



Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society Newsletter October 2007

AGM:- The AGM will be held on **Wednesday 5th December at 8pm at Cholesbury Village Hall**. After the formal business has been completed, wine and cheese will be served and our guest speaker for this year will be **John Willson of Downley Common**. John is an excellent speaker and Downley Common has a number of interesting projects going on.

Items for discussion:- If you wish to raise any matters for discussion it would be useful if you would call me 758 440 or email lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk so that we can allow sufficient time for discussion. **All are welcome.**

The committee has recently reviewed the **Aims and Rules of the Society** and a **motion** will be put at the AGM **that we accept the following changes to the Society's Aims**. The original Aims and Rules are on the HCCPS web site at www.cholesbury.com

Aims

1. To protect the Commons, keep the footpaths and permissive rides clear and enhance the Commons' ecological value

[Old rule 2 about enforcing Road Traffic Act DELETED]

2. To keep a watching brief on matters arising from legislation, which may affect the Commons.

3. To give the Society's views on any development, which might affect the natural beauty of the area.

4. To nominate a member for election to Parish and District Councils, where appropriate.

5. To organise an annual Social Occasion to enable members and others who live locally to get to know one another.

6. To try to keep the Commons clear of rubbish.

7. To preserve the Commons as a natural sanctuary for wildlife and, noting its special status as a County Wildlife Site, to enhance its biodiversity.

The Rules of the Society

The committee has suggested some minor changes to the wording of the original rules.

However, we anticipate further discussion with the members before ratification takes

place. [Comments on any changes are in square brackets.] **If you have suggestions for further changes to the rules please let me know.**

1. Full membership of the Society will be restricted to Commoners and to those living in the Parishes of Hawridge and Cholesbury, or with land adjoining the Commons. [add Parishes of]
2. Only those holding full membership may vote at the Annual (or any Extraordinary) General Meeting. [New rule]
3. People living outside Hawridge and Cholesbury, who do not meet the conditions for full membership, may become associate members but will not have the right to vote. ["associate" added]
4. The Annual General Meeting will be held as soon after the 31st October as practicable.
5. The annual subscription will be determined at the Annual General Meeting.
6. [Previously Rule 8]
The Committee will comprise a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and not more than seven Committee members. If more than seven members are nominated there will be an election. The Committee may co-opt additional members. [new last sentence]
7. Only full members of the Society may serve on the Committee.
8. [Previously Rule 6]
The Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. ["committee" now taken to include the officers]
9. The Chairman will not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

Beech Tree:- You may have seen that the large Beech tree opposite the Old Smithy has been removed. Its crown had died back and it could have posed a hazard for the road or the permissive ride, had it fallen. Fortunately, David Burns carried out the work at no expense to the Society. Logs will be distributed to local people who need them. If you, or anyone you know, needs firewood please ring Isobel on 758 987.

Heather /grasses/encroaching trees:- Andy McVeigh, an expert in biodiversity from Bucks County Council, visited the Commons recently and he was very pleased to see the increase in the numbers of heather plants, as a result of the various efforts put in place to try to encourage their growth. He also confirmed that the native heathland grasses are increasing as a result of our annual mowing/collecting regime. He suggested that we might need to use chemicals to deal with the bracken and the Committee is looking into this. He also pointed out that, as a County Wildlife Site, the major importance of our Commons is in their acid-loving grasses, herbs and heather and that we should be doing what we can to remove recently encroached woodland to open up further grassy areas. Isobel Clark, the management team and those who work on the Commons are to be congratulated on their fine efforts in keeping the Commons so well. Isobel will answer any queries at the AGM. Please ring her if you have particular queries, which you wish her to discuss 758 987.

Annual 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