



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



The heading picture this time:
The Bomb Rocks at Charnwood Lodge [Dick Howard]

Autumn 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.

Our new Chairman introduces himself ...

As from July 1st I became your new Chairman of Friends of Charnwood taking over from Dick Howard who has been in the position for many years. He felt the time had come to retire and let someone else take over and hence I am that person.

I would personally like to thank Dick on behalf of Friends of Charnwood for the dedication and hard work that he has put into the position of Chairman over these past years.

I am also very pleased to report that he is going to remain on the committee as social secretary to make sure we continue to have the excellent speakers we have had in the past.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting when I can introduce myself properly. Paul Day



Remember we need your "lightbulb moment"?

Last time, the Committee asked for members' ideas about good ways to spend our surplus funds.

Your "Lightbulb" moment is now needed ... and so we must ask you - all our Members

- to 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).

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

If you can do it before the Committee's next meeting on 1st September that would be really useful. Thank you.

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

● **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**

Great Central Railway Past, Present & Future A talk by Tom Ingall

**Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall on Monday
21st September at 7.30pm.**

Tom Ingall grew up in Leicestershire and now works for the B.B.C. in Yorkshire. He has been a volunteer at Great Central Railway for 25 years.

The Great Central Railway opened in 1899, the last main line built in Britain. It was developed from earlier lines, notably the Midland, Sheffield & Lincolnshire (MS&L) irreverently known as Money Sunk and Lost!

Between Leicester and Loughborough the GCR passed close to Charnwood Forest and encountered a landscape of particular beauty, including Bradgate, Swithland Reservoir and the tree covered south-eastern part of Charnwood. Our speaker will tell you much more!

All are welcome. Members attend free. Visitors pay £3 including refreshments.

Further information--Peter Bertram 01162100572 or www.focf.org.uk

Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve

Our visit in June, described and
illustrated by Dick Howard



On a rather dull day in June, Neil Pilcher, Senior Conservation Officer, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, gave 21 members of FOCF a comprehensive guided tour of Charnwood Lodge. This Reserve surprised us all as only being slightly smaller than Bradgate Park covering 500 acres.

The most striking features are the prominent outcrops of 600 million year old Precambrian rocks, which we were not allowed to climb! These outcrops include the famous bomb rocks formed by pyroclastic flow of molten lava from a volcano, and known the world over by geologists. These formations resulted in the reserve being classified as a National Nature Reserve.

The area covered by the Reserve was originally part of the Charnwood wastes and has remained virtually unchanged. Hence it is the last truly wild area of the Forest as we all observed. We kept well away from the Longhorn cattle who are well adapted to graze the area.

We were surprised to find an extensive reservoir



known as Colony Reservoir. This was constructed by young offenders from Liverpool who were brought down by the monks of Mount St Bernards Abbey in the 1880s. This was not a successful venture and the prisoners were sent back to Liverpool. Today the reservoir is the home to many species of fish including carp.

Charnwood Forest was from earliest times covered with surface stone. Most of this had been collected up during the time of the Enclosures and recycled into stone walls that we see everywhere today. At Charnwood Lodge during WW2 this job was given to Italian prisoners of war. Their progress can be clearly seen today as the job was never finished as peace was declared resulting in some areas only partly cleared.

We found this a most interesting visit not only from its natural environment but also the history of the reserve. If you are a LRWT member do take the opportunity to visit but remember to take your card as it is not open to the general public.

Committee Notes

◆ There has been no meeting of the Committee since the Summer Edition of this Newsletter. At the top of the list of priorities for the next meeting on 1st September will be the urgent need for a Secretary, considering ideas for the use of surplus funds and closely followed by the diverse range of topics of concern within the Forest. Of course there are always issues concerning the future of our Society and what we should be doing, the impact of recruiting more members and therefore how we should publicise ourselves. It all makes for fascinating but convivial meetings. If you feel you would like to help out by joining the Committee (as Secretary or otherwise), you would be very welcome to come along first to find out all about it. Just get in touch with a Committee member.

Who's Who?

Chairman Paul Day 0116 2364376

Secretary Vacancy

Membership

Linda Thompson lindagthompson1958@gmail.com 01162387715

Treasurer Kim Turner 01530 244921

Events Dick Howard

richardhoward342@btinternet.com 01530 245373

Web Master Toby Manning ptm@tobymanning.co.uk

Committee Patricia Bell, Peter Bertram, Pauline Day

Newsletter Douglas Maas doug@idnet.com 01530 242534

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