



# APRIL 2007

NEWSLETTER No. 40

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To those of you that are new members – **Welcome to Friends.**

To those of you that have renewed your membership – **Thank you**

To those of you that have not yet renewed – **please do so soon**, it would be a shame to lose you from our group.

We ended the previous year with over 500 members which has enabled us to move forward with our projects, aimed at the improvement and maintenance of your local forest.

The Lynford Arboretum initiative is underway and gathering pace, and we are in the process of purchasing another bicycle to add to the highly successful fleet of specialist disabled items available for hire at BikeArt. We are constantly reviewing the facilities and looking for other avenues to explore – none of which would be possible without the funds generated by your subscriptions to The Friends.

### FE becomes FC again

Over the coming months you will notice a number of changes to the signage and posters around the site. The term Forest Enterprise has been dropped in favour of a return to simply Forestry Commission.

This change has also brought with it a few title changes at the Santon Downham offices, but it is only a name change – The people doing the jobs are the same as before.



### Conservation Group

We meet every third Sunday in the month – If you want to know what we are doing and where to meet, we now operate an e-mail list. To be added please contact the secretary as above.

### Mildenhall Warren Lodge Open Day.

Enjoy a visit to Mildenhall Warren Lodge, on Bank Holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May, between the hours of 11am and 4pm and learn how rabbits were farmed for their fur and meat, from the fourteenth to the early twentieth century.

The Friends raised £49,000 to restore the building which was on English Heritage's building at risk register before we saved it.

The Warren Lodge is situated in Mildenhall Woods, on the minor road linking the A1065 and the A11 north of the Barton Mills Roundabout. From the A1065, the minor road is signed 'Household Waste Site & Elveden'; and from the A11 it is signed as 'Mildenhall.'

Turn in to the signed car-parking area. The Lodge is about ten minutes walk up the hill. This medieval building is not open to the public during the rest of the year. You could combine this with a visit to see the military orchids at the nearby Rex Graham Reserve for rare plants, which is also holding its' annual open day on Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

For further information please contact Anne Mason on 01760 755685 or the Forest District Office on 01842 810271.

**The Secretary, FOTFP, 2 Peacock Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0XL**

## **Lynford Arboretum**

It is pleasing to be able to report a successful start to this project with the first three working groups drawing between three and twelve people. The more one walks and works their way around the arboretum, the smaller, psychologically, it becomes, and with it the size of the task.

So far our efforts have been concentrated on cleaning the paths, removing debris fallen from the trees, picking-up surprisingly modest amounts of litter and looking to the long neglected shrubs. A genteel stroll around this tranquil place will reveal the changes which are taking place and hopefully you will agree that these are anything but startling.

The Forestry Commission, true to its word, have taken the bit between their teeth. The issue of personal protective equipment (PPE) is being sourced and ordered; The Forest District's Landscape Architect has produced a set of three drawings of the greater arboretum area, annotated with thought provoking suggestions. These will be discussed by the arboretum group over the next few meetings; nothing is set in stone. It is hoped that the group will have a base, on site, by the year's end. This will be in the shape of a modified steel freight container; the kind that you see arriving at Felixstowe on board huge ships. However it will be clad externally, with boarding of some type and the interior will be lined with plywood. Internally it will be divided into two; approximately a third for the storage of tool and equipment, the rest being given over to the promotion, to the public, of the forest in general, the many facets of the arboretum in particular and a small corner to Friends.

If you are at all interested in what the group is doing, why not come along and see us at work? We will be meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month between 9.30 and 12.30 with additional, midweek meets, planned for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Please, come and have your say.

## **Goshawk Trail – Temporary Closure**

Over the next few months there will be harvesting (thinning) operations in the May Day / Brandon Country Park area. For safety reasons there will be a temporary closure of the May Day car park, bird hide and Goshawk trail. Obviously they will all be re-opened as soon as it is possible to do so after the work has been completed.

Neil Kellett Operations Manager FC East Anglia

## **The Conservation Group in action**

We recently took part in the BBC & RSPB Breathing Spaces day and spent the time at High Lodge helping the public make up bird box kits which they could take home, or leave with us to put up around the forest.

We also made up some specialised boxes aimed at encouraging the return to the area of the Redstart species which have not been seen for a number of years.



## Free Summer Concert Tickets

That's got your attention...

Interested members need to be available to be at High Lodge at 5pm on the day of the event and willing to work until 12 midnight. Please reply to Alison Lane by e-mail to her address:

**alison.lane@forestry.gsi.gov.uk** or by telephone on **01842 816028**, giving their name, postal address and a contact phone number stating which concerts they are available to work.

In return you will not be paid but will be given two tickets for a concert of your choice.

Which concert the complimentary tickets are for must be specified at the time of contact and then you will then receive further information.

Wednesday 9th May at the latest (the week before would be better).

This year's concerts are

Thursday 7th June - James Morrison

Friday 8th June - Travis

Saturday 9th June - Van Morrison

Thursday 12th July - The Feeling

Friday 13th July - M People

Saturday 14th July - Blondie

**Please be aware all tickets are identifiable and traceable. Under no circumstances can they be sold or offered for sale in print or electronically. FC has a department dedicated to dealing with ticket fraud.**

## Problems with the Post

The previous three mailings of newsletters and other information have been beset with a problem which has prompted justifiable complaints. Three members, there may have been more, were asked, by the Royal Mail, to pay a surcharge for an unstamped item of mail generated by Friends; something they are entitled to do.

On the first occasion there could well have been a mistake on my part; my sincere apologies to the member(s) concerned if this was so. Prior to the second mailing the entire 500 (plus) items were sorted into batches of 25, stamps affixed, checked, rechecked and posted; still a complaint. So to plan "C"; firstly a change of envelope, in case it was the type of paper they were made from could be a cause. Secondly, make sure one's hands were thoroughly clean, in case it was natural grease interfering with the adhesion of the stamps. Again the items were stamped, checked and rechecked in batches of 25, and yet again there was a complaint.

So what's the problem? The only thing left are the self-adhesive stamps, is the gum strong enough? A simple 'phone call to Royal Mail has set the ball rolling to hopefully find the cause and a solution. I was assured by the official that I spoke to that our conversation was being recorded, and that a transcript would be sent to the appropriate department; fortunately I did not hold my breath. One interesting piece of information was forthcoming; automatic sorting machines process four thousand (4000) items of mail, every minute.

If you have received unstamped communications from us please inform the secretary. Friends are determined to lick the problem..... Sorry about that one, but it may be the answer.  
Mike Hume.

### **Friends Summer Outing**

This year we have been offered the chance to be shown around the Elveden Estate (not normally open to the public). In view of the size of the estate and the amount to see we are looking to hire a 29 seater coach for the trip (planned as 2 hours in the morning, a 1 hour break to eat, followed by 2 hours in the afternoon) so the predicted cost would be £ 20 per head to cover the costs of the guide and coach.

Before we sign on the dotted line, we need to know how many people are interested in coming along, so please contact Anne Mason by e-mail on [anne@providence28.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:anne@providence28.fsnet.co.uk) or by telephone on 01760 755685. The possible dates are 21/22 or 28/29 July so we do need to act fairly soon to secure the booking.

We are aware that the cost is quite high, but unfortunately the cost of the coach is a major factor and the use of private cars is not possible on the estate.

### **Thetford Forest Community Ranger.**

I have been asked to write a few lines to introduce myself and to give an outline of what I do within the Forest, My name is Dave Kingsnorth and I have been with the Forestry Commission for approx. 19 years. The role that I now play is far removed from anything that I have done with the forestry before, and involves engaging with the public at all levels, in order to enhance peoples enjoyment of the forest.

As you are no doubt aware not all people see the forest in the same light, we are seeing a constant stream of fly tipping, illegal vehicle access, along with a multitude of other anti social issues within the forest that I am trying to address.

We are now on Brandon and Thetford 'safer neighbour teams' which has resulted in some excellent cross agency cooperation, part of this will see police patrols visiting the forest from time to time. I have attended two crucial crew events so far with invites to do more, these are aimed at year 6 age groups and have yielded good positive results from people in this impressionable age group.

On Thursday the 03/05/07 around 10.00hrs there will be a crushing of a motorcycle seized by Suffolk police whilst being ridden illegally in the forest, the very same motorcycle will be shown to the public on Brandon market place Saturday the 05/05/07 where a police pod staffed by police, Forestry Commission, Trial rider fellowship, Motorcycle action group, fun on wheels UK, and the Diss motorcycle club will be sited between 07.00 – 1400hrs, please feel free to give us a visit.

I am actively seeking the involvement of members of the public as eyes and ears in the forest as this team approach works, between us we can all play a part in keeping Thetford forest safe.

I can be contacted on 011842 816002 (office) or 07776481182 (Mobile).  
For those who prefer I can be e-mailed on [david.kingsnorth@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.kingsnorth@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

See you in the forest.  
Best regards  
Dave.  
Community Ranger.

Finally – If any of our new members would like us to save paper & postage by having their newsletters by e-mailed in future, please send an e mail to [membership@fotfp.org.uk](mailto:membership@fotfp.org.uk) showing a subject of e-mail newsletter and we will add you to the growing list. Thank you.