

Friends of Epping Forest



Newsletter Summer 2013

www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk



*Left: still standing, a truly veteran oak.
Above: an old photograph we have found, which we think dates from the 1870s, shows the Fairmead Oak.*

CELEBRATING OUR OLD OAKS

Epping Forest has over 50,000 “veteran” trees, the largest share of veterans in the UK. About 10,000 of these are oak. A few of our old oaks have their own names; you may have seen or heard of the Pulpit Oak in Lord’s Bushes and Grimston’s Oak in Fairmead Thicket. Some of the named specimen trees have now gone, including the Fairmead Oak.

To celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Friends wanted to celebrate the heritage oaks in the Forest. Nearly 500 years ago, when Henry VIII began planning his Fairmead Deer Park, which included building his Hunting Lodge at Chingford, there already existed another lodge called The New Lodge (when recorded in 1367!). This lodge was situated beside a large oak (later called the Fairmead Oak). Forestry Commission dendrologist Alan Mitchell, who knew the tree well in the 1940s, guesstimated that it could have been more than 800 years old.

In 1894, a decade or so before it last bore leaves, the trunk of the tree measured 30 feet in circumference. Even when dead it was still the most famous oak in the Forest, its great grey skeleton a landmark for visitors to the Forest in the first half of the 20th century. It stood out on the slope of Hill Wood as you walked up the Fairmead Road. Vandals destroyed it by fire in the early 1950s.

At first the Friends considered planting a replacement oak, near the site once occupied by the famous Fairmead Oak. But after detailed research into the old tree, a careful site investigation and positive discussions with the Superintendent’s staff, an alternative way forward presented itself.

The site we proposed had become a large, dense thicket hidden within which was an old oak tree. This tree had partially collapsed, with the one remaining live branch arching over to bury itself in the ground. This dramatic process stimulated new growth, which will hopefully save the tree, but a massive dead branch was lying on top of it. On the edge of the thicket was a fine open-grown but much younger oak tree. Rather than plant a completely new tree, it seemed better to take action to preserve and conserve these two oaks.

It is no great stretch to imagine that these both grew from a local acorn buried by a jay or squirrel and thus are the child and grandchild of that great and ancient Fairmead Oak.

Volunteers from Epping Forest Centenary Trust’s Green Team carried out this substantial task last winter. One of the Conservators’ Arborist Teams completed it by removing the huge dead branch and a number of other surrounding trees.

Why not have a look for yourself? Go westwards from the Fairmead Oak car park towards Suntrap and you will see both trees on your right. We do hope the old one continues to thrive and that the younger one becomes a great Fairmead Oak for centuries to come.

Judy Adams

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The Friends is a Registered Charity No: 299970.

Committee Members are the Trustees of the Charity.

Please send letters/comments to the Chairman.

Views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends of Epping Forest Committee.

Dear Friend...

We have just had an enjoyable evening with the Friends Committee and our newsletter deliverers. Holding it at The View, the new Forest visitor centre, the Committee had the chance to meet the deliverers, who between them save us about £800 per year in postage – and indeed it was a chance for the deliverers to meet each other. Thanks to those who attended.

But it was not just a party! We had also visited The View's exhibition, and it was good to get comments from the participants on it, both on content and design. We were also keen to get views on what information participants felt was of most importance to anyone visiting a centre – you will not be surprised to hear that a map featured highly.

The evening also gave us a chance to consider just how challenging it is to be a voluntary organisation nowadays. It seems the demands increase every year, and we are hoping to make strides with our annual reporting this year. One member asked me what was the greatest challenge facing the Friends into the future: money or volunteers? Volunteers, I said. As a voluntary organisation, it is only through volunteers that we can do things. You will see a few adverts later in this newsletter. Don't hesitate to come forward.



Yes, spring finally came! Photo: Tricia Moxey

We are very pleased with our working relationship with the Forest visitor centres and their staff, who now sell a number of our products. We are hoping to be looking at new products later this year and we will certainly work with visitor centre staff to develop these.

We are also giving thought to further publications. Ken's book has done so well (and we will reprint it), but there are other guides that could be useful too.

So three cheers for our volunteers!

Judy Adams

PROJECT NIGHTINGALE



Full-throated ease: a nightingale in song. Photo: Borislav Borisov/shutterstock.com

When I mention Project Nightingale to visitors or volunteers it always feels like I am about to start discussing a covert police operation! Unsurprisingly it isn't a plan to tackle criminals, but rather a habitat plan to maintain good vegetation structure for birds, particularly nightingales.

The project is named after the nightingale because this is one of the bird species that relies on thick, impenetrable scrub to build its nest. It is also one of the birds that are becoming less common to see in the Forest, or should I say hear. The nightingale is a secretive bird. But it is famous for its melodious song, which carries far. In recent times the nightingale has only been heard in Trueloves, Chingford Plain, Yardley Hill and on the Gas Ride (near the Warren), and there have mostly only been a couple of individuals heard singing.

Nightingale populations have been declining in the UK. The Breeding Bird Survey has shown a 59% decline in the population between 1995 and 2009. One reason for this is thought to be a decline in the availability of their preferred habitat, which includes thick scrub.

Epping Forest has always had a good presence of thick scrub, but it needs to be managed. Scrub that is left to mature becomes thin and leggy (you can see through it), so that nightingales will not want to nest in it. If a small proportion of some areas is cut every year, that will ensure an ongoing succession of scrub of different ages – thereby always guaranteeing availability of scrub at the stage that nightingales prefer. But you need the succession of stages to be present at every site, not just dotted around the Forest.

This is where Project Nightingale comes in. The project is a planned rotation of cutting for identified sites that cover areas known to have been used by nightingales in recent years. At present, this project operates in the broad central band of the Forest from Pole Hill at Chingford in the west to Strawberry Hill in the east (near Loughton). This work is mostly carried out by the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers, with help also from the Epping Forest Centenary Trust, City of London staff and other volunteer groups.

Work is done in autumn and winter when wildlife will not be disturbed and the bushes are dormant. Some of the work involves coppicing the scrub – cutting the stems at ground level to encourage a flush of new growth. Some of our scrub patches, though, contain some old thorn plants (hawthorn and blackthorn).

Like old trees, these old plants do not take being cut hard to the ground very well and can die instead of growing new shoots. In these cases, the stems of these plants may be reduced down to trunk level to give them the best chance of



Near Lincoln's Lane, Loughton. Owing to the age of the scrub, it is being cut higher up. Photo: Peter Adams



*Above: Pollarded scrub at Warren Wood will provide future generations of songbirds with a habitat. Photo: Peter Wrobel
Below: Bluebells re-emerge after Project Nightingale clearance at Geum Pond, Fairmead. Photo: Judy Adams*



re-flourishing. This has the additional benefit of keeping the fresh shoots out of the reach of browsing deer, which like a nibble.

We are hoping this will help to hold on to, and attract more, nightingales if they make it to the Forest from their migration journey in spring. However, it will also benefit other species of birds – young scrub is preferred by whitethroats, low-growing scrub is visited by dunnocks and willow warblers, and mature scrub is used by bullfinches and song thrushes. In addition, mammals and invertebrates also use scrub for nesting, foraging and commuting.

So, rather than seeing a policeman hiding in the bushes, I hope you will be lucky enough to hear a nightingale singing its magical tune.

Sally Gadsdon
Environmental Stewardship Officer, Epping Forest

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

As part of the High Beach Festival (Dates for your Diary, page 11), there will be a Photographic Exhibition and Competition at Holy Innocents Church, High Beach, Epping Forest.

The organisers, including the Friends, are inviting entries, which must be made in digital format and emailed as attachments by 20 August to r_hopkins@btinternet.com. Make sure you indicate your name and address in your email.

There is no limit on the number of entries that can be made, but note that digital images must be at least 6 megapixels. So unless you have a particularly snazzy smartphone, you may need to send images taken by a proper camera.

Photos on any subject are welcome but those with relevance to Epping Forest particularly so.

The Selection Panel will arrange for the printing of selected photographs to be displayed in the church, and the public will be invited to vote for their favourites. Prints made for display will be offered for sale in a "silent auction". Any surplus money raised will go to church funds.

The organisers have made it clear that emailing entries implies your agreement that any photographs selected may also be used on cards and calendars that may subsequently be developed.

FOREST SUPPER

We live in hope of a good summer, or even an average one. But looking past it, put down the evening of Thursday 21 November in your diary – the Forest Supper.



Once again, our annual get-together will take place at Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green. It's a great chance to see old friends again, and meet new ones. Tickets will be priced at £22, and will include not just food but also wine and soft drinks.

Menu details will follow. Admission will be by ticket only, and a booking form will be available in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

QR code – from phone to web

If you have a smart phone and can scan a QR code with its camera, either with a downloaded app or via software that's already installed, scan this QR code and go to the Friends of Epping Forest website.



FOREST MATTERS

Cattle grids and associated fencing

You may have noticed that fencing is now being installed along the A104 from the Robin Hood Roundabout to the Wake Arms. The four cattle grids are due to be installed during June, July and August, by Essex County Council. These works will involve temporary road closures, so watch the local press and watch for signs in the area for information. See also www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/eppingforest

Green Belt activity

While protection for the Green Belt still “exists”, there are now a number of sites in the south east where applications are being made for development in it. Our response to Epping Forest District’s Issues and Options Study sought to protect the Green Belt. Recently there have been several planning applications for development in the District within the Green Belt. The Friends continue to be vigilant in these matters.

If you see any applications for development that you consider would have a potentially detrimental impact on Epping Forest and the Green Belt, do let us know.

Contact: Sue McKinley on 01992 712014, or email suemckinley1@aol.com

Epping Forest visitor surveys

Since 2012, the Conservators of Epping Forest have been undertaking visitor observation surveys, counting individuals on a particular route and observing their activities, e.g. dog walking, walking, cycling etc. The work has largely been carried out by volunteers, including your Chairman. The results for 2012, along with some comparative data for previous years, can be found on the City of London’s website. See www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/about-us/Documents/epping-forest-visitor-survey-2012.pdf

The data makes for fascinating reading. Did you know that the highest estimate of annual visitor numbers is from Hollow Ponds (429,420), with Wanstead Flats attracting 395,263 and High Beach at 279,062?

You can have your say too!

The Conservators also carry out annual visitor surveys to capture your views about the Forest. This year’s visitor survey has now gone live, so make your voice heard by filling out the short online survey at: www.cfpuuk.co.uk/eppingforest/

Epping Forest Management Plan – still on track

As mentioned in the previous *Newsletter*, the production of a new ten-year plan for Epping Forest is developing. Consultation on the first phase is likely to take place during

the summer of 2013, so please watch out for information about this. If you wish to be made aware of progress, please email judith.adams21@btinternet.com, if you have not already done so, and we will let you know. We will send out an update when more information is available.

Looking ahead, you will be able to access information about this online at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/eppingforestconsult

FOREST QUIZ



Animal, vegetable? It’s not mineral! What is it? Answer in next issue.

Answer to the Spring issue quiz

The snow print (inset) was made by the left front foot of a badger. How do we know that? The photo shows five long claw marks and four pad marks in a slight curve (the fifth pad-mark on the right side is hidden in the photo by the overhanging snow, but the fifth claw mark does show).

The main point to notice is that badgers have five claws and toes in a shallow curve (the fifth toe, the “thumb”, is lower and smaller – but reversed on to the right side in the snow).

We know it is a front foot, as the front feet have the long digging claws. The print is quite unlike the four claws and toes of a dog.

Ken Hoy



FRIENDS MATTERS

Membership fee review

Your Committee has reviewed the membership fees. With the imminent production of our new Membership leaflet and the summer recruitment period coming up, it seemed particularly timely. We have looked at other groups active in Epping Forest, along with Friends' groups of other organisations, including of the National Parks.

The Committee has now agreed that the annual membership fees should increase from £8 to £10 for a Single Adult membership and from £12 to £15 for a Joint/Family membership. This will be proposed at the AGM.

Life membership fees would continue to be available at a rate of £100 for a Single membership and £150 for a Joint/Family membership. Single Life membership would not be available to children, though they can of course be included within a Joint/Family Life membership.

We also noted that membership would remain available to members living abroad, although we would only be able to provide the *Newsletter* by email. All current members living abroad have agreed to this proposal.

We have also been encouraging current annual members to pay their subscription by Standing Order, which reduces the volunteer time required to process applications. An increasing number are paying this way now, which is a great help.

Membership is really important to us. You are the lifeblood of the organisation, both as its supporter and influencer. And many of you are volunteers too. Our thanks to you all.

Spreading the word

We will be out and about this summer, spreading the word about the Forest and the Friends. We have now booked six fairs and fêtes, but they will not happen without you!

So if you are packed with enthusiasm about Epping Forest, have a good working knowledge of the Forest, are keen to share it and enjoy meeting people, this could be your way of getting more involved with the Friends.

Let me know if you can manage one (or more) of these dates:

Saturday 29 June Epping Festival

Sunday 7 July Epping Show

Saturday 13 July Highams Park Day

Saturday 17 August Working Woodland Day at Epping Forest Burial Park

Saturday 7 September High Beach Festival

And of course, help with our annual Centenary Walk on Sunday 15 September.

And there may be more!

Telephone 020 8418 0730 or email judith.adams21@btinternet.com if you are interested.

Give us a hand – marketing and promotions support

Someone out there must have a real flair for marketing and promotions. Are you keen to help get the Friends on the map? Would you like to contribute to the development of our website? And make a real difference to how we present what we are about? There are lots of exciting projects ahead. Please get in touch if you are interested. Ring Judy Adams on 020 8418 0730 or email judith.adams21@btinternet.com

CUCKOO WATCH – THE STORY CONTINUES

I wrote in the last *Newsletter* about the radio-tagged cuckoo nicknamed Chris. Then he was about to move northwards out of the rain forests of the Congo. Later radio signals told us that he had crossed the Sahara desert and arrived in the Atlas Mountains of Algeria on 4 April. A day later, he left North Africa and crossed into Italy, where last year at this time he was held up by bad weather.

This year he continued on into central France, then eventually northwards into the Ardennes. Here bad weather possibly did affect him and he moved towards the Belgium frontier and stayed there for two weeks. Then at last, on 4 May, he began transmitting again from Norfolk.

You will remember that last spring Chris was the cuckoo that sent his first UK arrival signal, when he arrived near Epping on 1 May on his way to Norfolk. It seems most of the other tagged cuckoos did not survive or suffered radio failure either on their 2012 journey south or on the return migration from Africa this spring. Adverse weather, and severe fires in Iberia last year, may be the reason for such apparent losses.

Chris was a second-year bird when he was first tagged in Norfolk in 2011. Now he is a veteran who has crossed the Sahara, to and fro six times. As I write, a radio transmission indicates he is calling near Downham in Norfolk, and by the time you are reading this page he should have left England again to begin his seventh journey across the great African desert.

Like all cuckoos he has left behind the offspring he has created. We hope they will be successfully reared by their foster-parents and will somehow instinctively follow him some two months later. That's the wonder of it all!

Ken Hoy (with thanks to the BTO)

FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

ANNUAL REVIEW 2012/2013

Registered charity number 299970. www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk



Autumn colour in Hill Wood. Photo: Peter Wrobel

Introduction

It has been an amazing year for the country, with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics, and for Epping Forest. The View, a new visitor centre for the Forest, opened at Chingford, funded in large part by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Butlers Retreat reopened as a restaurant. Installation of cattle grids and an extension of grazing in Epping Forest are taking place, and 30 acres of land at Upshire have been purchased and have become, as Gifford Wood, part of Epping Forest. The car park and the path around the lake at Connaught Water have been improved, making the lake more accessible for people with disabilities.

It was also the year of election of Epping Forest Verderers, all four of whom were returned unopposed. Alderman Gordon Haines became the new Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee. We have very much benefited from collaborative working with the Conservators this year and welcome the continuing opportunity to work with the Committee, Verderers and staff in the coming year.

The Friends too have had a busy year, working to preserve the Forest, helping others to enjoy and understand it and ensuring the Friends are "fitter" now and for the future.

Furthering the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Forest

A particularly high spot of the year was the Epping Forest Centenary Walk, developed this year as the Friends' contribution to Jubilee Year. Holding the lunch stop at Chingford gave more than 170 participants a chance to see The View and be welcomed by "Queen Elizabeth I" and the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee. Numerous speakers during the walk told the story of the Forest, highlighting its value now and in the past. Many thanks to all those who assisted, including the Conservators and the Ramblers, in making this such a special occasion.

Ken Hoy's *Getting to Know Epping Forest* (second edition) continues to sell well and to provide a comprehensive and valued guide to the Forest.



New land acquired at Upshire: 30 acres formerly part of Warlies Park Farm became Forest land last year. Photo: Peter Adams

The Friends have also been pleased to support the Lord Mayor's Appeal for Gifford Wood, the new land purchased by the Conservators, mentioned above. The Friends see this acquisition as making a major contribution to the Forest and we have been busy organising events, fundraising and promotion for this Appeal, some of which will take place in the coming year.

Our walks programme continued apace, with 11 walks attracting 232 participants, a little down on last year's numbers, in part, we suspect, owing to the weather. It was extraordinary – howling gales on one walk, rain on others and ground conditions so poor that for the first time in recent history we had to cancel our proposed walk from Epping Long Green to Waltham Abbey. As usual our walks took place throughout the Forest, from Wanstead to Epping Long Green.

We did get out more too! We attended five fairs and fêtes, speaking face to face with over 150 people at length about Epping Forest. We also had available the City of London Official Map, which improved our message to visitors; where the events were not also attended by the City of London, we provided some of its leaflets to the public.

Supporting the preservation of the Forest

Ensuring the Forest is preserved into the future is crucially important to the Friends. Major work took place in developing our response to the Issues & Options Consultation by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC). Overall, the Council's proposals would bring a substantive erosion of the Green Belt, changing the character and landscape of the District and impacting adversely on Epping Forest's landscape, amenity and biodiversity.

We supported EFDC's Dog Control Byelaws, which have now been approved. We continued to review planning applications that have a potential impact on the Forest, and opposed two applications for a solar panel "farm" at Sewardstone, which would have broken the link between Epping Forest and the Lea Valley. The solar farm has now been refused. Following the Public Inquiry in November 2012, the Inspector's recommendation that consent be given to the installation of cattle grids and associated by-passes was accepted by the Secretary of State. The installation of the grids and associated fencing is now under way.

Our concern about the pace, scale and nature of the wood pasture works continues. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the production of the new Forest Management Plan. The Friends will be looking at other areas elsewhere in the country to provide perspective and examples of good practice.

We are very pleased that Fairmead Road is to be kept open as far south as the Fairmead Oak car park, ensuring that people, particularly those with mobility difficulties, continue to have access to the Forest.

Developing the Friends

To ensure that we are fit and able to achieve our aspirations, we also undertook further work, including:

a) To increase, develop and support membership

Our membership provides both annual funding and influence, both crucial for us to play our part in the Forest.

As we went to print, our membership stood at 1,620.

However, we need to grow this membership to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead. Friends Committee members have recently been researching other Friends' groups, notably of National Parks, looking both at what they do and how they do it. So far, this research illustrates that there is a lot more we could do and that new activities could bring new members.

We have also reviewed our member communications and membership fees. When the Friends began, getting Life members was a particularly valuable way of attracting members, enabling us to increase our influencing "powers". Remember the pressures for the M16 (now M25) at that time! Now we are anxious to increase our annual members, ensuring a more steady contribution and bringing new people too.

To increase our viability, and after a comparative study, we propose to increase our fees: Annual Single £10; Annual Joint membership £15; Life membership fees, for adults only, would increase to £100 for single and £150 for joint members. We have been grateful for the many donations we have received from our members over the years, enabling us to deliver our services to members and our activities. Fortunately too, our members abroad are all prepared to take the *Newsletter* by email, saving us the now substantially increased postage costs. We actively encourage our members to take the *Newsletter* by email. We have also supplied a return address on our envelopes, enabling us to ensure our membership list is up to date.

Our major annual event for our membership and invited friends is the Forest Supper, well attended this year, and providing the usual sales, quizzes and good company.

b) To raise our profile

Promotion of our walks and activities receives good coverage in the Epping Forest Diary and increasingly on the web. Our own website has map links for our walks, which is proving helpful to participants too.

c) To raise finances

Along with membership income, sales goods (notably *Getting to Know Epping Forest*, second edition) play an important part in meeting our annual income needs (and bring publicity too). Our "old" stock is now reducing and we hope to produce new Christmas cards, greetings cards and further EF products this year. We are keen to continue working with the City of London. We need to look particularly at further publications, while ensuring we have the business case to ensure any new products are a success.

d) To manage the effective development of the Friends and improve our governance

This has been a substantial period of change for the Friends, with the retirement of several Committee members. We are very pleased to have appointed Mike Smith as Secretary and Pete Wrobel as Newsletter Editor. We still need further marketing and event support to take forward some of our

projects to develop the Friends and our activities.

As a volunteer-led organisation, it is volunteers who do all the work. We owe considerable thanks to all those who regularly help us with newsletters, walks, raffle tickets, planning applications and more. And also our website, newsletter production and auditing. And of course, a thank you to all the Committee members, the Friends' Trustees.

List of donors 2013

Donations were received from Mr & Mrs P R Adams, Mrs I Buchan, Mrs S Cotton, Mr A Everett, Mrs S Galer, Mrs M Graves, Mrs C Green, Mrs G Green, Mr & Mrs Haynes, Mr Henbest, Mrs Kemp, Mr J Larsen, Mrs V Lea, Mr & Mrs Marchant, Miss G Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Munday, Mrs J Peet, Mrs C Redwood, Mr S Scott, Mr & Mrs Thraves, Mr T Vaughan, Mr W Ward, Mrs S Warner.

Looking ahead to 2013/14

The Conservators are now working to develop a new Forest Management Plan. This will be a crucial document, setting the agenda for the next ten years. We will need to work hard to influence the Plan, ensuring that it protects and enhances the Forest, one we can continue to be proud of. We plan to look at other comparable areas to inform our contribution.



Increased marketing is essential to grow the Friends and increase its influence. We hope to print a new membership leaflet, improve our website and produce new materials for our Friends' stall.

Our ability to influence depends on a positive relationship with the City of London, its Members, officers and volunteers that is about trust, capability and mutual respect. To help develop this further, we are looking to complete our commitment to the Gifford Wood Appeal and other joint projects and to liaise more closely with the Superintendent and the Verderers. We need to expand the range and depth of our contributions to achieve greater influence and grow our membership.

In summary, we remain convinced that the Forest needs "Friends", and we want to ensure we can continue to play our part for many years to come.

Judy Adams, Chairman

THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

Registered Charity no. 299970
Receipts and Payments Account

1.4.11– 31.3.12

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

£	INCOME	£
1742.00	Subscriptions	2062.00
791.00	Donations	344.70
7148.75	Sales	4106.07
4342.00	Forest Supper	5075.00
11.76	CAF A/C Interest	9.28
226.13	United Trust Bank Interest	404.54
0.04	Barclays Bank A/C Interest	0.04
72.67	Nat. Savings Interest	72.33
505.42	Tax Refunds – Gift Aid	823.11
14839.77	Total Income	12897.07
	EXPENDITURE	
942.00	Purchases for Resale	1080.00
3707.43	Postage, Printing, Office exp	2498.41
4553.06	Forest Supper	5693.68
331.00	Events & AGM	113.91
369.10	Donations & Subscriptions	493.69
201.91	Insurance	201.91
500.00	Planning Expenses	–
10604.50	Total Expenditure	10081.60
4235.27	Excess of Income over Expenditure	2815.47
28211.70	Balance from 31.3.12	32446.97
32446.97	Total	35262.44
	Represented by:	
1849.86	Balances at Barclays Bank	1251.51
5000.00	National Savings Bond	5000.00
5870.98	CAF Bank Account	4880.26
19726.13	United Trust Bank	24130.67
32446.97	Total	35262.44

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 March 2013

Assets	31.3.13	31.3.12
Cash Balances	35262.44	32446.97
Stock of Goods	7106.25	8430.88
Total Assets	42368.69	40877.85
Liabilities		
Creditors	Nil	Nil
Total Net Assets	42368.69	40877.85

The accounts set-out (above) are an abstract of the full accounts. These have been Independently Examined by Peter Gotham FCA, and were approved by the Trustees 28 May 2013. A copy of the full accounts is available from the Registered Office, 2 High View Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EG.

A H Curran, Treasurer Judith Adams, Chairman

GIFFORD WOOD TREE PLANTING APPEAL

Don't know where it is?

You can download a walk in the area described in the spring edition of *Forest Focus* from www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/news/Documents/epping-forest-focus-newsletter-spring-2013.pdf. There are fabulous views and walking routes linking with Epping Forest and buffer lands to explore.

Donate to the Appeal – help us reach our target

Cheque: If you are a member of the Friends, please make payable to “The Lord Mayor’s Appeal 2013” and post it/deliver it to Friends of Epping Forest, 2 High View Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EG

Online: www.justgiving.com/thelordmayorsappeal/donate. Be sure to mention that you are a member of the Friends of Epping Forest (if you are!) in the notes box. The Friends are keen to track the level of financial support from members so we may be able to hand over a “cheque” at the Lord Mayor’s Tree Party!

Lord Mayor’s Tree Party – still time to book!

Why not attend the Lord Mayor’s Tree Party, from 6:30pm until 10:30pm at Mansion House on 25 June? A celebratory tree-themed evening of champagne, canapés, music and theatre with performers from the City of London and Epping Forest, and displays from the City’s Wood Livery



Gifford Wood: Lord Mayor Roger Gifford and Lady Mayoress Clare Gifford plant one of the first new trees.

Companies. Tickets £80 per person or £150 a couple, but Members of the Friends of Epping Forest pay just £60 per person and can have up to five guests at this reduced rate. Bring friends and make a night of it at this special evening of entertainment hosted by the Lord Mayor!

For further information or to book tickets, please go to www.thelordmayorsappeal.org, telephone the Appeal Team on 020 7246 4021 or email cat.stirling@citymusicfoundation.org. Friends’ members who need to check their membership number should contact Jean Brockington: jean.brockington@btopenworld.com, or call 020 8529 3077.

Join us for tree planting – November 2013

We are working with the Officers at the City of London on a tree planting event to take place later in the year and we’ll need your help. Exact date is to be confirmed, but will appear on our website and the next *Newsletter*. Hope you will be able to join in! Email us for more details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2013, 7.15 PM,
BANCROFT’S PREP, SCHOOL HALL
HIGH ROAD, WOODFORD GREEN**

- 7:15 pm AGM, followed by tea/coffee
8:30 pm Talk by Paul Thomson, Superintendent of Epping Forest.

Agenda for AGM:

1. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 27 May 2012
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman’s Report 2012/13
4. Treasurer’s Report, including proposed changes to membership fees
5. Election of Vice Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Vice President – Ken Hoy
8. Election of Independent Examiner
9. Any Other Business



Paul Thomson, Superintendent of Epping Forest, who will be the star attraction at the Annual General Meeting. For the past five years he has led the City of London team safeguarding the Forest.

Honorary Committee members at present are:

Chairman:	Judy Adams (2012- 2015)
Vice-Chairman:	Sue McKinley (2010-2013)
Secretary:	Mike Smith (since Feb 2013)
Treasurer:	Alan Curran (2011-2014)
Membership Sec:	Jean Brockington (2010-2013)
Committee members:	Bill Dexter, Ken Hoy, Tricia Moxey, Peter Read and Pete Wrobel (Editor).



Jubilee Pond, Wanstead Flats, photographed in 2010 when the water levels were untypically high. Photo: Judy Adams

REMEMBER THE OLYMPICS? THINK JUBILEE!

As compensation from the Metropolitan Police for its use of part of Wanstead Flats as a police muster station during the Olympics, the Conservators received a contribution of £170,000. After a public consultation, Jubilee Pond has become the preferred beneficiary. This funding has been supplemented by Heritage Lottery funding and City of London budgets to enable works to take place to enhance the pond for both visitors and wildlife.

Over the past few years the pond has been suffering from water loss, requiring it to be regularly topped up. Two summers ago, it virtually dried out for a period, affecting the wildlife and reducing the interest for visitors too.

The City of London celebrated the start of works with a Breaking Ground Ceremony on 19 April 2013. Works started in late March with a scheduled finish of late June/early July 2013. The first stage will involve the installation of a new impermeable lining, repairing the pond and helping to maintain water levels. As well as reducing the water loss, improvements will include pathways with new benches, pond-dipping decks and a play area – making the site much more visitor friendly.

To speed the recovery process and increase the wildlife value, aquatic plants will then be planted (largely by volunteers), using native species such as water mint, reeds, water lily and water forget-me-not.

Some of you may remember the pond as the Model Yacht Pond. It fell into disrepair and, despite some works undertaken in 2002, the pond was again found to be losing water. Hopefully these works will repair the pond and halt its deterioration and provide a pond valuable for wildlife and cherished by its visitors!

Judy Adams (based on City of London press release)

EPHING FOREST CENTENARY WALK 2013

Our annual event, the Epping Forest Centenary Walk from Manor Park to Epping, is based on the walk established in 1978 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passing of the Epping Forest Act 1878. Come and join with us on Sunday 15 September 2013 to celebrate Epping Forest!

Organised by the Friends of Epping Forest, with support from the Ramblers and the Corporation of London, the walk provides the opportunity to walk the entire length of Epping Forest in a day (about 15 miles) or take part in one of the local sections of the “long” walk.

9:00 am. We start down in Forest Gate at the junction of Forest Drive and Capel Road, about 250 metres north of Manor Park Station.

9:50 am Meet at the Green Man roundabout, Leytonstone.

11:00 am County Hotel, Oak Hill – where the staff will be providing us with a welcome cup of coffee.

12:30 pm Arrive at The View, adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, where we will stop for lunch.

1:30 pm Set off from Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge.

2:15 pm Meet at Earl’s Path Car Park, Earl’s Path road, Loughton.

4:30 – 5:00 pm We arrive at Epping at Bell Common, the end of the walk.

Any enquiries, please phone the walk leader, Mike Whiteley, on 020 8524 2737, or Judy Adams, 020 8418 0730. See www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk for more details and joining point locations.



One Elizabethan age meets another over a spot of lunch at Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge during last year’s Centenary Walk. Photo: Robert Good

WALK REPORTS

Epping Long Green & Beyond (17 March 2013)

Will it never stop raining? That was the question I kept on asking myself as I prepared to lead the “Epping Long Green & Beyond” walk on 17 March. In fact, the weather was fine when I met the 21 participants in the car park between the two pubs in Epping Green.

Our walk took us along part of the most northerly part of Epping Forest, along the green lane which used to connect Latton Pryory at Hastingwood with Waltham Abbey. We followed the footsteps of the earlier cattle and geese drovers, who used this route to the markets in London.

After a short walk from the pubs, we left the Long Green to admire the view over Nazeing Common, which during the war had been set out as a decoy airfield. At this point, we were joined by a French family, currently living in west London, and this was their first visit to the Forest. They had staying with them for the weekend a very chic lady from Paris who straight after the walk was catching the Eurostar back to Paris. On her white trainers and designer jeans she took back to Paris evidence of her country walk led by a mad Englishman!

We walked down into the valley before climbing up towards Harold's Park – stopping to catch our breath and admiring the view across the Lea Valley to Broxbourne Woods and the dome of Haileybury College at Hertford Heath.

We examined the fine old oak pollards along the field boundaries and climbed up to the trig point to admire the view across London from the Shard to Wembley. We saw the rain



Michael Chapman tells part of the group about the old pollarded oaks along field boundaries. Photo: Judy Adams

clouds coming, so returned to Copy Wood and the Long Green. The ground was very wet and muddy and the ditches and streams in full spate. We joined the farm track and walked quickly back to the pubs – just before the clouds opened.

Michael Chapman

Around Earl's Path (18 April 2013)

On 18 April 23 people joined walk leader Tricia Moxey for a gentle amble round the Strawberry Hill area of Epping Forest. It was a bright, sunny and breezy spring morning, but the cold conditions of the previous months had delayed the anticipated flowering of the bluebells by at least three weeks. But there were welcome signs of bud burst, with gorse in full flower, lengthening hornbeam catkins and bright green leaves on some young Norway maples.

Tricia explained that the ponds developed from old gravel workings in the Glacial Gravels here, which had supplied material to mend potholes in local roads. The thin, acidic soil of this gravelly area is very infertile and provides ideal growing conditions for heathland plants like heather, mat grass and birch but it is unsuitable for agricultural crops. A 19th-century attempt at ploughing parts of this area to grow cereals has left a legacy of ridge and furrow, which is very obvious on the grassy area of the Stubbles.

These previously cleared areas were of concern to those who wished to influence the management of the Forest as it passed into the ownership of the Conservators. The famous naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace put forward his suggestions in 1878* for planting up the area with an extensive collection of



Measuring the girth of an oak in the open glade of Lincoln's Lane. Photo: Kathy Hartnet

trees from around the world. Fortunately, Superintendent Alexander McKenzie confined himself to those young trees that he had been able to purchase in 1884 at a cost of a farthing each from the Lawson Seed and Nursery Co Ltd of Edinburgh. The trees planted in the Strawberry Hill area include beech, black pine, Norway maple and sweet chestnut. These last two species are regenerating well, now adding to the diversity of species within the Forest.

The lack of bluebells in flower was a disappointment, but their glossy leaves were much in evidence. This species is well adapted to cope with the changes in the climate over time, but is under threat from habitat loss, predation by muntjac deer and unscrupulous folk who dig up bluebell bulbs for resale.

In the open glade of Lincoln's Lane there was an opportunity to measure the girth of a splendid oak, a good example of a wood pasture tree with wide spreading branches. It measured 12 foot round, and using the accepted formula of one inch increase in girth a year for the first century of growth, we estimated that this tree started growing about 150 years ago.

A bank of flowering primroses in a secluded corner of the Nursery Field was a pleasing finale to an enjoyable springtime walk.

Tricia Moxey

**Wallace, A.R. (1878) Epping Forest. Fortnightly Review 24 ns: 628-645.*



*Glorious late-flowering blackthorn
on the Gifford Wood walk.
Photo: Tricia Moxey*

Discovering Gifford Wood (27 April 2013)

Twenty intrepid explorers joined Judy and Peter Adams to “discover” the newly acquired 30 acres of land at Upshire. Following its purchase by the Conservators, it now forms part of Epping Forest. Despite many months of rain and heavy winds, the sky had cleared and the sun emerged to lift the spirits of the participants.

To appreciate the context of the purchase, adjacent both to the Forest and to the buffer lands, Peter led participants through a little of the Warlies Estate (buffer land) and then along Sergeants Green (Epping Forest).

The new land includes three fields; the first we visited was to the south of Sergeants Green Lane. This field is to be left to colonise naturally and adjoins Blind Lane, giving at the top views towards Upshire and beyond.

A few blooming blackthorn and violets just coming into

flower gave us a further glimpse of spring (and summer) ahead.

The second and third fields are to the north of Sergeants Green Lane, extending up to Upshire Church. As we climbed up the field, we spotted the initial three specimen trees planted, now fenced off to protect them from the deer. A holm oak (evergreen oak), hornbeam and our native oak have been planted.

These fields are invariably very wet, but as we climbed the hill we were amazed to discover how much the ground had dried out. The views from the top were superb, and the planting schemes proposed for these fields will begin lower down the slope, so as not to obscure the views in future. Approximately a third of the land will be planted up.

Some participants were looking forward to the tree planting session later in the year. Do remember that you too will be able to get stuck in and have a go! More news when the date is fixed.

Judy Adams

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 9 June 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Discovering the Forest's Meadows and Rides

A leisurely walk with Judy Adams to discover more of the flowers and butterflies of Yates Meadow, Yardley Hill and beyond. Good views, too! Meet along Hornbeam Lane, off Bury Road, Chingford E4. Grid Ref: TQ 393 958.

Friday 14 June 7.00 pm – 10.30 pm

Gifford Wood Quiz Night

Upshire Village Hall, to raise money for the Appeal. Tables of eight will be available. For more details, contact Judy Adams.

Saturday 22 June 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

A Midsummer Evening Walk

Come and join Peter Read on a leisurely stroll to celebrate the essence of summer across Chingford Plain, Bury Wood and the Cuckoo Brook. Meet in the Forest car park on Chingford Plain, by the Royal Epping Forest Golf Club car park, Bury Road, Chingford E4 7AZ. Grid Ref: TQ 394 949.

Tuesday 25 June 6.30 pm – 10.30 pm

Lord Mayor's Tree Party

A celebratory tree-themed evening in the Mansion House. Reduced rates for Friends members – for details, see page 7.

Wednesday 3 July, 7.15 pm

Annual General Meeting

Bancroft's Prep, School Hall. See notice, page 7.

Thursday 4 July 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

High Beach in its Heyday

Join local historian Georgina Green to hear about the impact on the Forest of the arrival of the railways at Loughton and Chingford, bringing thousands of people to enjoy the open air on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Meet in the car park near the Pillow Mounds at High Beach. Grid Ref: TQ 411 982.

Sunday 4 August 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Gilbert's Slade in Summer

Join Tricia Moxey on a gentle stroll round this varied part of Epping Forest. Meet in the car park on Snaresbrook Rd, E18. Grid Ref: TQ 395 890.



Last year's Centenary Walk crosses from Highams Park to the golf course. Photo: Peter Wrobel

Saturday 7 September 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

High Beach Festival

Work is already under way for the High Beach Festival, now in its second year! The Friends will be having a stall, selling cold drinks and showing participants a little of the Forest. Activities at the church, dog show, children's races on the green and pond dipping and more at Epping Forest Field Centre, along with golf and cricket too. A real celebration of the Forest's heritage and its communities!

Sunday 15 September 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

The Annual Epping Forest Centenary Walk 2013

Discover a little more about the whole Forest. Walk the entire length of Epping Forest in the day or take part in one of the local sections of the long walk. Arranged by the Friends of Epping Forest, with support from The Ramblers and the Corporation of London, the walk celebrates the 1878 passing of the Epping Forest Act. For more details, contact 020 8418 0730 or visit www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk.

Thursday 21 November

Forest Supper

Save the date: the venue will be Hawkey Hall and we'll be working with Alan Beere Catering as last year. See article, page 4.

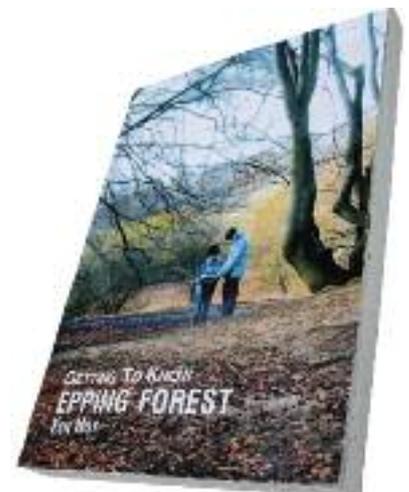
GETTING TO KNOW EPPING FOREST by KEN HOY

Updated 2nd edition with over 220 pages of Epping Forest information.

Reference to over 300 place names.

Over 200 pictures, illustrations and maps of the Forest area (mostly in colour) dating from the early 1800s to the present. On sale in local bookshops.

A free copy of the History of the Friends when you buy this book from us! Price £8.95 per copy. Please send cheque (made out to Friends of Epping Forest) with order to Judy Adams, 2 High View Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EG, adding a delivery charge of £2.50 unless collected.



Anyone thinking ahead to Christmas?

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

We are hoping to produce Forest Christmas cards again this year. Have you taken some good images this winter – the Forest in snow, people enjoying the winter, its wildlife or an amazing Christmas shot? It will be a picture celebrating the Forest.

Last year's cards sold very well, allowing members to share our love of the Forest with many friends and

family as well as bringing funds into the Friends. To encourage you, here are two examples from previous cards, highlighting Connaught Water and High Beach.

Please send any photographs/email them to judith.adams21@btinternet.com or telephone 020 8418 0730 to discuss.



*Icy conditions for the mallards at Connaught Water.
Photo: Dasein Photo.*



*Old pollards at High Beach.
Photo: Ron Andrews*

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF EPPING FOREST

The Friends want Epping Forest to be a natural environment rich in wildlife, available and increasingly appreciated, used and understood by the public.

Our main aims are to support the preservation of Epping Forest as an open space for recreation and to preserve its natural aspect; and to further the understanding, appreciation, enjoyment and use of the Forest.

Our activities include responding to planning applications and the many consultation documents that affect the Forest emanating from central and local government and the City of London, which manages Epping Forest.

We also run a programme of guided walks including the annual Epping Forest Centenary Walk and we produce

publications about the Forest.

Increasingly we are working with local groups around the Forest, to support their activities and to contribute a Forest-wide view on local issues and opportunities.

We are a membership organisation funded by voluntary subscriptions and donations and run entirely by volunteers.

Become a member of the Friends of Epping Forest and help us protect the Forest and help other people learn about and enjoy it.

Contact: Jean Brockington, Membership Secretary
jean.brockington@btopenworld.com 020 8529 3077
www.friendsofeppingforest.org.uk/join.htm