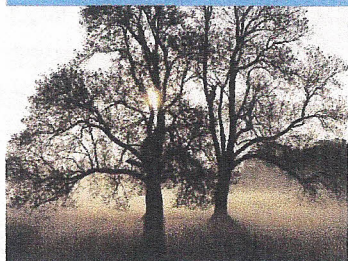


Volume 10 Issue 3

Christmas 2008



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

Christmas Newsletter

Lady Martin

We are very sorry to have to tell you that Lady Martin died on Sunday 23 November. She had been ill for sometime and was in hospital at the time.

Lady Martin was President of Friends of Charnwood Forest and was a founder member of the society. Colonel Sir Andrew Martin was our first President and Lady Martin succeeded him after having been Vice-Chairman since 1986.

She was always an active member of our committee and attended nearly all our events. For more than 20 years we have had our committee meetings in her dining room and her warm hospitality with wine and nibbles was greatly appreciated and will be sadly missed.

Lady Martin took a very active part in numerous local activities including Woodhouse Eaves Parish Council and for many years as a J.P. She supported Sir Andrew in his military and diplomatic career and as Lord Lieutenant for many years.

She had a distinguished war record connected with Bletchley Park and Beaumanor.

She will be sadly missed by us all but very happily remembered. Her funeral is expected to be on 10th December.

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Coming Events

- January 20-Steve Woodward "Ulverscroft Nature Reserve"
- February 16 "A Wander through the Forest" Magic Lantern Show
- March 16 AGM at Woodhouse Eaves- Danny Green (Photographer) "Leicestershire through the seasons"

BARDON HILL QUARRY – PROPOSED EXTENSION

The meeting held on Tuesday 21st October to hear from senior executives of Aggregate Industries (AI) about their proposed extension of Bardon Hill Quarry was a significant event. It was probably the first time that our members have been given detailed information about a proposed major development affecting the environment of Charnwood Forest and had the opportunity to question the developers.

Hugh Lucas, UK Planning Manager, Simon Taylor Regional Director, and Graeme King Midlands Estate Manager of Aggregate Industries gave a detailed presentation on the background of the need to extend the 150 year old Bardon Hill Quarry. At the current rate of extraction, 3.34 million tons per annum, the available reserves will only last for the next 10 years. They cannot remove the terraces and have vertical sides to the quarry due to the rules for stability and this feature is regularly checked for conformance. Bardon Hill is one of only 4 quarries in Leicestershire linked by rail and the rail head is a key function for transportation.

The proposed new quarry would cover 160 acres of the overall site and could yield 130 million tons and extend the life of the quarry for 40 years. The new site would be linked by conveyor to the existing processing plant (crushers, graders, washers etc) and rail head. For one third of its length the conveyor will be in a tunnel under Bardon Hill.

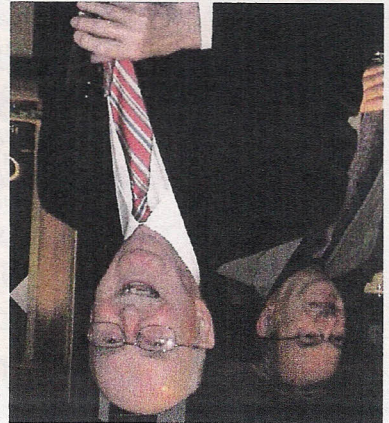
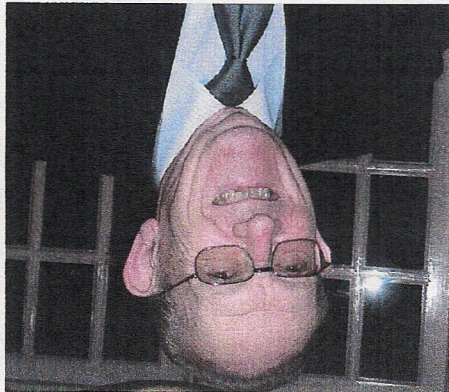
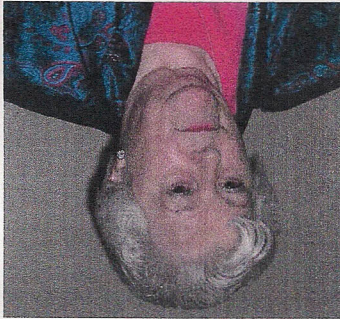
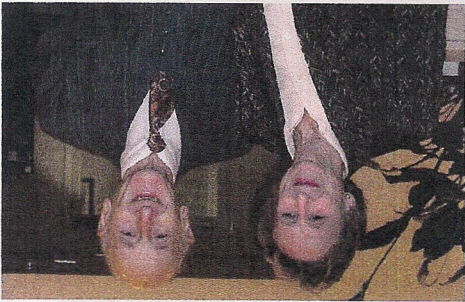
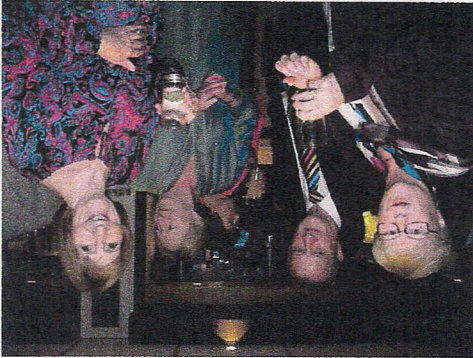
As a result of questions raised the source of the river Sence which rises within the proposed area, will be moved slightly westwards to preserve the existing flows. The overburden will be used to raise the boundaries but the restoration of these areas can be in any way we wish, stone walls, small fields copses etc. AI have an exceptional record in maintaining Bardon Hill as a SSSI site and have recently been given the Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark Award in recognition of improvements to wildlife habitats, a first for Leicestershire.

AI take our stone but what do they put back into the community? This was a difficult question for AI to give a convincing reply. They do employ 500 people, pay around £700 K in rates and put considerable effort into maintaining the surrounding environment. AI claim they are not in the business of landfill, the new quarry would ultimately become a lake (unless of course the Government or Local Authority have a different view).

50 members enjoyed an informative, if ominous, meeting.

Dick Howard

Meet the Members Dinner 2008



Our recent meetings

Dale Osborne's talk on :

"The Wildlife of Watermead Park"

Dale has led several walks for the Friends of Charnwood Forest and his talk on the 15th of September was as interesting as ever. His slides were, as usual, both beautiful and illuminating.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your 2009 subscription is due on 1st January,

Our Treasurer, Kim Turner, would like to hear from you at Poultney Farm, Priory Lane, Ulverscroft, Markfield LE67 9PA. If you are not sure, her number is 01530 244921

Forms for bankers orders will be available at each meeting

Michael Wortley's magic lantern show on "A wander through Charnwood Forest" had to be cancelled at short notice when his wife was admitted to hospital after a heart attack.. She is making good progress and we hope to rearrange his talk for February 16th.

New Members and the Committee

We are always looking for new members, both as supporters and for the Committee.

In particular we are greatly in need of a Secretary. The duties are not onerous and are currently split between several members. Can you help?

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