involves crossing the M25 at least once but thanks to Open Access we no longer had to approach the footbridge by walking alongside the motorway fence but could enjoy the open skies as we crossed the field bordered by Oxley's Wood.

Once past the horrors of the M'way bridge, we took the Green Lane known to older locals as Bluebell Lane, eastwards to the edge of the Forest proper. The lane was rich in butterflies and peppered with slots of fallow deer who had presumably been enjoying the bean fields on either side, although our first sighting came later, in St.Thomas' Quarters.

We crossed this area of Forest, with its magnificent pollarded beeches, on our way to look at the ancient bog which had been the subject of the Friend's guest speaker at the AGM. As we walked along the trackway whose construction caused the damming of the stream and consequent formation of the bog some 4,000 years ago, we saw how the Forest is gradually consuming the metalled road, officially Lodge Road, locally the "Dippy Dip" or "Walk Hollow", which was closed to traffic in the mid-



nineties. We were reminded of Kipling's "Road through the Woods":

*They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.*

*Weather and rain have undone it again
And now you would never know*

There was once a road through the woods

Only ten years in this case but the area has an atmosphere where a little imagination could easily:

*... hear the beat of a horses feet
and the swish of a skirt in the dew*

Our walk down the Selvage, bordering the Buffer-lands of Copped Hall, provoked an interesting discussion about management versus non-intervention as those familiar with this strip of woodland when it was managed for pheasants had seen the change in flora, particularly during the Spring.

Crossing under the motorway, our route brought us over the fields of Raverners Farm with views towards the Cobbins Valley and Epping Long Green and through Addison's Meadow, renamed from the original "Long Mead" in memory of Sir William Addison, along Copthall Green and the Wares (always good for dragonflies) and back to Uphire Church where, over tea and home-made cakes, we could survey almost the entire route without moving a muscle.

Sue McKinley

Summer Walk, Hatfield Forest

On Wednesday 16th August, Bill Dexter and Linda led our walk through part of Hatfield Forest. We assembled at the car park on the minor road from Hatfield Broad Oak to the old A120 at Takeley, where a parking charge is payable, unless you are a member of the National Trust (N.T). The N.T acquired the Forest as the result of the generosity of Edward North Buxton who 'signed the papers' more-or-less on his deathbed. Oliver Rackham calls his book on Hatfield Forest the 'Last Forest' because it contains relatively intact all the elements of a compartmented medieval forest. On the eastern side it is essentially a very large grassland area having scattered ancient pollarded hornbeams, some of which are looking the worse for wear, in the southern part. This area and the open plain running down to the lake from the Hallingbury entrance are grazed by cattle. The large lake in the centre is surrounded by a series of compartments which in former times were coppiced on a rotational basis thus providing the owners and commoners



The Hatfield unpollarded Oak

with a regular supply of firewood for cooking, lighting and heating. By the lake of the Shell House is a refreshment spot, which was being heavily used, a use in which we joined! That area also contains a huge unpollarded oak the roots of which the N.T is seeking to protect by way of a circle of stumps, and one is invited to keep out of the circle. Alas vegetation is encroaching this area and it is quite difficult in places to comply with the invitation. We made our way back to the car park via a pollarded hornbeam woodland, which also contains a fine specimen Wellingtonia or giant redwood.

It was a nice walk for all and made a change from the real Forest!

Harry Bitten

Centenary Walk 2006

Sunday 24 September, in the tradition of the C.W dawned a bit grey and drizzly but improved rapidly into a beautiful day. The era of Bitten as the leader having finished, the era of Mike Whiteley began with a good turnout of around 50. Verderers Michael Davies, Peter Adams and Richard Morris were among the starters as were a contingent from The Warren and members of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.

More were picked up at the Green Man roundabout and at the County Hotel in Oak Hill, where the management provided free tea, coffee and soft drinks. Many thanks to them.

The next port-of-call was the Butlers Retreat on Dannett's Hill, Chingford where many people joined and some left. Around a hundred walkers proceeded over Chingford Plain where we entered the electric fenced enclosure to hear Verderer Michael Davies talk about cattle grazing. At the end of the Plain we picked up the Green Ride and continued along it over Fairmead to the Green Tea Hut and then to lunch at the Robin Hood. The proprietors laid on sandwiches with various fillings so that there was very little waiting for food which was better than last year at the Owl where orders were dealt with on an individual basis which went on forever!

There was some natural history interest when in the pub garden a caterpillar of the pale tussock moth was seen on the bark of a large oak tree, with not a tussock in sight!



*Centenary Walk - Butlers Retreat on Dannett's Hill, Chingford
where many people joined and some left*



Verderer Michael Davies talking to Centenary walkers about cattle grazing in Epping Forest

During lunch (and not under the influence!) we serenaded Wendy Mead, the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, with a spirited rendition of 'You can see to 'Ackney Marshes, if it wasn't for the 'ouses in between'.

We left and entered the Forest going downhill beyond the cottage and shortly paused by a wild service tree for a short talk by Verderer Richard Morris.



Verderer Michael Davies with Oe Jameson, the lady responsible for looking after the cattle

Thereafter we continued through Debden Slade and rejoined the Green Ride slogging uphill to Sandpit Plain and then the Lost Pond where we looked at the ancient beech coppard, the oldest tree in the Forest; maybe!

We continued along the Green Ride and veered off to the west to visit Deer Shelter plain where there was a short talk on its history by Dr Graham Walters of Guildhall Metropolitan University. We rejoined the Green Ride and climbed up again and followed it to Bell Common at Epping.

Mike was congratulated by Harry on what we hope will be the first of many Centenary Walks in a commendably short welcoming speech. We gave our thoughts for a moment to last September when the late Superintendent Jeremy Wisenfeld, who always did the walk bravely, did so again from the Owl to the finish despite being in the final stages of his illness.

Please note that the Centenary Walk next year will be later than usual on September 30th

Harry Bitten

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Does anyone have memories of the Chingford Golf Course extending up past the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge and across Rangers Road, with three holes on the slope leading up to the Warren Wood PH? We have a map showing it there until the early 1950's.

Ed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FOREST SUPPER

Thursday 23rd November 2006

For details see page 13 and booking form on page 14.

WALKS

**November 10th Friday 10.30am
Autumn colours**

A leisurely walk around Fairmead Bottom. Meet in the carpark on Fairmead Road, which runs parallel to the A104 Epping New Road. Turn west at the Robin Hood roundabout; left at the first tea-hut and then downhill to the carpark on the right.

**Leader: Ken Hoy
GR 408 967**

**December 10th Sunday 1pm
Christmas Cheer!**

A winter's walk along tracks to Copped Hall and return to the carpark for wine and mince-pies. Meet in the car-park on Lodge Road which is the first on the left on the B1393 north of the Wake Arms roundabout by the bus-stop.

**Leader: Harry Bitten
GR 431 998**

**January 25th Thursday 10.30 am
Connaught Water to Cuckoo Pits**

A 2-hour walk with the option of a shorter "easy-access" version. Meet in the car-park at Connaught Water, Rangers Road, Chingford. (a 10-Minute walk or 2-minute drive from Chingford Station).

**Leader: Robert Levene
GR 404 951**

**February 22nd Thursday 10.30am.
A walk in Wanstead Park.**

A look at some of its historic features and perhaps discuss its future management. Meet in Warren Road Wanstead.

**Leader: Tricia Moxey
GR 413 877**

**March 18th Sun 10.30am
Discovering Walthamstow Forest**

A walk concentrating on the area north of the North Circular Road. Meet in Forest Drive, a turning off Oak Hill, Woodford Green.

**Leader: Judy Adems
GR 393 913**

For the rest of 2007 dates see separate sheet.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Epping Forest Visitor Centre

November

Sat 11th **The Retreats of Epping Forest** (QEHL)

Sun 19 Guided Walk: **Winter Farmland**. Meet inside Lodge Gates. Wildlife and conservation areas not normally open to visitors.

December

Sat 2nd 1.00-4.00pm **Historic Christmas Cards** (QEHL)

Thur 7th 6.00-9.00pm **Alternative Christmas Shopping** (EFVC)

Sat 9th & 10th 11.00am- 3.00pm **Family Activity: Festive Trail** (EFVC)

Sun 10th 10.00am-12.00 **Father**

Christmas's Deer Walk

Sun 17th 10.30am-12.30pm **Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Walk** (Temple)

Sun 17th 1.00pm-4.00pm Family Activity: **Festive Table Decorations** (The Temple)

Sun 17th 10.30am-12.30pm **Festive Cheer Walk** (EFVC)

January

Sun 7th 11.00am-4.00pm **Tudor Christmas** (QEHL) Free event

Sun 14th 10.30am-4.00pm **Deer Walk**

Sat 20th 10.00am-1.00pm **New Year Bike Ride**

February

Sat 3rd Family Craft: **Filigree Ruffs** (QEHL)

Sat 10th to Sun 18th **Brambly Hedge Exhibition** (QEHL)

Sun 11th **Deer Walk**

Wed 14th to Fri 16th 10.30am-4.00pm **Brambly Hedge Children's Craft Workshop** (QEHL)

For further information call:

020 8508 0028

Epping Forest Field Centre

For details on Field Centre courses:

Tel: 020 8502 8500 or e-mail:

enquiries.ef@field-studies.council.org

EF Conservation Volunteers

Sun 5 November - Small Alder Pond

Sun 19 November - North Farm

Sun 26 November - Haugboy Slade

Sun 3 December - Trafalgar Wood

Sun 10 December - Gilbert Slade

Sun 17 December - Rushey Plain

Wed 27 December - Strawberry Hill

Sun 7 January 2007 - Walthamstow Forest

Sun 21 January - Lord's Bushes

Sun 28 January - Jack's Plain

We meet at 9.30am at the Warren, Epping Forests Corporation of London headquarters. This can be accessed either from Warren Hill in Loughton or from the Epping New Road between the Warren Wood pub and the Robin Hood roundabout.

We aim to leave for the site promptly at 9.45am. Wear old clothes and sturdy boots (preferably reinforced), and bring refreshments.

For further information please email efcv2@yahoo.co.uk or contact Peter Lyons on 020 529 3060

Essex Wildlife Trust

Epping Forest Group

Sun 15 Jan, 10.30am Guided Walk in the Lea Valley to look for birds.

Meet in the main car park at Fishers Green, Holyfield Rd, Waltham Abbey. Leader: Tricia Moxey.

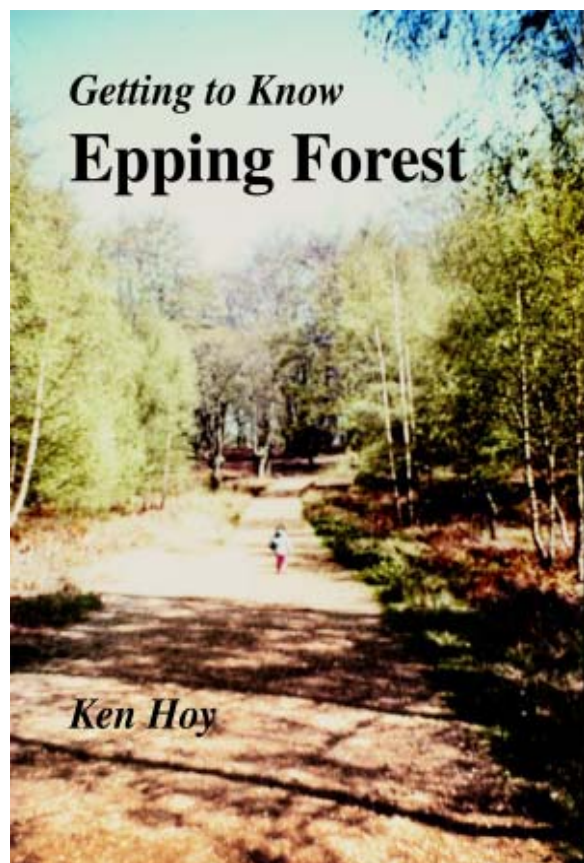
Open to non-members as well as members. Please come suitably dressed for cold and wet conditions. Donations appreciated (suggested donation; £2per adult).

Phone Tricia Moxey on 01277 364522 for more details.

British Naturalists' Association

Epping Forest Branch

Sat 4th Nov Autumn tints in Knighton Woods. A morning walk. Meet at Knighton Lane car park, off Loughton High Road, 10.30am. Leaders: Ron and Pat Andrews



Getting to Know **EPPING FOREST**

Ken's recent book that names and describes the history of over 200 Forest place names

Copies will be on sale at the Forest Supper or are available from Seymour Moss on 020 8529 0620 £6-00 to members (£7-00 inc. p&p).

Otherwise available at the Epping Forest Information Centre, High Beach and in several local bookshops (£6-95).

**IT MAKES AN EXCELLENT
CHRISTMAS PRESENT!**

NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

When a member joins the Friends and asks for the Newsletter to be sent by e-mail (in glorious colour) the Membership Secretary uses the following procedure.

An e-mail is sent to the address with information of how to download the Newsletter and asks for a reply by e-mail. This also tests whether the usually hand-written details are correct. It is surprising how many get returned "unable to deliver". So if, as a new member, you filled the e-mail details and wondered why your Newsletter (other than the first with your membership

card) comes by another method, this may be the cause.

If any member does not get their Newsletter by e-mail and would like to, please contact by e-mail the membership secretary at seymour@moss40.freemove.co.uk

Remember if you change your e-mail address and don't tell the Membership Secretary the Newsletters will stop. The same applies if you are using a job-based e-mail facility and change jobs or college. The reverse also happens, if you move home you will still get your Newsletter by e-mail, but the Friends will not know your new address, so again please advise the Membership Sec.

Seymour Moss

F of EF E-MAIL AND WEB ADDRESSES

Ken Hoy: kenhoy@care4free.net

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

FofEF web-site:
www.friendsofepingforest.org.uk

Looking forward to seeing you at the Forest Supper and on some of our future walks. We have attached the entire 2007 Walks Programme on a separate sheet at the end of this Newsletter.

Peggy

CURRENT FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Adams	Loughton	020 8418 0730	Robert Levene	Snaresbrook	020 8989 0884
Peggy Bitten (Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Sue McKinley (Vice-Chair)	Upshire	01992 712 014
Harry Bitten	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Derek Meakin	Chigwell	020 8500 1571
Irene Buchan	Chingford	020 8529 6423	Seymour Moss (Memb. Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 0620
Alan Curran	Buckhurst Hill	020 8504 8720	Tricia Moxey	Chipping Ongar	01277 364 522
Bill Dexter	Chingford	020 8529 1427	Peter Read	Chingford	020 8524 1659
Jim Gimson	S. Woodford	020 8989 3282	Tony Sheppard (Treas.)	Woodford Grn	020 8504 8288
Ken Hoy (Chairman)	High Easter	01245 231 839			

FOREST SUPPER

Thursday, November 23rd 2006

Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green (7.30 for 8pm)

Alan Beere catered for the Forest Supper last year and as everyone I have spoken to were happy with the food, we are repeating the arrangements for this supper. The menu will include cold meat and poached salmon with a vegetarian alternative. Also the usual selection of salads and new potatoes. This will be followed by a choice of two desserts and coffee.

We will supply the usual unlimited wine and soft drinks. There will be quizzes, goods for sale including Xmas cards, calendar and greetings cards, books 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.

We the price of tickets will remain at £15.00 per head. It is a **ticket only** event and tickets will be issued on a first come first accepted basis. We normally sell out fairly quickly so you should apply a.s.a.p. and certainly by **Tuesday Nov 14th**. Larger tables can now seat 12 people.

If you can, please donate a gift for the RAFFLE.

There is always a very generous response from you all and we **do** depend on the extra income raised on the night via the raffle to make the difference between loss and profit.

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 at: 6 Knighton Drive, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0NY**

Don't forget to bring your ticket - there's a prize for the winning ticket number.

REMEMBER – ADMISSION BY TICKETS ONLY



CHRISTMAS CARDS OF EPPING FOREST



As we've run out of good, new winter pictures (and we have about 150 packs left) we are selling last years Christmas cards again this year. They depict six different attractive Winter scenes of Epping Forest and are available in packs of 12 cards (2 of each view) at £3.60 per pack. You will be able to purchase the cards at the Forest Supper on Thursday 23rd November or arrange to pick up supplies by phoning Peg Bitten, 020 8529 8594.

If you wish packs to be sent by post please send a cheque made payable to F of EF for £4.60 (£3.60 plus 1.00p p+p) per pack to Mrs P Bitten, 9 Frederica Road, Chingford, E4 7AL.

SPECIAL REQUEST If we get a snowy winter – don't forget to take your camera as we are getting short of Xmas card pictures. But remember, the sunshine will 'light-up' a snow picture, whereas a snow scene without the sun is usually 'flat' and uninteresting. Remember also, shoot towards the light (with the sun behind a tree trunk?). Good luck.

Forest Supper Booking Form

Please provide ----- ticket(s) for the 2006 Forest Supper @ £15.00 each (please list all names below):

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

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

Address -----

I enclose my payment for £----- (cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the Friends of Epping Forest)

TOGETHER WITH STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

Please return completed application form before Tuesday 14th 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.