



Dear Friend,

We are, at the time of writing, going through or enjoying a very dry period; cold for the most part, but dry! This has a number of aspects; for one thing the Forest is nowhere near as muddy as it usually is at this time of year. Bear in mind that the 'folk' name for the month is, February, Fill-Dyke! Also, that it is by and large only Winter rains that penetrate to and re-charge the water table. Summer rain tends to evaporate before it can sink into the ground and do much good.

But at the moment one can, with a bit of care, walk in the Forest in trainers. Of course, the Lea Valley Regional Park with its miles of hard paths is always available for a relatively dry walk at any time of year. So we urge you to try some of our walks this Spring!

Another aspect is, of course, whether the dry spell – added to all the other dry spells in previous years – will cause any re-think in the nonsensical proposals to cover large lumps of the South East countryside with even more millions of housing units and associated infrastructure.

Thames Water has demonstrated its recognition of the water scarcity problem with its plan to build a large desalination plant at Beckton, which would draw water from the river Thames before pumping it in freshened form to the Walthamstow underground reservoir near the roundabout. Who would have thought a few years ago that a desalination plant would be mooted in rainy, grey old England? At the moment the plan is stalled because Ken Livingstone has objected to it on the grounds of enormous energy costs that would be required to build and run it. However, we wonder whether such a large extraction would have other consequences for the river, especially in the light of fact that the flow a little further up has been reduced by a third because the abstraction has vastly exceeded the natural recharge level.

However, it is wise not to be too apocalyptic about these matters. I remember the drought we had about 30 years ago when there was no rain for months during the Summer, and there were dramatic forecasts that it would take 300 years for the ground water systems to recover. No sooner in the Autumn had Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, appointed Denis Howell as the Minister for the Drought then the heavens opened and the whole country was water-logged in no time at all. A master stroke appointment by Harold!

We have, of course, sent our Committee response to the Conservators Public Consultation on Cattle Grazing to the Town Clerk at the Guildhall. It runs to nine pages and is therefore too long for inclusion in full in this Newsletter. But, of course, our submission followed very closely along the lines spelt out in successive Newsletters.

If any member wishes to see the full version of our submission this can be inspected here or a copy may be had on application. It is also available on our website: www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk



Near Lodge Road Bog, subject of AGM talk by Dr Michael Grant on 22nd May (see page 5)

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THE NATURAL ASPECT

Nearly twenty years ago, when I started writing this regular natural history feature for the Newsletter, it seemed appropriate to call it 'The Natural Aspect'. After all, these two words are used in the Epping Forest Act 1878 in that so often quoted phrase that says the Forest must remain, **'open and unenclosed for the recreation and enjoyment of the people,'** and then, **'and the natural aspect be preserved as far as possible'.**

Even in 1878 it was recognised that a qualification was needed, '... as far as possible'. Why? Because the Forest is, and has been for hundreds of years, far from 'natural'.

No doubt ever since man lived in or near the area we call the Forest, he hunted, cooked the meat and kept himself warm by cutting the wood that was at hand.

At some very early time lopping wood as fuel became an organised community custom. Hunting became organised by the King for himself, and of course the other community custom of grazing cattle then had to be organised and controlled too as the grazing cattle competed for food with the King's deer.

From then on we can say the Forest was 'managed' – thus it became 'unnatural'.

But because the trees, undergrowth and herbage have existed there for many hundreds of years it is termed an 'ancient forest'... in fact another term is used, it can be called 'continuous forest' – and, as far as we know, it has been so ever since trees reappeared after the last retreat of the ice some 10 to 12 thousand years ago.

To that extent we loosely say it is 'natural' or more accurately 'semi-natural'.

'Managing' a forest could be said to be 'gardening' on a large scale, depending upon how far the managing, to 'preserve the natural aspect', goes. We might ask, are we managing to preserve the ancient trees, to preserve the ancient pollards (not necessarily the same thing), to preserve a varied woodland landscape, to preserve a species-diverse woodland? In fact we should be saying 'conserve' ... and, what do we mean by 'woodland'? Indeed what do we mean by 'forest'?

We now see what a minefield we are entering when using the word 'natural' and many of the other words to describe the trees, the bushes, the heaths and the grasslands that little over one hundred years ago were called 'the waste'!

Clearly it depends upon how we think about and interpret these terms. It



Theydon Bois, April 1899. The Conservator's clearance work, of what the photographer called 'the pollard thicket'.



'Classic wood pasture' – Woodmans' Glade



Newly created wood-pasture – near Debden Slade

depends upon what we want these terms to mean – what sort of forest we think or envisage we should have? How should this Epping Forest be managed for the future?

You might say I have taken a long time to get to that question. But I thought it might be necessary to recognise any preconceived ideas we may have – to clear our minds a little!

The forest, the place we now call Epping Forest, has been exploited, managed, used – whatever, for hundreds of years. In an important sense that all changed in 1878, when the main motive behind the great 19th century movement to ‘save the Forest’, was to protect it for the recreation and enjoyment of the people.

But, earlier in 1793 the Land Revenue Commissioners admitted that the Forest was a source of health and recreation to the crowded population of the Metropolis.

In 1848 the freeholders of Woodford petitioned the House of Commons to ‘preserve the Forest as a place of recreation’.

To some extent the resentment of the commoners & public against enclosures and the denial of common rights was ‘used’ in the legal battle to save the Forest from disafforestation.

Commoners were compensated for loss of rights and **the ‘use’ of the Forest was recognised & considered to be for ‘recreation’**. Grazing was the only right allowed to continue but within a decade this was considerably restricted to commoners who owned half an acre of open land.

Today the Forest is used for recreation – grazing is at best a management ‘tool’

The great question is what sort of ‘recreational forest’ do we wish to see in the future.

Most people enjoy Epping Forest as a ‘natural-looking’ forest. They see a forest as a place mostly of trees. Perhaps with varied woodland, heaths and clearings... but as it is and has been for some decades.

I believe such a public concept does not see the Forest as a country park, or any kind of ‘parkland’, but a wild, seemingly ‘natural’ (unmanaged?) place to relax and enjoy its quietness, its varied scenery and its historic mystery.

Of course that does not conflict with the designation of most of the Forest as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

How then is that concept of the Forest to be maintained, because a forest is naturally (word correctly used!) constantly changing? John Besent, the past Superintendent, often said, “I try to manage the Forest so that it is difficult to tell it is being managed”. Quite a good general ‘rule of thumb’ I think.

We believe that the Forest is threatened by being over-managed... perhaps as a consequence in danger of drastic change.

Why do we think that? The Forest Management Plan categorises much of the woodland as ‘wood-pasture’. This is a term used to describe an ancient practice of exploiting the ‘forest waste’ for wood as fuel and at the same time allowing cattle and deer to graze and browse. English Nature (the ‘Government Agency that champions the conservation of wildlife’) has set up a research advisory group into ‘Wood-Pasture and Parkland’ habitats. ‘Wood-pasture’ is currently seen today as open woodland – grass and scattered pollarded trees – where the term ‘savannah’ is sometimes used.

But closed canopy woodland with grazing beneath the trees, has also been considered a form of wood-pasture otherwise the New Forest would have to be excluded.

In Epping Forest we really do not know the degree to which we had widespread grazing beneath the trees. Much of the pollarded woodland was referred to as ‘pollard thickets’ and 19th century photographs suggest that these thickets were almost impenetrable. I imagine the thicker the pollards grew together the more wood was available to be lopped... whilst the cattle grazed the grassy plains and clearings!

In the early 18th century records show that some 1700 acres of woodland was felled and treated as coppice – and this would then have been fenced against the cattle and the deer browsing the new growth. There were occasions where failure to do this were brought before the Forest court.

So, I think we can only say with any certainty, we don’t know what our past Forest looked like! Furthermore, it undoubtedly appeared different at different times!

However, how do we wish to see our future Forest?

Is it intended to widely *recreate* the old wood-pasture system? Although this is denied some areas have already been cleared of under-storey and undergrowth.

Widespread grazing has been

declared to be a management intention. If the Forest is to be widely grazed then it must be fenced along roads.

However it is claimed that grazing will increase public access!

The questions that need answering are not, do we want to return to grazing... but what kind of Forest is to be created? What are the priorities of management?

To what end is it now being managed? For whom is it being managed? What is the real agenda for the next two decades. Have these fundamental questions been discussed or assessed? If so when and by whom?

Ken Hoy

Postscript

Since writing the above, I looked again at E.N.Buxton’s book on Epping Forest. First published in 1886, it is interesting that he writes as follows about the Epping Forest Act of 1878:

‘The section of the Act that concerns us most, and which ought to be written in letters of gold, is that which provides that the Forest is to remain for ever “as an open space for recreation and enjoyment”. This is probably the first time that the public right of use of open spaces has been recognised in law. That it is fully appreciated is shown by the increasing numbers who annually visit what is theirs by unalienable right.’

A little later referring to the natural variety of the Forest he writes:

‘It is in its varied aspects that the greatest refreshment is to be found for the eye and the brain, weary of dead walls and the turmoil of the streets. The general opinion so unmistakably evinced, that the Forest shall remain a forest and not be civilised into a park, is but the expression of a true instinct. May the people of London, at all time continue to draw full draughts at this source, and to profit by the companionship and teaching of nature’.

Do we need Buxton to remind us, over a 120 years later that our Forest is a forest of trees primarily for ‘recreation and enjoyment’?...maybe!

Ken Hoy

OBITUARIES



Jeremy Wisenfeld

It is very sad to have to mention, in one issue of our Newsletter, the death of two important figures in the continuing story of Epping Forest.

Superintendent Jeremy Wisenfeld died on 13 December 2005 at the tragically early age of 48.

Jeremy came to the Forest as Deputy Superintendent and Conservation Officer in 1997 having previously worked for the National Trust as Property Manager at Hatfield Forest.

On John Besent's retirement Jeremy became Superintendent in February 2001 and thus had less than five years to make his own impress on the Forest. Shortly after his appointment Jeremy told us that his, "door was always open", and he was as good as his word. Our 'formal' meetings with him took place at fairly irregular intervals, but we did take advantage of the 'open door' policy on individual matters and always had a warm welcome.

In fact, after our last 'formal' meeting in June 2005, Jeremy wrote and said that he'd enjoyed our discussion and why didn't we meet more regularly? He suggested four times a year. This we took as a testimony of his readiness to listen to a sometimes contrary view on matters of genuine disagreement born out of concern and affection for Epping Forest on both sides.

Jeremy was a regular doer of the Centenary Walk, and in fact did the Owl to Epping part of the walk towards the end of last September when he must have felt pretty awful physically, never mind mentally, but made no fuss.

He and Vicki always came as our guests at the annual Forest Supper

where he mixed readily and genially with all and sundry.

A firm believer of the 'good life' he assiduously cultivated the vegetable garden of his home and was a pillar of the Union Church in Loughton where his musicianship and readiness to throw himself into all manner of practical tasks was a mark of his membership.

His continuing to attend and participate in meetings of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee and to attend to his Superintendent's business right until the final stage of his illness was little short of heroic.

We are very sad for Vicki and daughters, Jessica and Amy in their tragic loss.



Eric Dormer

Verderer Eric Dormer died just after Christmas 2005 aged 84.

He had a varied and fulfilled life. He was born in Stratford and received his early education in West Ham. The onset of World War II interrupted his further education and he entered the RAF and spent the next seven years as a Meteorological Officer.

Thereafter, he studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and stayed on after qualifying, and in 1964 was appointed a consultant physician to the Forest Group of Hospitals. He continued at Whipps Cross until retirement in 1986.

In 1981 Eric was appointed a Verderer of Epping Forest for the Southern Parishes and served until his retirement in June 2005.

He was an athlete of some note in his younger days and was always

interested in travel and the outdoors and led a number of Ramblers Association's overseas walking holidays.

He was a regular walker in the Forest and, of course, invariably appeared in the Centenary Walk, sometimes performing the welcoming speech at the completion of the event. Being athletic and fit Eric had plenty of breath left for this, but his witty remarks and literary and classical allusions were, I'm afraid, sometimes wasted on some of the more weary walkers!

His convivial and cheerful personality did nothing to conceal an abiding and deep affection for the Forest and all that it offers to the people of that part of London where he spent most of his life.

Although he was clearly not well, we recently had the pleasure of spending an hour or so in the genial company of Eric and Joanne when Ken presented him with a retirement gift of a case of 'Willingale' wine.

Eric was a good friend to the Forest and to the Friends and his passing is a very sad event and our condolences go to Joanne and son, Jake, and daughter, Margot.

TREES

When I first walked the countryside, the trees were - well just trees, a background or a feature of the landscape that one sees. And then I thought I ought to know which is which - and why and so I came to see a world that I'd been passing by. I stopped to look at mighty oaks that spread their elbows wide, at birch a-flutter in the wind and beech that shone with pride. The sycamores that winged their way to fill up every space, the limes that line great avenues with everlasting grace. The alders by the waterside, with funny little cones, the yews that for a thousand years guard our ancestors' bones. I found the orange-tapped Scots Pine and the oak that's evergreen, and the giant Wellingtonia that dominates the scene. Paid now I see a landscape that's filled with more and more of a world that's there for all of us to cherish and explore

Mr Holly Ward

**Woodland Trust,
Living Heritage member**

URGENT NOTICE

If you sent in your response to the Grazing Consultation by e-mail it may have been lost or encountered difficulties! It seems that some responses could not be 'retrieved'. If you sent in your comments in this way, we suggest you phone the Epping Forest Visitor Centre, telephone 020 8508 0028 and ask them whether you should resubmit your comments as a 'hard copy' by post.

Please do this as soon as possible.

EPPING FOREST MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS AGO?

The AGM Speaker, Dr Michael Grant, has conducted new research into the age of the Lodge Road Bog. We have mentioned in previous Newsletters and on walks the great significance of evidence obtained from previous bored cores taken in 1970's from the mud of the bog. Ancient pollen deposits in the mud were thought to show that the Small Leaved Lime was still the dominant tree in that part of the Forest, in the 9th century AD, several hundred years after it had disappeared, from other ancient woods in southern England. There is now a possible doubt about those early results and the new research may tell us a very interesting story!

Find out at the AGM, Monday, May 22nd, 7-30pm., Woodford County High School

(Friends of Epping Forest made a financial contribution to the cost of the new research).

ITEMS FOR SALE

We have a stock of lots of sale items, which will be on sale at the AGM.

Mugs £4, Pens 50p - £1
Greetings Cards £2.50 pack of 5 (L) or 8 (S), Christmas Cards (pack of 12) £3.60, Tree Poster £1, Torch Key Rings £2, Fridge Magnets £2, Metal Lapel Badges £2, Spy Scopes £3.50, Fleeces from £15, Sweat Shirts from £15, Caps £5, Tea Towels £3, Epping Forest Maps £1.50, Getting to Know Epping Forest book by Ken Hoy £6.95, Short Walks in Epping Forest by Harry Bitten £2.40

JOHN T BEDFORD & THE CITY OF LONDON

I came across these facts and thoughts about the Forest recently. They were written by John T Bedford in 1882. They are interesting as we are inclined to forget the emotional strain – the ups and downs suffered by those involved in the eleven-year battle to 'save' the Forest in the 18870's.

It was John Bedford who in May 1871 moved the motion in the Court of Common Council – the governing body of the City of London – that started the proceedings that involved the City in the preservation of the Forest.

Bedford's action followed closely upon another motion moved in April in the House of Commons by Mr Cowper Temple MP: "It is the duty of the Government to preserve Epping Forest for the recreation and enjoyment of the people".

In his speech he said that the Corporation of London had a Charter entitling the Citizens of London to enjoy the Forest.

The motion was strongly opposed by Viscount Sherbrook, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who later said, "Epping Forest belonged to the Lords of the Manors and was vested in them to do as they like with". The motion was carried by a majority of 100. However the Chancellor afterwards said, "It was treated by the Government with contemptuous indifference"!

John Bedford said it was Cowper Temple's speech that gave him the idea of involving the City Corporation. He spent a fortnight studying the facts and then on the 25th May 1871 moved a Resolution in the Court of Common Council.

This enabled a Committee to be appointed to seek a conference with Government Ministers to establish how the City could secure to the people, for the purposes of health and recreation, those parts of the Forest that had not been legally enclosed.

This approach proved to be unsuccessful and the City, on the 14th August 1871 started their own legal action in the Court of Chancery. For eleven years the legal fight went on culminating with the Arbitrator signing the maps and documents that finally established the Forest's boundaries in July 1882.

John Bedford recalls, in the November 1871, as the case opened,

how he trembled as the Master of the Rolls asked, "Who appears in this case", and eighteen be-wigged Barristers rose and bowed – they were the 'opposition'!

Some years later Bedford says:

"For myself, my reward has been such as few men ever realise. During the many years that have elapsed since the memorable 25th April 1871,

Seldom has a fortnight passed... without my visiting Epping Forest. It is fairyland to me – always fresh, always beautiful, always interesting. I gaze upon its many lovely spots with a kind of mental rapture difficult to explain.

... and on great occasions, such as bank holidays, I have my abiding rewards in witnessing the tens of thousands of those who, but for Epping Forest, scarcely know how beautiful God made the world"

He also said:

"After the many battles we have waged so long, so unweariedly, and so successfully, there will succeed the calm content of peaceful enjoyment; and the one pleasant duty of those who succeed us will be to guard jealously, carefully and lovingly, the grand inheritance committed to their care."

Ken Hoy

AVIAN FLU

At the time of writing the great Danish/ Cartoon/Islam controversy is raging and has almost driven the Avian Flu (H5N1) menace off the media. No doubt it will be back!

While migratory birds probably can play a part in the spread of Avian Flu (there has recently been a case reported in a chicken farm in Nigeria), the discovery a little while ago of an imported bird, with H5N1, in a UK quarantine facility points up where an avoidable danger lurks.

For that reason we welcome the RSPB's decision to urge the Government to make permanent the present Europe-wide temporary ban on the importation of wild-caught birds.

Meantime, we have to hope that all the Spring visitors that we are all looking forward to welcoming in a few weeks time, make a special effort to give Nigeria a wide berth en route.

WALK REPORTS.

11th Dec 2005

Tricia Moxey volunteered to lead this amble round High Beach instead of Harry Bitten and was joined by 42 walkers.

As 2005 was the centenary of the birth, she read Sir William Addison's poem, **Walking in December** to set the scene for the afternoon.

Leaving the grounds of the Field Centre, the group were shown the line of the manorial boundary between the Saxon Manors of Waltham Abbey and Loughton. The topography of the Up and Down ride was used to explain the local geology and the formation of the hollows which were former gravel workings and the birches colonised the bare ground in the early years of the last century.

The nutrient enrichment along the ride was very obvious as a band of nettles thrive on its edge. Earthworms are actively altering the nature of the soil in this part of the Forest.

All round High Beach are some magnificent old pollarded beeches and the group was encouraged to appreciate their long history and majestic forms – shaped by centuries of interaction with generations of woodsmen, as well as the natural forces of wind, sun and rain. It is possible to trace human interaction with the landscape here over many centuries as worked flints have been found which date back to the Mesolithic some 6,000 years ago.

A lone Norway Spruce (without twinkling lights) was found on the route to the Church of the Holy Innocents. This is the second church to serve the parishioners of High Beach and was designed by Sir Arthur Bloomfield and built in 1873 on an illegal enclosure within the Forest. Thomas Baring of Wallsgrove House provided the finance and he selected the name as two of his children had not survived infancy. This is a delightful stone building in the Early English style.

At this point in the afternoon, a dark cloud obscured the hazy sun which was the pollution cloud from the burning oil at Buncefield Depot.

The circular route back to the Centre passed through Paul's Nursery, where these 19th Century Nurserymen ran their business from the Potting Shed. Rhododendrons and other alien plants here still survive as relicts from the range of plants grown 100 years ago for sale.

Seasonal refreshments were enjoyed at the end of the walk.

21st January 2006

On Saturday 21st January, Friends Committee member Gareth Browne led his first walk for us, starting from the Earl's Path pond car parks. With 33 starters the 2 car parks were under considerable strain – not that we are advocating an expansion of car parks of course!

We headed north along the Green Ride and then having crossed over Staples Brook, slanted left into the Forest and up the muddy track to

Loughton Camp. Here Gareth gave a short talk on what is known about this Iron Age feature.

We crossed the Camp in a north-easterly direction, coming out onto Sandpit Plain, where we continued the direction to arrive at Blackweir or Lost Pond as Mr. Brimble named it. Sometimes in winter this pond carries a large population of Mandarin Ducks but alas apart from a couple of moorhen, there was nothing.

We paused to admire the great beech 'coppard' near the pond, which may be 800-1000years old, before proceeding to Baldwin's Hill Pond.



The great beech 'coppard' near the pond, which may be 800-1000years old



The Lost Pond

From here we followed the zigzag and muddy banks of Staples Brook until we arrived at the point of original departure off the Green ride, which we rejoined before walking up the hill to the carpark. A very pleasant walk on a bright winters day. Thanks Gareth.

16th February 2006.

30 minutes before the walk was due to start we had dark clouds, thunder & lightning, with a sudden heavy fall of Hailstones. As we walked to the start point, we wondered if anyone would turn up. 30 minutes later it was bright sunshine and blue skies as 26 of us set off for an enjoyable stroll.

We started off by skirting the Hollow Ponds and the old Lido before crossing Woodford Road where we stopped to hear the history of lightning strikes and bombs that struck the Snaresbrook Road area. We then walked across "Canada or Kennedy Plain" past what some people know as the "Rising Sun Pond" and others know as "Bulrush Pond". The paths at this point became somewhat muddier; a feature that was to remain with us for the rest of the walk! Despite the fact that nearly half the walkers had never been on a Friend's walk before, most had come well prepared with either Wellingtons or boots.

We then proceeded past the Spade Husbandry Society's allotments which were established in 1834, to an excellent viewing point where we could clearly see the tower blocks of Canary Warf, the City of London, the London Eye and across the Lea Valley to Alexandra Palace.

We then crossed under the A406 North Circular Road and entered one of the last remaining segments of the Forest of Waltham, or Walthamstow Forest, where we walked at a suitably relaxed pace up the hill to the grassy Mill Plain where the Walthamstow Windmill, built nearby in 1676 had blown down in 1800. We stopped by Gypsy Rodney Smith's (MBE) memorial after which we made our way, via the Waterworks roundabout, to Gilbert's Slade. Whilst we knew that "Slade" is an old forest name for an open glade along the valley of a stream, no-one knew who Gilbert was – and if any reader knows, please do write in!

Being an environmentally friendly group the majority of walkers then returned to their homes either walking or via public transport with only those living too far away having used their cars.

Robert Levene

VERDERERS ELECTIONS

There are 4 Verderers, 2 for the northern Forest parishes and 2 for the southern parishes. They are elected every 7 years by the commoners, that is those with half-an-acre of land, unencumbered by buildings, in a Forest parish.

In the nature of things there are very few 'private' commoners in the southern parishes since nearly all the substantial villas with large gardens have long since been turned into blocks of flats or otherwise built over. The commoners there now are largely institutional owners of playing fields, parks, schools or pubs etc. Some years ago the London Borough of Waltham Forest toyed with idea of putting up a candidate(s) for election to Verderer but they rather bungled the nomination procedure and the opportunity passed by. Considering the avidity with which the LBWF has built houses on its playing fields, school playgrounds and so forth, we could say that the Forest had a lucky escape.

There are of course still a number of people in the northern parishes who have half-an-acre or more and I understand that these are being canvassed by those who are standing for the Verderers elections in March. They are being asked whether they have any particular points that they wish to bring to the prospective Verderers attention. Some northern commoners are farmers and landowners, some of whom might even be interested in turning out cattle on the Forest, but the majority are suburban dwellers with large gardens. It is not easy to see why a suburban dweller with a large garden is deemed to be more qualified to be a voter in the Verderers elections than a suburban dweller with a small garden.

Of course commoners must be prepared to take a certain amount of trouble to put their names on the electoral register and that could be construed as demonstrating an interest in the Forest. However I am sure that many dwellers in Forest parishes would be happy to go to a similar amount of trouble in order that they could be consulted by and vote for a potential Verderer.

The thought is expressed, that to widen the electoral base would open up the Verderers elections to political influence, though I am not sure what the evidence is for this. To be sure it might be that the London Boroughs in the south might get their act together and dominate the election either directly or indirectly.

In the northern parishes it seems likely that gradually the suburban villas and large gardens will go the same way as those in the south. Sooner or later some adjustment will have to be made to the electoral base and it seems to me that this must take the form of taking onto the register any resident of a Forest parish who registers an interest in voting.

I suspect that the requirement to take some action will eliminate the vast majority of the residents. The Verderers elections would thus be put on a similar basis to other elections and make them personal and rule out the institutional inputs, which seem inappropriate to the election for the Verderers of Epping Forest is to take place in **Harry** March. The nomination meetings will take place on Monday 6 March. The Northern parishes nomination meeting will take place at Lopping Hall at 11a.m. The Southern parishes nomination meeting will take place at the South Woodford Library at 2.30p.m. The standing Verderers are:

Southern parishes:

Mr Peter Adams
Dr Joanne Thomas

Northern parishes:

Mr Michael Davies
Mr Richard Morris

Commoners will be invited to vote at the following local Polling Stations:

Northern Parishes

Wednesday 8th March
8a.m. - 6p.m.

Jack Siley Pavilion, Stonards Hill Recreation Ground (Epping).
Lincoln Hall, Loughton - (Loughton, Buckhurst Hill, Chingford).
Theydon Bois Village Hall - (Theydon Bois)
Waltham Abbey Town Hall - small anti room.

Southern Parishes

Thursday March 9th
8a.m. - 6p.m.

The Temple, Wanstead.

Results from the election will be announced on 10th March 2006.

F of EF E-MAIL AND WEB ADDRESSES

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Membership Secretary

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FofEF web-site:

www.friendsofepppingforest.org.uk

BIRDS – CLIMATE CHANGE & MIGRATION

Several regular scientific surveys are now undertaken annually into our bird populations. Some interesting facts and trends are beginning to emerge and perhaps we could be excused a little speculation.



Tufted Ducks: They have bred at Connaught Water. The males are black and white.

The practice of ringing birds with a numbered ring and an address to which to return the ring started in 1909. In the year 2004 a record number of nearly 900,000 birds of 269 species were ringed in the U.K. For nearly a 100 years the results of this activity – mostly by volunteer bird watchers – has provided a mass of valuable information. The exceptional cases are interesting and attention grabbing; such as the Tufted Duck recovered in Russia after 22yrs, the Starling that was recovered after 17years, an Oyster Catcher after 35 years and two Great Tits, twenty years apart, ringed in Essex and Norfolk and recovered in Lithuania – one 9 months later some 1,360 Km away! A third Great Tit was ringed in Kaliningrad, in Russia, in Sept. 1999 and recovered in Yorkshire the following February. All three birds were females!

Should we now look at what we might claim as OUR garden Great Tits in a new light? Apparently not. These records are quite exceptional as generally Great Tits rarely travel very far from their home territories. But do some birds from northern Europe migrate west to Britain?

However, interesting though these cases may be, it is the general trends that show up over the years that are much more important.

And of course, there are some unexplained trends, such as although there has been an increase in the numbers of birds ringed each year the annual rate of recovery has declined. In 1950 the average was slightly more than three recovered out of every hundred birds ringed. Now it is less than two out of a hundred. However such a low result is proving to be increasingly important.

Apart from providing knowledge of migration routes and destinations, ringing, that involves trapping on a relatively large scale, can also give access to a wealth of information on many fluctuations in bird populations.

Recently this data has become even more significant in relation to climate change (I won't mention 'Avian Flu'). For example a survey where ringing is undertaken regularly in many places at the same times using identical methods

can obviously produce comparable annual results. For instance, of the total numbers of Greenfinches ringed, the proportion of adults to juveniles caught in autumn of each year gives us an indication of the breeding success of that year. If widespread corresponding results occur and in spite of yearly fluctuations, a general trend becomes apparent, this is clearly significant.

At the ringing stations weighting the migrating birds provides information of their general condition – before or after a long flight. Regular ringing that occurs at the nest sites gives information of annual variations in brood sizes.

As a result of many different surveys being undertaken in the same way each year it is possible to speculate a little about the effects of future climate change. One trend of population – a national decline in eight species of woodland birds has been noticed.

But there seems to be no obvious explanation why this is happening.

Special recording attention is to be given to these birds; the Hawfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Redstart, Tree Pipit, Willow Warbler, and Wood Warbler. These are all species that a few decades ago were relatively



Hawfinch: Once used to breed in the Forest

frequent in Epping Forest. Now some have disappeared completely as breeding species, the others are now rarely seen. No common factor is apparent. Four of these birds are summer migrants and the others are resident all the year.

Regular, detailed surveys of Barn Owls, now rare around the Forest district, show that if a previous winter is particularly cold and wet small mammal populations (Barn Owl food) are adversely affected. Barn Owl breeding successes are then less the following summer – it seems some birds suspend breeding for a year. 'Climate change' is thought to be towards warmer and wetter winters! So what effect will that have?



Barn Owl: Still sometimes seen in the countryside around the Forest

Warmer winters suggest that birds from the arctic and northern Europe that previously passed through Britain southwards as 'passage migrants', may tend to stay here for the winter. Of course, already many of our familiar garden birds that we think of as our local residents are in fact continental winter visitors. I always notice a increase in my local Blackbird population in mid-October. Continental visitors crossing the North Sea and English Channel

include Robins, Chaffinches, even the little Goldcrest. One cold January day on the cliffs above Dover, I watched, for over an hour as Song Thrushes and Skylarks in 2 & 3's were constantly flying in from as far out to sea as my binoculars could penetrate!

The Government has accepted that data on bird populations are important indicators of environmental change. Many of the different surveys that the public are urged to take part in can, collectively, provide valuable information.

Ken Hoy

PS. Someone has asked me how can you tell a female Great Tit from a male – the answer is they have a thinner black 'tie'. The black line down the breast of the Great Tit is wider in the male bird. He is also slightly bigger and generally more brightly coloured when you see the two together. It is quite noticeable once you start looking more carefully. As with most things in the natural world the 'more you look the more you see'.



*The male great tit's breast and belly-stripe is wider than the female's.
Source- Birdlife of Britain, Peter Hayman*

DESPERATE COWHERDS

Grazing or Mowing?

In seeking to convince the public that there is no acceptable alternative to cattle grazing, the Conservators keep bombarding us with assertions about the shortcomings of mowing. Thus, in the current Forest Focus: *"Whilst machinery has been keeping scrub in check and keeping grasslands plains and heathland open, it does not provide the opportunities for small herbs and wildflowers to see off the competition from grasses"*.

Things must have changed in the last 5 years because in our July 2001 Newsletter the following appeared:

*"Anyone passing **Theydon Green** recently will have seen the long grass and amongst it a great showing of Cuckoo Flowers (Lady's Smock). Whilst large parts of the Green will continue to be cut regularly throughout the spring and early summer by the Parish Council, these longer areas will now be left until July to set seed and allow the Orange Tip butterfly caterpillars to develop. The areas will then be cut and removed by the Corporation's Epping Forest grassland team.*

This is another significant move in grassland conservation in the Forest and you can see more of this kind of patchwork mowing being undertaken, with various sizes of machine, throughout the remainder of the summer. Some areas will be cut, other nearby areas left long to allow insect life to survive. Over 20% of the Forest is made up of open grassland (over 500ha) and a lot of work goes into maintaining these important areas for conservation and recreation.

One splendid grassland to visit is Almshouse Plain where the careful mowing regime of the last few years has resulted in the return of Lousewort, a low-growing pretty pink flower that has flowered gloriously this year. Another plant brought back from the brink of extinction is Betony which is now flowering again in the grassy rides of The Lower Forest. More grassland restoration work is planned for late summer too, including at Baldwins Hill, Woodbury Hollow and Pole Hill where it is hoped to restore the once superb views and rescue rare flowers like the powder-blue Devil's-bit Scabious."

Jeremy Dagley, Forest Conservation Officer

FofEF Newsletter July 2001

RUBBISH



Picture from Epping Forest Visitor Centre website

One of the headaches permanently (and regrettably) faced by the Conservators is the problem and expense caused by the public's ability to convey their rubbish into the Forest, but their inability to take it home with them.

The resultant litter is enough to make one despair of human nature, but a more sinister feature is the deliberate dumping of large quantities of builders' rubble and such like. This is done to avoid the inconvenience and expense of a trip to the proper disposal point.

Thus, in January a van load of builders' rubbish appeared in Connaught Water car park, and a pretty nasty sight it made. No sooner had that lot been removed than in February another lorry load was dumped on another part of the same car park. I may be wrong but it looked to me as though it came from the same source as the first lot.

It seems unlikely that the perpetrators of this anti-social act make a special journey at 3 o'clock in the morning to do their dumping, although, of course, they may do. The probability is that they do their dirty deeds early in the morning or late at night, probably the former since the Connaught Water car park nearly always has a sprinkling of cars observing the wildlife until quite late.

Surely someone driving past must get an idea of what's going on? A builder's van with a few blokes frantically unloading it is not easily concealed.

We urge anyone seeing a builder's van in a Forest car park at an odd time to immediately telephone 0208 532 1010 and report the facts, including if possible registration number of the vehicle. It really is time that we all got together to stop this abuse perpetrated by a tiny minority of building companies.

FofEF

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Walks

March 16th Thursday 10.30 a.m.

A leisurely circular walk from Chingford Station through Bury Wood for coffee at the Owl P.H.

*Leader: Irene Buchan
GR 393 946*

**April 23rd Sunday 10.30 a.m.
Around the Loughton Brook.**

Meet in Broadstrod car-park halfway along the A121 on the left between the Wake Arms roundabout and Loughton.

*Leader: Verderer Peter Adams
GR 429 986*

May 19th Friday 9.30 a.m.

An away day walk along the Thames from Hadleigh to Leigh-on-Sea for cockles and mussels [alternatives available]. Meet in Bury Road car-park, Chingford. The idea is to condense into as few cars as possible for about an hours drive to Hadleigh Castle Country Park. Return to Chingford about 4pm. Alternatively meet at H.C.C.P. Car Park at 10.45 am.

*Leader: Harry Bitten
GR 394 952*

More Info. for Away Day Walk

As may be seen there are two start options, either Bury Road or the Hadleigh Castle County Park car park.

As regards the Bury Road option, to save streams of cars (assuming we get a good turn-out) gas guzzling along the Southend Road, the idea is to fit as many walkers as we can into the fewest number of cars, thus saving the ozone layer, halting global warming, and saving money on petrol!

Those who wish to go direct to HCCP may find the accompanying map useful. Events like this involving an unknown number of cars and distant venues cannot always run to a tight

schedule, so please be patient if you get to HCCP at 10.45am and find there is a serious absence of folk from Epping Forest. We will turn up as soon as possible.

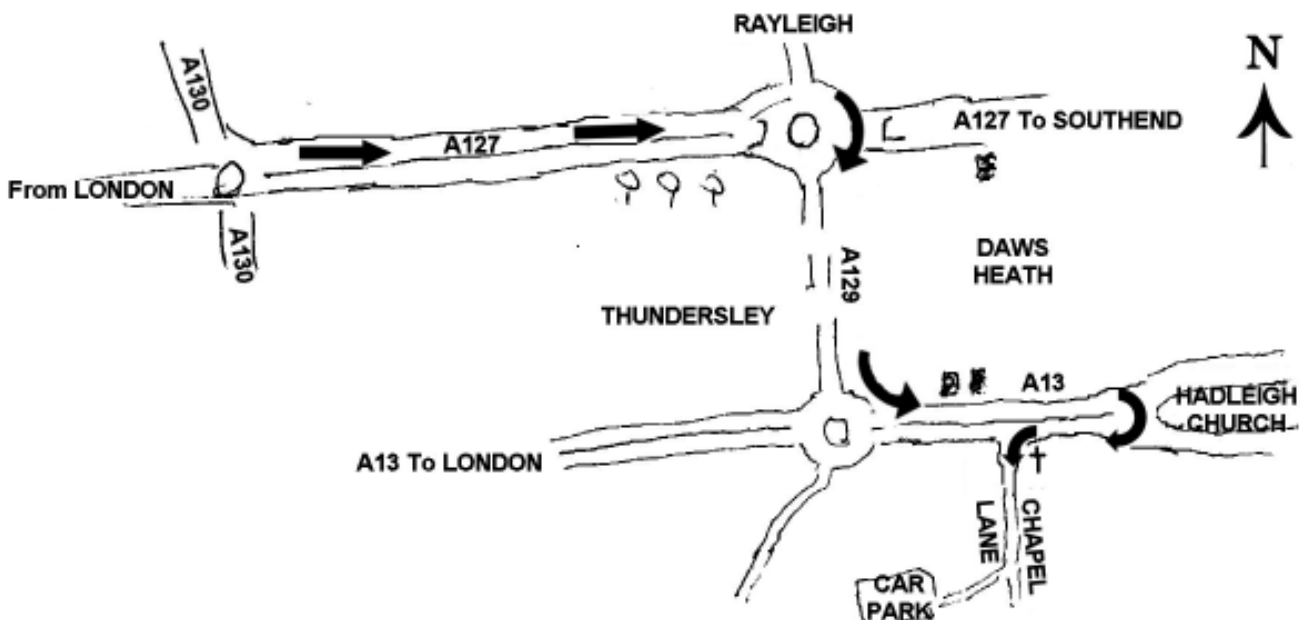
Most of you will probably know Leigh-on-Sea, but I should mention that as well as the usual seafood of cockles, prawns, jellied eels etc. they also now provide oysters from Pyefleet Creek near Mersea Island and they are delicious. The Crooked Billet, as well as a nifty pint, also provides non-seafood alternatives.

The walk is 4/5 miles and has a steepish bit on the return journey.

Harry



Hadleigh Castle



June 24th Saturday 7.30pm
A Midsummer evening walk around
Chingford woods and fields.

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

Leader: Peter Read
GR 393 957

July 30th Sunday 2.00 pm.
A walk around Upshire.

Meet in Upshire Village Hall car park (please park tidily at the far end). Upshire is 1.25 miles along Crown Hill, which is the turning off the Epping New Road just north of the WakeArms roundabout westwards to wards Waltham Abbey. The Village Hall is just opposite the church, where there's a tea and cake sale, waiting for us at the end of the walk!

Leader: Sue McKinley
GR 417 011

ADVANCE NOTICE

Forest Festival

The Forest Festival returns to Chingford Plain this year on Sunday 3rd September 11am - 4pm. We shall have our stall there, where you can come for a chat and/or buy any of our 'goods' for sale! This event has proved very popular in recent years and attracts a wide variety of events and stalls. As usual there will be an assortment of costumed staff and participants. Do please support us. Sadly this might be the sole Chingford Festival this year as Chingford Village Festival has been cancelled because the organiser, Mrs Irene Bull, is unwell. She intends to return next year

Forest Supper

Thursday 23rd November 2006

AGM

This year the AGM will be later than usual to allow the Treasurer and Independent Assessor more time to finalise the end-of-year accounts. We have therefore arranged it to be held on Wednesday 22nd May at the Woodford County High School at 7.30pm (Details of venue etc. in Dates for Your Diary).

We also have an interesting speaker this year in Dr Michael Clark of Kingston University who will speak about his recent research into the Lodge Road Bog

Look forward to seeing you at our AGM in May or on Chingford Plain in September.

Peggy Bitten

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Epping Forest Visitor Centre

Forest Art Exhibition

This is the second exhibition to be held at the Visitor Centre, and forms part of an ongoing relationship between Epping Forest College and the City of London.

The Visitor Centre opening hours are:
Wed – Fri 11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m.
Sat – 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.
Sun – 11.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.

MARCH

Sunday 12th 10.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.
Hills and Plains: a guided walk exploring some of the hillier areas around Theydon Bois. *Meet in Jacks Hill South car park.*

Saturday 18th 10.30a.m.
A Nature Tour in the City of London Cemetery. *Meet 10.30a.m. by the Main Gate.* Booking required.
Leader: George Washington.
Tel: 07944 551 485

Thurs 23rd 10.00a.m. – 11.30a.m.
Guided Walk: Tinies – a stroll around Connaught Water to see the first signs of Spring. This walk is suitable for you and your little ones either carried, pushed or toddling! *Meet in the car park*

APRIL

Sat 1st April 1.00p.m. – 4.00p.m.
Saturday Special: Play the Fool!
Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge.
Come and discover Tudor jokes, masks and puzzles.

Tuesday 4th 10.30a.m. – 2.30p.m.
Easter Crafts Day: A day of exciting Easter activities for children aged 8 –11. Activities will include a Spring Forest Walk, making Easter decorations and an Easter Egg Trail. For more information and to book a place, please contact the Epping Forest Centenary Trust Tel: 020 8508 9061

Sunday 9th 10.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.
Guided Walk: Spring in Loughton Forest. Join Verderer Richard Morris in a walk along the green ride in the Lopper's Forest. *Meet at the Stubbles car park along Nursery Road, Loughton*

Thursday 13th 1.00p.m. – 4.00p.m.
Easter Holiday Event: The Eggy Quiz
Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge.
Quiz for Easter and seasonal activities.

Sun16 and Mon 17th

11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m.

Family event: Self-guided Easter Trail, Epping Forest Visitor Centre. Solve the clues set around the easy access path at High Beach and win a prize! Drop in to the Visitor Centre to collect your trail. Cost £3.50 per child.

Saturday 22nd

2.00p.m. – 4.00p.m.

Discover Bush Wood. Be a nature detective and see what's hiding in Bush Wood, Wanstead. Aimed at 6–10 year olds. Booking is essential.

Thur 27th April

7.30p.m. – 9.30p.m.

Careers in the Countryside evening

Considering your career options? Come and find out more about Countryside Careers. *At a venue to be arranged* – please call for details.

Saturday 29th 11.00a.m.

Buffer Land to the East Linder's Field Nature Reserve and Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve are not part of Epping Forest but along with North Farm, act as buffers to protect the Forest on its eastern side. Join Wren Group members and visit all three places during a walk from Debden Station to Chingford Station. *Meet 11.00a.m. at Debden Station.*
Leader:
George Washington. Tel: 07994 551 485

MAY

Saturday 6th 1.00p.m. – 4.00p.m.
Saturday Special: Heraldry Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge Crafts and activities on a heraldic theme.

Sunday 7th 1030a.m. – 12.30p.m.
Guided Walk: The Eastern Fringe from Warren Hill to Powell's Forest. Join Sally Hayns on a heath and woodland walk with good views from the eastern fringe of the Forest. *Meet at the Forest headquarters at The Warren, entrance off of Epping New Road.*

For details of walks phone 020 8508 0028

Epping Forest Field Centre

Botany for Gardeners

Sun 26th March, Tutor: Tricia Moxey, £32

A chance to look at the anatomy of plants and find out how they function and grow. Common plant diseases and how to improve your garden for wildlife will also be discussed.

Involving Children In Environmental Education

Thurs 30th - Fri 31st March, Tutor: Eilish Rothney, £77, Hands-on

environmental education techniques.

British Amphibians

Sat 8th April, Tutor: Lee Brady, £32
An introductory workshop on the identification and ecology of our native amphibians.

New Navigators

Sat 22nd April, Tutor: Helen Robertson, £32

This course is intended for those with little or no experience of map reading.

Spring Walk

Sun 23rd April, Tutor: Centre Staff, £10
A gentle five to eight mile guided walk.

An Introduction to British Reptiles

Sat 29th April, Tutor: Anne Riddell, £32
This course will introduce participants to the identification and ecology of our native reptiles.

Natural History of Veteran Trees

Sun 30th April, Tutor: Tricla Moxey, £32

During this course there will be an opportunity to view some of these special trees.

Discovering Bats

Sun 14th May, Tutor: Roger Havard, £32

An afternoon and evening course on the ecology of bats worldwide and concentrating on British species. The day will end with an evening a bat detector walk.

For details on Field Centre courses:
Tel: 020 8502 8500 or
e-mail: enquiries.ef@field-studies.council.org

EF Conservation Volunteers

We meet at The Warren at 9:30

Sunday 5 March – Barn Hoppit

Tuesday 14 March – TBA

For further details please contact
Ralph Boswell or Peter Lyons.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March –
Lord's Bushes.

Sunday 26 March – Fernhills

Sunday 2 April – Conservation Path

Tuesday 11 April – TBA

Sunday 16 April – Walthamstow
Forest

Sunday 23 April – Yardley Hill

Sunday 30 April – Tarzy Wood

Sunday 7 May – Wellington Hill

Tuesday 16 May – TBA

Sunday 21 May – Gilbert's Slade

Sunday 28 May – Whitehall Plain
North

For further information please email
efcv2@yahoo.co.uk or contact

Peter Lyons on 020 529 3060

Essex Wildlife Trust

Epping Forest Group

Thursday 23 Mar 2006 HABITATS AND
THEIR INHABITANTS

The AGM of the local Branch will be
followed by an illustrated talk by Alan
Everett.

Meet: 8.00pm in the Methodist
Church Hall, Loughton.

Monday 29 May WILDLIFE OF GUNPOWDER PARK

A joint meeting with the local branch
of the BNA to look at the varied
wildlife of this newly created Park to
the south of Waltham Abbey.

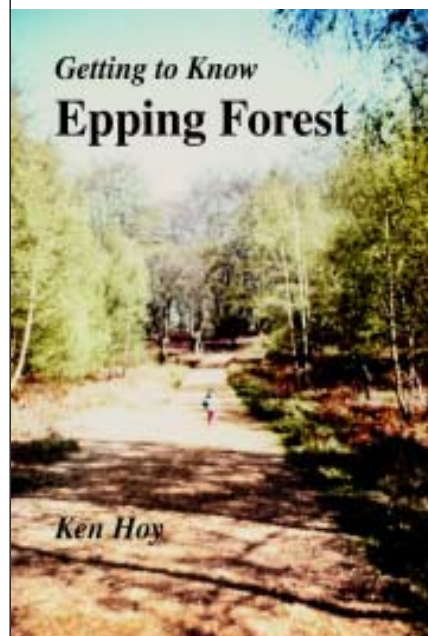
Meet: 8.30am at the

entrance to the Park along
Sewardstone Road, just to the south
of the Waltham Abbey bypass.

Details from Ron Andrews on 020
8524 4239.

Getting to Know **EPPING FOREST**

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



Copies are available
from Seymour Moss on
020 8529 0620

£6-00 to members
(£7-00 inc. p&p).



Church Road, High Beach

"Clare's Walk"

Thursday 30th March 7pm

A one-man play (a poetic
monologue and the shaggy-dog story)
by Steve Waters, acted by Patrick
Morris, and produced by Menagerie
Theatre Company.

It is billed as "A Journey from
London to the Fens in search of the
ghost of the poet John Clare". From
Epping Forest to the AH, from asylum
(on the Suntrap site) to wild wood, meet
activists and twitchers, road-builders
and Utopians - and discover the secret
landscape that lies beneath the tarmac
of the A1 corridor.

It is being premiered here at
Suntrap and a proportion of the box
office will go to support Suntrap.

Tickets are very limited - first come
first served at £7 (£5 concessions)
each, and are available from Arts and
Crafts Dept., London Borough of
Waltham Forest (tel: 020 8496 3587).

A complementary glass of wine will
be offered on arrival at the performance.

Saturday 1 April (no fooling!) 2-4pm
Family Spring Treasure Hunt in the
Suntrap Ground

Entry: £5 per family (to include
prizes and light refreshments)

E-MAILING LIST

To enable us to contact members
with any urgent news in the four
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-
mailing list should send their e-mail
address to S Moss at
seymour@moss40.freemove.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
theFofEF Newsletter.

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 22nd May 2006

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

Agenda for A.G.M

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 25th April, 2005
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report 2005/2006
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Chairman
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Independent Examiner
8. Any Other Business

Officers at present are:

Chairman: Ken Hoy due for re-election this year

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

Hon. General Sec: Peggy Bitten due for re-election in 2008

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Sheppard due for re-election in 2008

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, Jim Gimson, Robert Levene, Sue McKinley, Derek Meakin, Tricia Moxey 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 Chairman or Committee members, please complete the form below and send it to: Mrs. P. Bitten, 9 Frederica Road, Chingford E4 7AL by 1st May 2006.

After the meeting and a break for coffee Dr Michael Clark of Kingston University will speak about his recent research into the Lodge Road Bog. We hope he will reveal something new about the early Forest.

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 2005 Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Epping Forest held at the Woodford County High School Monday 25 April 2005 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, D Meakin, P Read

Apologies: Committee Members: I Buchan, , Mrs S McKinley (Deputy Chair.)

Apologies: Lady Murray, Lady Ellis. Mr & Mrs Everett, John Besant

1. The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Monday 26 April 2004 were accepted and signed with one correction – Sue McKinley should have been included en bloc with others on the committee.

Proposed by Harry Bitten and Seconded by Jack Davis.

2. MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2002-2003:

Ken spoke of Lord Murray's recent death. He was a much valued and very active President, pursuing various campaigns in the House of Lords and in other spheres where he had influence. He will be sorely missed.

Copy of the Chairman's report to be enclosed in the Summer 2005 Newsletter.

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

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

T Sheppard explained the Receipts and Payments Account from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2005, copies of both were distributed. Acknowledgement and thanks for work done were extended to the Treasurer and Peter Gotham, Auditor.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that Ken Hoy's book on Epping Forest continued to sell well with all profit to the Friends.

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Trixia Moxey & seconded by Gareth Browne.

5. ELECTION OF HON. SECRETARY and HON. TREASURER:

Re-election of Peggy Bitten and Tony Sheppard respectively was unanimous.

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Re-election of the committee members including Gareth Browne was unanimous.

7. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Peter Gotham unanimously re-elected for the current year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A vote of thanks was proposed to all the Officers by Robert Levene.

After closure of the meeting and a break for coffee, the speaker was Jon Stokes from the Tree Council. He spoke passionately about remarkable trees in England, pointing out that ancient trees would benefit from stronger protection, similar to that afforded to ancient buildings and conservation areas. To illustrate this need he showed slides of many outstanding ancient trees, one of which had been chopped down recently because it was 'in the way'. The audience much appreciated his excellent talk and slides. Jon Stokes' special role with the Tree Council is Co-ordinator of the National Tree Warden Scheme and he hopes that Tree Wardens will take action to protect local remarkable trees. He is co-author with Donald Rodger of The Heritage Trees of Britain and Northern Ireland (Published by Constable).

CURRENT FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Adams	Loughton	020 8418 0730	Ken Hoy (Chairman)	High Easter	012 4523 1839
Peggy Bitten (Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Robert Levene	Snaresbrook	020 8989 0884
Harry Bitten	Chingford	020 8529 8594	Sue McKinley (Vice-Chair)	Upshire	019 9271 2014
Gareth Browne	Bayford Herts	01992 511 152	Derek Meakin	Chigwell	020 8500 1571
Irene Buchan	Chingford	020 8529 6423	Seymour Moss (Memb. Sec.)	Chingford	020 8529 0620
Alan Curran	Buckhurst Hill	020 8504 8720	Tricia Moxey	Chipping Ongar	01277 364 522
Bill Dexter	Chingford	020 8529 1427	Peter Read	Chingford	020 8524 1659
Jim Gimson	S. Woodford	020 8989 3282	Tony Sheppard (Treas.)	Woodford Grn	020 8504 8288