



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



Spring 2018

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.

Two Talks - not to be missed

GONE WITH THE WIND: the lost Windmills of Leicestershire

by Mark Temple

MONDAY 19th February

At one time every family's diet included bread which relied on a constant supply of fresh flour. So virtually every village had a mill of some sort, a watermill if there was a suitable stream, or if not, a windmill was placed on an elevated position where its sails could catch the wind. At their peak in 1835 there were believed to be 152 mills in Leicestershire, and many were locally such as Woodhouse Eaves, Markfield, Mountsorrel, Shepshed etc. Mark has tried to gather together all the photographic images that have survived and has also made a collection of milling stories. He knows of the existence of many mills but as far as he knows their images have been lost.

Leicestershire: A Heritage at risk A delightful film to follow our AGM on Monday 19th March

You will not be surprised that most of the issues raised are still the same today. It is a delightful film as it brings back memories of familiar sights 48 years ago of rural Leicestershire and Charnwood Forest. The meeting will conclude with a brief discussion of the issues raised led by the CPRE.

For further information contact Dick Howard or look at our website www.focf.org.uk
Visitors welcome £3 on the door.
Dick Howard 01530 245373

*The heading picture this time: Getting ready for Spring
- Warming February sun at Ulverscroft Nature Reserve*

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).

2018

- **Monday 19th February TALK** by Mark Temple: 'Gone with the Wind - Lost Leicestershire Windmills'
- **Monday 19th March AGM** followed by a TALK by Tony Stott, Chairman CPRE Leicestershire. He will lead a discussion about the issues raised nearly 50 years ago.
- **Monday 23rd April TALK** by Luke Wigman 'A soldier's journey; from Headley Court to Stanford Hall'
- **Thursday 12th July 2018 VISIT and GUIDED TOUR of the 1620 House and Gardens at Donington Le Heath** (formerly Donington Le Heath Manor House). **Max 30. Cost £9pp.**
Date to be agreed. VISIT Mountsorrel Quarry. Date cannot be finalised until early summer due to the progress of ongoing extensions
- **Monday 17th September TALK** by Richard Thomas. **New Archaeological Discoveries in Bradgate Park**
- **Mon 22nd or 29th October TBA**
- **Tues 13th Nov Annual Dinner**

● **Please note:** Dick Howard will be stepping down as Events Organiser at the AGM in March. He will assist his replacement.

● **Committee Appeal:** As our President, Janie Martin, announced at a recent meeting - we really are in need of two or three more Committee members. There is work to be done! Please consider if you could spare some time for this convivial duty to help ensure the Friends continues its work into the future. Please speak to the Chairman or any Committee member before the March AGM. Thank you.

STAG'S HEAD SCULPTURE

Dick Howard updates us on this Newtown Linford project

Hopefully, by now, you will all know that the old dead oak tree stump on the left hand grass verge, when heading towards Anstey, will be carved into a tasteful and symbolic Stag's Head.

At the Thursday coffee and cakes morning on 11th January Peter Leadbeater, the sculptor, explained to over 40 villagers how the tree will be carved, and he also answered questions. You can see on the sketch how imposing the stag's head will appear in profile, and it will be looking slightly towards Anstey. The actual sculpture will be influenced by the grainflow and a couple of soft spots will need to be avoided.

Peter, and his assistant, are planning to start the carving in the second week of March. The outer surface will be treated with preservative and it is recommended that this treatment is repeated on a four monthly cycle. With good care the carving will last from 30 to 50 years.



I have a target of £2700 of which £2500 is the cost of the sculpture. Thank you all for your donations and enthusiasm for the project. We have also received a generous donation of £1000 from the Friends of Charnwood Forest and together with the £124

from the raffle we are now within £400 of the target. All the prizes at the coffee morning raffle had been donated, thank you for making it such a successful and friendly event.

Our next fund raising event is "Music and Puddings" at the Village Hall on Friday 9th February at 7.00pm with music by the N'Ukes, Leicester's Premier Ukelele Group. Tickets are only £8 and available from myself Dick Howard 01530 245373. This will be a good fun, café style evening. Please support this final push to reach our target.

I can assure you all that you will feel proud of this iconic and unique village sign.

Dick



COMMITTEE NOTES

There had been difficulties finding convenient dates before Christmas and so the Committee which met on 16th January had some catching up to do.

◆ The principal concern was that the Committee would need strengthening by the time of the AGM as two members (Dick and Linda) in vital roles would be stepping down. Announcements would be made about this, with a view to filling vacancies at the AGM.

◆ Dick had, as always, unfailingly been filling the programme with speakers and events on interesting topics, as far ahead into the new year as possible, before he stepped down from this role which he had fulfilled for so long.

◆ In planning matters, it was agreed that the area around Iveshead Road was still under threat from housing development and a watchful eye was needed.

◆ The current proposals for extensions of the parking regulations in Newtown Linford were considered. Linked with this is the question of parking fees in Bradgate Park - principally the fact that a full "all day" fee must always be paid, thus exacerbating the village parking problem.

◆ It was expected that the 'honesty box' parking fee collection in Swithland Woods may be replaced.

◆ Dick explained the current position with the Stag's Head Sculpture (see left).

◆ Membership numbers were fairly static which is quite usual for this time of year but it was pleasing to see considerable numbers of visitors coming to meetings as a result of the extensive publicity which Dick sent out to local media.

◆ Next meeting arranged for 12th March.

Who's Who?

President Janie Martin

Chairman Paul Day chairman@focf.org.uk 0116 2364376

Secretary Patricia Bell secretary@focf.org.uk 01509 556668

Membership Linda Thompson mem@focf.org.uk 0116 2387715

Treasurer Kim Turner 01530 244921

Events Dick Howard events@focf.org.uk 01530 245373

Web Master Toby Manning webmaster@focf.org.uk

Committee Pauline Day, Marilyn Palmer

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