



Dear Friend,

Right at the end of January, an early morning telephone call alerted us to the fact that something odd had happened at High Beech! Despite the weather being warmer than any time during the last zillion years the Forest beyond Carl's tea hut was covered in a heavy frost! On the following Sunday, we visited High Beech to observe this phenomenon. As may be seen from these photos, the juxtaposition of the veritable winter wonderland and tea and cake consumers dressed for summer outside Carl's hut bathed in sunshine is something to behold.

Apparently, the 'white stuff' was distributed by a TV/film company who wanted to transform the area so as to make a documentary about Essex Lads, presumably in the army, called 'Foot Soldiers'. There were quite a few people about, gazing disbelievingly at the scene and taking photos, it was all very bizarre.



Artificial Snow at High Beech

However, less than a week later along came the real thing and the Forest was covered in 5-6 inches of the deepest snow we've seen for years. The toboggans and tin trays came out from lofts and under stairs and spots like Pole Hill were soon echoing to the shouts and laughter of children – who don't see snow very often these days – as they careered down the slopes.

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Carl's Tea Hut, the same day

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

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CHINGFORD GOLF COURSE

We had a very satisfactory response to our request in the last newsletter for memories of the Chingford Golf Course extending up the Warren Wood slopes. One of the reasons for our request was although we have documentary evidence for its existence up until the early 1950s, this had been called into question. However, our evidence has been totally vindicated and a number of members contacting us confirming that they remembered it well – many thanks to them. In fact, it is still possible to discern some of the physical features of the course.

Former Forest resident Malcolm Swinfen now living in Wiltshire took the trouble to send a longish, interesting letter on the subject which, to offset some of the 'heavy' stuff elsewhere in this issue, we reproduce herewith:

Back in the 1970s and 1980s, I played many rounds at the Royal Epping Golf Course, joining what I called 'the Red Army' at the first tee, all swishing their drivers and dreaming of the perfect round. Perhaps most of these rounds were with my father, Bunny Swinfen (some may recall the name from his long association with the Chingford Cricket Club).

I was intrigued when, one day, he told me that the current course is in fact a redesigned version of the original, that years ago it spread wide, with 9 holes West, but also 9 East of Bury Road. It was however, taking up too much room, it seems. Too many visitors... Golf was to be confined to the West of the Road.

It wasn't long before a wet weekend came: too wet to play; we donned our wellies to retrace the route of the old course, and see if we could discover if any sign remained of the forgotten 9 holes across the plain.

Mercifully, time has not erased all my memories of this day; over 30 years

ago, as we sloshed through the wet meadows, once mown and manicured now ignored and overgrown. Yet more or less where he said there would be, we found flat patches surrounded by slight mounds, maybe now with an impertinent bush growing from it. But unmistakably to the golfer's eye, here once was a golf green.

Some fairways had been swallowed up, but I do remember heading downhill towards the stream that crosses the Rangers Road, and searching (successfully) for the 13th hole. As we sheltered under his broolly, during a sharp shower (a golf broolly, of course) he told me how a visiting American golfer so fell in love with this hole – a par 3 over trees and bushes to a hidden green – that he copied the design and recreated it on a course 'back home'.

The old golf course meandered its way towards the Warren Wood. Golfers would have crossed the road – would they even have bothered looking left and right? Was the road even tarmaced back then? [Yes. Ed.] I recall the uphill hole, turned sharply left to a green nestling beneath the trees; parallel to it, the next hole came tumbling easily down the slope, but with a mischief that good courses always achieve, the golfer would have suddenly found several bushes and a flowing stream – the Ching? – between him and the secluded green.

I know there was an 180 yard hole behind the Royal Forest Hotel. It was the 17th, and I know because my father had a special reason for remembering it, and in great detail, as we walked from tee to green, he told me the following story. Facing a big red setting September sun, he hit what he said felt like a good, 3 wood shot. The ball instantly vanished into the blinding glare, so he and his playing partner trudged towards the green, literally in blind hope. George's ball, they found immediately, but of Dad's ball there was no sign, and their search was long,

exasperating, and fruitless. But unnoticed, upon a nearby bench, smoking a pipe and looking down upon the evening shades over the Forest, sat an old man, who finally broke his long silence with the immortal words "You chaps looking for a golf ball?" You must remember that this was the early 1950s, when politeness was expected, even under these trying (and rather obvious) circumstances. Dad made do with a simple "Yes".

"Well, 'bout 10 minutes ago, I saw one go in that hole where the flag is". Exasperation melted into joy and disbelief: there indeed was my father's ball in the hole; his first and only, hole in one.

If you came down the hill from the Royal Forest, not far behind where the car park is now, you could still find the tell tale humps that encircled the 18th green. They are probably gone now, but maybe not...

My dad died in 1995, and the Forest has long reclaimed those golf holes, yet that walk in the rain, and his wonderful storey of the old man and the hole in one will live on, etched in my memory and in my heart forever.

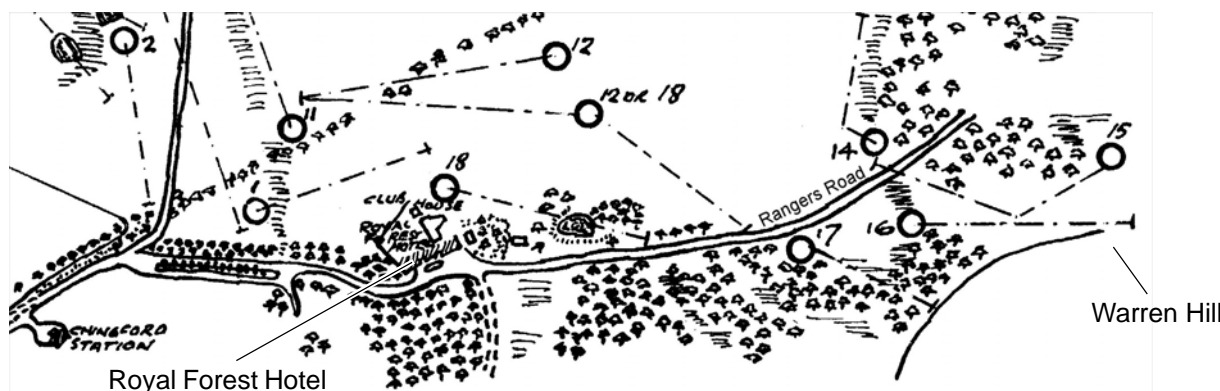
Malcolm Swinfen

Editor's Note – quite a few members contacted us about the old golf course, including Dennis Chasney who remembers playing the course, and Ian Scoones...

"I lived in Buckhurst Hill and often walked to Connaught Water in the 1950s. My father led us along the bottom of Warren Hill and we boys went under the bridge, wading in the Ching towards Connaught Water.

On the right, at the bottom of Warren Hill was at least one golf green with flag and little metal box and I believe there was another green nearby where we often saw golfers".

Ian Scoones



Part of Royal Epping Forest Golf Club as laid out in 1893, drawn by S Barry

THE NATURAL ASPECT - OUR FUTURE FOREST?

Currently there is much talk and concern about the future of the Forest, how far it is accessible or not, cattle grazing, fencing and the extent of 'wood-pasture' and how this might affect the Forest.

It is interesting therefore, to read the words of Edward North Buxton (one of the Conservator's first Verderers) and what he says about the Forest in 1886 when writing in his famous guide book.

He says, when advocating walks through the Bury Wood and Fairmead Thicket northwards from Chingford Plain:



*Fairmead Thicket: May 1976:
Mentioned by Buxton as wild and beautiful in 1886*

"... to the left of this (Chingford Plain) lies the great mass of the Forest, which extends from here nearly to Epping in a broad belt, 4 miles long, and comprises in one block about 4000 acres, nearly the whole of which is covered in a thicket, more or less dense, of oak, beech, hornbeam, crab, maple, thorn, birch and holly. The whole of this wild and beautiful wood is worthy of exploration by the visitor..."

That paragraph tells us quite a lot. Many other Victorian writers on Epping Forest also mention the dense thickets of pollarded woodland. These must, at times, when freshly pollarded, have appeared somewhat unsightly. Yet those writers still extolled the beauty and wildness of the Forest's wooded landscape that Buxton urges the visitor to explore.

Although the woodland may have been denser than it is today, it was still greatly valued for its wild beauty. Why did those Victorians wish to preserve the Forest. Nowadays, there seems to be confusion about what their reasons were!

Earlier, led by Willingale, the loppers had certainly fought for their lopping rights; rights that were centuries old and

valued for the provision of wood for cooking and warmth. But, there is little evidence that many folk fought specifically to preserve their equally ancient right to graze cattle.

So why are grazing rights frequently mentioned as vital in the fight for the Forest? They were important for legal reasons. Lopping Rights applied to each Forest Manor individually. To have fought to defend them would have required many individual legal cases against each Lord of the Manor.

However, Grazing Rights, it was argued – and finally proved – covered all the Forest Manors collectively ... and thus could be argued and fought for as one 'Right' affecting all the Forest. In other words the change from battling to save 'lopping rights' to arguing for 'grazing rights' was a legal tactic!

Why, in the 1870's, was the Corporation of London so concerned to save Epping Forest?

They had a farm at Aldersbrook, now the City

of London Cemetery, and thus had grazing rights. But they were not concerned as farmers or graziers! Indeed a few years after becoming responsible for the Forest's management they restricted grazing.

Why did they value the Forest so?

They were concerned that the Forest should be preserved as an "unenclosed open space for the recreation and enjoyment" of the people of London.

And it seems, they were also concerned to protect what they called "the Natural Aspect" of the Forest. Remember what was being said at the time about the beauty, and wildness of the woodland landscape. A landscape of trees! As Buxton said about the densest block of the Forest at the time:



*Cuckoo Pits area, April 2005:
after clearance work to create 'Wood Pasture'*

"... this wild and beautiful wood is worthy of exploration by the visitor..."

This was said in spite of the pollarded thickets of Forest in the 1880's being less attractive than today – e.g. Buxton again: " ... the unsparring pollarding to which nearly the whole of this otherwise beautiful wood was formerly subjected, and which gives it the effect of having been mown by a scythe."

However, since 1878 we have come to realise the value of preserving, for ecological and historic reasons, the ancient pollards. As they age – with their characteristic 'Epping Forest' look – they are now valued as part of the Forest, thus they have an amenity value, part of the 'natural aspect'. And now, of course, as some die they need to be replaced by some new 'maiden' pollards to ensure continuity.

So what am I saying?

Today it is claimed by some that the woodland has become overgrown and difficult to access, that cattle grazing will open it up for greater public access (it did not happen in the 1880's or the 1960-70s). But, do we want a more open forest that is largely cleared of understorey and undergrowth to create 'wood pasture'? Is it necessary for cattle to go into the woodland? – there's little for them to eat there. Is it difficult for the public to gain access to the woodland?

What should we be asking about 'Our Future Forest'?

The long history and exploitation of the Forest before the 19th century does not tell us a lot about its appearance at different times and what kind of forest it was. We know it was surrounded by a very much smaller population in tiny isolated hamlets ... and so we can only speculate!

THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN AND OTHER THREATS - TO THE GREEN BELT IN PARTICULAR

It seems that over 150 years ago much of it was much denser than it is now and the cattle grazed the grassy plains, especially those near the habitations on the Forest edges, because most needed milking each day. The dense woodlands, highly valued as a source of fuel, were regularly harvested and thus were not like the attractive high woodland that we know and can walk through today,

Knowledge of the past forest can explain the forest we have today.

It is, and always has been, a constantly changing forest and will continue to change – so we must consider what kind of forest we wish it to be in the future. How it should be managed.

In very general terms I imagine most people who use it wish to see the Forest (remain?) as diverse woodland with many forms of landscape mostly containing trees – irrespective of what it might have been in the past.

I believe this must be achieved cautiously and carefully and the results of management constantly assessed and reassessed. We should perhaps recognise that it can be 'over-managed'.

But, above all we must always remember, Epping Forest is essentially an 'amenity forest', a forest enjoyed for many appropriate recreational reasons – as the Corporation of London first envisaged.

Enjoyed for its wildness, its quiet tranquillity, as a place to exercise or relax, enjoyed for its diverse beauty, its wildlife, its history, this, and much more for which there are no words.

Furthermore, it is uniquely near to London's 10 million people.

Finally, I hope Forest Verderer Peter Adams will not mind if I quote what he recently wrote in the local Guardian newspaper when referring to Forest management. He said:

"... however, one must appreciate that the Forest is a special place and does not fit any one hole. The Forest is not a Country Park and, despite the huge importance of its natural history, it is not a Nature Reserve. Neither should we consider it a collection of golf courses, football pitches, woodland, etc. The whole is very much more important than the sum of the various parts".

Long may it continue to be so!

Ken Hoy

When the East of England Plan was issued by the East of England Regional Assembly in December 2004 it set out the way the 478,000 housing units that the Deputy Prime Minister had decreed to be built in the Region up to 2021, should be distributed to the constituent districts. This is only 14 years off and some of our readers may still be around!

After a period of public consultation – in which the Friends participated (to no discernable effect) – the proposals were considered at an Examination - in - Public at which some interested parties were allowed to make their views known. The Friends were not invited to appear before the Panel nor was the City Corporation!

The Panel made its comments on the **East of England Plan in Autumn 2006** and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (who had meantime taken on the Office of the Deputy Prime Ministers' role) published in December 2006, the proposed changes to the Plan.

This comes in the form of a 267-page document together with two annexes, these being the Sustainable Appraisal of the Proposals and the Habitats Directive Assessments; they run to 28 and around 100 pages respectively. There will be a short period of public consultation, to which the Friends will contribute, in respect of the matters discussed before the final version is published.

In the document the Secretary of State helpfully takes the opportunity of increasing the number of new homes to be built in the Region up to 2021, to 508,000 and indicates that this should be regarded as a minimum and that individual authorities should seek to exceed their allocations.

At Policy SS7 it is indicated that 'the broad extent of Green Belts in the Region is appropriate and will be maintained'. However, strategic reviews of the Green Belt boundaries are needed in various places including Harlow, East Herts and Epping Forest District. When these boundaries are being reviewed they should be set in such a way as to cater for development needs up to 2031. Furthermore it is envisaged that, starting in 2007 viz immediately on completion of the current exercise (or perhaps even

overlapping it) there should be a full review of the strategy relating to the 2011-2031 period. There seems little doubt that, if insufficient opposition is mobilised, this review will call for increased numbers of housing encroachments on the Green Belt and remaining countryside.

The document frequently mentions the housing needs of the Region. However there is little doubt that this need could be easily accommodated by a long way short of half-a-million plus homes. In fact the needs derive from inward migration to the Region, which if current trends continue stems 40% from London, 20% from overseas and 40% from other parts of the UK.

The housing allocation for Harlow is 16,000 including 10,000 to the north (with the caveat that the re-jigged G.B. boundaries should provide for a significantly longer number). The allocation for Epping Forest District is 3,500.

The proposal in the original East of England Plan that North Weald Aerodrome should be covered in homes and businesses has been dropped partly on the grounds that this would cause increased congestion on the M25! What nearly 20,000 homes being built in Harlow and the rest of Epping Forest District will do for congestion on the M25 is not touched upon!

Clearly the Green Belt around Harlow will be substantially redrawn. Epping Forest District is virtually all Green Belt outside the urban area. It is difficult to envisage where 3,500 houses will go up to 2021 without considerable damage to the Green Belt.

The Government is on record many times saying that the M.G.B. will be preserved and indeed that is said in the document under discussion. However the same document has indicated that in order to accommodate massive housing and other development Green Belt boundaries will need to be redrawn! Although areas of countryside farther out may be re-classified as Green Belt that is meaningless and indicates a temporary protection until the next bout of development.

The section covering the Green Belt in the document is full of words and phrases indicative of weakening protection for these vital areas.

At 3.29 the document declares that:

1. Tightly drawn Green Belt boundaries, while assisting urban concentration, have made it increasingly difficult to meet development needs, particularly for housing, resulting in greater disposal of development and thereby contributing to sustainable traffic patterns.
2. The scale of the Regions housing needs and the aim to achieve a better balance between supply and demand in all areas, including in regard to the London Arc where demand is particularly strong and affordability problems particularly acute.

The reviews it declares will result in significant change locally but can be made without evading the principles and overall eroding of the Green Belt.

Policy SS8 Land in the Urban Fringe

This section has the statement that Local Authorities should work with developers and other agencies to secure the enhancement, effective management and appropriate use of land in the urban fringe through formulating and implementing strategies for urban fringe areas working across administrative boundaries where appropriate.

Local Development Documents (the successor to the Local Development Plan) should:

1. Ensure that new development in or near the urban fringe contributes to enhancing its character and appearance and its recreational and biodiversity value.
2. Seek to provide networks of accessible green space linking urban areas with the countryside.
3. Set targets for the provision of green space for **planned urban extensions**.

The remainder of this section carries a number of statements about the urban fringes having areas of degraded agricultural land and fragmented ownership, which could accommodate environmental improvements.

Moreover some parts of the urban fringe will be used to accommodate urban extensions. Where this happens complementary strategies will ensure that development will be absorbed in

landscape terms and the needs of residents for recreation and access are taken into account.

Beware the Green Arc bearing gifts!

There is worrying lack of clarity in the document about how far these various weasel statements can or will be applied to the Green Belt in general and this is where other straws-in-the-wind come in!

The Chancellor (next P.M.?) and the deputy P.M. commissioned a report from Kate Barker on Land-use Planning as an economic study. Its terms of reference being to consider how planning policy and procedures can better deliver economic growth and prosperity... In particular to assess: -

1. Ways of further improving the efficiency and speed of the system.
2. Ways of increasing the flexibility, transparency and predictability that enterprise requires.
3. The relationship between planning and productivity.
4. The relationship between economic and other sustainable development goals.

While the Report recognises the vital contribution Green Belt policy has made to English Planning and that it has an important future, it seriously undervalues the environmental aspects of the policy. In particular it seeks to make a distinction between the landscape qualities of land in the Green Belt in terms of its availability for building development.

Developers and some professional bodies, have frequently, over the years, sought to promote the message that 'poorer' quality land in the Green Belt should be developed, so slackening the tight bands of the boundaries (see above), and Kate Barker seems to have taken this on board and makes recommendations accordingly. This would merely encourage landowners in the Green Belt (many big companies acquire such land in the hope/expectations that planning constraints will be eased!) to neglect land so as to make it more eligible for development.

The Report lays emphasis both on the desirability of allowing urban development to expand into the Green Belt in order to reduce commuting distances thus theoretically reducing pollution, and the doctrine that the market, rather than local authorities and public opinion, should decide changes.

The Report also makes the very strange, and rather alarming proposal to allow 'Goodwill Payments' to be made to enable developments to occur even though these would be unwelcome to some members of the community.

The London Green Belt Council, of which we are members, have made the strongest possible detailed and insightful comments on the Report to the two Ministers concerned.

All this development and the weakening of the Green belt protection is bound to have adverse effects on Epping Forest in terms of pollution, general disturbance and increased traffic, including road kill!

In a letter accompanying the Proposed Changes to the East of England Plan, Meg Munn the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, declares that the Sustainability Appraisal concludes that the Proposal Changes are in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and that the additional growth and changes to distribution do not give rise to adverse environmental impacts.

In fact my reading of the Sustainability Appraisal is that it concludes that the proposed changes are not likely to lead to any additional significant sustainability impacts beyond those already identified in the original Plan.

This is rather like saying to someone suffering from high blood pressure and clogged arteries you can eat some additional fatty fry-ups beyond the usual because that won't make you much worse!

Harry Bitten

LODGE ROAD CAR PARK

This most northerly of the Forest car parks has had a somewhat chequered history! The cowboy builder's community regularly used it for dumping rubbish. Eventually a height restriction barrier was erected, which improved the situation, but at the same time a policy of closing the car park during the night was instituted. This didn't work very well and often the gate was not opened during the day. Recently the car park has remained closed.

Happily the Superintendent has just confirmed that it will now be open on a permanent basis because of its value for access to the northern Forest, Copped Hall etc. Many thanks to him!

Harry Bitten

THE MAPLES

There is only one member of the maple family that is native to Epping Forest and that is the Field Maple. Others of the family are familiar to gardeners as 'the Acers' and although other species of maple do occur in the Forest they have been introduced - long ago in the case of the Sycamore.

The Field Maple is said to be uncommon or rare as a full grown tree, being found more commonly growing as part of hedgerows on the Forest buffer-lands and the chalky boulder clay areas of Essex. However there are actually many mature Field Maple trees growing in the Forest: e.g. near Connaught Water, in Bury Wood, Fairmead Thicket, Hill Wood and the Lower Forest.



Field Maple: winged seeds & leaves

The leaves of the Field Maple are relatively small and red stemmed, with five rounded lobes. In autumn it is among the most colourful of our native trees. The leaves turn a deep golden yellow with flushes of pinks and reds – especially where the tree is growing in a sunny position. Even the seeds or fruits are colourfully red and green. They are shaped like the more familiar winged Sycamore seeds, but the 'wings' grow at almost 180 degrees instead of the 90 degrees as in the case of the Sycamore's 'helicopter' seeds. In spring the leaves as they first break from the bud, have a pink tinge and then the tree produces its quite attractive greenish yellow flowers.

On the trunk the bark is quite characteristically fissured.

The leaves were a popular subject with medieval carvers, both in stone and wood on church pews etc., and the fine-grained wood was/is also turned for use in making musical instruments and in medieval times as drinking bowls called 'mazers'.

The Field Maple also, I suspect, has some connection with boundary marking or a similar ancient landmark significance – marking a route or track. There are locations and even houses called 'Cut Maple' ... which I assume means 'pollarded maple'. In at least one place (marked on Chapman & Andre's map in 1772-4) – near Cobbins Brook, Epping Upland – a pollarded maple still exists. However, I can find no reference to the purpose such named sites! (Anyone have a clue?)

The Sycamore or Great Maple is a very common tree in parts of the Forest that have been cleared in the recent past (19th century) and have now become 'secondary woodland'. Its seedlings growing on the woodland floor, often suppressing other growth, have strong tap roots and are difficult to remove. The flowers are rather more yellow than

green and are relatively attractive, but unlike the flat-headed bunching of the Field Maple flowers, the Sycamore flowers hang in a pendulous bunch. These flowers, rich in nectar are very popular with bees.

Not easily mistaken for any other species, the large leaves of the Sycamore are commonly infected by a fungus that causes quite large black spots, the 'tar-spot fungus' – harmless to the tree. However recently Sycamores have been attacked by a more serious disease – the 'sooty-bark fungus'.

It is thought the Sycamore was introduced from Europe around the 16th century and, as it is quite hardy, growing in coastal areas and at altitude, it was often planted around exposed, hillside houses and moorland farms. In the north of England frequently the trees and house date each other.

It is a tree most popular with many species of aphids (green-fly) and it thus becomes notorious for covering parked cars with the sticky 'honey-dew' excreted by the aphids. There is an attractive variety where the underside of the leaf is purple. Examples can be seen by the car park on the top of Piecing Hill, Theydon.

'Perhaps the most famous individual Sycamore is the tree on the village green at Tolpuddle, Dorset. Under this tree in the 1830's the local agricultural labourers met to talk – and in effect formed the first agricultural trades union. This was illegal in 1830 and six labourers were transported to Australia as a consequence – they of course became the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs'. The Old Sycamore still stands on the green, but to ensure continuity our late President Lord Murray of Epping Forest, when he was Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, planted a seedling of the old tree nearby. This was in 1984 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the transportation of the farm labourers'.



Norway Maple: flowers in April



Norway Maple: leaves in June

The Norway maple, another introduced species is an attractive ornamental tree with similarly lobed leaves, but the leaves are much more spikey and quite distinct. They turn a rich golden yellow in autumn and in spring the flowers are bigger than our native Field maple and a brilliant acid yellow. A few trees can be found around the edges of the Forest and its verges where seeds have escaped from gardens.

The Silver maple, is a North American species, named for the silvery undersides of the leaves. Two or three examples can be seen growing on the two northern islands in Connaught Water. They are most attractive in autumn when the leaves turn from green to pink and silver.

Most gardeners are familiar with the species and varieties of garden shrubs, the Acers – of Japanese origin. One or two of these survive on the Forest as quite old trees that are relics of Paul's Nursery at High Beach ... look in the woodland south of the grassy clearing.

Confusion may arise between the large leaved maples (Sycamore & Norway Maple) and the unrelated Plane tree, where the tough spiked leaves appear to be somewhat similar. The well known, London Plane, thought to be a hybrid between the SE European species and an American species, does not grow wild but examples can be seen on the Forest near the corner of Bury Road and Hornbeam Lane, Chingford, and another near Nursery Road and Smarts Lane, Loughton. This is the tree easily recognised as the bark readily peels off leaving lighter coloured patches.

Ken Hoy

CONNAUGHT WATER

These fine February weekends have seen the car park absolutely crammed full and of course in the spring/summer/autumn weekends and during the week sometimes, the car park is full and cars park along considerable lengths of Rangers Road. The Conservators are seeking lottery funds for developments including a refreshment and information facility at Connaught Water.

Surely if this is built the car park will be totally inadequate and will have to be substantially extended. Is this really what is wanted, with the attendant litter problems? It is said that the Conservators wish to develop facilities for the Public but in my view the Forest itself is the facility that they have provided, and Butlers Retreat is only just up the road!

Harry Bitten

CHARLES (JIM) GIMSON



We have to report the sad news of the death, after a fairly brief illness eventually diagnosed as motor neurone disease, of our much loved colleague and Committee member last December. Jim - he was really Charles but we always knew him as Jim - had an interesting life. In his early days he lived in Spain where his father managed a mine. He was sent home to school in the Midlands and often went back to stay with his parents during the holidays. He studied engineering at University before the War and then joined-up and spent much time in the Orkneys.

He taught electrical engineering after the War and ended his career as a senior lecturer at University College London. After he retired, and the death of his wife, Jim was an active member of the National Trust, Woodford Historical Society and the Friends. For many years he was a regular walker with the Buckhurst Hill Community Association.

On becoming a member of our committee, Jim took over responsibility for the organisation of the delivery of our Newsletter, which doesn't quite convey the amount of work this involved as Peg is discovering, trying to organise a replacement arrangement despite the careful and detailed lists and information that Jim bequeathed to us.

Jim was cremated at the City of London Cemetery on the 8 December and the large number of his relatives and friends at the service of Thanksgiving was testimony to the regard in which he was held. He was 87 and will be much missed.

THE FOREST SUPPER

NOV 2006

The 2006 Forest Supper, our biggest social event of the year was its usual success although the numbers attending were a bit down on previous years. The proceedings are perhaps getting a bit formulaic, perhaps the quizzes are a bit too easy/difficult! On the other hand the caterer's standards didn't drop on their second year and everyone seemed to think that the food was good; didn't they? As ever the difference between financial misery and happiness was the raffle. We continue to be amazed and enormously grateful for the generosity of the donors of raffle prizes and the similar traits of the buyers of tickets gently encouraged by Mr and Mrs Moss and their colleagues. Another factor in respect of our financial viability was the abstinence shown by the modest amount of liquor consumed, only £412's worth, no hangovers there, then! This is not a challenge to drink more in 2007!

We were glad to welcome Wendy Mead and Christine Cohen chairman and deputy chairman of Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Mat Roberts the newly appointed Superintendent and Mrs Roberts and Harry Cohen MP and his wife Elen, The Verderers and many others whose interests and organisations are associated with us.

MAKE A NOTE the 2007 do is on Thursday 19th November. It has to be Thursday 'cos the Hawkey Hall is cheaper than on Friday the day we need to hold it. CHEAPER!!! 2006 hire charge was £750.

Donations to the Raffle

Pat Rolfe, Pat Fearne, Maureen Tribe, David Pigott, Irene Buchan, Hazel & David Shukla, Tricia & Paul Moxey, Maureen & Peter Read, Olive & Jim Fewell, Olive & Bob Lockyer, Doreen & Harry Royds, Joan & Harry Edler, Cynthia & Keith Wendon, Ernest Glynn, Bill Naismith, Hazel & John Leyton, Brenda Moses, Sheila Hobbs, Iris Sylvester, Ann Hagggar, Lady Heather Murray, Stephen Murray, Stella & Gerald Butler, Marilyn Kramer, Joyce & Ron Clayton, Mary Porter, Jo Huber, Lynn & Peter Haseldine, Jean & Dennis Moss, Janet Creeves, Jean Smith, Joan Stowers, Pat Bishop, Hilary & Ravi Kunzru, Sally Hopper, Anthea Levene, Nik O'Flynn, Hilda & Vera Anslow, Joan Humphreys, Barbara Blossom, Margaret & Ronald Smith, Amanda & Peter Gotham.

SEEKING A TREASURER

Anthony Sheppard, our esteemed Treasurer for many years, has given notice that he will be leaving later this year, due to increasingly demands from his new role as Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Academy of Music. Lots of thanks are due and more about his plans later, but it means we are now looking for a new Treasurer to join our committee!

Some financial acumen is needed, along with a chance to join in the full work of the committee.

If you are interested, please give Ken a ring.

THE BRITISH NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference 19th May 2007
"Urban Enveloped Historic Habitat: Epping Forest" 19th May 2007 Forest School, College Place, Snaresbrook.

Guest of Honour & Recipient of The BNA Peter Scott Memorial Award Sir David Attenborough.

Lectures, Field Workshops on historic trees, ladybirds, hedges, spiders, wild flowering plants, small mammal trapping, owl pellets etc. Booking/Information: info@bna-naturalists.org

DELIVERING THE NEWSLETTER

Following the sad death of Jim Gimson we have had to make new arrangements for the delivery of the Newsletter. Accordingly I wrote to the 50 members who delivered the Newsletter for Jim and asked for volunteers to continue his good work and we are lucky that Hilary Kunzru of Woodford Green has come forward to do this. Out of the 1600 Newsletters, all but 480 are delivered by hand, saving the Friends a very considerable amount of money.

The distribution will now be done as follows:

1. A 'second tier' group of members will assemble at Hilary's directly the Newsletter is printed, to 'stuff' them into envelopes.
2. That 'second tier' group including some who will not have been involved in the stuffing, will take/collect bundles of Newsletters and
3. Arrange for those bundles to be distributed to those 'front line troops' who deliver directly to members' addresses.

We are very grateful to all those involved in this rather complex operation and hope it all works out!

Incidentally we have discovered 5 'rounds' without a deliverer!

1. The Hatch, Chingford covering The Bramblings, Balliol Ave, Manor Way and Simmons Lane.
2. North Chingford area near the Bull and Crown covering Brodie, Balgonie, Mayfield and Woodland Roads.
3. North Chingford near Nevin Drive School area covering College Gardens, The Ridgeway, Mount Echo and Sunset Avenue.
4. Woodford Green area covering Hollywood Way, Gascoigne Gardens and Oak Hill.
5. South Woodford area covering Chelmsford, Derby, Empress, Fullers and Stanley Roads.

Please contact me if you can help on 020 8529 8594.

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.friendsofepppingforest.org.uk

A NAVEL EXERCISE



Our Committee recently thought we should be a little introspective...we did an internal survey of what we thought of ourselves and our performance. Having found that some of the results were at least 'interesting', we wondered whether we are the best judges of our successes and failures. So, we are inviting you, the membership, to tell us what you think!

So, would you mind putting pen to paper, or fingers to the keyboard, and frankly tell us? We will be very grateful for all and any responses you can send – good, bad or indifferent.

These are some of the questions we asked ourselves... What do you think?

1. What do you think the FoEF does best – what are we 'good at'?
2. What do we do badly – what could we do better?
3. What should we do that we do not do at all? – or what should we be doing more of?
4. What about our contacts with you – are you sufficiently informed?

5. Do you disagree with anything we do or say?
6. What about the Newsletter. How would you like it changed?
7. How can we recruit more members, and younger members – we are all getting older!
8. What are your main concerns about the Forest? Large and small ones.

We were quite blunt and frank in our replies... so we expect you to be too! – anonymously if you wish.

But, would you please indicate approximately how long you have been a member, as there might be a difference between those of you who have supported us for many years and those who have joined us more recently.

If you are not a member but see our Newsletter or know of our activities we would also be extremely interested in your views.

We really want to know what you think – and in the next Newsletter we will tell you what you think... collectively, and what we thought!

Many thanks in anticipation?

WANSTEAD PARK REVEALED

The historical significance of Wanstead Park is the theme of an imaginative wide ranging project organised by the members of the Wanstead Parklands Community Project who have won a Local Heritage Initiative Grant of £28,380. The Local Heritage Initiative is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local heritage landscape, landmarks, tradition and culture. The scheme is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Countryside Agency and the Nationwide Building Society.

This money will be used to raise the profile of the Park by encouraging further research into its history, the publication of informative leaflets and the production of a DVD about the famous and infamous people connected to the Park as well as the landscape.

Funds are also available for the purchase of a magnetometer for a non-invasive archaeological investigation to search for the possible location of the Roman villa site.

The members of Wanstead Parklands Community Project are working closely with the Conservators of Epping Forest to encourage people to take a greater interest in the Park. We wish to tap into the wealth of local information and use this to recount the most recent history of the Park. Do you have specific memories of the Park, or historic photos which you are willing to share with others which can be incorporated into a website?

Do you have an interest in or specialist knowledge of 18th trade, music, horticulture, astronomy, cuisine, manners or costume? Would you be willing to help with specific research projects?

Some filming for the DVD has taken place, but several re-enactments of historical events are planned and we wonder if you wish to become involved in its production. Do you have experience of script writing or period dancing? Do you have a secret wish to be "an extra" in appropriate historical costume such as 18th grandee or servant, 19th high society hostess or angry commoner?

If you feel you would like to offer to help or discuss the project further, do please contact me, Tricia Moxey, by phone 01277 364522 or by e-mail tricia_moxey@yahoo.co.uk

WALKS

Natural Re-cycling

I was joined by a small but enthusiastic group for a leisurely stroll near Jack's Hill on the afternoon of **Thursday 19th October**. Hidden among the leaves were a significant number of small and not so small toadstools of varied forms and colours. Some like the Chartreuse coloured False Deathcap *Amanita citrina* are poisonous, others such as the chunky brown topped Bay Boletus *Boletus badius* are delicious, but cannot be collected without a licence. A number of red Fly Agarics *Amanita muscaria* (which have hallucinogenic properties) were discovered beneath some birches and a fine edible beefsteak bracket (*Fistulina hepatica*) grew high up on an oak branch out of reach of any collectors. A magnificent troop of the delicate Porcelain Fungus (*Oudemansiella mucida*) was found on a fallen beech trunk and several colour varieties of brittle caps (*Russula* species) were seen as well as milk caps (*Lactarius* species). At this time of the year, many species provide essential nourishment for deer and other woodland creatures including various minute flies.

I explained the beneficial mycorrhizal association between certain fungi and woodland trees and how this can help newly planted trees to flourish. Several hollow trunked trees demonstrated how effectively the various heart rotting fungi recycle the central dead wood so that its components can be reused again.

Tips on the uses of dry Birch Bracket Fungi completed what could only be a brief introduction to the varied and fascinating world of fungi.

Tricia Moxey

10th November 2006

30 or so members (and some non-members) turned up, on quite a sunny morning, to the Fairmead Bottom car park. We noted, as the walk was supposed to see the autumn colours, that autumn was at least a month late! Normally Hornbeam trees begin to turn yellow at the beginning of October and here we were looking at the trees of Hill Wood and they were all green! Later we saw a few Hornbeams that had started to drop the odd yellow leaf. Beeches, in early November are normally more than halfway through to their wonderful chestnut colours. This year they were still mostly green, as were the birches that are normally a deep gold by October!

We set out to look at Fairmead pond – a water lily was in bloom – and noted

the Reed Mace ('bulrush') beginning to take over the pond again. We could see no signs of the beautiful Flowering Rush that once freely decorated this pond in July & August. We hoped it has not died out or been cleared out by mistake.



Flowering Rush in Fairmead Pond 1977

Fairmead Bottom was very fresh and green having been grazed by cattle and rabbits, but we saw little signs of returning wild flowers. We also looked at three of the bomb craters – once rich with pond life, including dragonfly nymphs. They too contained invading Reed Mace and were heavily trodden-in by the cattle. The dry summer had lowered the water levels.

Looking at the growth of the large Hawthorn bushes now covering the southern part of Fairmead Bottom I'm afraid I became very nostalgic. And, going back to my teenage 'twitching-bird-watching' days of the early 1940's I told of the four pairs of Red-backed Shrikes that nested in Fairmead bottom - the young of which I had ringed. They bred regularly in those bushes in those days, as did several other pairs around the Forest. Now they are extinct as a breeding species in Britain! Some of the folk with us had not heard of the 'butcher bird' - the Shrike's folk name – so-called because of the male's habit of storing surplus prey skewered on thorns.

We continued over Palmer's Bridge, named after Col Palmer of Nazeing, who was a Verderer trying to defend the Forest during the crucial decades of the mid-19th century. We did not walk along the Red Path to Connaught Water, but continued up the Ash Ride. The Red Path acquired its name from its original surface of crushed red bricks (from the Pole Hill brick field?). While the Ash Ride is of course named after great Ash

trees growing on either side at the top end of the ride. A few are still there! Ron Andrews showed us a seedling of the rare Wild Service tree growing beside the ride. We had previously looked at the mature Wild Service tree growing in the car park when we started out, and, later saw some more apparently seedling trees beside the Green ride at the eastern end of Almshouse Plain. If seedlings, these are most unusual as the tree normally spreads by suckers but no other mature tree could be seen nearby.

At the junction of five ways – three were rides - we admired the great Bedford Oak, earlier called the Cuckoo Oak (I don't why) and later rather mysteriously changed to Grimston's Oak. John T Bedford was a Deputy of the Corporation of London who in 1871 initiated their fight to save the Forest, and the first Chairman of the Epping Forest Committee. Grimston was a well-known cricketer who advocated clearance work around the tree in the 1880's.

We speculated about the tree's age, maybe 400 years? It has recently lost one of its giant main (early) branches and the rings here may eventually tell us something of its age. In old pictures of the tree, over 100 years ago, it looked much the same!

After visiting the Cuckoo Pits – old gravel pits – we turned northwards into the woodland. Here questions were raised about many of the Hornbeams that had their 'tops reduced'. They were considered unsightly. This was part of

a recent "opening up" of the woodland where the clearance of bushes and undergrowth had occurred (2-3 years ago) – we presumed this was to create 'wood-pasture'.

The re-growth of ground cover was mainly bramble, bracken and rushes.

Next, we reached Pear-tree Plain – that had been cleared and restored as a plain 4-5 years ago. Here the story was the same, a tangle of bramble, bracken and a thick growth of rushes taking over.

The history of this clearing is typical of several places in the surrounding woodland. During the first half of the last century such clearings were largely kept open by grazing rabbits and deer – the cattle rarely came this far into the woodland. But after mid 1960's when rabbits and deer had sharply declined, Pear-tree Plain, like Ludgate Plain, disappeared under a thick growth of birch trees ... until these were removed in 2001-2.

Leaving Pear-tree Plain we had reached the Green Ride and continued uneventfully to Almshouse Plain and then Fairmead Bottom and the cars. Some of us then retired to the Duke of Wellington for a 'goodbye' lunch with Sally Hayns, the Forest Public Relations Officer, who was about to leave the Forest and take up a senior post in the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

We drank her health and wished her success in her new job in the voluntary sector.

Sunday December 10th Christmas Walk 2006

The weather forecasts had been predicting awful conditions all week for Sunday although these were gradually amended to suggest that with luck we might get away with it. Which we did!

Starting from the Lodge Road car-park at 13.00 hours, around 40 walkers turned up bravely defying the weather portents and after generously waiting 3 minutes for latecomers, we set off along Lodge Road. I'd stuck my neck out by indicating that there was a good prospect of seeing some deer during the walk. Such optimism often means that none will be seen!

Having crossed Crown Hill very carefully we arrived at Copped Hall Gates and speculated how many people over the years had been put off entering by their forbidding no-entry appearance. Every time Epping Forest District Council renews the public footpath sign by the side gate, someone [I wonder who?] destroys it. It would be rather nice if the Copped Hall Trust put a welcoming notice on the gates directing walkers to the side gates.

Once inside we turned left along the Selvage, downhill and through the tunnel under the M25. We ascended the hill in Raveners fields and then crossed Addison's Meadow to Copthall Green. In this section the views were excellent and there was no sign of the black Aberdeen Angus cattle, whose enthusiastic welcoming antics have put off a lot of potential walkers.

We then entered the Copped Hall Estate and turned right back into the Selvage, where I was hoping to see deer, fingers crossed! Lo and behold, after a couple of 100 yards there they were, a mixed herd of fallows, some fine bucks with good sets of antlers and the rest does and youngsters.

We then walked up the slope and into the conifer wood, where the herd appeared again and then disappeared! The next objective was the Trafalgar Wood where a few days previously some of us, together with lots of school children and representatives from the Epping Forest Committee and the Warren had planted 600 treelets in the pouring rain!

On the way there a large herd of fallows sped across the field in front of us. Having paused to view the Trafalgar Wood and get our breath back we went through the conifer wood to the main track to Copped Hall, just in time to observe the herd (it was probably the same deer) dashing over the grass towards the Hall.



Pear-tree Plain, April 1964; Growth of young birch saplings in the mid-distance & nearer more new birch seedlings - following loss of grazing by deer and rabbits

We crossed the bridge over the M25 and then turned left into the Warren Wood and did a complete circuit of it, stopping briefly to admire the little group of Wellingtonia or Giant Sequoias and seeing two further groups of deer on route. Just off the track back to the Gate we noted the memorial trees recently planted in respect of Jeremy Wisenfeld and Eric Dorner.

At this point, Peg B and Alan Curran rushed ahead to the cars to lay out the mince pies and open the bottle of wine, thus when the main body arrived everything was ready and we toasted each other and the Forest, and speculated, unrealistically, how nice it would have been to lay on roast venison sandwiches, and still it didn't rain!

Harry Bitten

**January 25th
Connaught Water to Cuckoo Pits**

As I set off to lead a walk from Connaught Water in search of the Cuckoo Pits it started to snow, giving a white dusting to the trees. Yesterday we had sufficient snow to give a good ground covering and I was looking forward to that rare opportunity in the current 'global warming climate' to a walk through Epping Forest in the snow. Unfortunately it was so warm that all the snow had disappeared within the hour leaving only a thin covering of ice over the muddy clay paths which we so expect at this time of the year in this part of the forest.

A group of fifteen people set off on a pleasant walk round Connaught Water with one of our group, Ron Andrews, ready to record any memorable images with his camera, and an interesting variety of ducks and

water fowl to keep us entertained as we cut off through a forest track for Buttonseed corner where five of the main rides converge.

We then walked the short distance to the Cuckoo Pits, an interesting group of small ponds, where we examined recent conservation works before setting off on a route that we hoped would lead us back to the Pits at the end of the walk.

As we threaded our way through some little used, but still muddy paths we had the opportunity to see pollarding in different areas carried out with greater or lesser success over each of the last five decades including some recent 'maiden' or first time pollarding.

Thanks to Pat Andrews's knowledgeable eye we also saw some young wild service tress, one of the rarer species in the forest.

As we turned down a path by the side of the Cuckoo Brook, which some maintain is the prettiest stream in Epping Forest; we had, on several occasions, to divert to avoid trees that had come down during the previous week's storms.

It was very interesting for the group to note the difference in the condition of the paths which had only been walked upon, in comparison to the paths that were heavily rutted by mountain bikes.

As we returned to the Cuckoo Pits in the bright sunshine and then to our start point, two hours after setting off, the group commented on how they had enjoyed the walk and were looking forward to the next Friends' of Epping Forest walk in Wanstead Park at 10:30am on Thursday 22nd February.

Robert Levene



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WALKS

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

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

**Leader: Judy Adams
GR 393 913**

**April 18th Wednesday 10.30am
Spring in Loughton's Forest**

Meet in the Nursery Road car-park (The Stubbles) which is 2 minutes along Nursery Road from Smarts Lane, Loughton, almost opposite Connaught Avenue.

**Leader: Richard Morris
Verderer of Epping Forest
GR 417 963**

**May 19th Saturday 2.00-4.00pm
A walk in the High Beach area**

Meet in the main car park at High Beach near Carl's tea hut.

**Leader: Alan Curran
GR 408 978**

**June 23rd Saturday 7.30pm
Midsummer Walk**

Our usual midsummer's evening walk in the 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 13th Friday 10.30 am
Looking at Dragonflies, Butterflies
and other summer insects**

A gentle 2 hour walk. Meet in the Cornmill Meadows car-park off the Crooked Mile north of Waltham Abbey.

**Leader: Ken Hoy
GR 384 017**

OTHER FofEF EVENTS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Monday 21st May 2007 at the WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, Woodford Green at 7.30pm

**Saturday 30th June 12 noon – 5pm
Chingford Village Festival**

We intend to have a stall at this very popular event and would appreciate some help. We have purchased a new gazebo, which is much easier to erect and we also hope to have a refurbished exhibition by then, which

should stimulate some interest and discussion with members and non-members alike. Please phone Peggy Bitten on 02085298594 if you can spare some time between 11am and 5pm.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Epping Forest Field Centre

How does your Garden Grow -
Tricia Moxey Sun 25th March

**Involving Children in
Environmental Education**

Eilish Rothney Thurs 29th - Fri 30th
March

New Navigators - map reading

Helen Robinson 15th April

Spring Walk

Tutor: Centre Staff Sun 29th April

Natural History of Veteran Trees

Tricia Moxey Sat 12th May

Discovering Bats

Roger Havard Sun 13th May

Discovering Birds of Epping Forest

Tutor: Will Farmer Sun 13th May

Mosses, Liverworts and Ferns

Ken Adams Sat 19th - Sun 20th May

Family Environmental Arts

Jem Ayres Sun 20th May

Natural Connections

Jem Ayres Sat 16th June

Wild food and Medicine

Penny Waters Sun 17th June

Green Man Arts Day

Jem Ayres Sun 24th June

**Insects, Spiders and other
Invertebrates**

Geoffrey Kibby Sun 1st July

Painting and Drawing

Jason Rose Sun 1st July

Discovering Wildflowers

Nell Fuller Sat 8th July

Wildlife Ponds

Nicky Payne Sun 8th July

Aquatic Plant Identification

Ken Adams Sun 8th July

For details on Field Centre courses:

Tel: 020 8502 8500 or e-mail:

enquiries.ef@field-studies.council.org

EF Conservation Volunteers

Sunday 18 March - Deershelter

Plain: Assisting with heathland
restoration. GR: TQ 426 988

Sunday 25 March - Blackbush

Plain: Working around some of the
big oaks in the area. (to be
confirmed, check with leader)

GR: TQ 402 962



**Thursday 19th April 7pm
Friends of Suntrap - AGM**

**Please put this in your diary and
try to attend, as this is a crucial
time for the centre.**

Saturday 30th June "Music in the
Forest" - a joint event with the
Waltham Forest Music Service.

Saturday 2nd September - Forest
Festival - No final decision has
been made by the City of London
as to details. Suntrap hope to be
there if circumstances permit.

Saturday 13th October 1pm to 5pm
Suntrap Open Day

Sunday 1 April - Leyton Flats

Clearing encroaching scrub and small
trees. GR: TQ 396 885

Sunday 15 April - Thornwood

Common: Working along the ancient
Stump Road. Contact leaders for exact
directions. GR: TL 474 044

Sunday 22 April - Woodford Golf

Course: Carrying out scrub oak
clearance. GR: TQ 401 934

Sunday 29 April - Trafalgar Wood

Assisting in the first stage of the
native woodland restoration plan.
GR: TQ 432 994

Sunday 6 May - Gilbert Slade

Clearing the centre ditch line of scrub
and small trees. GR: TQ 396 898

Sunday 20 May - Lord's Bushes

Possibly be creating more glades or
opening up the rides.
GR: TQ 408 935

**Sunday 27 May - Golding's Hill
Ride**

Working along the newly created
ride. GR: TQ 429 985

We meet at 9.30am at the Warren,
Epping Forests Corporation of
London headquarters. This can be
accessed either from Warren Hill in
Loughton or from the Epping New
Road between the Warren Wood pub
and the Robin Hood roundabout.
We aim to leave for the site promptly
at 9.45am. Wear old clothes and
sturdy boots (preferably reinforced),
and bring refreshments.

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

Essex Wildlife Trust

- Epping Forest Group

**22nd March - Planning in Essex:
Threat or Opportunity**

Talk by Jill Hinds, CPR Essex.

Preceded by short AGM.

Meet 8.00 pm in the Methodist
Church Hall, High Rd., Loughton.

15th April Wanstead Park in Spring

Tricia Moxey. A two hour stroll through
the Park. Meet at the end of Warren
Rd., Wanstead at 10.30 am.

6th May - Dawn Chorus Walk

Anthony Harbott. Meet at 4.45 am in
the car park next to David Lloyd
Centre, off Roding Lane.

**3rd June - Wild Flowers of Roding
Valley**

Join Reserve Warden Patrick Bailly
and Tricia Moxey to see what is in
flower. Meet at 10.30 am in car park
next to David Lloyd Centre, off
Roding Lane.

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

Phone Tricia Moxey on 01277 364522
for more details.

British Naturalists' Association
Epping Forest Branch

Annual Conference 19th May 2007

**"Urban Enveloped Historic Habitat:
Epping Forest"** 19th May 2007 Forest
School, College Place, Snaresbrook.
See page 8 for details or tel:
Miss R Clayton on 020 8508 8357

Lee Valley Park

Information Service: 01992 702 200
email info@leevalleypark.org.uk or
visit www.leevalleypark.org.uk

May 6th 06.00-08.30

International Dawn Chorus Day
Walthamstow Marshes

May 6th 10.00-11.30

Guided Walk of Waterworks Nature
Reserve and Middlesex Filter Beds
Waterworks Nature Reserve

May 7th 10.00-18.00

Open Day – Lee Valley Riding Centre
Call the Riding Centre on 020 8556
2629 for full details.

May 26th 14.00-16.30

May Fete – Lee Valley Park Farms
Join us for a traditional Spring Fete
with *stalls and activities for all ages*.

July 8th 12.00-16.00

London Wildlife Trust Open Day,
Myddelton House Gardens

...and many more.

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 21st May 2007

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

Agenda for A.G.M

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 22nd May, 2006
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report 2005/2006
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Vice Chairman and Hon. Membership Secretary
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 2009

Vice-Chairman: Sue McKinley due for re-election this year

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 this year

Existing Committee members willing to stand are: Judy Adams, Harry Bitten, Irene Buchan, Alan Curran, Bill Dexter, 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 Vice Chairman, Membership Secretary or Committee members, please complete the form below and send it to: Mrs. P. Bitten, 9 Frederica Road, Chingford E4 7AL by 1st May 2007.

After the meeting and a break for coffee there will be a talk about squirrels by Miles Barne from the European Squirrel Initiative.

THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST - *NOMINATION FORM*

I nominate for the office of Vice Chairman, Membership Sec. or Committee member

(Please delete as appropriate):

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel:

Signature of Candidate

Signature of Proposer Tel:

Name In capitals

Signature of Secunder 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 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

HELD AT THE WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MONDAY 22nd MAY AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Committee Members: K Hoy Chairman, Mrs P Bitten Secretary, T Sheppard Treasurer, S Moss Membership Secretary, Mrs J Adams, Mr H Bitten, Mrs I Buchan, Mr A Curran, B Dexter, Mr J Gimson, Mrs S McKinley, D Meakin, P Read.

APOLOGIES Committee Members: Tricia Moxey, Robert Levene.

APOLOGIES: Sheila and John Besent, Peter Gotham (Independent Examiner), Josette Howlett, Richard Morris and Margaret and Peter Sinfield.

1. The MINUTES of the last meeting held on 25th April 2005 were approved and signed, proposed by Harry Bitten and seconded by Peter Adams.
2. MATTERS ARISING - there were none.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2005-2006.
Copy of the Chairman's report was enclosed in the Summer 2006 Newsletter.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Seymour Moss and seconded by Adrienne Reynolds. It was accepted unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:
T Sheppard explained the Receipts and Payments Account from 1st April 2005 to 31 March 2006 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2006, copies of both were distributed. Acknowledgement and thanks for work done were extended to Peter Gotham, Independent Examiner.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Mike McKinley and seconded by Amanda Gotham and it was accepted unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN:
Ken Hoy was re-elected unanimously. Motion was put by Bill Dexter and seconded by Derek Meakin.
6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
The committee was unanimously elected en bloc, including co-opted Trisha Moxey to replace Gareth Browne who has moved from the area. Thanks were expressed for all his hard work on the committee, especially organising stalls. Proposed by Peter Adams and seconded by Mike McKinley.
7. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:
Mr Peter Gotham was thanked for his work and unanimously re-elected for the current year. Proposed by Seymour Moss and seconded by Alan Curran.
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, Dr Michael Grant of Kingston University spoke about his recent research into the Lodge Road Bog. Dr. Grant is an expert in the identification and dating of pollen grains recovered from the soils of such places as archaeological sites. He explained that the previous datings from the mud of one of the Lodge Road Bogs during the 1970's should be re-examined. The previous research placed the change that caused the disappearance of the Forest of the Small-leaved Lime tree some 1200 – 1300 years ago (in the Anglo Saxon period), as much later than similar sites elsewhere. As more modern techniques of analysis are now more accurate than the past methods he is now conducting new research into the sediment deposits of the bogs. Unfortunately, the results of the work were not yet available as he had hoped. His talk was interesting however, as he explained the rather complicated techniques now used, and outlined some of the possibilities that might arise from the results. *(FoEF contributed towards to cost of the research)*

P.S. Since the Dr Grant's talk, we have learned that the new methods place the crucial Lime tree disappearance as occurring earlier than previously thought – in Roman times. The research raised further interesting questions however.

CURRENT FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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