



AGM

After 5 years valuable service, Jenny Parsons retired as secretary & from the committee. Graham Kersting was elected as the new secretary. On the treasurer's (Mike Fletcher's) suggestion, the meeting agreed to raise the annual subscription (which had remained at £5 for 13 years) to £7.50 (see slip at bottom). Following his earlier fungi walks (well attended despite rain), Clive Carey gave a lively talk, illustrated with specimens & books, on the fungi to be found on the common.

WORKING PARTIES

There are still a few working parties left this year. The next 2 are taking place on the bottom ride between Horseblock Lane and Tankards Dene, where we will be cutting back the blackthorn somewhat to enable riders and walkers to pass without difficulty. There will be at least one bonfire each time. Starting at 9.30 on the Sundays 29th Feb and 14th March, all will be welcome. Please bring thick gardening gloves since the blackthorn is particularly thorny. Please watch the local noticeboards for information about the final working party on 28th March.

HEATHER

Is there anyone interested in giving the heather on Hawridge Common a helping hand? Please get in touch with Isobel Clark (758987) who is trying to arrange a time to clear a ring around some of the present heather patches to encourage buried seed to germinate.

CHAIN-SAW COURSE

Four people have just completed a follow-up tree-felling chainsaw course in order to qualify for the BTCV chain saw cards which will enable us to extend our BTCV insurance for chainsaw use.

PERMISSIVE RIDE CLOSURE

This annual closure (to emphasise the permissive character of the horse rides) will be on March 1st (the first Monday); more precisely, from dusk the day before to dusk on the Monday.

LITTERBLITZ

Bags will be put out for 27th March for use till 3rd April. Please collect what is near you first, and then as much more as you can. Gloves and a litter-picker are advised. We have a small stock in hand of the litter-pickers, obtained at £5 each from Chiltern District Council. Please ask me if you would like one (David Barnard 758365).

PTO

SUMMER PARTY

Last year's party was much enjoyed, so we hope to hold the party at the school again, but reverting to the early evening timing, probably in mid-June. More news later.

WALKS: We are planning a tree walk during the year. Other suggestions will be welcome.

MISSING FLORA

A survey during 2003 by Roy Maycock & Wendy Gray did not find some tens of species recorded on earlier surveys. If anyone does see any of them, please can they note the location and inform a committee member; we don't think they have all disappeared, but we do want to keep track and know what real changes occur. The list of "not seen this time" is attached.

LOCAL HERITAGE STUDY & SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES

Lindsay Griffin's Lottery Heritage Study "Hawridge & Cholesbury Commons" appeared, and sold out during the year (some 123 pages including maps, photographs, and index). To reprint would be expensive, but it is available to download from the website (with low resolution pictures), or can be provided on CDROM with full resolution pictures. It can also be consulted in local libraries, or of course borrowed from one of the original purchasers. If you have a PC and just want to read, or search through, the text, a download from the website may be easiest.

Work on the social history continues - Lindsay would like contributions about houses and people before we forget what has happened here and what is happening now.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the year Nov. 2003 to Oct.2004 at £7.50 each

TO: Treasurer Mike Fletcher (758 419; Ivy Cottage Cholesbury hp23 6ndHP23 6ND)

FROM:

THE COMMONS - SPECIES TO BE RE-RECORDED

Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	
Alchemilla sp	a Lady's-mantle	Possibly a garden species.
* Alisma plantago-aquatica	Water-plantain	
(*) Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail	
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile	
Avena sativa	Wild Oat	Casual (crop plant)
* Bidens tripartita	Trifid Bur-marigold	
Calystegia silvatica	Large Bindweed	
Campanula rotundifolia	Harebell	
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	
Centaurea montana	Perennial Cornflower	Garden origin
* Ceratophyllum demersum	Rigid Hornwort	
Chenopodium bonus-henricus	Good-King-Henry	A dubious record
Chenopodium rubrum	Red Goosefoot	
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	
Crataegus laevigata	Midland Hawthorn	See Heritage Report
Crataegus x media	Hybrid Hawthorn	See Heritage Report
Cytisus scoparius	Broom	... or a garden plant?
Danthonia decumbens	Heath-grass	
* Elodea canadensis	Canadian Waterweed	
Euphorbia exigua	Dwarf Spurge	
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge	
Filago vulgaris	Common Cudweed	Would be good if it is still present
Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory	
Galeopsis angustifolia	Red Hemp-nettle	Possibly a dubious record
Galium mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw	
Humulus lupulus	Hop	
(*) Impatiens glandulifera	Indian Balsam	
(*) Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	
* Lagarosiphon major	Curly Waterweed	
Lamium maculatum	Spotted Dead-nettle	Garden origin
* Lemna trisulca	Ivy-leaved Duckweed	
Listera ovata	Common Twayblade	
Lunaria annua	Honesty	Garden origin
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	
* Myosotis laxa	Tufted Forget-me-not	
Myosotis ramossissima	Early Forget-me-not	
* Nymphaea alba	White Water-lily	Was probably a garden pond throw-out
Ophrys apifera	Bee Orchid	
Papaver dubium	Long-headed Poppy	
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	
Pilosella officinarum	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	
Pimpinella saxifraga	Burnet-saxifrage	
* Potamogeton crispus	Curled Pondweed	
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	
Primula veris	Cowslip	
Senecio sylvaticus	Heath Groundsel	
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	
* Sparganium erectum	Branched Bur-reed	
* Stratiotes aloides	Water-soldier	
Tamus communis	Black Bryony	
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein	Possibly from a garden
Viola odorata	Sweet Violet	

* (*) = certainly or possibly recorded from Pallett's Pond

These are all species which Roy and Wendy failed to see during the 2003 survey, so we would be pleased if anybody can find them this year, 2004 (and show or tell the society where).