



Dear Friend,

EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN



First let me say thank you all for the splendid effort you made by collecting signatures on the Green Belt petition forms. The Friends collected over 9000 signatures and so together with those collected by other local bodies Eleanor Laing M.P. for Epping Forest was able to present to Parliament a Petition urging the Government to lay off the Green Belt, with over 13,000 signatures on it. A fantastic effort!

Apparently the Petition triggered-off nearly a thousand readers letters to Guardian Newspapers, more than they've ever had on any subject!

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Above, Epping Forest MP Eleanor Laing receives the petition from CPRE (Essex) Epping Branch chairman Terry Callaghan (on her left).

Right, Eleanor Laing presenting the petition to Parliament

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AND NOW ...

As you recall, originally 18,600 houses were planned for Epping Forest District; that has now been reduced to 11,000 still far too high and damaging to the Green Belt and the Forest, but a step in the right direction. We cannot say that it was our Petition alone that brought about the reduction, but we are sure it helped!

So far so good, but there's more to be done and we urge all our members to pick up their pens just one more time. Act now because when the houses and industrial units start going up, the Green Belt countryside disappears and the traffic doubles, it will be too late.

Background

As you know a year or so ago John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister instructed the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) - a body with limited democratic credibility - to accommodate 478,000 housing units in the Region between 2001 - 2021. Bear in mind that doubtless well before 2021 another Plan will be put forward for the subsequent 20 years demanding more inroads into the Green Belt and more countryside be given up to housing and associated infrastructure. What happened to sustainability?

To accommodate Mr. Prescott's demands the EERA has produced the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) now called, the East of England Plan which runs to 300 pages and put it out to public consultation which expires on 16 MARCH. Accompanying the Plan are two other documents, A Summary of the Pre-Submission Consultative Statement and A Summary of the Sustainability Approved Report.

A letter was also sent indicating that "At the EERA meeting 5.11.04 the Assembly voted to submit the Draft E of E Plan to the Deputy Prime Minister". In doing so they stated that "it would not be possible to deliver the increased growth rates demanded without significant investment in infrastructure".

In December the Assembly deplored the Government's grossly inadequate transport infrastructure proposals. Bearing in mind that the Assembly's acceptance of the massive growth imposed on the Region was conditional upon adequate Government provision of the necessary infrastructure funding, "they now wished to make clear that they now regards their **endorsement of the draft Plan as suspended pending a re-examination of the Government's willingness to support it's own aspirations adequately in financial terms**".

Despite this EERA wish to go ahead with the public consultation. Please note that the Plan is the document that will replace County Structure Plans under the new system. Once the Plan is ratified by Government, local communities will have little influence over developments in their area; Local Development Frameworks (which replace the old District Plans) will be mere local interpretations and applications of policies imposed from above.

The E of E Plan is based on Government definition of sustainable development:

1. *Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone*
2. *Effective protection of the Environment*
3. *Prudent use of natural resources*
4. *Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.*

Very different from Gro Bruntland definition when she was E.C. Commissioner for the Environment:

"Meeting the needs of the present without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet theirs."

Housing Distribution

The Plan proposes to distribute the 478,000 homes around the Region as follows:

	Annual Average	Total
<i>Bedfordshire and Luton</i>	535	10,700
<i>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</i>	4465	89,300
<i>Essex, Southend, and Thurrock</i>	6170	123,000
<i>Hertfordshire</i>	3980	79,600
<i>Norfolk</i>	3630	72,600

In addition 43,000 are earmarked for the Milton Keynes area. Essex, as may be seen is much the biggest recipient of housing development and much of this is concentrated around the so-called London Arc, which suggests that much of the population destined to occupy these houses will derive via London. Many of these will continue to work in London and add to the heavy commuting burden that our area, including the Forest, already bears. For instance a proportion of the housing will be 'affordable' and destined for 'key workers' who cannot afford to buy in London and who consequently will join the commuters!

In fact the Plan rather desperately declares that it will "seek to ensure that job opportunities are present prior to housing provision." It is easy to write this in a document rather less easy, to deliver. Harlow was planned so that, people who lived there would also work there and walk or cycle to their jobs. It hasn't worked out like that!

In fact the Plan (in 2.14) declares "It is not easy to predict the exact sources of future inward migration to the Region (to occupy all the houses!) but if present trends continue the major gross flows into the Region will come from London (approx. 40% of all in-migrants) and from overseas (20%)"

Nearly 5½ million people live in the Region. Given the proposed approx. 1/2m homes and the virtually inevitable further development after the Plan period, it is entirely possible that the Region's population could double in 30 years time. This would lead to further massive environmental and quality of life deterioration that our children and grandchildren and others will have to bear, assuming that they don't all emigrate to escape.

The separate S.E.A. (Environment Report) Chapter 4 states that "The baseline shows that a number of aspects of the environment- area are already seriously stressed by human impacts. Further development on any significant scale is likely to have serious negative impacts on water resources, biodiversity, tranquillity, air quality, recreational access and congestion. The larger the volume of development the harder it will be to avoid increased flood risk, erosion of the quality and distinctiveness of settlements, the built environment and landscape".

The Report goes on to say that "it suspects that the level of growth proposed for the Region could be accommodated with much less environmental damage in many other parts of the U.K. However studying this was beyond the remit of the Report and no evaluation seems to have been carried out by the Government."

Transport

It is interesting that the Plan is based on Stansted Airport expanding only to the maximum capacity of the existing runway estimated: at 35mppa. On the other hand the Government plan for airports expansion envisages the

construction of further runways at Stansted with the resultant vast, increase in passenger, numbers. If the Government's aspirations prevail there will be even more environmental and congestion damage not catered for in the Plan or assessed in the Environment Report!

The Plan refers to the Regional Transport Strategy as a way of coping with all the housing and other development proposed.

The objectives of the R.T.S. are to:

1. Improve opportunities to access jobs, services and leisure.
2. Enable infrastructure programmes and transport service provision to support both existing development and that proposed in the Plan.
3. Reduce need to travel (obviously doesn't apply to air travel!)
4. Reduce transport intensity of economic activity inc. freight.
5. Minimise environmental impact of transport provision and travel, protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.
6. Improve safety and security.

To achieve these objectives the RTS seeks to:

1. Widen travel choice : increasing and promoting opportunities for travel by means other than the private car, particularly walking and cycling and public transport, improving seamless travel through the provision of quality interchange facilities and raising travel awareness.
2. Promote the carriage of freight by rail and water and encourage environmentally sensitive distribution.
3. Stimulate efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure efficiently maintaining and managing existing road, rail, port and airport infrastructure.

Later in the Plan at 8..17 it is admitted that movement of freight around the Region is largely by road (88% nationally!) Moreover there are upcoming proposals for large scale port developments at Shellhaven, Stanford-le-Hope (3.5 million containers per annum)and Haven Gateway, Harwich (3.2 million c.p.a.)

The Plan acknowledges that if these proposals go ahead - which is likely - it will be necessary to re-consider regional and sub-regional investment priorities

In these circumstances the objectives listed above, especially re movement of freight other than by road seem a

continued over...

From ESSEX PROTECTOR CPRESSEX Newsletter (Environment Report)

A STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

Helen Clothier explains the background and summarises the conclusions

What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment?

A SEA is a way of testing a plan to see what effect the proposals, if carried out, would have on the environment. The objective is to give a high level of protection to the environment and to make sure environmental matters are given full consideration. If the environment would be severely affected by the proposals or policies then these should be altered. The word 'environment' here is used in the widest sense, including the likely impact on water and energy supplies as well as the more obvious impacts on the countryside and increased traffic congestion.

Why do we have to have a SEA?

European Directive 2001/42/EC states that a wide range of plans, including strategic planning documents, must have a SEA. From the CPRESSEX point of view this is a good thing. It helps to bring environmental matters to the fore. However, unless it is done properly it may not be effective. The Assessment should be applied throughout the preparation of the document, from first draft to final document. Unfortunately in the case of the East of England Plan this has not been done as the Directive has only just been introduced.

Where is the SEA most critical of the East of England Plan?

The basic challenge underlying the whole RSS is that the rate and intensity of economic and housing development which the region faces is intrinsically damaging to the environment and threatening to many aspects of quality of life.' (page 69 of the full Report). CPRESSEX considers that this statement questions the whole ethos of the Plan and in particular the Growth Areas in the London-Peterborough corridor and Thames Gateway.

It is not only the location of the new development, but also the rate at which it is to be built that will damage the countryside and other aspects of our environment. We question whether account has been taken of the environmental capacity of these areas - are they capable of absorbing this amount and rate of change without serious damage? It appears that the SEA thinks not.

The SEA says that the scale of development is likely to have serious negative impacts on water supply, biodiversity, tranquillity, air quality, recreational access and congestion. It will also be hard to avoid increased flood risk, erosion of the quality and distinctiveness of settlements and the built environment and landscapes. This list looks like a list of those things that CPRESSEX thinks are important for our quality of life. Lets consider just three of them,

Water supply and Flood Risk

Essex already imports a high proportion of its water supply in the summer. Where will the additional supply come from for the population growth? Will it involve new storage reservoirs and what effect will importing water have on the environment of the area from which it is extracted? While we may face difficulties with water supply we also face increased flood risk caused not only by climate change but also by more urbanisation (and thus more water running off concrete surfaces), a sinking coastline and an increased reluctance by those responsible to maintain our coastal defences.

Tranquillity

As well as economic, housing and other associated developments the Plan includes the expansion of Stansted Airport and ports at Shellhaven (now called London Gateway) and Bath-side Bay (Harwich). Will there be anywhere in Essex that is tranquil when even more people fly from Stansted Airport and the development of the airport and ports increases traffic across our County?

touch unrealistic! Also unrealistic, in our view, is the notion that walking and cycling will make any significant impact on the travel scene.

The Plan states at 8.17 that freight is a topic where the Regional Assembly will be considering further work (cynics would say words rather than work!)

Green Belt

The Plan accepts that the heavy developmental burden placed on the Region and Sub-Regions will require 'revision' of Green Belt boundaries, this despite John Prescott the Deputy Prime Minister's declaration in the national media that "we will preserve and extend the Green Belt in all our regions". The Plan indicates that areas taken out of the G.B. will be replaced by including other areas within the G.B. The only way this can be done is to include areas adjacent to the outer perimeter which will mean that the G.B. will just move outwards. One of the stated purposes of the G.B. is to prevent settlements coalescing whereas this is exactly what will happen to Harlow and North Weald. Another point about G.Bs. is their permanence!

In addition to the sections in the Plan on subjects, housing, transport etc. there are specific sections on each of the Sub-Regions. Ours is the Stansted/M11. Sub-Region!

Stansted/M11 Sub-Region

5.130 in the Plan states that "Harlow and the Lee Valley have a number of economic strengths. They need to capitalise on the economies of London and Cambridge and their strategic communication links and the Stansted growth focus. They are the key locations for significant inward economic investment in the sub-Region having more immediate potential than many other areas closer to Stansted Airport". So much for one of the objectives of the Regional Transport Strategy "to reduce the need for travel".

Harlow is due for major expansion with at least 10,000 dwellings to the North and an additional 8,000 to the East (fill-in up to the Mil) There would be a more limited (2,700) development (sustainable of course!) to the south and west. This will fill up much of the open countryside between Mark

Bushes and Parndon Wood and to the west of the latter. This brings development dangerously close to Epping Long Green an Epping Forest outlier. A new extension eastwood to the A414 will be constructed to the north of Harlow and this will require a new access onto the Mil north of the Hastingwood access.

Epping Forest District

The major development here, apart from part of that around Harlow, mentioned above, to make-up the 11000 home allocated, is the disappearance of the historic North Weald airfield - all Metropolitan Green Belt - under 6000 homes and 25 hectares (60 + acres) of employment land development. This will triple the size of North Weald and have the effect of creating a continuous conurbation with Harlow. An enlarged Hastingwood Roundabout will be required to try to cope with the increased traffic - more Green Belt countryside! - and park and ride facilities will be required at N.W. airfield and Harlow Town Station. These will "provide for high quality passenger transport access (bus!) to Harlow Town Centre and Stansted Airport". All this will impact on the Lower Forest and inevitably lead to pressure to expand Thornwood eastward to the M11.

The Plan states at 5.142 that "The Sub-Region already suffers peak time congestion on both road and rail networks with the competing demands of local traffic, commuting movements, through traffic and access to Stansted Airport. "A number of transport improvements are currently being implemented or planned (whatever these are they don't seem to have made any discernable improvement!)" "Additional traffic generated by proposed developments including Stansted expansion will require further improvements. The details of transportation infrastructure improvements will be informed by further studies currently underway". It would have been useful to know what these studies are going to prescribe because the present lines of communication southwards, the Central Line, Epping New Road, Sewardstone Road and M11 are all overcrowded, especially at peak times and there wouldn't seem to be much room for manoeuvre to say the least! The Forest is in the Way!

continued on page 7...

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The SA/SEA of the RSS for the East of England has found that:

"the great majority of the impacts of policies are positive. The pattern of development which the RSS seeks to encourage should make the region's environment, and quality of life for its residents, much better than would be case without it,"

However, the SA/SEA has also found that it will be extremely difficult to implement the RSS in a way that meets all its policy objectives because of the 'step-change' in delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure called for in the RSS. This may help to achieve some of the economic and social goals for the region, it is also likely to lead to a number of significant adverse impacts on the environment, despite many good environmental policy safeguards in the RSS.

The RSS lacks the powers to ensure that development meets true sustainability standards. The scale and pace

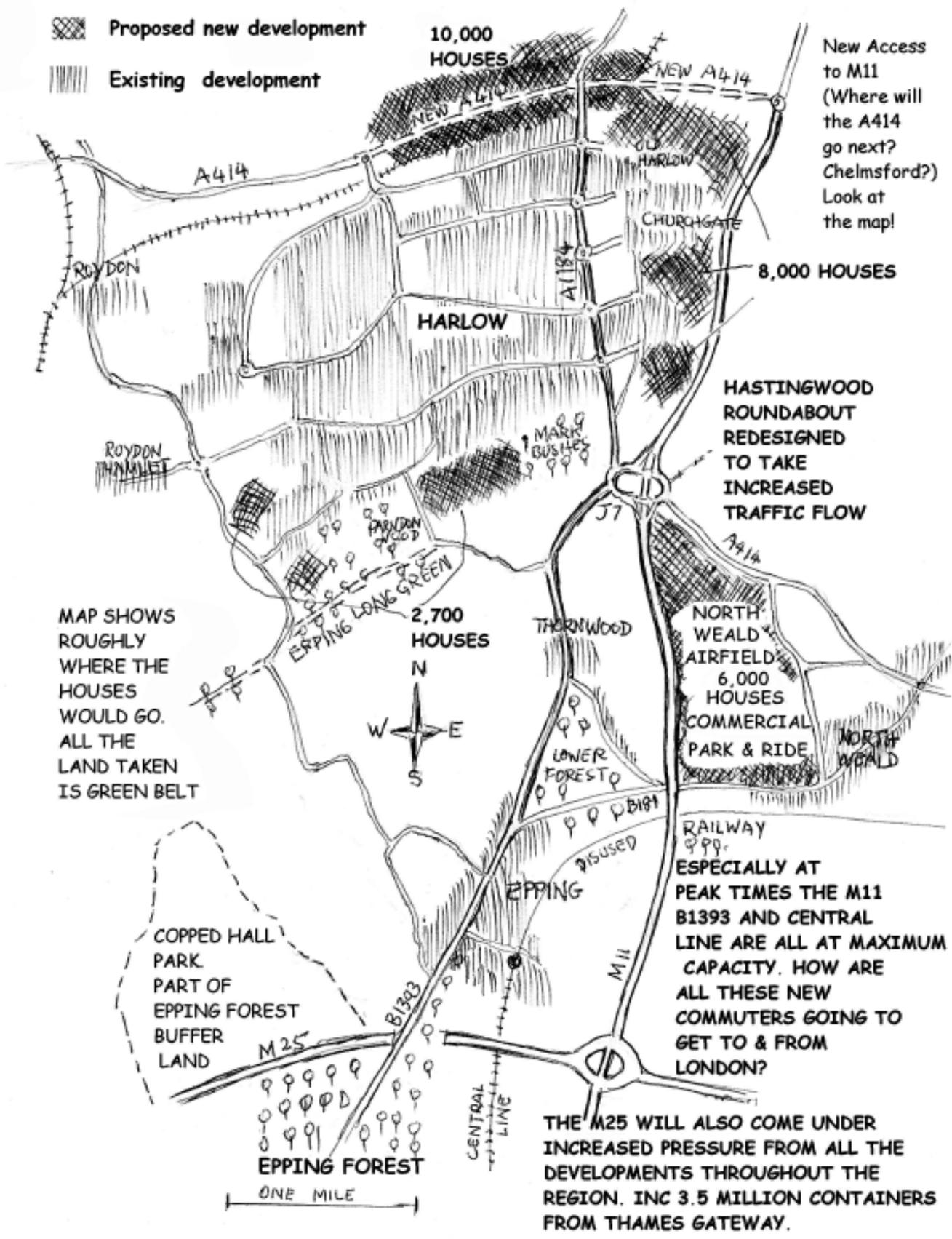
of growth envisaged is likely to be highly environmentally damaging unless planning controls are combined with other measures to ensure that new development achieves a 'step change' improvement in resource intensity, including approaching zero net climate change impacts, piped water demand, road traffic generation and loss of wildlife habitat.

The SA/SEA has helped to influence the content of RSS from its inception, through to the draft being put forward for public consultation. Many earlier recommendations for improvement have been taken up. But a number of outstanding and additional recommendations remain that would further improve the sustainability performance of the RSS.

Given the challenges ahead, it is essential to ensure that the overall objectives of RSS feed through into other delivery mechanisms, such as Local Development Frameworks, Local Transport Plans, and infrastructure funding. It will also be essential to monitor the sustainability outcomes that can be attributed to the RSS. This will help to determine at as early a stage as possible whether development is being delivered in accordance with the RSS, and if not, where corrective action needs to be taken.

 Proposed new development

 Existing development



The effect of all this development and associated traffic movements particularly into London and bearing in mind the enormous development envisaged along the Thames Gateway, adding around and through London traffic, will be to seriously increase the acknowledged congestion, pollution and quality of life deficits that already beset north east London, West Essex and Epping Forest.

The Local Transport plan, evolved over recent years has recognised the negative effects both biological and recreational on Epping Forest caused by traffic penetration and atmospheric, air and noise pollution and seeks to mitigate these aspects by reducing traffic through the Forest. However these attempts will be destroyed by the unsustainable levels of development in the East of England Plan.

We reproduce here (see page 3) an extract from the Essex Protector (CPRE's Newsletter) which gives a synopsis of their view of the Plan's proposals and the Environment Report as they affect the County as a whole.

We are of course concerned about that aspect but crucially we have our own misgivings especially relating to the loss of Green Belt countryside and the effect of all the traffic generation on Epping Forest and the area generally.

EERA asks that comments on the Plan be sent on the form copied on these pages. The key Chapters - for the top of the form - are:

5. Sub-Regional and sub area policies (Green Belt etc.)
7. Housing (over development)
8. Transport (congestion, pollution, lack of infrastructure.
9. Environmental Resources (water, flood, using up of agricultural land)

The Plan may be downloaded from www.eera.gov.uk and Theydon Bois Preservation Society have done a useful rundown of views and responses which can be accessed at www.theydon.org.uk.

We have done our best to pick out and comment on the salient points of the E.F. Plan and Environment Report and give something of their flavour which seems to us to be largely to try to cover the problems by the use of excessive wordage! Rather than go to the considerable trouble and expense of doing a separate distribution we have decided to bring forward this edition of the Friends Newsletter to give all members the time to digest the contents - with the help of a metaphorical Rennie or two - in time to make your objections before 16 MARCH. If we all act together we can bring about a mitigation of this Plan!

To add grist for your mill we reproduce here (below) the Conclusions in the Environment Report. Keep in view that the piece in italics should be read that if the policies were not present it would be even more difficult to cope with the level of development proposed.

As the response form indicates, it should be used for one subject only but may be copied for use on further subjects. On the other hand we understand the EERA are prepared to accept letters although to guarantee that your objections (we assume that, you will object!) will be given due weight it would be best to structure the missive with headings, General, Housing, etc. etc.

We hope that we have given enough information for members to make their objections. There would be absolutely no harm in making objections of a general nature particularly the vast housing numbers imposed on the Region and the resultant congestion, loss of countryside and tranquillity. However the important points for the Friends to make is the

enormous effect on the Forest of the major loss of Green Belt via expansion of Harlow, especially to the east, west and south and the destruction of the historic North Weald Battle of Britain airfield for housing and employment etc. Furthermore there is no strategy in the Plan to cope with the acknowledged problems of increased commuting into London which will impinge on the already congested Forest Roads.

You can if you wish quote the following for a letter of 15th March 2004 from Prescott to Ian Duncan Smith: "I am pleased to give you the assurance you seek that the Government would not accept development proposals – whether from EERA, local authorities developers – that would threaten the conservation value of the Forest". He goes on to say "However the conservation and enhancement of the Forest setting should not be confused with the identification of suitable locations to meet the regions development needs that are well away from the Forest and where development would not impact an its conservation" see Epping Forest District heading above re Epping Long Green and Lower Forest.

Address your responses to:

The Panel Secretary,
c/o East of England Regional Assembly,
Flempton House,
Flempton,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP28 6EG

Please copy your objections to us, your MP and, if you wish, to Rt. Hon. John Prescott, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 26 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2WH

For future updates on the EE Plan see:

www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk



North Weald Parish Council is hosting a presentation on the East of England Regional Plan at North Weald Golf Club at 8pm on Wednesday, February 16.

COPY OF EERA PLANNING RESPONSE FORM



Office Use Only	
Resp No:	
Rep No:	
Date Rec:	
Ack:	

If possible please submit all responses online via our website www.eera.gov.uk or download and submit form by email to: planning@eera.gov.uk

To enter text on this form click in the grey box and type or print it out and fill it in manually

Please use one form per representation (please feel free to photocopy this)

Return this form by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 16th March 2005

Comments submitted by/on behalf of :	
Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss etc):	
Initials:	
Surname:	
Organisation (if applicable):	
Address:	
Post Code:	
E-mail:	
Tel:	
Fax:	

Agent Details (if applicable):	
Primary contact (agent/client):	
Client	
Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss etc):	
Initials:	
Surname:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Post Code:	
E-Mail:	
Tel:	
Fax:	

Would you like to be notified of the publication of the Government's proposed changes and the final East of England Plan?

Please return this form by 5,00 pm on Wednesday 16th March 2005 to:

The Panel Secretary, c/o East of England Regional Assembly, Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6EG

NATURAL ASPECT

As I write, towards the end of January, it is a windy, wet, dull and dark, cold day. I should go out and get some exercise - but I don't feel like doing so... that's how some of our wild life must feel. On such days, or nights, badgers seem to stay in their setts and squirrels certainly tend to stay in their dreys - nests of leaves high in the fork of a tree. Squirrels store food, but probably not in their dreys and badgers perhaps have enough fat to miss a night without food! I once found a children's book that said squirrels hibernated! The author obviously had never been out for a walk in the woods on a bright winter's day.

Unlike David Attenborough's bears, few British mammals hibernate - apart from bats. The Hedgehog 'sleeps' on and off during its 'light' hibernation and occasionally they can be seen foraging during the winter. But the Dormouse does deeply hibernate - lowering its metabolism to do so.

However we do not find dormice now in Epping Forest. They occur across the River Lea in Hertfordshire and in other parts of Essex. They were found in the Forest in late 19th century and according to Buxton seem to have been relatively common, although in the later edition of his book (1923) he implies they were then absent by adding, 'Now only found in Scotland'. Buxton also mentions that hazel nuts, a favourite food of dormice, could be gathered in 19th century Epping Forest - especially in the Bury Wood. Only two or three hazels can be found now in the Bury Wood. Woods with hazel coppice are frequently the habitat where dormice are found, especially if they also contain plenty of honeysuckle as the bast is stripped from the honeysuckle vines to make the dormouse's nest. The absence of hazel in the Forest may also explain the absence of the dormouse - although food such as beech mast is available and in places chestnuts.

Among the other Forest wildlife that does hibernate are of course the reptiles and amphibians, (snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and newts). By late February, especially if there is a mild spell any of these may emerge from hibernation early. The amphibians may be seen in garden ponds first - often before they appear in Forest ponds, where, because such ponds usually contain a larger volume of water they do not warm up quite so quickly. First reports of frog and toad spawn often occur in the latter part of February and on a mild wet night newts may be



a. Common Newt (m.) b. Great Crested Newt c. Palmate Newt

walking across the lawn to get to their breeding ponds. Newts hibernate in the smallest of deep underground cracks - around our homes and gardens they are frequently to be found deep down when brick foundations are being demolished and even in the cellars of buildings. When renewing 8 metres of old brick foundations in my garden I found 13 Great Crested Newts and 21 Smooth Newts, of all ages! All the three species of newt that occur in Britain are found in the ponds and pools of Epping Forest - the Common or Smooth Newt, the Great Crested Newt and the Palmate Newt.

Common Toads hibernate on land too - sometimes in large groups, burying themselves in deep cracks and holes under logs, even mammal burrows, and, like the newts sometimes in cellars. Usually they hibernate some distance from the ponds in which they breed and to which they usually make a return journey by early March.

Most Common Frogs hibernate near or even under water, burying themselves in mud or debris or into holes and cracks in the banks of ponds

and ditches. Some, possibly most immature frogs, hibernate in holes and cavities farther away from the water. When torpid (hibernating), frogs can absorb oxygen from the water through their skin - thus they can survive under ice. However once active again in the spring they need to breathe more oxygen from the air. If your garden pond is iced over and your frogs have already returned to breed, it will save them from drowning if you enable them to reach air at the surface by breaking the ice!

Our Forest reptiles, the Common Lizard, Slow-worm, Adder or Viper and the Grass Snake (or Ringed snake), all tend to go into hibernation by mid-October and emerge again at the end of February. On a quiet walk during a bright warm day in March or April you may see Grass snakes or Adders basking in the sunshine ... and, if you are as lucky as Harry and Peggy once were, you may see the famous 'dance' of two competing male adders fighting over territory or a female.... but walk quietly!! Ground vibration will 'give you away' as much or even more quickly than movement!

Ken Hoy



Common Frog



Common Toad

FUTURE LOCATION OF EPPING FOREST VISITOR CENTRE.

The Conservators committee meeting on the 10th January had before it a paper recommending that an option for building a new Visitor Centre at Chingford Plain be included within the Epping Forest Heritage Interpretation Plan and any future grant application for implementing the Plan .

A few days beforehand the Friends had written to the Superintendent and all Committee members drawing attention to the importance of the Information Centre at High Beach , in view of the fact that this is the "honeypot" of the northern Forest. We also pointed out that no attention appeared to have been given to the possibility of utilising the Queen Elisabeth Hunting Lodge complex for an information centre. We also thought that the alleged need for improvement to the Caddy House should not be used to influence the siting of an information centre.

During the debate in the Committee all four Verderers indicated misgivings re siting a new centre at Chingford Plain as follows:

1. The High Beach Centre could be made much more accessible by improved signing and carparking
2. Heritage Lottery Fund bid might include funding for two years experimental minibus service from Loughton Station to High Beach
3. There is a need for a centre at High Beach to serve the "honeypot"
4. Consultants appear overenthusiastic about Chingford Plain without proper assessment of the level of use of train and bus for visiting the Forest .
5. The Caddy House golf and the Information Centre have different requirements, which don't sit comfortably in the same building .
6. All Verderers said that further thought should be given to using the Hunting Lodge and Coach House for information purposes.

The Committee was informed that the combining of the Caddy House and Info Centre could be attractive to Heritage Lottery because an element of commercial activity and therefore revenue creation , could be present .(a problem here is that it wasn't all that many years ago that golf went into one of its periodic troughs and there was a

possibility of the golf course closing down – this could happen again).

The Committee did not vote on the recommendation but the officers took note of what was said and indicated that a bid to the H.L.F. would be prepared and brought before a future Committee.

Harry Bitten

THE FOREST SUPPER 2004

Forest Supper 2004 was a qualified success, everyone seemed to enjoy the chance to chat to fellow members. But one of the qualifications is that we made a loss of about £350; which to use the jargon of the day is hardly sustainable! This was due in part to the increased costs of hall hire and price of wine and partly to the fact that the number of sold tickets was down by 10.

It has been suggested that we try another caterer this year and so I expect that will mean that food costs will rise and together with even higher rent of Hawkey Hall, will lead to an increase of the ticket price.

The raffle was ,as usual,a resounding financial success, raising the record-breaking amount of £682.50! A big thanks to Denis Moss for organising this and to all of you who donated such excellent prizes:

Donations to the Raffle:

Hilda & Vera Anslow, Pat Bassett, Barbara Blossom , Wendy Boardman, Ken Bray, Irene Breame, Irene Buchan, Maggie Charles, Maureen & Denis Chasney, Freda Clark, Ron Clayton , Jean & Ian Cox, Jo & Michael Davies, Evelyn & Jack Davis, Eric Dormer, John Draper, Jean & Harry Edler, Lady Joan Ellis, Miss Fearn, Carole Francis , Monica Frost, Pat & Peter Fuller, Robin & George Gaine , Jim Gimson, Ernest Glynn, Amanda & Peter Gotham , Jean Green, Brian Hamilton , Iris & Len Harriss, Hinton, Sheila Hobbs , Rachel & John Holtom , Val James , E.S.Johnson, Marilyn Kramer, Hilary Kunzru, Anthea & Alan Levene, Michael Lewis, Hazel & John Leyton, Brenda Moses , Jean & Denis Moss, Lady Murray, Stephen Murray , Marjorie Payton, Ann & John Pearson, Mary Porter, Mr & Mrs. Harry Royds, Stuart Runciman , Ray Sharp, Hazel & David Shukla, Iris Silvester, Pam & John Sirett, Jean Smith, Joy Smith, Joan Stowers, Maureen Tribe, Midge Venables, Cynthia & Keith Wenden, Mike Whiteley, Christine & Dick Williams , Mavis & Clive Woodward,

CHANGES IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

The main change is the move from 5 operational sections to 4. These are 1) Forest Conservation 2) Estates 3)Public Affairs 4) Administration. Unhappily these changes have led to the early retirement of two Forest stalwarts , Tricia Moxey and Ian Cox.

Tricia is presently Information Service Manager and has worked for the Corporation for eleven years. Of course her association goes back a great many years before that when she was with the Field Studies Council at High Beach. Tricia has led innumerable walks all illuminated by her botanical and indeed her general knowledge of the Forest. She has lately organised the increasingly popular and successful Forest Festival, in respect of which she has shown commendable unflappability, at least I've never known her to flap!

Tricia has been a welcoming presence at the Information Centre for some years . While there she has overseen the Friends bird-feeding station to such purpose that –it seems hardly a week goes by but she isn't ringing up for more supplies of nuts and sunflower seeds. We won't really say goodbye, perhaps she'll join the Friends!

Ian , currently Forest Operations Manager, has been at the Warren for twelve years . He trained as a forester with the Forestry Commission in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire , after which he remained with the Commission for eighteen years. Thereafter he operated various commercial timber ventures in the Grantham area until 1989 when he became Head Forester and Gardener at Burghley House in Lincolnshire. After four years there, he came to the Forest where his genial personality and fantastic knowledge of forestry in the broadest sense has endeared him to us all. Last November more than forty members were entertained by his knowledge and enthusiasm for trees during a walk he led for us from Ravens Farm taking in The Selvage and Warren Plantation.

We are needless to say sorry to see both of them go and wish them well.

Ed.

FofEF

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 18th, Friday 10am. A spring walk through the Coopersale Fields and the Lower Forest and maybe as far as Gernom Bushes. Meet in the Stonards Hill Recreation Ground car park. Travelling north through Epping, Stonards Hill is a turning on the right opposite Lindsey Street by the triangular green. Epping Station is about 15 minutes walk away.

**Leaders: Pat and Ron Andrews
GR 465 024**

April 22nd Friday 1.30 p.m. A hilly walk along Green Lanes looking for Henry VIII's Park boundaries.

Meet in the Cornmill Meadows car-park, which is on the left travelling north on the B194(the Crooked Mile) from Waltham Abbey. (15 mins walk from W.A. town centre).

**Leader: Irene Buchan
GR 384 016**

2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. MONDAY APRIL 25TH 7.30 PM.

In view of the increased prices at the Hawkey Hall we moved the AGM last year to the Woodford County High School , which worked out quite well. We will therefore return to this venue this year. There is some parking on site but plenty of overflow in the Charter Road.

We hope to have an interesting speaker from the Tree Council. Agenda and Minutes are attached. Look forward to seeing you there.

May 19th Thursday 9.30 a.m. to approx. 12.30 p.m.
Birds in the Lea Valley.

Meet in the Stubbins Hall Lane car-park, which is left 1.5 miles along the B194(Crooked Mile) travelling north from W.A. Please note this is the 3rd L.V. Country Park car-park along the B194 and it is also signposted to Hayes Hill Farm. (Ignore the Fishers Green turning near Holyfield Farm.) Branch left after 100 yds, to the carpark with toilets. Light lunches are available at Hayes Hill Farm. **No dogs.**

**Leader: Terry Smith
GR 378 032**

June 25th Saturday 7.30 p.m. An evening walk through Chingford's Woods and Fields.

Meet in Hornbeam Lane , which is 10-15 mins walk or 3mins drive from Chingford Station along Bury Road and is the first turning on the right just before the houses in Edwardstonebury

Leader: Peter Read GR 957 393

July 16th Saturday 1.30 p.m.
Flowers of Fairmead.

Meet in the carpark at Fairmead Bottom. Travelling north on the A104 Epping New Road ,turn left at the Robin Hood roundabout and left again at the first green teaht and downhill to the carpark on the right. Nearest station is approx. 30mins away to the east at Loughton.

**Leader; Tricia Moxey
GR 968 408**

August 20th Saturday 10.30a.m.
Disappearing Essex.

A walk along the R. Stort and then northwards through beautiful open countryside which is part of the 10,000 house expansion of Harlow. Meet in the Moorhen carpark. The simplest (but not the shortest) way to get there by car is northwards along the B1393 through Epping to the Hastingwood roundabout. Turn left onto the A414 and continue northwards to the 5th roundabout (Harlow Mill), where turn left (still A414), continue on to the 4th roundabout (Burnt Mill) , where turn right, proceed over the railway, then turn right into Burnt Mill Lane. Follow the road bending round to the left and after crossing the Stort Navigation look for a sign on the right for the Moorhen carpark. Nearest railway is at Harlow Town Station. Various PH's in the area for lunch.

**Leader: Bill Dexter
GR 447 115**

September 25th Sunday 9a.m.- 5.30p.m. Centenary Walk.

Meet at junction of Forest Road and Capel Road at 09.00 a.m. sharp. From Wanstead Flats in the south to Epping in the north via the Green Man roundabout Leytonstone (meet centre of the roundabout 10a.m.); County Hotel Oak Hill (for coffee at 11a.m .); Butlers Retreat Chingford (noon);and the Owl P.H. Lippitts Hill for lunch at approx. 1.30. Finish at Bell Common at approx. 5a.m.

**Leader: Harry Bitten
GR 860 419**

ADVANCED NOTICE

Forest Festival
September 4th, Wanstead

Forest Supper
November 24th 2004

OTHER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EF Conservation Volunteers

Sunday 6 March - Rushey Plain
birch clearance work in this popular area.

Tuesday 15 March - Sunshine Plain
removing birch and some scrub

Sunday 20 March - Hatgate Plain
remove some 'infill' birch

Sunday 27 March - Almshouse Plain, creating new glades

Sunday 3 April - Hangboy Slade / Copley Plain, removing re-growth

Sunday 17 April - Carroll's Farm
opening up and maintenance of footpaths

Sunday 24 April - Barn Hoppit
sycamore clearance

Sunday 1 May - Strawberry Hill,
More sycamore removal

Sunday 15 May - Wellington Hill
removing birch and scrub

Sunday 22 May - Dulsmead Bog
removing birch and bramble

Sunday 29 May- Clay Ride
taking out more birch and bramble and coppicing willow

Essex Wildlife Trust
Epping Forest Local Group

EF Field Centre Courses

For further details or to make a booking please call 020 8502 8500

EF Information Centre

For other children's activities please contact Information Centre on 020 8508 0028.

ITEMS FOR SALE

We now have a stock of lots of new sale items, which will be on sale at the Forest Supper and would make excellent Christmas presents.

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

NEW E-MAILING LIST

To enable us to contact members with any urgent news in the 4 months gap between Newsletters, we thought it might be a useful if members with e-mail addresses who would like to be included on our e-mailling list should send their e-mail address to S Moss at seymour@moss40.freeserve.co.uk Be assured that these addresses will not be passed to anyone else by us and will only be used to contact members with any urgent news such as the developments of the East of England Plan which effect the Forest or events organised by the Friends. This will not effect you option to receive paper copies of the FofEF Newsletter.

FofEF NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

All new members who supply an e-mail address are initially sent a printed Newsletter and Membership Card.

The membership secretary then sends a test message to verify your e-mail address and provide information, on how obtain *Adobe Acrobat Reader* (required to 'read' the Newsletter) and the problems encountered with "hotmail". If any member who has requested their Newsletter by e-mail and finds it subsequently arrives by other methods, please contact "seymour@moss40.freeserve.co.uk" giving their name and address and e-mail address.

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

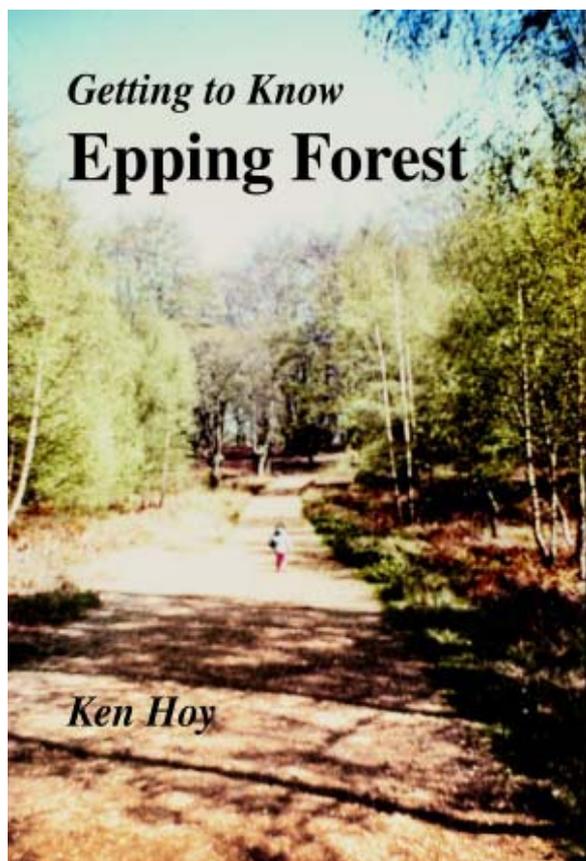
Please send your request by e-mail to ensure we get your correct address.

F of EF E-MAIL AND WEB ADDRESSES

Ken Hoy: kenhoy@care4free.net

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

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



Getting to Know **EPPING FOREST**

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

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

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

**IT MAKES AN EXCELLENT
PRESENT**

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 25th April 2005

at the WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, Woodford Green at 7.30pm

Agenda for A.G.M

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 26th April, 2004
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report 2004/2005
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Hon. General Sec. and Hon. Treasurer
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Independent Examiner
8. Any Other Business

After the meeting and a break for coffee there will be a talk by Jon Stokes from the Tree Council. He is responsible for the Tree Warden Scheme.

Officers at present are:

Chairman: Ken Hoy due for re-election in 2006

Vice-Chairman: Sue McKinley due for re-election in 2007

Hon. General Sec: Mrs. Peggy Bitten due for re-election this year

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Sheppard due for re-election this year

Hon. Membership Sec: Seymour Moss due for re-election in 2007

Existing Committee members willing to stand are: Judy Adams, Harry Bitten, Gareth Browne, Irene Buchan, Alan Curran, Bill Dexter, Robin Gaine, Jim Gimson, Robert Levene, Sue McKinley, Derek Meakin, and Peter Read.

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 Hon. 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 4th April 2005.

THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST - NOMINATION FORM

I nominate for the office of Hon. General Sec. and Hon. Treasurer, 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 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST HELD AT THE WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MONDAY 26 APRIL 2004 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Committee Members: K Hoy (Chairman), Mrs P Bitten (Secretary), T Sheppard (Treasurer), S Moss (Membership Secretary), Mrs J Adams, H. Bitten, G Browne (co-opted) Mrs I Buchan, B Dexter, Mrs R Gaine, R Levene, Mrs S McKinley, D Meakin, P Read

ABSENT: Committee Members: A Curran , C Gimson

APOLOGIES: Vera & Hilda Anslow, Barbara Blossom, Peter Haseldine, Joan Humphries, Daphne Stothard,

1. The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Monday 28 April 2003 were approved and signed.
2. MATTERS ARISING: There were none.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2003-2004 - Copy of the Chairman's report to be enclosed in the Summer 2004 Newsletter.

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Alan Levene & seconded Peter Read.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tony Sheppard explained the Receipts and Payments Account from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2004, copies of both were distributed and acknowledgement and thanks for work done were extended to Peter Gotham, Auditor.

Tony informed the meeting that Ken Hoy's book on Epping Forest had, as expected, sold well with all profit to the Friends. There had also been an increase in donations from members and further retrieval of gift and tax monies by Robert Levene.

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Alan Levene & seconded by Robert Levene.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:

Sue McKinley was re-elected.

Proposed by Robert Levene and seconded by Tony Sheppard and unanimously accepted.

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Seymour Moss (Membership Secretary) was proposed by Robert Levene and seconded by Hazel Haseldine. The rest of the committee unanimously elected en bloc, including co-opted Gareth Browne. (Gareth replaces Judith Miller, a member since 1973. Judith has stood down after many years of hard work.)

Proposed by Alan Levene and Seconded by Hazel Haseldine.

7. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Peter Gotham was thanked for his work and unanimously re-elected for the current year.

Proposed by Derek Meakin and Seconded by Bill Dexter.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Volunteers were requested to help on the stall at forthcoming events, and thanks were extended to those who volunteered last year. Their help was greatly appreciated.

After closure of the meeting and a break for coffee, the speaker was Georgina Green.

Her subject was Epping Forest through the ages, the title of one of her published books and the audience was fascinated with her detailed and wide ranging account of the history of Epping Forest from early times. Her talk was illustrated by some excellent slides and after questions she was thanked by Ken on behalf of the members present for an interesting and stimulating talk.

CURRENT FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Adams	Loughton	020 8418 0730	Jim Gimson	S. Woodford	020 8989 3282
Peggy Bitten (Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Ken Hoy (Chairman)	High Easter	012 4523 1839
Harry Bitten	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Robert Levene	Snaresbrook	020 8989 0884
Gareth Browne	Highams Park	020 8527 1601	Sue McKinley (Vice-Chair)	Upshire	019 9271 2014
Irene Buchan	Chingford	020 8529 6423	Derek Meakin	Chigwell	020 8500 1571
Alan Curran	Buckhurst Hill	020 8504 8720	Seymour Moss (Memb. Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 0620
Bill Dexter	Chingford	020 8529 1427	Peter Read	Chingford	020 8524 1659
Robin Gaine	Chingford	020 8529 8890	Tony Sheppard (Treas.)	Woodford Grn	020 8504 8288