



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



Spring 2014

Website: www.focf.org.uk

Mission Statement: To work towards the preservation of the countryside and local environment of Charnwood Forest Regional Park for the benefit of those who live within it, and for those who visit, and for future generations. We aim to be an effective, informative and influential voluntary organisation.

Are we missing YOU? (1)

The Committee worries that we might be missing you. Comments are sometimes made that maybe emails don't get received or read. **Have you received this for example!?** If not - you will not know and will be missing out on our news and activities. How will we know?

Perhaps fellow members could ask around to help us make sure that all members are getting their news and details by the most appropriate means - by post or email.

Clearly emails save us a lot of time and postage but we want to communicate by the most helpful means. Please tell Louise, our Membership Secretary (details overleaf), if you have any concerns. Thank you.

Are we missing YOU? (2)

Again, the Committee worries that, in order to secure a useful future for the Friends of Charnwood Forest, we **must attract younger members - both to join AND to get involved.**

But we are told younger people have little interest in traditional ways. To them, letters, agendas, minutes and meetings are fusty remnants of past centuries! **BUT they're often just as interested and concerned about the same things as older folk.** However, we are advised, they almost exclusively communicate and take action via social media - Facebook, Twitter, etc.

This is important: our Committee takes this evolution seriously and is taking steps to try to join the world of modern communication and action. We even want to invite, say, a student to take on the process for us in exchange for a fee. Can you help with an introduction?

Meanwhile STOP PRESS here's our Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcharnwoodforest>

WHY NOT TAKE A PEEK? Our Webmaster, Toby Manning, maintains our attractive website provided we let him have the content. There's a lot to see there, including archives. Why not take a peek on a regular basis ... www.focf.org.uk

*Our heading picture this time:
Horse logging at The Outwoods*

Hello and Welcome

Many new members joined us last year. We welcome you and hope you enjoy being a special Friend of Charnwood Forest.

TALKS and WALKS

Our activities for you to enjoy

Individual invitations for each event will be sent to all members by post or email

Indoor meetings take place at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall at 7.30pm, finishing about 9pm followed by refreshments. Your guests and other non-members are welcome at our talks (for whom we make a small charge of £3 at the door).

To assist our preparations and to help you in case of any change to the arrangements, please tell us you are coming (see individual invitations for details).

It's a big help ... thank you.

2014

● **NEW Wednesday 26th February** in co-operation with the Bradgate Park Trust at *Newtown Linford Village Hall* TALK by Dr. Phil Wilby "The Geology of Bradgate Park" at 7.00pm; pay at the door: adult £2 / child, student, OAP £1.

● **Monday 17th March** Our AGM followed by a TALK: "The Future of the National Forest" by Lynne Richards, Head of Fundraising and External Relations, National Forest Company

● **Monday 14th April** TALK: "The History & Future of the Charnwood Forest Canal" by Mike Handford

● **Wednesday 14th May** VISIT/WALK: Part of old Charnwood Forest Canal, Mike Handford

● **Wednesday 18th June** VISIT: Hosted visit to Stoneywell followed by lunch

● **Wednesday 9th July** VISIT: Martin's Wood and Felicity's Wood. Celebrating 20 year anniversary of FOCF planting Martins Wood on 5th March 1994. Meet 10am in Deans Lane.

● **Monday 22nd September** TALK: "Lady Jane Grey and Bradgate Park" by Helen Kessling

● **Monday 27th October** TALK: "Old Maps of Charnwood Forest" by Keith Ovenden, Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office

● **Wednesday 12th November** "Meet the Members Annual Dinner" at the Grey Lady

Committee Notes

◆ Chairman, Dick Howard expressed the deep concerns felt locally about the County Council's re-roofing of the school in Newtown Linford's Conservation Area. Red tiles had been used - not the original grey - making the roof clash with universally grey ones in the village. He has been in high level discussions about this and would not let the matter rest. His concerns were supported by the Committee. The latest news from Dick is that Planners at County Hall will not budge from their apparent indifference to these concerns.

◆ The County Council's proposals for Broombriggs Farm have again been discussed. It seemed that the plans had been a "fait accompli" at an early stage. Limited consultation with the National Forest and Woodhouse Eaves PC had been undertaken, leading to some compromises. The plans include a Woodland Creation scheme: 12500 trees planted on 8 hectares, shrubs, parkland, community orchard, public open space, walls re-built in traditional style, grazing, encouragement of wild flowers. The loss of important views is the main concern.

◆ Traditionally, the Committee has made representations on selected planning applications where there has been a clear threat to the Forest. But our ability to respond sensibly to more than these essentials no longer exists, with our diminished Committee. However, applications which come to our attention are considered. Recently in this category have been housing applications in Anstey which concern the "Save Anstey" campaign and the proposal to expand Mountsorrel Quarry by Lafarge Tarmac.

◆ We were interested to hear that there will be a World War 1 History event at Beaumanor Hall on 23rd March. There seems to have been little publicity so far. Worth looking out for, we think.

Committee loses valued Member

In January, Clifford Jones stepped down from the Committee, having given so much - notably 10 years or more of organising all our events. Our Chairman, Dick Howard, wrote to Clifford on our behalf:

"Dear Clifford,

Thank you for your dedicated 22 years of contributions to the FOCF Committee activities. I see in the records that you joined the committee on 30th April 1992, you will have seen many changes over that time. Thanks for all the events that you planned and organised, we had some great meetings and visits.

We will all miss you at the committee meetings but please support us at our talks, visits and annual dinner when you are not away. Once again many thanks from

everyone on the Committee.

Regards, Dick"

AND THEN WE WERE EIGHT ...

At the forthcoming AGM on 17th March we anticipate that only 8 members will remain on the Committee. Some of those have done sterling service on behalf of FoCF over many years and they are happy to continue as our valued advisors. Others are "do-ers" and already busy people who cannot give more.

Therefore - here is the inevitable appeal for more members of the Society to join the Committee and play an active part.

You already know that our Chairman, Dick, plans "retirement". Likewise, we need one or two people to co-ordinate our events. But we seek anyone to join us, able to attend our 4 or 5 convivial meetings a year and willing to take on a modest active task to ensure we keep going. You will be very welcome.

Either have a word with Dick first (phone and email below) or stick up your hand at the appropriate time at the AGM! Please!

Thank you for considering if you could play a part ... or know someone who would ...!

Charnwood Roots is planning a 5-day Roadshow to promote this project around Loughborough and Charnwood Forest at heritage sites, primary schools, libraries, markets and museums to introduce the public to the new website, showcase finds from our fieldwalking on the Bradgate Park Estate, new recordings from oral history projects, getting children involved in creative activities, and generally encouraging people to participate.

Some assistance is needed from supporters and volunteers to make the Roadshow a success. If you would be prepared to help by putting up a poster in your village, dropping off leaflets at your library, publicising events on your website, social media channels or mailing lists or even helping out at an event for a couple of hours, the Project would love to hear from you.

The company that has designed the new website (*We Are Epic*) is also helping with the Roadshow.

Contact Dr Julie Attard: Email: jad17@le.ac.uk
Telephone: 0116 252 5946

Who's Who?

Chairman Dick Howard

richardhoward342@btinternet.com 01530 245373

Secretary & Newsletter Douglas Maas doug@idnet.com 01530 242534

Membership Louise Gibson louise@the-grey-lady.co.uk

Treasurer Kim Turner 01530 244921

Events vacancy

Web Master Toby Manning ptm@tobymanning.co.uk

Foot Note

No doubt there are copies around locally of the 344-page weighty tome entitled “History and Antiquities of Charnwood Forest” by T.R.Potter published in 1842. But to download your own copy easily and quickly, go to the website of the Pittsburgh University Library and download a PDF. Simple!