



# THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



## Summer 2017

Website: [www.focf.org.uk](http://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.

## Wine tasting delights

An audience of over 70 members and guests attended our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Monday March 20 and to hear a fascinating talk.

We were delighted to have Liz Robson to talk to us about English wine and the Rothley vineyard. Liz Robson explained how she first became interested in viniculture and having taken over a 5 acre property in Rothley, she planted the first 6 rows of vines in 2008. She told us of the development of English wines; over 4000 vineyards!

Most popular were the samples of her wines; King Richard, King Henry, Battle Royal and Fearless. She also gave us a "sparkler" Spirit of Freedom. Members and visitors were able to taste a selection of the excellent sparkling wine and their best-selling white wine, King Richard.

Liz welcomes visitors, by arrangement, and her wines are readily available at David North.



Liz chats with  
Chairman  
Paul Day

*The heading picture this time:  
A flashback to 2010 when 'Tornado' visited the Great  
Central Railway and thinking forward to our two  
"railway" themed talks later this year*

## TALKS and WALKS

### Our activities for you to enjoy

Individual invitations for each event will be sent to 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).

### 2017

- 🌟 **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June** NATURE WALK to Herbert's Meadow. Meet at Poultny Farm, Priory Lane at 10am
- 🌟 **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June** MORNING VISIT to Charnwood Forest Alpacas. **Those attending have been notified of the change of venue to Scamhazel Farm, Ashby Road, Boundary, Leics. DE11 7BA at 10.30 for 11am. Enquiries to Dick Howard. All places taken.**
- 🌟 **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August** VISIT - History Tour of Beaumanor Hall + cream tea. £12.50. Party limited to 25
- 🌟 **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** TALK by Pat Neal. Mountsorrel Railway, nature walk and Heritage Centre with café project
- 🌟 **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** TALK by Marilyn Palmer: 'Horses to Locomotives: early railway transport in north Leicestershire'
- 🌟 **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** ANNUAL DINNER - being arranged

### 2018

- 🌟 **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** TALK by Alan Briggs "Charnwood and its Environs" - geology and topography.
- 🌟 **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** TALK by Mark Temple: 'Lost Leicestershire Windmills'
- 🌟 **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March** AGM + TALK TBA
- 🌟 **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** TALK TBA

No Committee Notes this time.  
Next Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May



## “Living Wild in South America”

There was a full attendance of members and visitors at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall on Monday April 24 to hear a fascinating talk by Michael and Paula Webster. This was the fourth or fifth talk they have given us over several years. Michael and Paula Webster have been life-long conservationists as well as wildlife photographers. They are now exploring the continent of South America, discovering why it is so rich in birds. The continent is home to the richest diversity of species, especially birds. We saw many beautiful photographs, from the Toucan to the Hooded Grebe.

This talk covered their adventures in search of wildlife in the deserts of Chile, the Andean mountains, the Patagonian steppes and the jungles of Peru; the whole continent from Cape Horn to the Caribbean and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They are meeting conservation organisations, universities and schools. We heard their wildlife stories and learned of their passion for protecting the unique biodiversity of South America.

Have a look at their website [www.living-wild.net](http://www.living-wild.net)

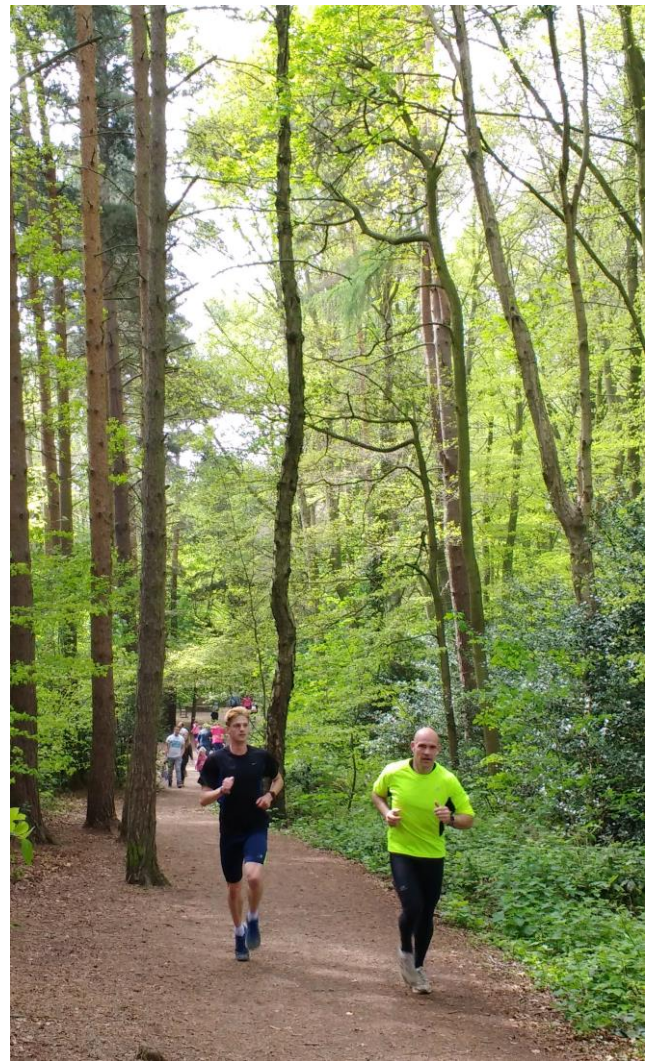


### Any old binoculars?

During their talk Michael spoke about the number of people in the whole of South America who are interested in and involved in nature conservation – about 3,500 – a tiny number compared with the millions in our own country. Also, the countries are poor and so impose a 300% import tax. The conservation organisations have little cash to be able to afford binoculars and of course the pay of individuals is low and they cannot be afforded.

So Paula and Michael are appealing for anyone de-cluttering their home who might find an old pair of binoculars which will never see the light of day again, to donate them to this conservation cause. They can be almost any quality or age – anything's better than nothing – but need to be useable (i.e. not broken).

**Any donations can be passed to them via Doug Maas if that's easier - contact details in panel, right - before the end of June please.**



*A regular sight – runners in The Outwoods  
Are they the next Olympians?*

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

### Who's Who?

**President** Janie Martin

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**Treasurer** Kim Turner 01530 244921

**Events** Dick Howard [events@focf.org.uk](mailto:events@focf.org.uk) 01530 245373

**Web Master** Toby Manning [webmaster@focf.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@focf.org.uk)

**Committee** Peter Bertram, Pauline Day, Marilyn Palmer

**Newsletter** Douglas Maas [doug@idnet.com](mailto:doug@idnet.com) 01530 242534

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