

Hawridge & Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society

Newsletter, 2003 September

WORKING PARTIES - Sunday mornings 09:30 on

These begin again on October 5th, fortnightly up to Christmas (except we've already had an ad hoc one, taking advantage of the pond's being dry to remove some of the shading, leaf-dropping, & water-drinking trees from its edge). The list is on the website www.cholesbury.com & on the new notice board by the cricket club. Please tell Oliver Parsons 758694 if you want to join the workers.

AGM

The AGM will be on December 9th, Cholesbury Village Hall, at 8 pm. Clive Carey will talk to us about fungi, & we will be electing officers & committee. Nominations in advance would be very welcome, to myself David Barnard (758 365) or to the secretary Jenny Parsons (758 694). In particular, we would welcome nominations/volunteers to replace Jenny, who has served valiantly for 5 years & is now standing down.

LOCAL HERITAGE STUDY & SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES

The Local Heritage Study had been published & 100 copies went rapidly, sold (subsidised) at £10 or given to local libraries, the LHI etc. We may print more, given firm orders; the price will be higher. A CD-ROM will be a much cheaper alternative. Please tell Lindsay Griffin (758 440) if you want a copy, in either form.

SUMMER PARTY

This year's party was different, a lunch-time picnic hog-roast at the school. It was much enjoyed by the those who came, but did not raise as much money as it has in recent years.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These run Nov. to Oct. At the AGM we are likely to suggest a rise from £5 (held for 13 years!) to £7.50.

SUMMER WORKS

The usual mixture of crushing (bracken), cutting (grass and/or bracken) & collecting has continued, plus keeping paths & rides open. Volunteer tractor drivers, & Duncan Mitchell, deserve our thanks. The Hemel H Conservation Volunteers spent a day cutting back gorse for regeneration near Cholesbury Rd (opposite Shire Lane). Unfortunately our old flail mower has finally had to be replaced, a serious call on the equipment funds. We will also need to replace a major bearing on the swipe this autumn.

SURVEY OF FLORA

Wendy Gray (ex Bucks CC) & Roy Maycock (Bucks Recorder of the Botanical Society) recently completed a survey of Cholesbury & Hawridge Commons north of the top road. We should have their report for the AGM, enabling us to compare the present state of flowers, grasses, trees etc. with the 1997 & older surveys.

FUNGI WALK

Clive Carey will be leading another fungi walk when the weather & the fungi are right. If you wish to be informed of the timing, please tell Clive (758 522) of a phone nr for him to ring you on when the time comes.

TRAVELLERS

We had two visits this summer, causing disturbance (late-night noise, child on motor-bike), time getting them to go, & work cleaning up after. After discussions with the police, we are planning a routine to speed up the process when they come again, though there is no simple solution (e.g. bylaw penalties are still in shillings).

GEOLOGY

At last year's AGM, Geoff Larminie gave a very interesting talk on our local geology. Pages 2-4 of this newsletter are a summary by Isobel Clark (checked by GL), for permanent record & for those who missed it.

UNAUTHORISED CUTTING

Some smallish trees have been cut, at about 4 feet up, near the bottom ride. Does anyone know by whom?

EGG FARM PROPOSAL

The same owner is now applying for a certificate to state that 4-ton mobile hen-house trailers on "Moonpenny Meadow" would not need planning permission (Tring ref. 4/1868/03). Our objections to the trailers stand, & presumably a later appln for housing to look after the hens would follow.

WEBSITE

www.cholesbury.com/hccps