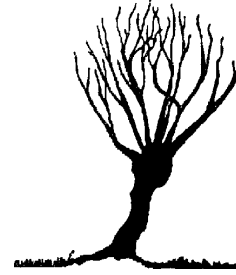


The Friends of Epping Forest Newsletter



March 2000

Dear Friend,

At 7.45pm on 2nd December last, Hawkey Hall had a sprinkling of people in it and doubts began to creep in about the effectiveness of the publicity (including ours) in regard to Superintendent John Besent's talk 'The Forest and the Green Belt' since this was scheduled for an 8 o'clock start.

However, a veritable avalanche of last minute arrivals ensured that the Hall was crammed full with 300 or more people to listen to the start of John's talk and to see his excellent slides.

The talk lived up to all expectations, and those present were treated to an educational, interesting and enjoyable tour d'horizon of the Forest and its hinterland delivered with humour, but with great authority.

He pointed out many of the problems and challenges of Forest management, and went on to draw attention to the many examples of the erosion of the Green Belt countryside particularly that surrounding the north and north west of the Forest. A major threat was arising from the massive development just beginning at the Royal Ordnance Factory site, and the associated road construction. The latter could be magnified if the go-ahead is given for the Northern Gateway Access Route (NGAR). This road would join up the North/South Road (Mollison Avenue) with the newly opened southern by-pass for Waltham Abbey and give direct access to J26 of the M25.

These developments would undoubtedly create opportunities for all kinds of rat-runs exploiting Forest roads. Epping Forest, he thought, needed to be given additional environmental protection perhaps by the creation of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status. This should include if possible a traffic control/management scheme.

John draw attention to the importance to the Forest environment of the City Corporation 'buffer' land by which nearly 2000 acres are under secure protection from development.

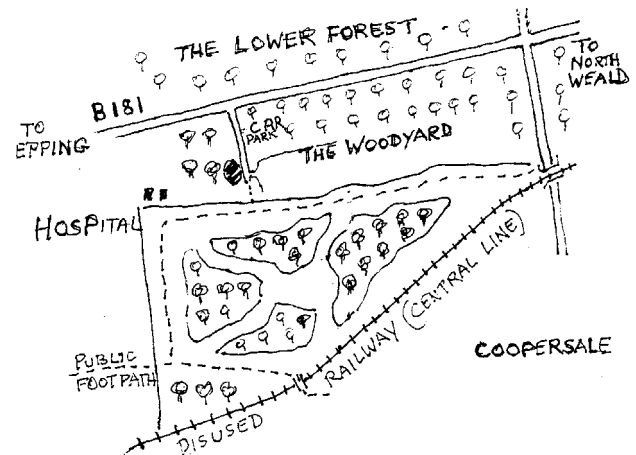
The question and answer session that followed John's talk brought home the enormous value that is placed on Epping Forest both by the people who live in this area and those who use it.

Following the talk the Friends wrote to the City expressing our appreciation of the talk and the Forest and the 'buffer' land. We indicated our hope that the 'buffer' land policy would be continued and expanded as resources permitted.

We also have had a meeting with Epping Forest MP Eleanor Laing, and discussed various matters of mutual interest. She was very interested to hear about the Superintendent's talk, and of his wish to bring about a special status for the Forest area, and has subsequently been in touch with him on the subject.

Editor

Millennium Wood



The acorns (and other seeds) collected by volunteers from the Friends and pupils from Coopersale Primary and Oakhill Primary last October have rested all winter in a bed of silver sand in metal drums in the Warren. The majority of them have progressed satisfactorily and the time (as well as they) is ripe for planting out.

The two schools have been invited to take part in phase two of the exercise (the planting) on Friday 10th March in

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Please send all letters to the Secretary and Editor
Mrs P Bitten, 9 Frederica Road, Chingford, E4 7AL

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the afternoon, and we are at present (11th February) awaiting their response.

We are also writing inviting all those who have expressed interest in this project (and their families and friends) to come along the following Sunday 12th March at 10.30 am with their dibbers to join in phase two.

It is touch and go as to whether this Newsletter reaches readers in time. If it does, I will take this opportunity of inviting anyone interested to come and join in the planting. Assemble in the Woodyard car park at 10.30 am. If the car park is full drive on to the Timber Yard where permission to park has been given.

Hope to see many of you on the day, both days in fact. Why not get involved on the schools day - the kids may need some help with the dibbling!

Harry Bitten

The (Un)Natural Aspect

In the last Newsletter I wrote about Swallows migrating southward - they will soon be coming back! At the moment we can all see signs of Spring in our gardens, Whilst along the Forest Green Lanes the Hazel bushes in the hedgerows have already lost their long 'male' catkins. The little cerise coloured female flowers, that will become nuts, should now be 'set' by the wind blown pollen. The more obvious snowy blossom of the Blackthorn (sloe) should be smothering the black bushes as you read this, and by April the orange, yellow and green of bursting buds will tint the scrub and woodland. It is the 'scrub' of the Forest - the bushes - that is so important during the unreliable days of March and April. Early insects are the food of many birds (especially newly arrived migrants) - those insects, are tempted out on sunny days and are dependent on the blossom of bushy growth. These scrub bushes, such as the Blackthorn, Hawthorn, the Sallow ('pussy willow') and along the woodland fringes the Crab Apple trees are the first colonisers of grassland. They are vital in the food chain as all are providing insects with the necessary nectar and pollen. Scrub is a transitory stage in the colonisation of the grassy plains by trees - a constant and continuous process - but as the trees have grown in the Forest for centuries how is it we still have the grassy plains?

So now we come to the **UN**-natural bit. The trees and plants in the Forest are 'natural' and truly wild and have not been sown or planted but the Forest as a whole is at least only semi-natural. It has been influenced by centuries of grazing and woodcutting and in the past, to varying degrees, much of the local population depended upon their Rights to use the Forest in this way. It was grazing by cattle - and deer and rabbits - that kept the grassy plains from becoming overgrown.

Before the passing of the Epping Forest Act, the ownership of the 'waste' (as the Forest was called) was held by the Lords of the Manors and as Sir William Addison frequently reminded us, over those 'wastes' the Crown had Forestal Rights - of hunting and the Commoners held Rights of Common. What Sir William emphasised was that possession of such rights of use over the land were legally just as strong as the Lord's of the Manors ownership of 'the soil'. Apart from the Right of Pasturage (grazing), that is all past history. Now our Forest is 'for the recreation and enjoyment' of the public (in ways appropriate in a forest) and to that end we must conserve the 'natural aspect' within the protective requirements of a 'Site of Special Scientific Importance' (SSSI).

What is the point of saying all this?

The Forest of the past was one great 'Common' grazed by cattle and 'harvested' for fuel by pollarding or lopping the trees. Now however cattle grazing is absent and no longer viable, rabbits and deer have largely gone, and, the old 'commoner'-social economy no longer exists. The grasslands of the Forest are being rapidly taken over by scrub trees and bushes. Although scrub is important in the ecology of the Forest it is only transitory. So how are we to keep the diverse, varied and aesthetically enjoyable Forest that we all want in balance - since natural processes are changing it all the time?

What are the options and what needs to be done? There are many different views, with degrees of difference. One view may be 'do nothing at all - let nature take its course'. But then it is argued, the grasslands and plains will disappear, thickets of thorn will grow and die, tall trees will grow up and form a closed canopy, eventually there will be limited undergrowth and some uniformity until the oldest trees die and gaps form in the canopy. In the gaps, the natural cycle will slowly start over again - but it could be a 100 years before some sort of 'natural' balance occurs. Some may say it will not take that long! Much depends upon what each person's vision of the Forest of the future might be (and their ability to visualise) - what they expect or wish to see.

Another option, perhaps the other end of the spectrum, is a return to widespread grazing. This was how the Forest came to be as it was a 100 years ago when the late Victorians were critical of the appearance of their newly acquired Forest - but then it had been over grazed and over pollarded by the growing population.



Can we have controlled and limited grazing? If it is to be viable it will need financial support (because of BSE restrictions etc.). If it is to be practical, before any grazing can be undertaken, it is considered the Forest will need to be fenced along the roads to separate the cattle from today's traffic that is so heavy and fast.

Then it is also necessary to use fencing if you wish to control where the cattle graze - to make it more effective ecologically.

However it is argued that this is the best way to preserve Epping Forest together with its flora and fauna, and that it should so preserved as it illustrates (among other things) a unique and historic example of Ancient Woodland management.

Of course the fencing, grids and underpasses will involve great cost. Furthermore, many will argue that fencing along the Forest roads will be visually unacceptable - it will be intrusive in the ancient, open unenclosed landscape known as Epping Forest. It will begin to look like a park! Many will say such fencing will be an impediment to public access. No doubt it will be said the

Forest cannot legally be enclosed without infringement of the Epping Forest Act. However, there will be a counter argument that it is not 'enclosed', as there are gates etc. providing access.

So, there are varying shades of opinion from, leaving 'nature' to take its course, to a return to a system of widespread 'wood/pasture' management by grazing and re-pollarding as it was in the past

Yes, I have over-simplified the problems and given perhaps some extreme examples - and I have tried to 'sit on the fence' (no pun intended) - but these are the questions facing Forest management today and they will be put before you and discussed in future Newsletters. So, go out and enjoy the Forest in springtime - but think about what should be done and what you would like to see happen!

Ken Hoy

The Forest in 1895

Vivid images of what might be happening in the Forest at the end of the 19th century can be gained by examining some of the offences detailed in the first BYE-LAWS that were passed on April 25th 1895. by the Court of Common Council of the Corporation of the City of London. Remember that this is seventeen years after the passing of the Epping Forest Act that in effect placed the Forest in the care and ownership of the Corporation and made them the Conservators of the Forest.

This was a time when there were no cars, no 'tar-mac' and roads were little more than gravelled tracks, some no doubt often deeply rutted. You would have visited the Forest either by steam train, horse drawn carriage, on horseback, bicycle or 'shank's pony' (on foot). The population of London worked hard all the week, usually for six days, and then came to the Forest to enjoy themselves on Sundays. Many of the local population, which was then very much smaller, had until a few years previously, largely supported themselves by various legal or illegal means of exploiting the Forest, and, the Epping Forest Act itself had recently, in 1878, referred to it as "the wastes of Epping Forest".

The first and most important restrictions imposed by the Bye-laws were of course to make it an offence to enclose, build or encroach upon the Forest. The construction of roads, drains or sewers etc over the Forest was also an offence. However although digging or removing, gravel, sand, clay, turf or loam was illegal, there was an exception that covered digging gravel for the repair of the Highways. Surveyors acting for local authorities could dig gravel if they gave notice of their intention to the Conservators! But they were required to fill in the holes created and to level the ground afterwards. That this did not always happen explains some of the pits and hollows in the Forest today. Blackweir or the 'Lost' Pond was a pit from which gravel was officially extracted until 1915. Undoubtedly many of the small haphazard pits and holes were dug before the passing of the 1878 Act or the 1895 Bye-Laws. Buxton, in the 1880's, refers to some of them as being dug beyond living memory.

Cutting, felling, lopping or digging up, even climbing upon, timber trees, pollards or shrubs was of course an offence - except by licence in writing! Lighting fires, burning, dropping fuses or matches was forbidden.

However the restrictions on various commercial practices throw an interesting light what might otherwise be happening. The selling on Forest land of intoxicating liquors was forbidden and included specifically was the selling of liquor by ticket or any other recorded form for payment. Obviously attempts had been made to avoid the regulations.

Shooting, hunting or trapping birds or animals or unlawful fishing are obvious restrictions to protect wildlife but the removal of ice from any lake, pond or watercourse (before the days of refrigerators!) was also an offence. So was washing dogs, horses or wagons in any pond or lake.

The erection of photographic apparatus, posts, poles, tents, booths, shooting galleries or, shows, roundabouts or swings (without a licence) was forbidden. So was the erection of clothes-lines, the drying or bleaching of clothes on bushes and shrubs, or the beating of carpets!

The exercising of "volunteers" (part-time soldiers) was specifically forbidden - except in "places set apart". On the other hand obstructing the "volunteers", or interfering with any lawful game, or even persons lawfully and peacefully using the Forest was also forbidden.



Firm's outing at Ambresbury Banks 1900

The regulation for bathing was, "Every person over twelve years of age using a bathing place must wear suitable bathing drawers — and conduct himself in all things so as not to offend public decency"; or, "commit an act, intended or not, to insult any female".

Plying for hire horses, ponies, donkeys etc. with or without carriages was not allowed without a licence to do so, at a designated 'stand'. Licence holders wore numbered badges on the left arm. Licences were revoked for fighting, drunkenness, cheating or over-charging.

Riding to endanger the public or harm commoner's cattle was an offence.

Among other offences were, gambling, fortune-telling, fighting, swearing, drunkenness, and selling indecent books or prints.

Persons infringing the Bye-laws were, for every such offence, liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 and if a continuous offence a penalty of 10 shillings for each day.

Keepers were "empowered and directed to exclude and remove from the Forest all gypsies, hawkers, beggars, rogues and vagabonds."



Drawing or driving any waggon, carriage, van, bicycle, or other wheeled vehicle through or across the turf, woods or footpaths was an offence. Exception was made when such vehicles were placed on the Forest for picnics or other pleasurable purposes. Horses however must then be taken out of the shafts and tethered.

It was an offence to turn out to graze or remain on the Forest any cattle, horse, mule, pony, sheep, pig, goose, duck, fowl or other animal - except as of right. That is turning out 'commonable' animals marked by the Reeve.

Commonable cattle had to be marked (branded with the parish mark) by the Reeve. Unmarked animals were impounded. A significant regulation is the forbidding of any attempt to rescue animals being led or driven by keepers to the pound, or subsequently taking them from or damaging the pound. The pounds were heavy wooden corrals for holding unmarked horses and cattle. To recover animals, fines and costs for feeding etc. had to be paid within fourteen days. If not claimed the Reeve "shall cause them to be cried" in the markets of Epping and Waltham Holy Cross. If unclaimed after a further seven days they were publicly auctioned to recover the costs.

The period of Pannage rights - the right to turn out pigs to feed on acorns and beech mast (nuts) - was from 14th September to the 8th November. Such pigs "must be properly rung" - a ring through their snout. If turned out on the Forest outside the time of pannage or if found "unrung" during the pannage period they were impounded.

Cattle were not allowed on the Forest during the "fence month" i.e. from 20th June to 21st July. This is the period during which the Fallow deer drop their fawns and when they are vulnerable to disturbance.

It seems winters were cold enough and the ice thick enough for folk to remove it - for the preservation of food presumably. Surely only the very biggest residences would have had 'icehouses' in which to keep the ice insulated until the warm weather.

Fluttering clothes on lines and sheets bleaching on bushes, while groups of men played cards behind the bushes, no doubt with a 'lookout' posted for Keepers - suggests a Forest quite different from that today. Riding Schools will be interested to see that the hiring out of horses and ponies required a licence!

Ken Hoy

Obituaries

Harold French

We were very sad to hear of Harold's death in early February. He was a long time member of the 'Friends' and has audited the annual accounts for many years through the reign of 5 treasurers.

He was a senior accountant for De Beers and travelled widely in his work. He was also an enthusiastic naturalist and on many a 'Friends' walk. I personally have been very glad to have the benefit of his bird-watching knowledge.

He was a very popular and sociable man, generous, modest and unassuming, but quietly proud of his family.

He had been rather poorly recently, but he had had a long and energetic life and he and his wife Elsie were regular tennis-players well into their eighties. He was everything we mean by a 'nice man', and he will be very much missed.

Vera Bonner

Our very own Queen Victoria has also died! Vera very kindly agreed to be Queen Victoria on May 8th 1982 at our Centenary Festival, celebrating the centenary of when the first Queen Victoria dedicated "this beautiful Forest to the enjoyment of my people for ever".



We hired a horse-drawn open carriage and Vera, attended by her husband as John Brown and 2 daughters as Ladies-in-Waiting, processed from Chingford station to the Plain, where Sir William Addison gave a formal address of welcome.

Vera always said that was a launch of a new career for her as she had many subsequent requests to be Queen Victoria! She had a regular week's engagement at a Welsh Eistedfod for many years and appeared on one of their postcards.

She will be missed by the many who benefited from her many years of work in the W.I. and as a pianist for drama groups and dance classes.

HELP 1

Following the death of our auditor, we need a replacement. Is there a retired auditor or accountant living not too far from Woodford Green (where our Treasurer lives) who could spare us a few hours once a year to look over our accounts? I believe it is not a huge task as our turnover is less than £10,000 a year. This year the AGM is in May so that books should be finalised during April.

HELP 2

Some months ago a relative (I am now not sure whether it was a son or nephew) of Don Goodwin contacted me and donated Don's collection of E. F. Slides to F.O.E.F. Could that person or anyone who might know who it is, please contact me on 020 8529 8594.

Walk: Saturday December 11th

It poured with rain all the morning, but began to 'peter out' at 1-30 pm, when the walk was due to start. I sat in the car park at Broadstrod and hoped no one would turn up and I could go home! However seventeen hardy folk (including two grandparents and five grandchildren) did turn up - and then the sun came out. We were going to visit some of the places described in this Newsletter (How Well Do You Know the Forest.)

We set off down through the distorted old beech pollards that had been coppiced perhaps as far back as the eighteenth century, down into Hangboy Slade. Dropping steeply for over 30 metres (100 ft.) we found the bridge to cross the stream at the bottom of the valley. Climbing the hill on the other side and leaving The Furze Ground away on our right, we reached the area near the top of the hillside long known as 'The Fox Burrows' - really the site of a very ancient group of badger setts. Badgers deserted it in the 1960's and fallen beeches and wind blown leaves have long since 'disguised' the spot. Passing around the edge of Copley Plain we crossed the Green Ride, here known as the 'Ditches Ride', to reach Hatgate Plain. This old bracken covered clearing is dotted with ancient pollards that have been repollarded recently (1990-1991). Unfortunately, although most of the hornbeams survived, many of the oaks have died.

In 1991 when the area was 'opened up' a great beech was felled to let in more light. At ground level the freshly cut stump was over 4 feet across and it was possible then to count its 'rings'. The rings showed that the tree was some 125 years old when felled. A short distance away an ancient oak pollard (less than 2 feet diameter) had just been repollarded and a 9-inch diameter branch removed. At the time it was possible to count the rings of the branch. Amazingly there were also about 125 rings! So the oak was previously pollarded in the mid-1860's at about the time that the great beech tree had been a seedling! A dramatic illustration of the relatively rapid growth of beech trees and secondly that the pollarded trees are much older than they might appear - because their growth is heavily retarded each time they are pollarded.

We turned north, looked at many more ancient trees and then crossed the ride again and the line of the old 1940 defences - the 'anti-tank trap'. We were then in the area where old beech pollards had been repollarded in 1990 - unsuccessfully - as a result old beeches will not be repollarded and in future only maiden (first time) pollarding of young beeches will be undertaken.

Carefully crossing the bog at the head of the valley we turned towards the Loughton road. The children had seen, giant 'horse tails', walked on carpets of 'cushion moss', run in hollows filled with crisp leaves, found three species of fungi, and examined a huge coppice clump (of coppards), which was really one tree,

that might be 8 - 900 years old - or more!

The sun had shone intermittently. At 3-15 pm. the puddles were still in the car park to wash our boots and the mince pies were delicious, as was the glass of wine to wash down the mince pies! I was glad I hadn't gone home!

Ken Hoy

Walk around Wanstead Park

On 22nd January, a cold and drizzly morning, Peg and I turned up at Warren Road wondering whether anyone else would bother. Luckily a number of brave souls appeared, and we set off down to the Ornamental Water the former course of the River Roding.

Next port of call was the Pump House which raises the water level of the Ornamental Water from the now diverted and straightened Roding. Some lads were fishing in the Ornamental Water. They said that one of them had just caught a 6 pound pike which they had returned to the water. They also declared that the week before they had landed a 32 pound monster over 4 foot long which they had also returned. Remember that next time you are tempted to dangle your fingers in the Ornamental Water! Or were they kidding?

We had a muddy walk along the river as far as the southern boundary of the Conservators' land. The Roding along that stretch is so natural looking with little shingly banks and islands that it is always a pleasure to walk there. Moreover kingfishers are often present but not alas that day.

Returning through what was the Empress Sewage Works we noted the increasing scrub cover and the rather incongruous mown few acres belonging to Redbridge Council. We walked past the Perch Pond, and then the Temple look-a-like tea hut and as it was open decided to boost their income a bit and stopped for welcome refreshment. Even the Heronry Pond has plenty of water in it - not surprising we were tempted to say since the rain had returned, and so on to the Shoulder of Mutton Pond which was covered in gulls, coots and tufted duck.

It was time to head back to the start via the new avenue and the Temple. Some members of the group had been unfamiliar with Wanstead Park when we started, but all agreed that it was a very worthwhile area to visit with varied habitats and a rich history.

Harry Bitten



Wanstead House

Postscript

Postscript to the comments about the Handbill (Newsletter Nov.1999), published in 1817 by the Lord Warden of the Forest. You will remember he urged all persons who 'have an interest in the Forest to suspend judgement upon the propriety of opposing or acceding to the measures to be brought before Parliament (to disafforest Epping Forest)... until some proper Person be authorised to fully explain the intentions of the Government.' (Did they have 'spin-doctors' then?)

You may recall this arose the day after a letter appeared in the 'Morning Post' supporting the move to enclose the Forest and I speculated about the intentions of the Lord Warden in issuing the Handbill and wondering if he had prior knowledge of the letter.

Suspensions were likely to be justified, for when following this up I was not surprised to find that the Lord Warden of the Forest at the time was William Wellesley Pole - notorious owner of Wanstead House and Park who was later to try to deny an age-old right of public access to the Park.

The post of Lord Warden, which had only been devised as an hereditary post in 1786, had passed to Catherine Tylney Long in 1810, on the death of her brother (whilst she was still a minor). Two years later at the age of 17 Catherine was married to William Wellesley Pole. This was the infamous spendthrift rake who was to dissipate all his wife's fortune within the next ten years. Their home, Wanstead House, would be sold and pulled down and Catherine die a year later.

But, soon after the marriage in 1812, Wellesley-Pole in the name of his wife, took the name for them both of William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley, he then assumed "we are the Lord Warden of Epping Forest" and proceeded to preside over the Forest Court - The Court of Attachments. This was a role previously undertaken by one or more of the Verderers or the Lieutenant of the Forest. He also assumed the right to take precedence over the Verderers in presiding at the Court.

In 1817 (remember, just when these early moves to enclose the Forest were commencing) the Courts ceased to meet for thirteen years. When they resumed in 1830 we find he is again presiding - with Verderer Henry John Conyers. (Lord of the Manor of Epping who deceived the commoners of Epping into giving up their lopping rights). Two years later the Courts again ceased until 1843, then only resuming until 1849, which was just two years before Hainault Forest was enclosed and 'grubbed-up'. It was Wellesley-Pole's son, Viscount Wellesley, who in 1851 attempted to enclose 34 acres of Wanstead 'waste' (The Flats) and provoked one of the early outbursts of anger by local residents

Ken Hoy

Dear Editor

It is possibly our older readers who can help me with some research that I am doing for my second book "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts!". As you may guess, I am a fairground Showman, and after the success of my first book which was a sort of autobiographical account of my life on the road, the people you meet, those you like, plus those who greatly discredit the business etc. I would like some help on the following.

Firstly, has anyone got any pictures of any owners of 'swing-boats' etc at High Beach? The names in past were Greenway, Loosey (Lewzy?) and Bob Morry father of Carl who owns the tea hut at High Beach today, but there were others I am told as there have been 'swing-boats' at Oak Plain since Victorian times.

After many years of searching for Bob Mitchell, who married into our family, I finally met Bob again via an aunt. It was his grandparents and great grandparents who operated rides and stalls at two of the Retreats - Yates and a Retreat that stood in Bury Road, Jubilee. Roberts' relatives are the Ellis family, Kate, Bernard, Bertram etc. and their sets of 'Gallopers' (carousels) were at Yates and Jubilee Retreats. One set is *still* operational today at the 'The Bygone Village' a tourist attraction at Fleggburgh Gt. Yarmouth.

I would dearly like to contact Jack Farmer as he has some lovely pictures of the Ellis family and their rides, and would, if permission was given, use them in the section of my new book on the Ellis Family.



On a last note, other showmen of long ago operated rides, stalls, donkey rides etc. at nearly all of the Retreats. Can anyone help me with photos or information on the following - Elsie Bass, Mr & Mrs. Glasscock, Bob Harrington, (The Furlongs inter-married with the Ellis') George, Prudence and Rose Street, 'Lady' Smith, Bertie Smith, Nelson Street and Darkie Street.

Finally, the Ellis family had their base and yard at Stanley Road off Station Road, Chingford (north).

Any of the above information will be gratefully received, and your names credited in my new book if you so wished.

Keith Nicols (Vintage Funfairs)
'Coniston Lodge'
20 Rider Haggard Lane
Kessingland Suffolk
NR33 7PD
Tel.: 01502 741190

John T. Bedford. Again!

Remember, in the March Newsletter last year we wrote about Deputy John Bedford, Member of the Epping Forest Committee in the 1870's and 1880's. He was the man who moved the motion in the Court of Common Council in May 1871 that the City of London should try to save Epping Forest. He then played a leading role in preparing and pressing the Corporation's endeavours through eleven years of legal struggle to the final achievements of the Epping Forest Act in 1878. He was also the man after whom a large Oak tree was named

'The Bedford Oak'. Then rather mysteriously (we think) the tree was renamed 'Grimston's Oak'.

John Bedford, we discovered - see July 99 Newsletter

- was then prominent again with A.C.Morton, M.P., in defence of the small Commoners in their struggle to maintain their Rights of Pasture against the Corporation (when they were Conservators of the Forest) in the late 1880's and early 1890's.

Recently whilst looking through The Transactions & Proceedings of the Essex Field Club for 1883, I found another very interesting reference to John Bedford. It was a footnote to an article 'In Memoriam' to Sir Antonio Brady J.P., F.G.S., who died on December 12th 1881. Sir Antonio was one of the first four Verderers of the Forest until his death. He was Chairman of the Public protest meeting against enclosures on Wanstead Flats on 8th July 1871. This was an open-air meeting attended by thousands of people. He was elected by the Freeholders (Commoners) to be Chairman of the Epping Forest Defence Fund.

On the 20th January 1882, The Epping Forest Committee passed a resolution to place 'on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Sir Antonio Brady to the cause of the preservation of Epping Forest, and of his sincere desire that the toilers of the East end of London especially should not be deprived of so noble a recreation ground'.

Now, the point of all this is the footnote - and it is as follows:

Sir Antonio Brady did not live to see the crowning touch put to the long and arduous work of the rescue of the Forest, by her Majesty the Queen, on May 6th 1882, but his active colleagues of the Epping Forest Fund were present; and it was a matter of surprise and comment that, while the mere ex officio members of the Corporation received all the rewards and honours, the men who had done battle for the Forest for years, including even Mr J.T.Bedford, were utterly ignored and neglected!

These strong words were written in a very prestigious Journal only a year after the Queen visited High Beach and just over a year after Sir Antonio died.

We might speculate what it was that John Bedford and the others did to be 'blackballed', and also, was this why the Bedford Oak became Grimston's Oak?

Ken Hoy

St John's Pond, Buckhurst Hill

This attractive little pond lies at the junction of the High Road and Church Road and of course is part of the Forest.

Recently a major clean out operation has been carried out by forest staff which involved the disappearance of the island which used to be a feature of the pond and in



St John's Pond during silt removal

which coots, moorhen and duck sometimes nested.

Some people locally have expressed regret about the vanished island and have enquired why was it taken away.

The reason, according to Ian Cox, Works Manager at the Warren, is that when the silt removal began it soon became apparent that an enormous amount of material was involved. The huge dump of drying-out silt is there for all to see!

As the silt was removed it became clear that the island itself was merely an accumulation of silt onto which vegetation had grown and given it a solid earth based appearance. When the silt went the island, as it were, melted away.

The pond is now clear right down to the gravel bottom, and is being spring fed from this source, and has now much more water in it than before.

Some poplar trees near a private property boundary were removed because they have an aggressive root system, and could have become a problem over time.

Hopefully (as they say!) vegetation will soon re-colonise the banks of the pond, and water birds, which have now returned, will have a place to nest.

Indigenous crucian carp, which it is said tolerate muddy conditions, were left in the pond but other carp species were removed.

The dump of dehydrating silt will be removed in due course, and soon the little area will look more like a village pond/green again, and will not need major works for another 50 years.

Personally I think that one further improvement that could be made is to keep the cars off it!

Harry Bitten

News in Brief

<http://members.aol.com/friendsef/foef.htm>

Our website is going strong with 2,050 "hits" since July including one lady from America asking about overseas membership. There have been quite a few requests from students for information, help and even jobs - these have been passed to the "appropriate people" as they say.

One disaster; the technology chewed up an e-mail request for help about a rare insect found on the Long Running. If you're out there, please contact us again.

The Forest Supper went well and the new ticketing procedure worked smoothly thanks to Joan Humphreys. The Magpies Nest produced some excellent food, and we think we shall ask them again. Our delivery service was "friendly but a little chaotic", so that is something to be improved upon this year.

Once again thanks to all the members who so generously gave raffle prizes **and** bought tickets. (Thanks to Denis Moss and Joan again for the sales pitch). We do regard this as our one social gathering a year for all our members and many friends connected with E.F., so we don't aim to make a profit but we ended up just £50 short after all expenses were paid.

Doners of raffle prizes: Misses Anslows, Anon. (two), Bargain Bookshop Chingford, Sheila and John Besent, Pat & Terry Bishop, Jack Davis, Barbara Blossom, Wendy Boardman, Marjorie Bossey, Irene & John Buchan, Margaret Charles, Bill Dexter, Michael Davies, John Draper, Joan Edler, Lady Ellis, Dorothy Freedman, Mr. & Mrs. French, Carol Francis, Pat Fearne, C. Gimson, Jean Green, Pat Gunn, Georgina & Mike Green, Irene Greene, Fred Garwood, Rosina Goodwin, Sheila Hobbs, Bill and Joan Humphreys, Mrs. Higginson, John Holtom, Erica Jackson, Mary Jones, Hilary Kunzru, Mr. & Mrs. Moss, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver., Ann & John Pearson, Pat Rolfe, Mr. & Mrs. Royds, Hazel Shukla, Joy & Harry Smith, Jean Smith, Joan Stowers, Iris Sylvester, Mrs. Templeman, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Taylor, Leonard Tull, Mr. & Mrs. Willett, Mr. & Mrs. Wisenfeld.

How Well Do You Know the Forest?

6

This time we will look at the names and places in the Forest on the eastern side of the A121- the road from Loughton to the Wake Arms Roundabout and then the woodland north of the Theydon road and east of the Epping road as far as Epping Cricket Ground. All of this could be called the 'Theydon Woods'.

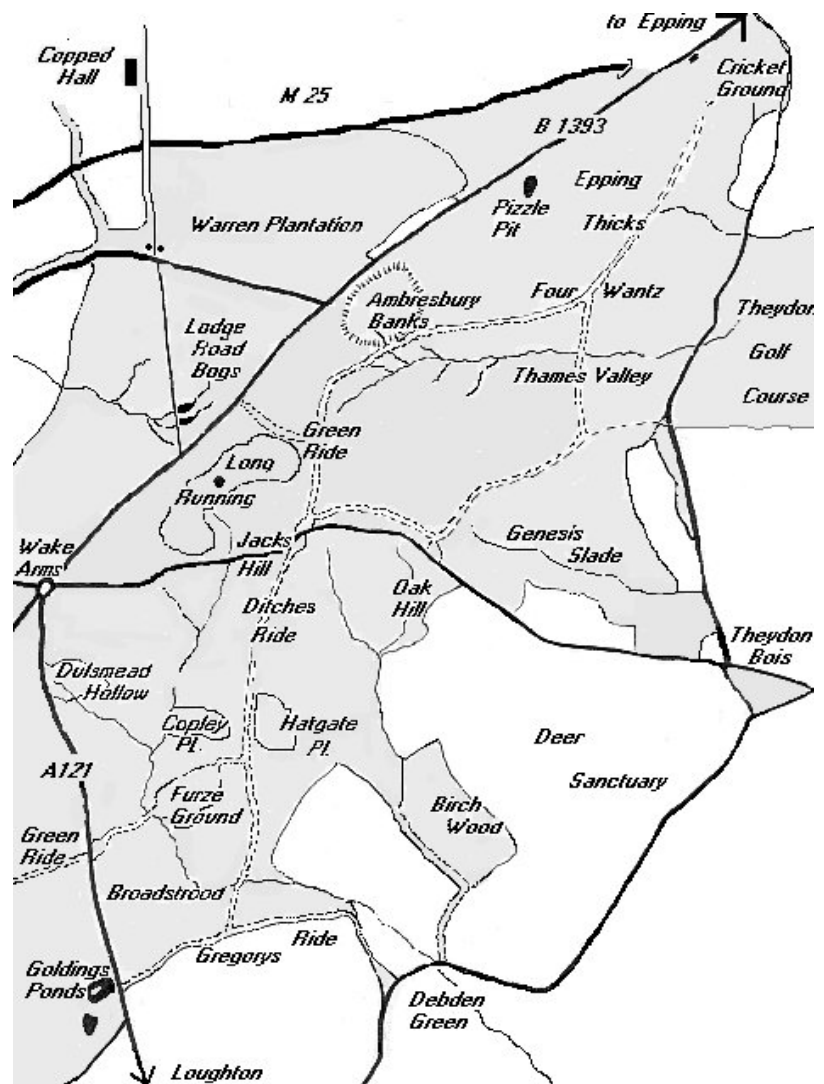
Broadstrood: An area of once largely open marshy land on the east side of the A121 just north of Goldings Hill ponds is where the name Broadstrood is usually applied in recent times. Although, Buxton in 1923 describes it thus - "...the long vista of this graceful valley, the upper end of which is known as 'Hangboy Slade' and the lower part as 'Broadstrood'." This is contradicted however by the map in his book (printed 1883) and the 1868 O.S. Map, both of which place the name (as now) near the road. 'Broadstrood Lodge' was the name of a Keepers Cottage, now demolished. In the 1890's it was the Head Keeper's Lodge. It was a little farther to the north of Goldings ponds and on the opposite side of the road, where the Green Ride crosses the A121. Today rhododendrons, near the car park, show the site of the cottage's garden. The road is interestingly shown on the Chapman-Andre Map (surveyed 1772-4) for it indicates that the Forest was cleared for some distance on either side of the highway. In those days this was a common and necessary precaution taken so that travellers could avoid being surprised by 'highwaymen, footpads and men of evil intent' - and, if you look, there are no very old pollards to be seen near the road!

Hangboy Slade: After the Green Ride crosses the Loughton Road, north of Goldings Ponds at Broadstrood Lodge, it descends into a deep valley and crosses a stream at the bottom. Hangboy Slade was the name by which the valley was commonly known at least as early as the mid-nineteenth century. The upper part of the stream is called the 'Tippa Burn'. The bottom of Hangboy Slade valley was cleared over a decade ago to recreate the old 'slade' (an open glade in a valley)- the western side at least was open in Victorian times. The depth of the valley is surprising when you consider that the stream rises as a boggy spring in heathland hardly more than half a mile to the north!

Furze Ground: This is the open plain that the Green Ride crosses as it climbs out of Hangboy Slade. On

Buxton's map it is shown as a straight sided rectangle. Was it cleared at some time? The old name for gorse, 'furze', is still justified as a name by the gorse bushes growing on the north side of the ride. A few decades ago the bracken and heather covered plain also contained some fine old Crab-apple trees. Alas, only one is left - its fruit popular with the deer. Recent clearance of young Birch trees was aimed at encouraging restoration of the heather.

Fox Burrows: On the hillside north of the Furze Ground the capping of Bagshot sand is honeycombed with burrows - hence the name which was used at least as early as the mid-nineteenth century. Although used by foxes, a population of Badgers also used it until the 1960's. There were no badgers in the Forest during much of the nineteenth century, but Edward North Buxton introduced several pairs into the Forest in 1886. Foxes do not create groups of 'burrows' thus the occupancy by badgers (who do live socially) probably predates their absence in the nineteenth century and thus the site is probably very old as a colony of Badger 'holts'. Most of the holes have since been covered in by wind blown leaves but the excavation mounds can still be seen in front of the sites of the old



entrances towards the top of the hillside.

There is no obvious reason why badgers eventually left the two large well-used setts that existed in the Forest for several decades until the 1960's (the second colony being in Loughton Camp) - other than perhaps the increased use of cars that provided greater public access to the quiet

northern parts of the Forest.

Copley Plain: This plain is a 'bowl' shaped clearing in the hillside just upstream from the 'Fox Burrows' hill. Quite wet and marshy in winter it was cleared of invading birch scrub in the 1980's and its few old oaks repollarded and some young 'maiden' oaks pollarded for the first time. Most of them survived.

Hatgate Plain: This was a rather open area well dotted with old pollard oaks and a few ancient hornbeams with a thick covering of bracken. It is situated beyond the Green Ride (here, called the 'Ditches Ride') east of Copley Plain. It is rather unusual, as most of the surrounding woodland is old beech pollards or ancient Beech coppice. Its management history is no doubt different as it is just south of the boundary between the Manors of Theydon Bois and Loughton. In the winter 1990/1 the area was cleared and 'opened-up' and the old trees repollarded - largely successfully in the case of Hornbeams but only partial so with the Oaks. At the same time an area of beech was repollarded a little farther north on the west side of the ride. This was completely unsuccessful and the policy of repollarding old beeches is no longer practised.

Ditches Ride: This is the name given to part of an ancient (at least Medieval) trackway from Debden Green northwards towards Ambresbury Banks. The (Victorian) Green Ride was routed along this part of the Ditches Ride. In 1940 the Outer Defences of London in the event of invasion were dug along the western side of the ride almost reaching Ambresbury Banks before crossing the old A11 where a 'pill-box' was camouflaged as a cottage and sited at the roadside. The Defence ditch - colloquially called 'the anti-tank trap' had a gentle slope on the outer eastern side but was steep, almost perpendicular, on the western side which was lined with vertical poles of branches and small tree trunks. It thus formed, what was hoped would be, an effective barrier against tanks. Although the ditch was filled in after the war the remnants of the 'spoil' still form a bank to the west of the present ride. A narrow footpath runs along the top of this bank. Along the part south of the Theydon Road - a growth of young oaks with a few young beeches have been pollarded for the first time (maiden pollards) to allow light to reinstate the heathery area alongside the ride.

Gregson's Ride & Williams Ride: Gregson's Ride runs east/west along the southern boundary of the woodland we are considering from where the 'Ditches Ride' leaves Debden Green to the A121 at Goldings Hill. Williams Ride coming from the north joins it halfway along its length.

Dulsmead Hollow: Once more open, this is an ancient swampy clearing just east of the A121 road and north of the site of Broadstrood Lodge. The swamp is the origin of a spring that drains down steeply into the Tippla Burn in the bottom of Hangboy Slade. Take care when crossing this little 'side' stream, as its boggy course is usually hidden by wind blown leaves in many places!

Theydon High Wood: When Buxton's guide book was first published (1885), this name was used for the woodland to the north of the Loughton-Theydon Manor boundary that runs eastwards from the Ditches Ride north of Hatgate Plain. The boundary is visible in parts as a small shallow ditch and bank. On the Loughton side are many old pollarded trees, whilst the Theydon woodland has very few. Presumably in the nineteenth century, the tall unpollarded Theydon trees stood out above the squat pollarded thickets in the Loughton Manor - hence the term

'High' Wood.

Oak Hill: is situated in the last corner of Forest on the right as you enter Theydon Bois on the road from the Wake Arms. Once known as 'Oakhills inclosure', as the Lord of the Manor of Theydon enclosed it in 1842, it was not included in the Forest by the Arbitration Map (1882) as that dealt with enclosures from 1851 to 1871. He had in fact enclosed all the Theydon (forest) 'waste' in the mid-1850's but the only part he was able to retain was the Oakhills enclosure. When in 1889 this area of land was put on the market for 'housing', two Verderers - Sir Thos.Fowell Buxton and Edward North Buxton - purchased it and 'presented' it to the Forest. Previously, the Lord of the Manor intending to build a house for himself in this 'prime spot', had planted some Spanish (Sweet) Chestnuts and Rhododendrons on the hillside - and some of them are still growing there today. At some time before 1889 gravel was excavated from the eastern flank of the hill.

Birch Wood: This partially wooded hillside was once an enclosed coppice woodland and part of the Birch Hall estate. On the western side near the stream can be found the old wood bank that marked the boundary with the Forest. The wood is shown on the Chapman-Andre map (1773) as 'Burch Wood'. Part of the hillside was open a few decades ago and having been invaded by scrub was recently re-cleared to restore the grassland. Some of the old Crab (apple) trees that grew there have been retained. An ancient Green lane still gives access to the Forest from the road near Debden Green; it runs along the south-western boundary bank of Birch Wood separating it from the London Boro.of Newham's camp site.

Jack's Hill: is a misleading name as it is hardly a hill. Where the Theydon Road 'dips' soon after leaving the Wake Arms Roundabout, the road embankment blocks a small valley on the left and forms 'Jacks Hill Bog'. The rise in the land beyond and to the east is Jack's Hill. The land here is 111 m. or some 365 ft. above sea level however. All the semi-open woodland here is Birch trees and old pollarded Beeches.

Long Running: is a long open clearing in the woodland running almost from the Theydon Road near Jack's Hill north-eastwards for nearly half a mile. Its origin is a little mysterious. The boundary between the Manors of Waltham Holy Cross and Theydon runs through the area. On the Waltham side the woodland is old beech pollards and pollarded beech coppice ('coppards') that are even older. The O.S.Map 1868 indicates many pollards along the edge of the woodland, marked as "B.M." (boundary mark). The exact location of the parish boundary would have been important during lopping activities.

Buxton in 1885 describes Long Running thus, " an open heathery plain formerly bare of trees, owing to forest fires; at least this was the case until recently, but now countless young birches give it a pale green cast in the summer." Then, most of the Forest to the east and north was open heathland. Birch scrub has invaded the area more than once since then and has been cleared by more fires and by management policy. But the Chapman-Andre map shows the area tree-covered in 1773, that is, giving no indication of the open Long Running of today! However Buxton also says (in the 1923 edition of his book), "a part of Theydon Manor has been entirely cleared a generation or two back and has developed a fresh young growth of holly and birch, with a surface growth of heather." This could explain the woodland conditions in 1773.

Varied management methods have been tried in recent decades to restore the heather. Since, in spite of or because of fires, birch has invaded rapidly and tussocks of Purple Moor Grass have become dominant. Birch has been pulled and cleared by hand and in places areas of Purple Moor grass have been removed by bulldozing away the topsoil. Some regrowth of heather in these areas has occurred. Finally a large part of Long Running has been fenced and grazed, for some three months of four consecutive years, by LongHorn Cattle. This has with some success kept down the young birch trees, the grass tussocks and young bracken. A pond that has been created for the cattle has 'naturalised' well and is now used by breeding dragonflies. Also in the centre of Long Running a pond has developed from a large wartime rocket crater.

Genesis Slade: This name like many others in the Forest is used by Buxton in his guide book (1885) and the Arbitration map of 1882, therefore it has at least an origin in Victorian times - and probably much earlier - and like many of the names, we know nothing more! Genesis Slade was an open glade down the valley that is parallel to and north of, the road down into Theydon Bois. The tree canopy has closed in over the years but the great windstorm of October 1987 opened the glade up again to some extent. A surfaced horse ride now runs down the southern side of the valley.

Theydon Plain: Situated to the south of the lower part of the stream from Genesis Slade, this ancient grassy plain is on the left as the road from the Wake Arms roundabout descends into Theydon Bois. It is shown on the 1773 map. One of the Riggs' Retreats adjoined it to the west and the Plain was and still is a popular open space where local community events are sometimes held.

Wormleyton Pits: These are old gravel pits from at least the early nineteenth century when the manorial waste provided a local source of gravel to surface the roads. They are situated mostly on the eastern side of the ride that is parallel with, but to the east of, The Green Ride. This Ride joins The Green Ride at the 'Four Wantz' after passing the western edge of the Theydon Golf Course.

The Four Wantz: is the name of the junction of this last ride with the Green Ride. There was once a fourth direction one could take - hence the name - and this has recently been re-opened as an unsurfaced ride. It goes west towards the north-western corner of Ambresbury Banks. Buxton describes it in 1885, "...a beautiful glade, arched by fine beeches, leads diagonally from the high road to the broad 'green ride'...which may be followed to Epping".

Epping Thicks: Bisected by the Green Ride, the dense woodland to the north of the Four Wantz and Ambresbury Banks is known as Epping Thicks. Management policy for the area is 'minimum intervention' - that is, leaving it largely to develop as 'wild' woodland.

Ambresbury Banks: Some 116 m. or 384 ft. above sea level at the highest point of the Forest, this is the other Iron Age Hill Fort that is contemporary with 'Loughton Camp'. Victorian mythology made it the camp of the Icenic Queen Boadicea but there is little evidence to support this and the origin of the earthworks is thought to be some centuries earlier - between 500 and 300 BC. Like Loughton Camp there is little evidence of the site being used for any length of time. It is generally thought to have been a refuge in times of conflict; perhaps over several hundred years. Also like the Loughton fort a spring rises within the site and it seems both had only one entrance. The earliest

reference is 700 years ago when it was described as the camp on Epping Heath. Some sixty or so years earlier Waltham Abbey had been granted a Charter to hold a fair or market on Epping Heath, now Bell Common. A Beacon was also sited there.

Kemp's Lawn: is an old roadside glade - though the name is not shown by Buxton's or the Arbitration map - just north of Ambresbury Banks that has recently been re-cleared of invading blackthorn. The blossom of several old Crab apple trees brightens it in springtime.

Pizzle Pits: Situated just behind Kemp's Lawn, these are probably old gravel pits that may have been dug to surface the old highway into 'Epping Street' (as modern Epping was once called). They are shown as one pond on the Arbitration map of 1882, but they are likely to be much older, possibly eighteenth century if associated with the road. Silted-up now, there is usually one area of water when water levels are high.

Hawcock Pond: This small pond is also beside Kemp's Lawn near the Pizzle Pits. Its origin and date is probably the same.

Thames Valley: This is the main valley that collects the drainage from Ambresbury Bank's spring and other springs in the same area mostly east of the Green Ride. The valley descends through holly thickets north-eastwards towards Theydon Golf Course Clubhouse. The Stream marks this part of the Theydon Bois/Epping parish boundary.

Purlieu Bank: This marks another ancient Forest boundary. Under the old Forest Law in the 13th Century, the 'Purlieu' was an area around the ancient Royal hunting Forest over which the deer and other game were still given a measure of protection. The Bank marks the boundary between the Forest and the Purlieu. It can still be seen as the hedge line along the south-eastern edge of Theydon Golf Course. A public footpath runs along part of it from Little Gregories Lane.

Ken Hoy

Road transport in the Forest and local government co-operation

The Conservators have recently responded to the Essex County Council document the 'Provisional Essex Local Transport Plan' issued in July 1999.

The response is lengthy, detailed and vigorous. It supports the Plan's vision of a 'thriving economy in a good and sustainable environment' and to 'protect and enhance the built and natural environment'.

The Conservators urge bold planning action to reduce the current adverse impact of roads in the Forest which includes:

1. disruption of public access and enjoyment.
2. fragmentation of habitat
3. prevention of the exercise of common grazing rights
4. noise pollution
5. air pollution
6. road accidents
7. spreading of infrastructural developments associated with roads
8. wild life casualties.

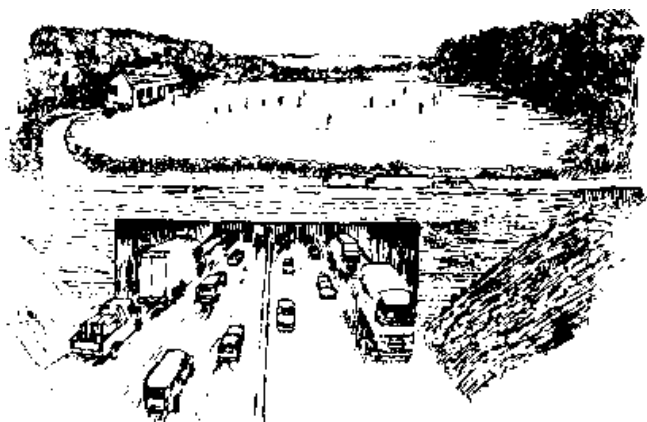
The response proposes that the Forest, as an SSSI and

a candidate S.A.C. (Special Area of Conservation under EC Habitats Directive), should provide the most important and appropriate Pilot area, and ask E.C.C. to adopt this proposal to demonstrate its commitment to its vision and objective of enhancing the natural environment. It is pointed out that the Conservators are currently considering a major project to re-introduce grazing to the Forest.

To facilitate this, roads status needs to be considered carefully. A121/A104/B1393 might be placed in a special sub-set defined as principal; county distributor roads in an environmentally sensitive area.

In relation to Stansted Airport it is important that the position re north facing slips on the M11 at Debden be reviewed. The 'permitted expansion of Stansted Airport in a sustainable way' requires, the Conservators declare, that Epping Forest should be protected from the adverse impact of increased traffic and from infrastructural developments associated with the M11 and A104.

The response indicates that it is vital for the long term



The M25 in a tunnel beneath Bell Common

health of the Forest that traffic volumes and traffic speeds be reduced. The Forest road network should be seen as serving the Forest itself rather than being, as far as the main roads are concerned, ways of breaching the Forest barrier.

In addition to roads management, closure of roads to motor vehicles presents an alternative and imaginative option. In the case of Epping Forest these closed roads could function as cycle and horse routes and would reunite Forest habitats. Lodge Road provides an excellent example of where a start can be made.

The Conservators draw attention to the fact that there is no mention of the safety of horse riders and urges that this subject is addressed.

On the matter of town centre through traffic, Loughton being specifically mentioned, it is important that displacement should not be at the expense of the local natural environment.

In respect of inter urban travel it is important that the roads hierarchy needs sharper definitions so as to re-classify the A121/A104/B1393.

From the Friends point of view this is excellent stuff all of which we would probably agree with wholeheartedly. However, one comment we could make in respect of traffic speeds, and particularly traffic volumes is in respect of the daily commuter surge back and forth through the Forest. In order to reduce this it is absolutely vital that there should be discussion and co-operative action between all the local government authorities concerned.

Pressure for improved public transport needs to be

combined with enforceable parking restrictions in Epping, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill, Woodford and Waltham Forest in order to stem the commuter flood.

The portents of local government co-operation are not brilliant. To test the hypothesis take a look at Brook Road running between Whitehall Plain and the Birkbeck. This is a narrow road with a heavy traffic flow which until recently has been de-restricted from Whitehall to Tuttlebee Lane. Most of the part of Brook Road that runs through the Forest is in Redbridge but the rest is in Epping Forest District. A few months ago Redbridge approached the Conservators with the proposal to put street lighting along the road and establish a 30 mph restriction. It was not, it was said, possible to do the latter without doing the former. The Conservators said that they welcomed the notion of a 30 mph restriction, but did not support the idea of street lighting on this Forest road.

What has happened now is that Brook Road has a 30 mph restriction, red stripes across it and rumble strips. It hasn't got street lighting. Fine - so what is the problem?

Well, the 30 mph goes only to the boundary between the two districts. At this point there is a de-restricted sign which lasts all of 75 yards before the built-up part of the road is reached where there is another 30 mph sign. Local government co-operation! Where is it?

Incidentally in the consideration of difficult/dangerous road crossings we have tended to concentrate on the Epping New/Woodredon/Golding/Jack's Hill Roads. There are many other danger spots further south, one such being the crossing from Whitehall Plain of Whitehall Road. Road speeds have made for a very dangerous crossing. Crossing Chingford Lane from The Lops to Highams Park is another. Crossing the A104 anywhere between Waterworks and Whipps Cross is better not attempted. There are many other problem sectors in the whole southern Forest area.

Essex County Council can do nothing there but perhaps the new Mayor of London may in due course be able to help with some joined-up government.

Harry Bitten.

We have an interesting and varied series of monthly walks arranged for you and a lively speaker for our AGM. We look forward to seeing you all at some of these events.

Editor

Dates for your Diary

March 16th Thursday 10-30 am. An early spring walk touching the Greenwich Meridian line in the Lea Valley with a chance of seeing migrating waders and (depending on the weather) the earliest summer visitors. Meet in the Cornmill Meadows car park on the B194 (Crooked Mile) travelling north from Waltham Abbey roundabout. The car park the first on the left after about quarter mile.

Leader, Alan Everett GR 384 017

April 14th Friday 1-30 am. A hilly walk from Earls Path Pond to Loughton Camp in the area bounded by four hills; Shelley's, Broom, Blackweir and Staples. Meet in the car park halfway along the Forest part of Earls Path Rd. from the Robin Hood P.H. to Loughton (opposite the pond).

Leader, Irene Buchan GR 416 968

May 20th Saturday 7 am.

An early-ish walk around Connaught Water and the

Fairmead thickets. Meet in the car park at Connaught Water, Rangers Road.

Leader Ken Hoy GR 404 952

May 22nd Monday 7.30 pm.

The friends of Epping Forest A.G.M. at the Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road (off Broadmead Road) Woodford Green. Agenda enclosed. GR 402 918

June 24th Saturday 7.30 pm.

A summer's evening walk through the woods and fields of Sewardstonebury to take in some superb views to the west. Meet in Hornbeam Lane, off Bury Road, Chingford.

Leader Peter Read GR 303 057

July 22nd Saturday 12 noon.

A tour around Moreton Village and a picturesque circular walk along green lanes and a winding brook. Meet in the car park of the Nags Head P.H. Moreton for a pre-walk drink.

Leader Bill Dexter GR 533 070.

How to get to Moreton: Travelling north from Epping, take right fork B181 past St. Margaret's Hospital, through North Weald Bassett to the roundabout at the Talbot P.H. Turn right on to the A414, and then the first left to Moreton.

August 24th Thursday 10 am

A walk in the Theydon Woods taking in the ancient earthworks Ambresbury Banks and the Long Running, fencing and grazing experiment. Meet in the car park at Jack's Hill on the B172 road from the Wake Arms roundabout to Theydon Bois **GR 436 995**

Advance Notice

September 24th Sunday 9 am. Centenary Walk from Manor Park to Epping (Details in July newsletter).

November 24th Friday FOREST SUPPER. (Details in July newsletter).

Other Dates

Epping Forest Information and Museum Service
Tel.: 0208 508 0028

March 12th Sunday 10.30 am Walk - Earthworks & Cellars. Meet opposite the Foresters' Arms P.H. Baldwins' Hill Loughton. Leader Richard Morns GR 426 975

April 9th Sunday 10.30 am Walk led by Superintendent John Besent.

May 3rd Wednesday 2 pm Walk - Spring in the Lower Forest. Meet in the car park of the Blacksmith's Arms P.H. Thornwood. Leaders Amanda Samuels and Tricia Moxey.

May 4th Thursday 7pm. Walk - Spring Beeches. Meet at the Information Centre at High Beach. Leader Jeremy Wisenfeld.

May 14th Sunday 10.30 am Walk - Cobbins Brook. Leader John Hottom.

June 11th Sunday 10.30 am Walk - Hollow Ponds. Leader Peter Adams.

June 22nd Thursday Walk - Summer Flowers of Sheppard's Meadows.

June 24th Millennium Edwardian Fair in Wanstead Park.

September 10th Sunday 12 noon - 4 pm Forest Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge FOEF Stall.

London Cycling Campaign Redbridge Group.

June 24th Saturday Woodford Meet. A re-enactment of the Cycle Ride and Fancy Dress Parade.

Debden House, Loughton Tel.: 020 8508 3008

Natural History week-end course.

June 30th-2nd July. Summer in E.F. and the Lee Valley - exploring the wildlife of the contrasting areas.

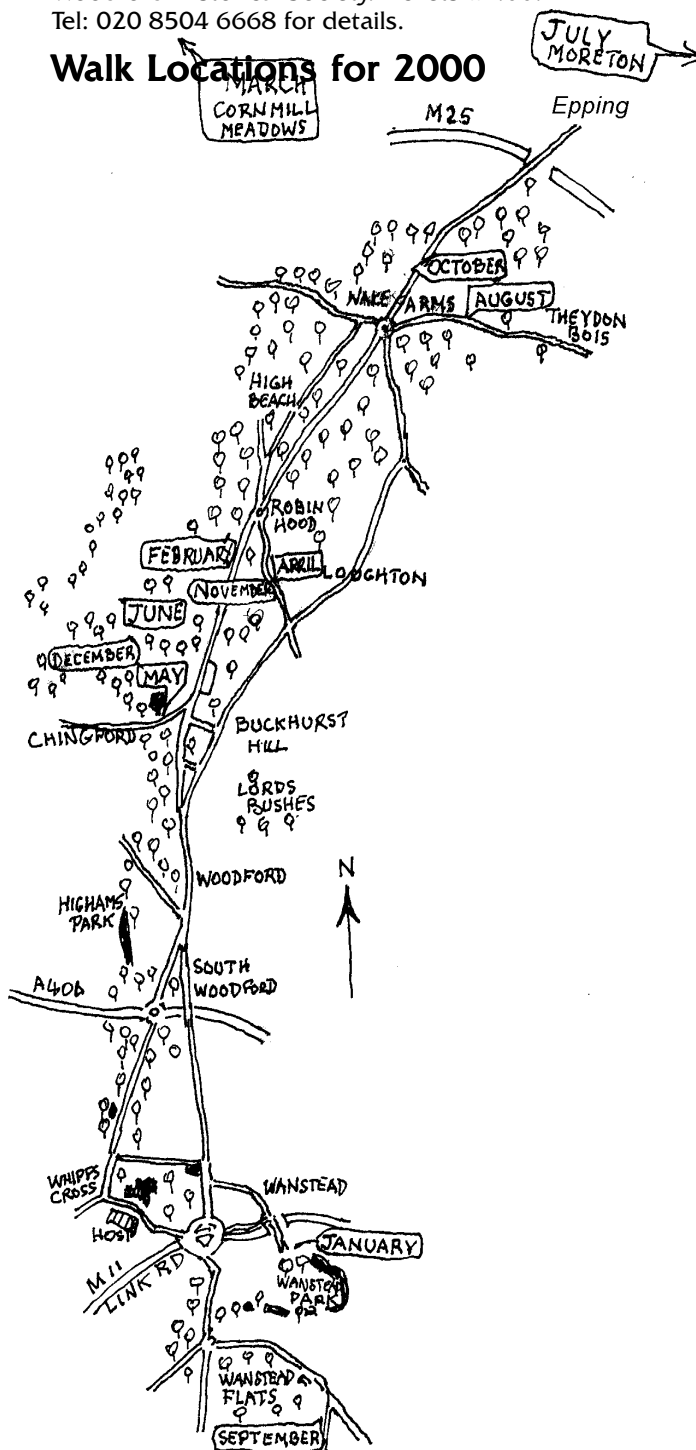
Buckhurst Hill Community Association

Bedford House, Westbury Road Buckhurst Hill

May 12th Friday 7.30pm

Epping Forest - Tudor Hunting to Cockney Playground, an illustrated talk by Peter Lawrence, Chairman of Woodford Historical Society. Tickets £4.00. Tel: 020 8504 6668 for details.

Walk Locations for 2000



THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FORM OF NOMINATION FOR OFFICE HOLDERS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on **Monday 22 May 2000**
at the Sir James **Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green at 7.30pm**

Agenda for A.G.M

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 26th April, 1999
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report 1999/2000
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Chairman
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Auditor
8. Any Other Business

After the meeting and a break for coffee there will be an illustrated talk (speaker to be announced).

Officers at present are:

Chairman: Ken Hoy due for re-election in 2000

Vice-Chairman: Sue McKinley due for re-election 2001

Hon. General Sec: Mrs. Peggy Bitten due for re-election in 2002

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Sheppard due for re-election in 2002

Hon. Membership Sec: Seymour Moss due for re-election 2001

Existing Committee members willing to stand are:

Harry Bitten, Irene Buchan, John Buchan, Eric Cropper, Bill Dexter, Bill Humphreys, Sue McKinley, Jim Glimson, Peter Read and Joy Smith.

Committee members are re-elected each year and those listed above have agreed to stand. If you wish to submit nominations for the post of General Sec. and Hon. Treasurer or Committee members, please complete the form below and send it to: Mrs. P. Bitten, 9 Frederica Road, Chingford E4 7AL by 12th April 1999.

THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST - *NOMINATION FORM*

I nominate for the office of Chairman or Committee member

(Please delete as appropriate)

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel:

Signature of Candidate

Signature of Proposer Tel:

Name In Capitals

Signature of Seconder Tel:

Name in capitals

If you wish to nominate for more than one office, please write details as above on a separate sheet.

**MINUTES of the 1999 Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Epping Forest
held at the Sir James Hawkey Hall on Monday 26th April at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Committee Members K. Hoy Chairman, Mrs. P. Bitten Secretary, S. Moss Treasurer, Mrs. J. Miller Membership Secretary, H. Bitten, Mrs. I. Buchan, J. Buchan, E. Cropper, B. Dexter, C. Gimson, W. Humphreys, Mrs. S. McKinley, P. Read, Mrs. J. Smith, T. Sheppard.

73 members were present.

APOLOGIES were received from: Mr. & Mrs. Andrews, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. M. McKinley, Mrs. R. Mitchell, Mr. J. Nicholson, Mr. C. Pyne.

The Chairman welcomed members and mentioned that our first meeting had been in January 1969.

1. THE MINUTES of the last meeting held on the 27th April 1998 were approved and signed.
Proposed by H. Bitten, Seconded by P. Adams.
2. MATTERS ARISING
There were none.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1998/1999
A copy of the Report will be enclosed with the July Newsletter. Adoption of the Report was proposed by S. Moss, seconded by P. Read and carried unanimously.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT
The Treasurer's Report was presented by S. Moss and the Balance Sheet explained. Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Mrs. I. Buchan, seconded by H. Bitten and carried unanimously. A suggestion from the floor that too much money was held at the door at the Forest Supper led to various suggestions, including payment at the door by cheque and these will be considered by the Committee. Mr. Moss was retiring as Treasurer and the Chairman thanked him for bravely taking on the job.
5. ELECTION OF HON. GENERAL SECRETARY AND HON. TREASURER
Mrs. Bitten was thanked for her continued hard work and unstinting effort. There had been no other nominations and Mrs. Bitten was re-elected unanimously. Mr. Tony Sheppard had volunteered to act as Treasurer. He was introduced by the Chairman and his appointment was carried unanimously. Proposed by K. Hoy, seconded by P. Bitten.
6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mr. Pyne had resigned as Vice Chairman and Mrs. S. McKinley had agreed to take over the position. The Vice Chairman is due for re-election in 2001 and her appointment for the interim period was endorsed. Mrs. Miller had resigned as Membership Secretary and will continue as a Committee Member. She was thanked for her long active service. Her membership card is number two! Mr. Moss had agreed to take over as membership secretary, due for re-election in 2001 and this was formally endorsed.
Committee members were as listed in Agenda with the exception of S. McKinley who was replaced by J. Miller. The names of the Committee members were read. There had been no other nominations and they were re-elected en bloc.
7. ELECTION OF AUDITOR
Mr. French had kindly agreed to continue to act and was elected unanimously. Proposed H. Bitten Seconded W. Humphreys.
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.
In reply to questions from the floor regarding the renaming of Grimston's Oak, it was stated that the role played by Bedford was being researched. Both names will be used on maps. The north facing slips at Debden were dropped following a Government review of road schemes. The Superintendent had proposed that the Forest should be a site of Special Protection.