



## Dick Howard—Chairman

Dick Howard was elected Chairman of Friends of Charnwood Forest at our recent AGM. He has been a member of the committee for many years and for the last eight years has been Honorary Secretary. He has worked tirelessly in that role and his efforts will be hard to replace. We are fortunate that his wise counsel will continue.



### New Members!

We are delighted to welcome over thirty new members who have joined the Society this year.

Many of them attended the AGM and even brought guests.

We always need fresh faces as inevitably some move away or are no longer able to participate in our activities. Please try to interest your friends and neighbours.

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#### Coming Events

- Watermead Country Park Visit-May 23
- Hough Windmill Visit-June 13 & 20
- Organic Farming Talk - September 10
- Ulverscroft Woods Visit-October 10
- Meet the Members Dinner-November 21
- Local Development Talk-January 22
- AGM & Wildlife Talk-March 24



## Our recent talks and visits

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Since the last edition of the newsletter we have had three events.

On November 22 we had the usual Meet the Members Dinner at Louis Scott's Restaurant. Nearly fifty members attended and several more were disappointed as places were limited.

In January we had a fascinating talk by Jenny Harris, Senior Conservation Officer of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, on the Wildflower Meadows of Leicestershire. Her pictures were beautiful and we look forward to more exploration in the Spring and Summer.

The AGM had a record attendance, over seventy members, many of them for the first time. We hustled through the official business and were entertained to a most interesting talk by Peter Liddle, Keeper of Donington Le Heath Manor House and Head of Archaeological Services for Leicestershire County Council, who spoke, with many excellent pictures, on the Abbeys and Priors of Charnwood.

On each occasion we were served, as usual, with wine and nibbles by Mr and Mrs Bassett and Mr & Mrs Mayes who have looked after us so well for many years. These informal parties play a vital role in giving members the chance to meet others and to talk to our speakers in a relaxed atmosphere.

## How to check a planning application

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All the details of planning applications submitted to your local Borough Council, such as Charnwood, or Hinckley and Bosworth, are accessible on line. So if you are interested in looking to see what your near neighbours are proposing to do to their property, or following up any planning application that you may see displayed in a public place, or in the local papers, here is how to go about it provided you have use of the internet.

Enter [www.charnwoodbc.gov.uk](http://www.charnwoodbc.gov.uk)

Tab on Environment and Planning.

Tab on Development

Tab on Planning Application

Tab on Search for, view or make comment on, an application

Tab on Planning Explorer

Note disclaimer

Tab on General Search (If you know the planning application number you can tab on Quick Search)

When you enter the General Search page enter the parish, or ward, that you require and the range of dates that the application may have been submitted.

You will then have a printed list of all the applications for the parish over the time period that you specified. Tab on the application number of the planning that interests you and all the details will be available. You can look at the Planning Application, the supporting documents, the plans, list of consultees, constraints etc and if you wish to make a comment, when this should be submitted by. All comments are made on line and will be taken into account before the final decision is taken.

After the planning process has been completed you can check on the results and even read the conditions that may apply to a particular approval.

Please give it a try; we all need to be on our toes to keep the Forest and surrounding villages in their rural setting.

Dick Howard 2007

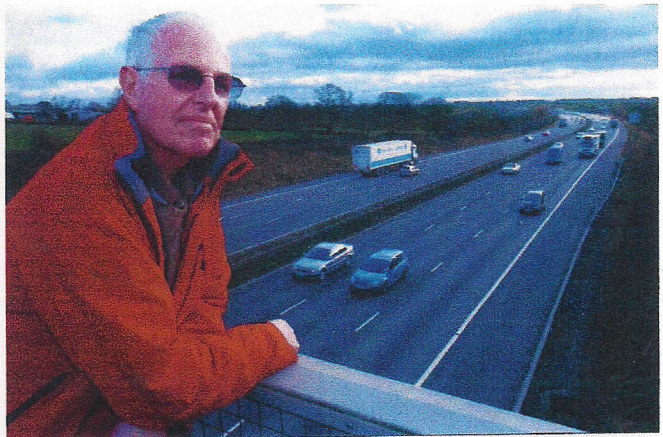
*Give it a try! We all need to  
be on our toes*



# Regional Park for Charnwood?

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The Friends of Charnwood Forest would welcome the creation of a Regional Park covering Charnwood Forest under the proposals being considered by the East Midlands Regional Assembly. Charnwood Forest has been part of the National Forest since it was created 11 years ago and forms its western boundary. There is a long-term view that the National Forest will eventually become a National Park and the Friends of Charnwood have submitted this as a proposal in the current Charnwood Local Development Plan.



Charnwood Forest has the highest number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Leicestershire and these sensitive areas need to be preserved from the added number of tourists and leisure activities that will surely follow the creation of a Regional Park. We would hope that the added planning restrictions on development would help to curb the continual erosion of the edges of the Forest such as the extension of the Science Park in Loughborough. This could be more conveniently sited off the new Rearsby by-pass than intruding into the Forest.

The M1 bisects Charnwood Forest and the twin threats of the proposed widening to eight lanes are, increased noise, and the proposal to introduce lighting over the full length of the motorway. Noise barriers are planned but light pollution is a real threat to wildlife. Forests and their nocturnal inhabitants need darkness to survive. The Friends of Charnwood Forest are opposing lighting of the motorway from junction 21 to 23 and we hope that the creation of a Regional Park will support our views.

**Noise and lighting pollution! Fight, fight and fight again!**

Charnwood Forest is a unique area and it is in everyone's interest to look ahead and support the added protection that a Regional Park can give provided that the area is not overwhelmed by the needs of visitors and tourists.

*Dick Howard January 2007 Photo by Leicester Mercury*

## Changes in Committee

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We recently welcomed to the committee Ben Wheeler, a long term member and for forty years a Forest resident. He has retired from the printing industry and is very keen to support all our activities.

At the AGM, two members volunteered to join the committee and we welcome Edward (Ted) Pepper and Ros Oakley.

Following the election of Dick Howard as Chairman, Kim Turner has agreed to add the nominal title of Honorary Secretary to her existing appointment as Honorary Treasurer. This can only be a temporary arrangement, with other members sharing duties, and we are actively seeking a new Secretary. There is also a vacancy for a Minutes Secretary who will take and circulate minutes of our various meetings.

The committee now consists of Lady Martin (President), Dick Howard (Chairman), Kim Turner (Secretary & Treasurer), Clifford Jones (Events Organiser), Peter Bertram, Paul Day, Angela Marmont, Tony Milner, Ros Oakley, Ted Pepper and Ben Wheeler



# FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

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# YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

*We urgently need a new Secretary. The duties are not onerous and other committee members are always willing to help. One or two hours a week , preferably computer literate, but above all interested.*

*We also need someone to act as Minutes Secretary.*

## Our Finances— 2006

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Meet the Members	£1141	Meet the Members	£1121
Subscriptions	£1382	Newsletter	£ 300
Sundries	£ 6	Stamps & Stationery	£ 472
		Functions	£ 367
		Sundries	£ 90
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	£ 179
TOTAL	£2529	TOTAL	£2529