



Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons  
Preservation Society  
Newsletter November 2006

**AGM:-** This year's AGM will be held at Cholesbury Village Hall on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm**. As Nicola Chaplin has resigned from the committee and John Garner will not be seeking re-election we will have 2 vacancies on the Committee. Nicola and John have made considerable contributions to the working parties, the Summer Party and to the Committee and they will be greatly missed. Many thanks for your hard work, John and Nicola.

**Vacancies:-** If you are interested in joining the committee or just wish to know more about what is involved please ring me before the AGM (758 440).

We welcome members with a variety of skills and opinions and if you would like to come and help us decide what needs to be done and to help make it all happen, **why not volunteer?** If you are new to the area and would like to become more involved with the local community **please don't feel that you have to wait to be asked. Just turn up or talk to us!**

If you have any items which you wish to raise at the AGM it would be helpful to know beforehand so please ring or email me [lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk).

After the formal part of the meeting we will have wine and cheese followed by a panel of long-term residents who will tell us about life in the villages and on the Commons in the "Good Old Days". Do you know where the air raid shelter was and what the Home Guard were doing on the Commons? Come armed with questions for them!

**Google Earth:-** For another view of the Commons you might like to have a look at Google Earth which has a fantastically good satellite view.

**Electricity Supply:-** Those of you who get the Grapevine will know that Chris Brown has successfully badgered the electrical company regarding the frequent power cuts in this area. EDF have agreed to clear the whole length of the 11kw power supply which most of us rely on here. The supply runs over ground between Wendover and Hawridge and crosses the Common near to the top of Rays Hill. Work has already started down Hawridge Hill and will continue through to Wendover Woods. Hopefully we will all have a more reliable supply when the work is completed. Many thanks, Chris, for all of your hard work.

**Grant Application:-** Isobel has submitted an application to the Chilterns Conservation Board from the Sustainable Development Fund, on our behalf to:-

1. extend the area of heather on the south side of Horseblock Lane,
2. repair the swipe mower and box,
3. grind stumps where trees have been felled in open grassland areas,
4. re-train 4 of our members so that they can fell small trees safely.

We should hear whether the application has succeeded by early November. The main

justification for the work is that it contributes to the Bucks Biodiversity Action Plan. One of its aims is to restore acid grassland and heathland habitats. Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons are ideal candidates for this work since they have an underlying geology of clay-with-flints, producing acidic soils.

**Working Parties:-**

**Tractor driving and maintenance** Anyone with experience of driving a tractor would be very welcome to help mow paths and bracken during the spring and summer months. However, even if you have no previous experience, we can train you. So, please let Isobel know (758 987) if you would like to help us in this way. Also, if you can help us with regular servicing or maintenance, it would be great to hear from you.

**Working Parties for Oct 2006 – March 2007**

Date	Location	Activity
<b>2006</b>		
Nov 5	Edge of Common opposite Field View and Gateway Cottage	Remove hawthorn from cherry stand by road, remove ash and oak regrowth, cut trees close to the road. Cut low branches over the ride. Bonfire
Nov 19	Downhill from top of Horseblock Lane	Remove clump of scrub from grassland, clear around oak, remove birch stumps and fell last three in top group, cut regrowth from trees felled last year, remove small clump of scrub at bottom of the hill between an oak and a birch, remove branches across bottom ride. Bonfire
Dec 3	Quarter way down Horseblock Lane on RHS	Remove small stand of youngish birch and oak, cut lower branches of trees where across paths, continue to remove oaks from gorse area. Rake up thatch from gorse area to encourage gorse germination. Bonfire
Dec 17	Opposite Shire Lane towards Cholesbury Bottom	Remove trees from gorse patch and regenerate gorse, remove oak and birch from neighbouring patch and oak from glade, remove low branches over bottom ride and stumps of trees already felled, remove regrowth from largest gorse patch. Bonfire
<b>2007</b>		
Jan 7	Between Drovers Path and bottom ride below Box Tree Cottage, and beside Shepherds Cottage	Remove sparse holly understorey in woodland under large trees, remove oak and hawthorn trees near bottom ride to open glade beside ride, leave apple. Bonfire. Beside Shepherds Cottage, remove sycamore from hazel clump, coppice 1 hazel as part of rotation about 4 trees. Bonfire
Jan 21	West side of cricket ground	Remove trees and stumps from gorse patches. Thin trees, cut back lower branches and saplings on edge of woodland. Bonfire
Feb 4	Glade below Benton Potts	Clear up felled oaks and remove dead wood from lower branches. Remove trailing apple limbs. Clear holly. Bonfire

**Dog Fouling:-** We have had a few complaints about dog mess. **Please do try to ensure that the paths are kept clear.**

**Subscriptions fall due at the AGM. They remain at £7.50 per member and are payable to Mike Fletcher, Ivy Cottage, Cholesbury. Tring. Herts. HP23 6ND.**

Lindsay Griffin