



OCTOBER 2002
NEWSLETTER 25

Friends of

Thetford Forest Park

The Secretary, F.O.T.F.P., 2 Peacock Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0XL - 01953 601105

Opening words from the editor

With Autumn closing in on us now, we can only look back on the Summer just passed and a very full season of events in the Forest. The weather was kind, most of the time, and with the opening of the second phase at High Lodge itself the sheer number of visitors was evident to see. The new Whats On leaflet gives details of all the events scheduled for the next few months and you will see what a varied programme there is – something for everyone at some point!

Looking further ahead to next year, we are currently organising a whole day of events at High Lodge to celebrate St. Georges Day in 2003. Much work has already been done, but with plenty more needed to finalise the plans being our most ambitious entertainment project to date. Further details will be published in a future newsletter so watch this space.

Since this will be the last newsletter of the year, may we wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the Xmas event at High Lodge on the 22nd December where we will be helping out again, so come and get your chestnuts from us to warm you up on the day.

Regrettably the Forest Tour planned for October 2nd had to be postponed as the minibus we had used previously free of charge is no longer available, and to hire one meant we needed more people than had applied for places to cover the costs. It is hoped to re-organise for another date in November, but once again it will be dependant on numbers. Once we can be sure of numbers we can talk to Forest Enterprise, as we obviously need their co-operation to interrupt their normal daily work.

Mildenhall Warren Lodge – Work Commences

Since the last newsletter work has started on the restoration of the Warren Lodge at Mildenhall with the scaffolding going up on September 30th and we have high hopes that it will be finished by the end of November. We are very proud of our success in getting the funding for this project and have already received a certain amount of media coverage as a result, with hopefully far more to come on completion of the building work and the interpretive walks. For safety and security reasons during the work the site will be enclosed within fencing, but this will be removed once the building has been made safe.

Cont.....

Although much of the work towards the success of the grant for the project was undertaken by your committee, none of it would have even started without the funds available to us from your subscriptions, so in a way all our members contributed to the project for which we thank you. Obviously we will be undertaking more projects in the future and we have some ideas of our own on that front, but if anyone out there has any more thoughts on a suitable project, why not let us know?

Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd was formed in 1992, by two friends who shared an interest and love of trees.

This passion over the last ten years has gradually turned into a thriving arboricultural and landscaping contracting business, now employing twenty one people in East Anglia and three people in our Cheshire branch.

We regularly work within the forest, on the road network, removing dead, dying and dangerous trees on behalf of Forest Enterprise and also purchase several of the forest products from local businesses, which we use in our landscaping operations.

Many of our staff and their families visit the forest to use the sporting and leisure amenities and in particular the excellent High Lodge.

Because of all this, we decided to join The Friends Of Thetford Forest as Corporate members, as we feel our roots are based in forestry (One of the Directors is the Son of the Ex-Head Forester of the Kings Beat in the 1970's & 80's) and felt it was a way of giving something back to the land that helped mould us into the people and business we are today.



URBAN FORESTRY BURY ST. EDMUNDS A CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS

An Announcement by your Committee

Although this item is being written before the AGM when it becomes official, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Maggie Marshall has indicated that she will be giving up the post after seven years.

She will be sorely missed for her unstinting dedication to the cause, for keeping the records straight, and her proof reading of the newsletters. The Committee wish to record our heart felt thanks for her past efforts and wish her well for the future.

Unfortunately we still have fairly large stocks of our old leaflet, which will now have the wrong address showing, but arrangements will be made to re direct any correspondence sent there. Once we have found someone else to fill the post -hopefully at the AGM- we will publish the new contact address.

Young Rangers Club

These proved to be very popular throughout the season to the extent that we ended up with 3 groups at one point, and as you will see from the 'Whats On' guide, more are planned for 2003. We would like to extend our thanks to Nicky, Mary, Jo and Graham for making the subjects so interesting to the cont.....

children – not an easy task to make them sit and listen on a sunny Saturday after a hard week at school, but they managed it every time!

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- BY THE EXPERTS -

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Today we run a fleet of sixteen commercial vehicles all liveried in our colours and in full contact with base. On an average day we handle over eighty skip and container movements all handled from our head office and base at Thetford. Our site at Thetford of over four acres is a fully licensed waste management and transfer station handling over 2000 tonnes a month of recycled and waste products. We are fully licensed by the Environment Agency, Norfolk County and Breckland District Councils, are also registered waste carriers by Norfolk County Council and are full members of the Freight Transport Association.

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PEARSONS OF THETFORD – ANOTHER CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS

An Autumn Quiz

All the answers relate to this time of year !

M & S feast day with ox-eye type- _____

Shot off target sounds the cry- _____

They drift by the window (song)- _____

Tall part of ship stuck in the sand- _____

Inflates with relatives inside- _____

Good french and gun goes off- _____

Slap oar in a muddle to get a toadstool- _____

Sounds like what William does- one in the eye for Harold- _____

O' a new hell confused on All Saints Eve- _____

That old magic and puts in the ground- _____

Cockney runs up these- pears as well- _____

Judge Jeffries puts this on to sentence- a fun guy ?- _____

Bangers, but no mash on Guy Fawkes night- _____

The answers are overleaf.

Conservation Group Days

On Sunday 15th September we all met up at Santon Downham and made our way down to the path that runs alongside the railway line. This area used to be heathland, but has gradually been overrun by trees, bushes and moss and so needed clearing to allow the return of the heather with its attraction for wildlife. By the end of the morning we had made a considerable impact and had transformed quite a stretch back to its original look. There are still some larger trees to be removed, but these were left for F.E. workers with the right equipment and training to deal with.

Our next scheduled date is October 13th when we will be at Hockham Hills & Holes doing yet more clearance work (The intended location was to be at Mildenhall Warren Lodge, but with the restoration work going on and the delay in the planned felling, it was decided to leave this until December).

The Constitution

Constitutional matters dealt with at the AGM were required to clarify the dissolution clause at the request and suggestion of the Heritage Lottery Fund (to be eligible for the Mildenhall grant), and to formally change our financial year to April 1st to March 31st. Clarification on a minor point relating to the number of co-opted committee members was also made. The bulk of the constitution was left as originally written, but should anyone require a copy please contact the secretary. In an effort to save on postage the document is available in MS Word format by e-mail.

Forester's Log Autumn 2002

High Lodge Forest Centre is still the place to go!

The building work is all but completed, all we need now is a continuation of the sunny autumn and all of you who haven't yet seen our new building will be up there soon!

Our restaurant now has capacity for 100 people, and is just the place for your refreshments during a day out in the Forest, or why not consider it as the venue for your **Christmas Lunch or Party**. High Lodge is also now increasingly popular as a venue for **Corporate Entertaining and Teambuilding** days, might your work colleagues be interested?

With this Friend's Newsletter this you will receive a copy of our new full colour **What's On**. Do take a look! You may be surprised at the variety of events taking place; there are lots of new ideas as well as a few old favourites. Do come along. Remember you need to book for all events except the Christmas Extravaganza on Sunday 22nd December. We are relying on The Friends again at this event for their excellent chestnut roasting skills as well as helping with face painting and other children's activities. If you would like to help in any way please get in touch. I can be contacted on 01842 810271.

See you at High Lodge.

Frances

ANSWERS TO THE AUTUMN QUIZ

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| MICHAELMAS-DAISY | MIST | AUTUMN LEAVES | BEECH MAST |
| PUMPKINS | BONFIRES | PARASOL | CONKERS |
| BLACKBERRIES | APPLES | DEATH CAP | FIREWORKS |