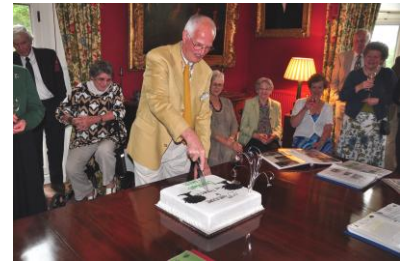




THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



Winter 2015/16

Website: www.focf.org.uk

Mission Statement: To work towards the preservation of the countryside and local environment of Charnwood Forest Regional Park for the benefit of those who live within it, and for those who visit, and for future generations. We aim to be an effective, informative and influential voluntary organisation.

Getting to know you ... at our Annual Dinner

reported and illustrated by Pauline Day

Thursday 12th November was the day we all gathered together for the great Friends of Charnwood Get To Know the Members Dinner.

Forty-five members laughed and chatted over a wonderful three-course meal at the Grey Lady in Newtown Linford.

Paul Day, Chairman, said a few words about the success of the last few meetings and confirmed that next year we would be celebrating our 30th Anniversary with a Hog Roast at The Brand on Sunday June 26th.

As you can see from the photos a jolly enjoyable evening was had by all.



*The heading picture this time: Can it be five years ago?
Cutting the cake at our 25th Anniversary celebration*

TALKS and WALKS

Our activities for you to enjoy

Individual invitations for each event will be sent to all members by post or email

Indoor meetings take place at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall at 7.30pm, finishing about 9pm followed by refreshments. Your guests and other non-members are welcome at our talks (for whom we make a small charge of £3 at the door)

2016

● **Monday 18th January TALK *Living Landscapes* with Michael Jeeves, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust**

● **Monday 14th March AGM followed by a TALK by Matt Beamish - *The Archaeology of Bradgate Park***

● **Monday 25th April TALK by David Bridge: *Fracking - Our Near Neighbour?***

● **Sunday 26th June Celebrating our 30th Anniversary - a Hog Roast at The Brand. Full details will follow.**

Web-Site

Our web-site www.focf.org.uk continues to be managed by Toby Manning. As well as news and information about forthcoming events, it also serves as a repository of historical information. In particular it has details of all events held since 2010, and copies of all our Newsletters, but it does not have much information before 2010. If members have any additional information or links that they feel should be added to the web-site, please email Toby at webmaster@focf.org.uk.

The Greys and the Hastings: Two Charnwood Families

This was the title of our October talk by Dave Taylor. Sadly, your compiler missed it by being 3000 miles away. But I gather this was a very substantial keynote talk, giving a comprehensive guide to much of the early history of Charnwood.

Happily, with the wonders of technology, it is possible for me to read the talk on our very own website.

Of course, you can too (if necessary with the help of someone who is wired up). Simply go to: www.focf.org.uk and click the link for the full and fascinating story.

Hello and Welcome

Due very largely to the popularity of our events, many new members have joined us during the past year.

We very much welcome you and hope you enjoy taking part and contributing to being a special Friend of Charnwood Forest.

Committee Notes

◆ In Planning matters, a determination is expected by the end of November for the application for housing on Bradgate Road, Anstey. The last-minute submission of more evidence by the applicant caused a deferment. Our Chairman, Paul, had spoken in support of refusal, referring to the effect on the environment.

Referring to planning proposals for housing development at Blakeshay Cottage, Dick had submitted objections, explaining the importance of preserving the visible landscape surrounding Bradgate Park.

Janie explained the application for a housing development at 56 The Brand, Woodhouse Eaves to which there had been substantial objection from the village.

Adoption of the Charnwood Core Strategy is imminent. Lately we have been very successful in publicising our meetings and Peter Bertram was thanked for all his activity with this. However, our natural desire to increase our membership needs to be tempered due to the capacity of the Village Hall.

On the subject of Meetings, those who have kindly offered their services as "CHAIR MOVERS" are asked to arrive to assist with this by 7pm please. Thank you.

The Committee discussed the possibility of introducing the need to care for the Forest to children, possibly via schools or Scout/Guide groups. This will be looked into. It was admitted that the Membership Card/Programme had appeared late this year and earlier attention would be given to the matter in 2016, once the Programme had been agreed. Dick and Pauline were actively preparing this, to ensure the high quality of our speakers and Summer outings. Ideas welcome!

The Committee has accepted the kind invitation of Janie, our President, to hold our **30th Anniversary Celebration** at The Brand. This will take the form of a lunchtime hog roast (with all the trimmings) on Sunday 26th June. **Surely ... a date for your diary ...**

In the past 30 years a very substantial physical archive has built up and the Committee is seriously and urgently considering the IF, WHY and HOW it should be kept and maintained. If it is all to be kept, then new accommodation is urgently needed.

WARNING

Increasingly, it seems, there are reports of thefts from post boxes (not only those small pillar boxes but also those isolated private post boxes by the front gates of many homes around here).

It is thought that the thieves follow the Postie around and grab your mail before you do. The implications for identity theft are considerable.



The Committee wish all Friends a Very Happy Christmas and New Year



Using our surplus funds ... Sponsorship

We currently have a bank balance of some £7000, much more than we require for our day-to-day operations, and for over a year the Committee has been considering how to use some of the Society's surplus funds. Amongst the projects that we investigated were a memorial wood as part of the new planting at Bawdon Castle, and a community orchard, but we could not find a satisfactory way of implementing either of these proposals. However, the Committee continued to look for opportunities, and this was given more impetus when the issue was raised from the floor at the AGM in 2015.

We are pleased, therefore, to let you know that we have agreed with the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust to provide new information boards at their Nature Reserves at Charnwood Lodge and Lea Meadows. Many members will remember that we visited Charnwood Lodge last summer, and Lea Meadows in 2012. While the information boards will be primarily about the reserve, they will include our logo and some information about the Friends.

We have also agreed with Woodhouse Eaves Parish Council to provide an information board in the Village. We expect both of these will be installed during next Spring, after which we will be looking for feedback. Although these boards will take a chunk out of our surplus funds, we do not expect them to utilise all of them so the Committee continues to look for worthwhile projects to support; members' suggestions will be very welcome.

Who's Who?

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Committee Peter Bertram, Pauline Day

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Data Protection Act

We are obliged by the Data Protection Act to inform you that we are storing some of your personal details (name, address, email address, etc.) electronically. This information is used purely for administrative purposes, and will NOT be divulged to any third party (except in the unlikely event that this is required by law). Should you object to this, please let us know and we will remove your details from our database.