



THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



Summer 2018

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.

From Chairman, Paul Day



Recently the Newtown Linford Parish Council called an open meeting in the Village Hall to discuss the parking problems at Bradgate Park, which are getting worse, particularly now the weather is improving. The meeting was well attended with standing room only and in attendance was the County

Councillor for the area, the Director of the Park and a Member of the Trustees.

The general feeling was that parking has got worse because of the popularity of the park but also a lot of car owners will not pay the parking fees.

After lengthy discussions the general consensus was that to pay on exit would help to alleviate the problem. Unfortunately, the Director disagreed with this owing to the expense of installing a new system.

As people are aware, double yellow lines have now been installed along Bradgate Road with three gaps for people to park. Friends of Charnwood did request that the yellow line should be extended to where the newly carved Stags Head is, but unfortunately the County Council thought otherwise. We are hoping that now the yellow lines have been installed the parking on the road will get better.

Regarding the Stags Head, which I think is absolutely stunning, some parents seem to think it is a play thing to climb on, or lift their children onto the antlers for a photo shot showing no respect to this wonderful piece of art.

Paul Day, Chairman

The heading picture this time: Who's inspecting Who? - recent encounter at Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve

TALKS and WALKS

Our activities for you to enjoy

Individual invitations for each event will be sent to 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).

2018

Thursday 12th July 2018 VISIT and GUIDED TOUR of the 1620 House and Gardens at Donington Le Heath (formerly Donington Le Heath Manor House). **Max 30. Cost £9pp.**

Date to be agreed. VISIT Mountsorrel Quarry. Date cannot be finalised until early summer due to the progress of ongoing extensions

Monday 17th September TALK by Richard Thomas. New Archaeological Discoveries in Bradgate Park

Mon 22nd or 29th October TBA

Tues 13th Nov Annual Dinner



Dick Howard led the fund raising in Newtown Linford to raise the cost (and more) to have this Stag's head carved from a tree stump in the village. Dick concludes the success story overleaf

The Newtown Linford Stag Dick brings the story up to date

Over the last two weeks I have managed to totally clear away all the remaining sawdust and debris around the Stag's Head. I then forked over the soil, raked it and scattered grass seeds and over 200 cowslip seeds. By the time you read this hopefully the grass has started to show. Brian Anderson gave the woodwork a second coat of preservative and reported that the forward antlers were becoming loose.

This maybe in part due to the wood drying out but it has not been helped by the number of children climbing on it, or been lifted on by parents for photographs. Many people have contacted me about this. I will just quote one emailed observation " I have just looked up and seen a lunatic overweight youth encouraged by his parents to swing and climb on the carving. Almost without exception I've seen everyone climb on it as they walk by to have their photos taken. Sadly it won't last much longer at this rate".

My original suggestion was to put a low barrier around it identical to the one that surrounds an old oak tree in the Bradgate Park car park on the right hand side. I have been told that this was rejected by a Highways official who commented that a motorcyclist might be impaled on it!!

I have had discussions regarding a suitable plaque and am awaiting a final drawing and quotation. The wording will be as that published in last month's magazine.

With the balance of the money a copper beech has been planted in the churchyard and if you look over the wall you can see that it has wonderful coloured leaves. In addition five new trees were



planted today in the new graveyard extension on Groby Lane. Brian and myself have planted a weeping willow, a crimson king acer and a yellow leaved Brilliantissium acer, a Joseph Rock sorbus which has yellow fruit, and a betula pendula silver birch. I am still looking for another copper beech to complete the planting.

Dick Howard

A Soldier's Journey

Luke Wigman was blown up in Afghanistan. He came to tell us his experience - the superb treatment he has received from dedicated professionals in the outdated premises run by the MOD at Headley Court. He has had a remarkable recovery - largely due to the discovery of sport as the means of healing the broken bodies of military personnel. He has done more than most - including running numerous marathons, including at the North and South Poles!

He is now an Ambassador for the charity which is developing the brand new, state-of-the-art £300million Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at Stanford Hall. It will have world-leading facilities. There is just £30million of that still to raise - the building works are now almost complete. The Hall itself is a Grade II listed building and will remain.

COMMITTEE NOTES

At the meeting on 12th March:

Subscription renewals were proceeding though around 60 still to renew.

New membership forms to be printed.

Dick had provided the programme until the end of this year but was now stepping as Events Co-ordinator.

Topics discussed included the excess street parking in Newtown Linford, fly tipping and the old nurseries on Priory Lane had changed hands.

Planning issues: Application for housing at Iveshead Road, Shepshed turned down on appeal, Davis' had applied for 120 houses on Tickow Lane. There was a pre-planning application for 45-55 hoses in Maplewell Road.

NB: May Committee meeting postponed to June.

Who's Who?

President Janie Martin

Chairman Paul Day chairman@focf.org.uk 0116 2364376

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Committee Pauline Day, Dick Howard, Marilyn Palmer, Susan Wilkinson

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