

Volume 8 , Issue 1

Spring 2006



FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

# Spring Newsletter

*The first 20 years*

## The Friends of Charnwood Forest

Just 20 years ago, a group of Leicestershire people, lovers of Charnwood Forest, but aware of the constant threats to it from development, traffic, mineral extraction, litter and cultural vandalism came together under the presidency of the Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire, the late Colonel Sir Andrew Martin, to form The Friends of Charnwood Forest.

It was inaugurated on 8th April 1986 at a public meeting held at Oaks-in-Charnwood Village Hall. Many of the founders are still members of the Society and Lady Martin, Dick Burrows, Peter Bertram and Tony Milner are still committee members, whilst Barbara Bassett has just retired.

Since then the membership has grown steadily, now numbering nearly 200. In these 20 years the Society has extended its activities in many ways, from monitoring planning applications, raising funds for schemes such as Martin's Wood and increasing awareness of the Forest, its beauties and the threats to it.

Every year we have had a varied programme of visits, talks and social events. Bradgate Park has provided a central focus on geology, deer conservation and local history whilst about 90 meetings have been held, covering everything from sewage to barn-owls! Perhaps our greatest single achievement was to raise over £13,000 to buy 12 acres of land in Deans Lane, Woodhouse Eaves to form part of the National Forest. This land, planted with oak, ash and other native species, is now managed by the Woodland Trust and dedicated as 'Martin's Wood' as a permanent memorial to the efforts of the late Sir Andrew Martin on behalf of the people of Leicestershire.

Today, the Society is in good heart and good hands, with a dedicated and hard working committee, looking confidently forward to the next 20 years.

In this newsletter are photographs of a few of our events. You will recognise many of our members and hopefully recall some very happy and successful times together.

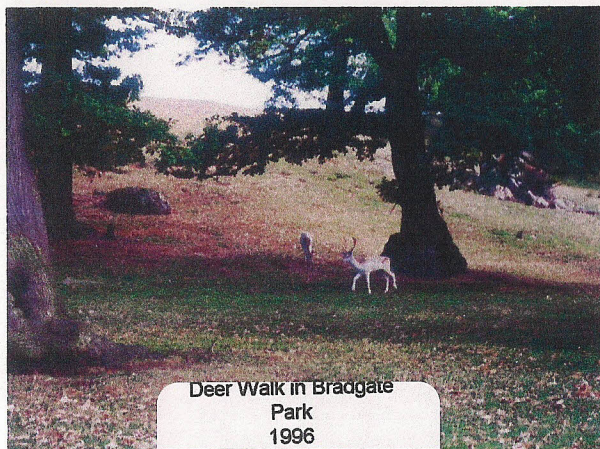
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### Coming Events 2006

- AGM & Clive Keble-20th March  
"The National Forest-Where are we now?"
- Visit to Charnwood Lodge-May 24th (morning)
- Visit to Poultney Farm, Ulverscroft- June 7th (morning)
- Tony Squires-Historic Parks-September 11th
- Pat Stanley-Bakewell & Longhorns-October 16th
- Meet the Members Dinner-November 22nd





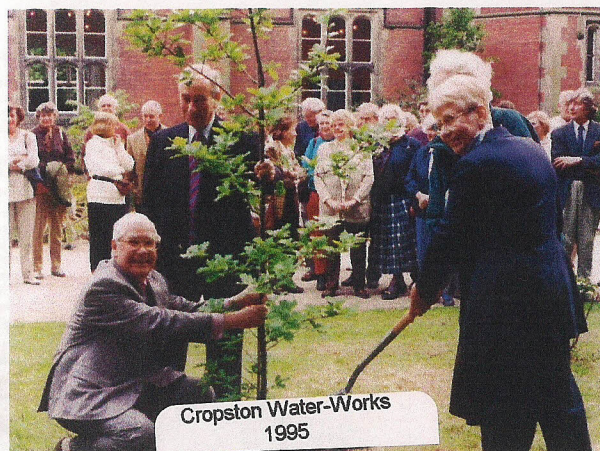
Deer Walk in Bradgate  
Park  
1996



Tony Milner's farm at  
Upper Parks Farm  
Markfield  
1988



Unveiling of the plaque to  
Sir Andrew Martin  
1994



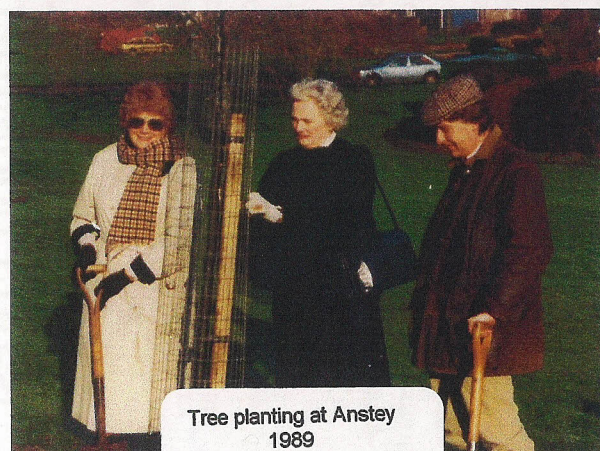
Cropston Water-Works  
1995



Meet the Members Dinner  
2001



Volunteers for planting at  
Martins Wood  
(Trees given by Severn  
Trent)  
1995



Tree planting at Anstey  
1989



Geological Walk at  
Bradgate Park  
1996

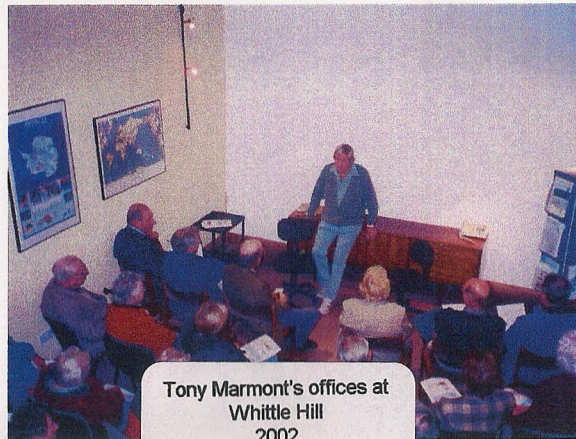


Members touring National  
Forest sites  
1998

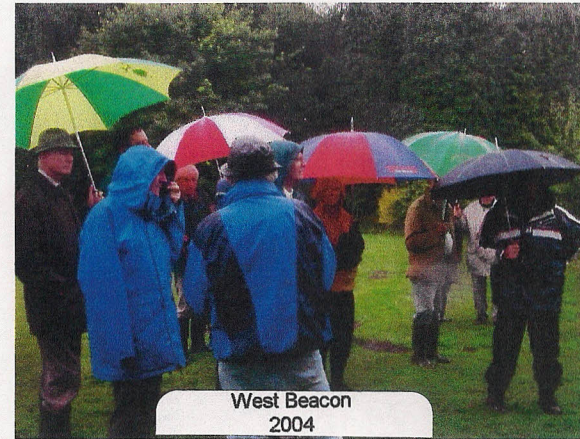




Sandhills Lodge Farm  
2003



Tony Marmont's offices at  
Whittle Hill  
2002



West Beacon  
2004



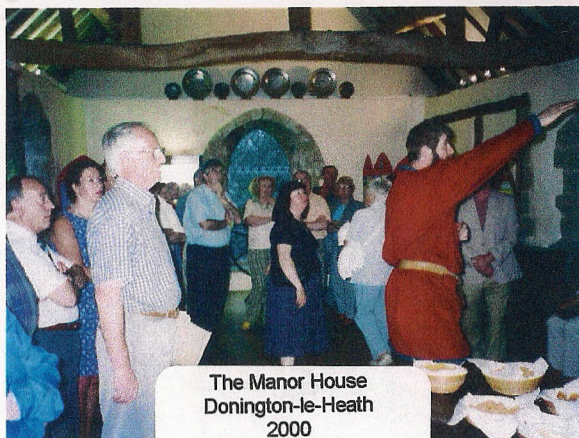
Tree Planting at Martin's  
Wood 1994



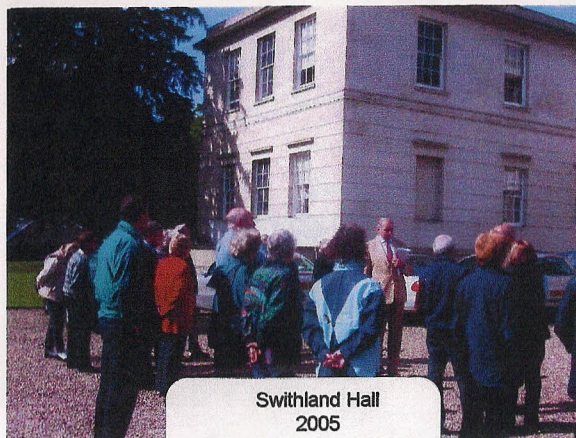
Thornton Reservoir  
2002



Watermead Park  
2001



The Manor House  
Donington-le-Heath  
2000



Swithland Hall  
2005



Wanlip Sewage Works  
1996



This beautiful oil painting of "Little Matlock" in Bradgate Park, with Newtown Linford Church in the background, by Derek Walsom of Sileby, was presented to Peter Bertram, on his retirement as Chairman of Friends of Charnwood Forest in 2005, after 19 years.

**FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST**

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The beautiful view from Martin's Wood , purchased in 1993 from funds raised by the members of The Friends of Charnwood Forest.

The wood has now been planted with oak, ash and other native trees. It contains memorials to former members David Arnold, Maureen Cooper and , of course, Sir Andrew Martin .