



*Friends of*

Thetford Forest Park

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

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### **The Editors' Opening Words**

It was very gratifying to see so many people at High Lodge during the Christmas Extravaganza event. This years event was the most ambitious that Forest Enterprise had attempted, and they were rewarded with a large attendance and good weather. We ourselves decided this year to try something different, and the 'Hot Chestnut' idea seemed to go down very well, and boosted the funds. In fact it was so popular we actually ran out twice and had to resort to clearing the shelves at 2 local supermarkets!

Most of you will have been expecting a reminder to pay your subscriptions with this edition of the newsletter, but as we have moved the membership year to run from 1<sup>st</sup> April, it is a little bit early to ask you send them in, however we would appreciate a little note in your diary as to when they are due, as every year we have to spend rather more on chasing down subscriptions than we would like.

Those of you that have visited High Lodge in the last few weeks will know, the building work for the extension (known as Phase II) has commenced. We would ask for your patience during this difficult period as the work involves the existing building, and some disruption to the services is inevitable. The staff at High Lodge are doing their very best to cope under the circumstances, and everyone is looking forward to later in the year when the new facilities are opened.

In closing we would like to take the opportunity to wish all our members a Happy New Year and hope to see you in and around the forest during the coming months.

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### **The Warren Lodge Project**

Unfortunately at the moment we are no further forward than 3 months ago in relation to the final part of the grant for the restoration of the building, however we have reason to firmly believe that we are very near to getting the confirmation that our bid has been successful. If so, it will fall very conveniently for a Spring start to the project and we can but hope for good weather throughout to speed its completion. We will of course be looking to our members for some help and assistance during the project – so watch this space to see how YOU can make a difference.

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### **The Annual General Meeting**

Following the announcement in the last newsletter with regard to the AGM and its format, we were very pleasantly surprised by the number of people that responded and arrived at High Lodge for the meeting. The meeting opened with a very good spread organised by the High Lodge Staff, to whom we are very grateful, and

ended with a very interesting and wide ranging talk given by Giles Brockman of Forest Enterprise. The meeting itself was a very successful one, and in fact we added 2 new committee members as a result of a request for 'new blood' from the audience. All we can hope is that the success of this meeting is carried forward into this new year and that we have a year unaffected by the likes of foot & mouth to disrupt our programme of events, which we hope will include the visit to STANTA, but the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan may have a bearing on public access for some months yet.

For your information, the members re-elected to stand on the committee for 2002/03 is as follows:

A. Mason (Chair)  
B. D. Goodrum (Secretary)  
M. Marshall (Treasurer & Membership Officer)  
B. Edwards  
B. Roebuck  
J. Horstead  
S. Goodrum  
J. Shew

Newly elected members:

S. Hume  
M.Hume

We also have a commitment from Forest Enterprise to have at least one of their officers at the committee meetings so we are always in a position to pass, and receive, information directly.

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### **The Conservation Group**

Sunday 20th January 0900 High Lodge – Putting in a bird pond and other conservation work near the Wildlife Hide at High Lodge.

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### **Report on the Environmental Panel Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2001**

The meeting opened with reports on the Brecks Heathland Regeneration Project, Mildenhall Warren Lodge and Phase II of High Lodge.

The main focus of the meeting was 'The Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000', otherwise known as CROW. Stephen Rothera of English nature gave a presentation of the implications regarding open access to the countryside and the protection of sites of special scientific interest, and Nick Gibbons (Forest Enterprise) followed this with a detailed explanation of how CROW applied to the Forest.

John Andrews, who represents the Ramblers Association on the Panel, then spent some time describing how the access provisions will, or should, work in practice.

If any members of The Friends would like more details about the provisions of CROW, I would be pleased to forward information on receipt of an A4 sized stamped addressed envelope.

**Anne Mason 28 Aldreth Road Haddenham Ely Cambs CB6 3PW**

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# FRIENDS OF THETFORD FOREST PARK RANGER CLUB

Are you a ranger in the making? Do you want to learn more about wildlife?  
Are you aged between 6 - 12 years?

If the answer is yes then subscribe to our new and exciting ranger club!

Sessions are priced £5 each or £30 for the whole year. We meet on the first Saturday of every month from 11.00am - 2.00pm.

March 2nd	Small mammals	April 6th	Birds and bats
May 4th	Insects	June 1st	Wildflowers
July 6th	Moth's/ Butterfly's and Dragonfly's	August 3rd	Trees
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Large mammals	October 5th	Fungus

**For more information contact the  
Recreation dept. on 01842 810271 Ext 216**

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## **The Friends Of Thetford Forest Park Corporate Membership Scheme**

At recent meetings, the committee has been considering extending the membership of 'The Friends' to include a wider corporate membership for local firms and businesses. Their public profile would benefit from direct association with recreation and conservation projects in the Forest Park, and they would receive acknowledgement in Friends' literature.

To help move this scheme forward, we now need your involvement. Please would you nominate companies to whom we could then send the information pack containing the details of the corporate membership - This could be your present (or past) place of work, businesses with whom you deal, or even perhaps your accountant or solicitor!

There is a **form overleaf** for this purpose, and you will see that you have the option of either providing names to whom we should send the information, or you can have the information sent to you so that you can make the approach personally on behalf of 'The Friends'.

We feel that the corporate scheme is important because it provides for an additional source of income for the benefit of all members, and our future projects, at the same time raising the profile of 'The Friends' and our aims and objectives amongst a wider community.

So please fill the form in and return to:

**Anne Mason 28 Aldreth Road Haddenham Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 3PW.**

If you do not want to cut up your copy of this newsletter, photocopies are perfectly acceptable.  
If you want to e-mail your suggestions you may also do so to:  **david @ goodrum.freeseve.co.uk**

# FORESTER'S LOG

It still felt a little bit like 'just after Christmas' until yesterday, when, for me at least, the sun shone and the birds sang. It was only mid January, and I was not too far from the Forest. It made me think of springtime, dawn chorus, woodlarks and longer, warmer days..... Why not contact the Forest District Office and book up for our spring events; Brilliant Birds (Feb 13<sup>th</sup>) will give an insight into some of the bird life of the forest and this can be followed by Bird Watching for Beginners (March 3<sup>rd</sup>). All you need to benefit from these days is enthusiasm and a pair of binoculars for the March event.

We are expecting exciting developments at High Lodge this spring with a new and exciting HIGH ROPES COURSE, which we are hoping to have in place by Easter. Imagine the existing Ropes Course, put it up 10metres to the tree tops and you are there (harnesses and safety helmets included)! This thrilling new course will be installed and managed by Altus, a fully experienced French company.

**Frances Evershed  
Forest Enterprise**

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## **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP SCHEME – THE FRIENDS OF THETFORD FOREST PARK**

**I / We would like to nominate the following as possible corporate members:**

**Company Name:**

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**Address:**

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**Contact Name (if possible, not essential):**

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**Please indicate below your preference for the despatch of the information pack:                      tick one box**

**Please send the information direct to the company on my behalf .....**

**I will deliver the information directly.....**

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**Your Name and Address:**

**Membership No:**

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