



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



The heading picture this time:
Bluebell woods near Ulverscroft Mill

Summer 2015

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.

"What are our plans for our surplus funds?"

At our recent AGM a member asked this question. It is a good question which the Committee has been asking for some time.

Any organisation - business, community, even household, will either grow or decline financially. It is almost impossible to simply stand still.

We have tried very hard to make good use of our Members' subscriptions. The subscription itself has stayed the same for several years. We have given away a new Charnwood Map to every member and this was well received. We do not stint on the cost of good speakers for our events - some are really quite expensive but we enjoy the quality of almost all of their talks.

We are spending some funds currently on a new recruitment campaign. On the one hand, this ought to increase our funds even further. But without new members, what of the future? Where will our new Committee members come from?

Our Chairman, Dick Howard drew up some quite comprehensive plans for a new FoCF dedicated woodland but this proved impossible to sensibly achieve. Similarly, there have been suggestions that we assist in the creation of a community orchard.

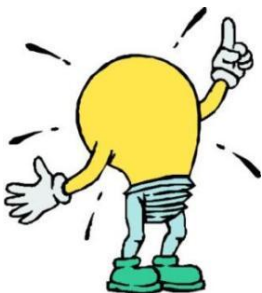
And still the funds grow - currently some £7,000.

That "Lightbulb" moment is needed ...

And so we must ask you - all our Members - to come suggest ideas about how you would like

us to use these funds in ways which might achieve our mission - to enhance and protect Charnwood Forest (the Regional Park).

For example, "Woodland" might be an obvious example but a general suggestion such as this does need to be more specific. Other ideas might include Awards or Grants to help others to achieve the objectives



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)

2015

● **Wednesday 10th June WALK: Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve with Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust**

● **Monday 21st September TALK: Great Central - past, present and future with Tom Ingall from the Great Central Railway**

● **Monday 19th October TALK: The Greys and the Hastings: Two Charnwood Families by Dave Taylor**

● **Thurs 12th November ANNUAL DINNER at The Grey Lady (details being finalised)**

2016

● **Monday 18th January TALK Living Landscapes with Michael Jeeves, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust**

● **Monday 14th March AGM**

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Following our AGM in March we were delighted that Patricia Bell and Pauline Day have offered to join the Committee. They are very welcome. Paul Day will take over as Chairman from Dick Howard on 1st July.

We are now without a Secretary. Doug Maas continues as an ex-officio member of the Committee in his capacity as compiler of this Newsletter. A Secretary is urgently needed.

maybe. We have suggested just two general ideas here. We do hope that you - our members - will have that great and valuable idea which will help us achieve our objectives.

Please give it some thought and when you get your "Eureka" moment, please pass it on to a Committee member (contacts overleaf). Thank you.

Richard III & Bosworth

- the story so far

Almost two years ago Richard Knox was suggested as a good and topical speaker. Little did we know how topical he would be! Having been booked a year ahead, he came to speak to us just a few days before the big events leading up to the King's re-interment. Richard Knox brought us completely up-to-date - from the investigation into the true location of the Battle to the very latest on the arrangements for the major events about to take place. A fascinating story which kept us spellbound.



Beaumanor Hall & Enigma



As Acting Chairman, Peter Bertram, told members and guests on the night ... he could not remember the Village Hall being so packed. Every chair and every square inch of floor space had been used up. And it was all worth it, as our speaker told the compelling story of the Enigma machine, Bletchley Park and its Outstations - Beaumanor Hall

being a significant one of these. The Enigma machine he brought with him and demonstrated is the rarer type - four-rotor - and very valuable. A great evening.

Committee Notes

◆ The popularity of our most recent two speakers has given rise to interesting concerns. Ideally we want more members to swell our support for the Forest but then how do we accommodate more at popular events? And therefore what shall we do about publicity? There are many ideas to consider and these will be mulled over during the Summer.

◆ Observations on the Charnwood Core Strategy must be submitted by 26th May. We will be emphasising the need to protect the surroundings of Bradgate Park as areas of valuable significance.

◆ Planning permission for 70 houses at Cropston Road, Anstey has been granted together with conditional approval for a traffic scheme in The Nook.

◆ A housing application at Brick Kiln Lane, Shepshed has been refused.

◆ The process of securing renewal subscriptions is a major 6-month task each year involving efforts by several committee members. Members' help with prompt payments is really appreciated. Thank you.

◆ A change of venue for the Annual Dinner had been investigated but proved expensive. The event will again be held at the Grey Lady this year.

◆ Plans are afoot for special events next year to mark the Society's 30 year existence.

Stoneywell's Official Launch

In March, the National Trust staged an Official Launch for Stoneywell, inviting along many of the people and organisations who had played a part, since 2012, in helping to reach the goal of opening this unique example of arts and crafts architecture to the public. A preliminary opening happened last October and November but since fully opening to the public at the beginning of February, with its attendant publicity, Stoneywell has been very busy welcoming visitors.



FoCF Committee representatives, Dick Howard and Doug Maas attended the launch. Dick is pictured with Donald Gimson who had returned to his cottage to be at the launch and to delight in talking much more to everyone about life at the cottage.

The Website

We have a good and expanding website at www.focf.org.uk, run by Toby Manning. He works hard to keep it up-to-date: please visit it.

The website is short of details of our early history. Toby has been running the site since 2010, but information before then is scant. Many of our old Newsletters have been uploaded, but we suspect that some are missing. So if you can help with material for the website, or you can help running it, please contact Toby at webmaster@focf.org.uk who will be pleased to help.

Who's Who?

Chairman Dick Howard (until 30th June, then Paul Day)
richardhoward342@btinternet.com 01530 245373

Secretary Vacancy

Membership

Linda Thompson lindagthompson1958@gmail.com 01162387715

Treasurer Kim Turner 01530 244921

Events Vacancy

Web Master Toby Manning ptm@tobymanning.co.uk

Committee Patricia Bell, Peter Bertram, Paul Day, Pauline Day

Newsletter Douglas Maas doug@idnet.com 01530 242534

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Footnote: We regret that our description of our 'Beaumanor Hall and Enigma' talk wasn't sufficiently clear. A member went to Beaumanor Hall expecting the event to be held there. Instead we completely filled Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. Sorry we were not sufficiently clear.