

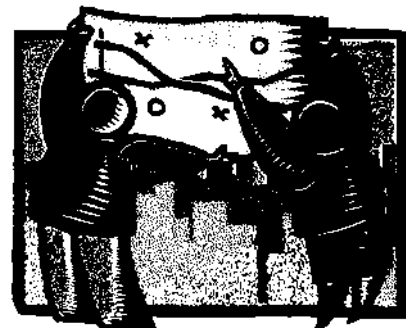
Friends of Brandon Wood

Registered Charity number 516932

Issue no 14 December 1999



We've made it!



We have the money !!

- * Brandon Wood will belong to all *Friends of Brandon Wood*
- * It is open to anyone entering on foot
- * The Wood will be managed to restore it as a broadleaf woodland

Dates for your diary

Grand Celebration for the Wood and for the Millenium.
on Friday 21 January 2000
at 7.30pm
in 'Musmajas'

(leave Wolston from School Street in the direction of Bretford and Rugby. 'Musmajas' is easy to find, at the top of the hill on the left, about one mile out of Wolston)

The Mayor of Rugby will attend. This is a chance for us to meet all the people who have worked so hard to achieve success.

We hope to have a band, dancing and refreshments. Held with the support of local Parish councils.

Tickets at £1.50 are available from the Trustees, see above, right.

Trustees of Brandon Wood (our new 'committee')

Karl Uhlig	tel: 544139
John Sidey	tel: 542885
Beryl Smith	tel: 545509
Fred Harper	tel: 542414

Carols on Brandon Green

on Sunday 19 December
at 3.00pm

everyone welcome, and their dog!

Peter Taylor Singers

on Saturday 8 April
at 7.30pm
in (to be advertised)

Friends of Brandon Wood— one and all!!!!

- 77 Supper Club — donation
- H Allen Steel Services — donation
- Andy Thompson, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust — advice on fundraising
- Arthur Field — benches for the Wood
- B G Patrick, Wolston Business Park — donation
- Barlow Associates inc, Dr. Peter Fox — landfill advice and second valuation of the Wood
- Binley Woods Church — donation
- Binley Woods Guides — donation
- Binley Woods Line Dancing Group — donation
- Binley Woods Neighbourhood Project — proceeds of fund raising event on our adoption as their charity
- Binley Woods News — collection tin
- Binley Woods Over 60's Club — donation
- Binley Woods Post Office — collection of moneys and advertising
- Binley Woods Primary School — fund raising
- Binley Woods Residents Association (Ratepayers Association) — donation of all remaining assets on their closure
- Binley Woods United FC — donation
- Binley Woods Village Hall — dance event donation
- Binley Woods Village Hall Committee — free use of Hall
- Binley Woods Womens Institute — donation
- Board Walkers, Binley Woods — donation
- Brandon Hall Hotel — venue for many meetings and fund raising events free of charge
- Brandon Wood Farm — use, of site
- Bretford Fair organisers, Barry, Alex and Chris — donations from proceeds of two Fairs
- Brical Engineering — donation
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers — training us to manage our Wood
- Chris Cosgrave — particularly Cookery book and demonstration, and fashion show
- Clarke Turned Parts — donation
- Colin Potter — Dawn Chorus walk
- Cyril Pile and his University of the Third Age Rambling Club — funds raised at several events
- D T Wright Joinery — donation
- Danny Lynch and Brandon Hall Squash Club — all profits from an annual tournament
- David Brown — moth survey open to all
- Dibb Lupton Alsop — solicitors
- Doreen Earl — running a sponsored marathon
- FFD Ricardo — donatoin
- Europrint (George England) — help with newsletter
- Forest Enterprise — help in kind
- Frank Bullock for photographs supplied for the news letter
- Godiva Rider — donation
- GTSS Engineering Supplies — donation
- H H Painting Contractors Ltd — donation
- Holiday Fellowship — donation
- IGES — Landfill Advice
- IPH Litho — donation and free of charge photocopying
- J G Holbrooke Ltd — donation
- Jean Mowe and Coventry Soroptimists International (Environment group) — many evening quiz shows on our adoption as their charity
- John Sells — guided fungi (mushrooms!) walk
- Jonathan, Stephen and Peter Buckley — organisers of a raffle at their home
- Leengate Metal Supplies, Nottingham — donation
- Lisa Male — home based sales of goods
- M H Electrical — corporate member
- Massey Ferguson plc — donation
- McCranors, Binley Road — accountancy free of charge
- Membership contribution collectors
- Morrison's — three fund raising and awareness days
- Newsletter delivery people
- Neil Bartlett Ltd — corporate member
- ONYX Environmental Trust — land fill tax benefit
- Oakdale Nurseries — display of posters and donation
- P James Engineering — donation
- Parish Councils of BinleyWoods, Brandon and Bretford, and Wolston — donations
- Patricia Routledge — donation of a signed copy of "Hyacinth Bucket's Social Calender" for a raffle.
- Peugot — donation from charity trust
- Peter Rawlinson, solicitor — services free of charge
- Peter Taylor Singers — many free concerts
- Popes Garage — collection tin
- Power Torque — donation
- Reclaimed Building Supplies — donation

Richard White — Binley Woods Service Station,
collection of convertible tokens

Rotary Club of Coventry Breakfast — donation

Rotary Club of Coventry — donation

Rotary Club of Coventry North — donation

Rotary Club of Coventry Phoenix — donation

Rugby Borough council — donations

Rural Action — grants for management plan,
newsletters, working party

Ryton Revellers — concert, all proceeds to the Wood

Scotts Family Butcher, — publicity and donation

Severn Trent — donation

Smith's Concrete — landfill tax donation

St Margerets Wives Fellowship — donation

Sunny's Store, Binley Woods — collection tin

The Roseycombe, Binley Woods — event and
collecting tin

Tiddley Bank Cottage — carol singing support

Tinsley Wire — donation

Tony Kirton — donation

TRANSCO — donation

United Reform Church Wyken, Senior Fellowship —
donation

Valerie Hocking — organ playing for the Carol
Singing

VCS — donation

Victor Fabrications — contribution to administration
costs, and corporate member

Vulcan Pressings — donation

W H Builders — donation

Warwickshire Wild Life Trust members — donations
following our appeal in their newsletter

Wolston Ladies Club — donation

Wolston Post Office — collection of moneys and
advertising

Wolston Primary School — fund raising

Wolston Village Hall Committee — free use of rooms

The Trustees

***Private donations and bequests have
contributed £25,000***

*Editors Note 1 — We all owe a vast debt of gratitude
to the original committee members; especially from
October 1996 when the proposal to raise the money
to buy the Wood was approved unanimously at a
very well attended general meeting.*

*We owe a special debt of gratitude to the executive
committee of Ray Healey, Karl Uhlig, Beryl Smith,
John Sidey and Fred Harper who have born the
brunt of the labour over the past three years.*

*Editors Note 2 — We have combed our records for all the people
and organisations who have helped us over these past three
years. If we have inadvertently left out information that should
have been included, and you would like it published in the
next newsletter, please give the details to one of the
Trustees.*

YOU WERE THE KEY TO OUR WOOD

There is no doubt that without the dedicated help from local people we would still be a long way short of raising the purchase price of Brandon Wood. Since starting the purchase fund and with the accompanying drive for an increased membership our collectors have raised in excess of £15,000 (included in the £25,000 mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter). Around 30,000 newsletters have been delivered over the same period.

Membership of the Friends has increased from some 700 to the present high of over 2,500.

We know from experience how immensely supportive and appreciative members are of everyone's efforts towards achieving our goal and of the value of the Wood as a community amenity and conservation area.

The future quality of the benefits to be derived from Brandon Wood both for members and for the flora and fauna within it will however depend on your continued support, both in practical and in financial terms as members and active helpers. If therefore you feel that you can contribute please let the Trustees know.

BRANDON WOOD IS YOURS, LETS KEEP IT IN GOOD HEART!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

OBITUARY

With great sadness we have to report the death after a long illness of one of our Honorary and founder members Chris Key. His energy and drive in the early days of the *Friends of Brandon Wood* established a firm footing for our present success. During his association with the Friends he gave generously of his time, both physically in the working party and by using his organisational ability as Honorary Treasurer.

We are sad that he died just before the hand over of the deeds to the Wood but his memory will live on both by the Wood coming into the ownership of the *Friends* and in perpetuity, as all the minutes of the *Friends of Brandon Wood* from its inception will be placed in the Warwick Museum Archives.

MANAGEMENT OF THE WOOD

**In a few weeks the Wood will belong to the *Friends of Brandon Wood*.
We are the custodians for future generations
and the Woodland management will reflect this.**

The Wood will be managed with a long term vision to restore it to mainly broad leaf, as it used to be. It will be managed for conservation and the education of our next generation. It will also be managed as a woodland which includes harvesting of mature conifers, coppicing etc. The blueprint is our Management Plan compiled by Middlemarch Environmental and endorsed by our members at the special general meeting on 12th February 1998 following it's display in the local libraries.

How do we ensure that we are all good conservationists?

We have an expert panel of ecologists who will advise us. The Wood will not be overmanaged – but managed to enhance its value as an area of conservation, and in line with good current woodland practises.

The Trustees have a meeting arranged with Brandon Marsh and Brandon Wood Farm where we will be exploring the benefits of working together to enhance the educational value of the Wood and surrounding area. This will involve children as well as adults. This initiative will build on the work done by Ray Healey with our local schools and in taking guided walks.

Routine Woodland management

This is organised by Karl Uhlig.

Working parties

We now have a Sunday morning working party. It meets on the first Sunday of every month — 10am at Ferndale gate. A lot of the work to be done in the Wood is undertaken in the winter to miss the breeding and maturing cycles. We would welcome new persons, it is only a small commitment and very enjoyable. Ring Beryl on 545509 or Daryl on 545472 if you are interested, or just come along.

The Wednesday morning working party is still looking for recruits. Ring Karl on 544139 or come along to Ferndale Road gate at 9am.

Woodland Wardens

Every member who walks in the Wood is the eyes and ears of the organisation. Dangerous trees and branches need to be reported to Karl. Interesting changes or species noted, anything which tells us about our Wood, the information would be welcome and shared via the Newsletter.

We would also like to appoint some official wardens who will be given training, if you are interested please contact one of the Trustees.

Motor cycles in the Wood — this has been a documented problem ever since the Friends became involved with the Wood. There is no easy answer but the Trustees are in communication with the other land owners and the police to see if joint action is possible. The main problem time appears to be Sunday afternoon.

From the beginning of March to the end of May we will be asking our wardens to collect information — date, day, time, number, place — about the problems with motor bikes when they are seen in the Wood.

Our Insurance requires us to do our best to prevent or minimise the access to motor cycles and to a lesser extent we have a duty to motor cyclists i.e. to make sure that there are no deliberate hazards to cause them injury. Please continue to notify the police so that they can build up a picture of the problem.

If you have a good idea (legal) for making access (illegal) difficult – again the Trustees would like to know.

Footpaths

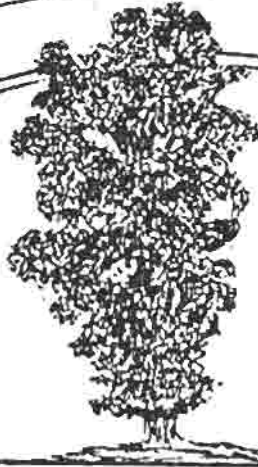
We have money from Onyx Environmental to extend one of the footpaths to all weather/all ability terrain, this will allow access for persons who have mobility problems. The footpath concerned goes around the edge of the old pond and is circular. Map available in Binley Woods and Wolston libraries.

Project 1

We shall start fund raising in the New Year to raise the money to buy a Tractor and Trailer. We have made a bid for some funding, we will know about March whether we have been successful. Brandon Wood Farm have agreed that if we buy a large container we can keep our equipment there. In the meantime we will continue to pull the old handcart full of our tools.

FRIENDS OF

BRANDON WOOD



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 20

Registered Charity No 516932

March 1988

Dear Member,

SOME OF YOU ARE READING THIS NEWSLETTER FOR NOTHING - YOU ARE NOT LISTED AS MEMBERS. This is because we do not have enough subscription collectors. Can you help? Just collecting the new subscriptions in your area during June, July August and delivering the Newsletters 4 or 5 times each year. Delivery takes less time than a walk round the wood. VOLUNTEER NOW by contacting Chris Key at 30 Heather Road or drop a note in the box in the Library.

BRANDON WOOD TODAY

Our last Newsletter told of the antics of a 'little blighter' sneaking into the wood pre 1950 when it was out of bounds to all except a select few. As for the present....

Apart from exceptional circumstances the public are allowed foot access into most Forestry Commission freehold woods. One of the main objectives of the Forestry Commission is to provide recreational facilities ranging from caravan sites to marked forest trails.

Since the purchase of Brandon Wood by the Forestry Commission on January 8th 1960 the public have not normally been denied access, and with the formation of the Friends of Brandon Wood they have been actively encouraged into the wood. Brandon Wood is the first Community Woodland jointly managed by the Forestry Commission and a public body.

Sadly, many woodland areas in the West Midlands and Warwickshire are 'closed' to the public due to shooting operations etc. Thus Brandon Wood is one of the few woods where the public have free access to 65 hectares of varied woodland, containing a large variety of fauna and flora. Plans are underway to provide a more permanent trail taking in the interesting features of the wood, thus providing the public with a chance to see Brandon Wood at its best.

TREE PLANTING BY SCHOOLS

This is a Joint Project with the Forestry Commission, Friends of Brandon Wood and the three Schools, Binley Woods First, St Margaret's Wolston and Binley Woods Middle. involving approximately 450 children. The Forestry Commission will provide the bulk of the trees, FoBW will provide some trees and the children will do the actual planting.

Each school will have its own area for planting and a map of the full planting scheme. It is hoped that they will make a graph plan showing each child's tree. The planting will take three days -

9th March 1988	Binley Woods First School
10th March 1988	St Margaret's Wolston
11th March 1988	Binley Woods Middle School

Starting at approximately 9.15 am on each day.

FRIENDS OF BRANDON WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday 21 August 1986 at 7.30 pm in Village Hall, Rugby Road, Binley Woods, Nr Coventry.

PRESENT: Steve Pampling (Chairman) Fred Harper
Doug Hodgkinson (Vice-Chairman) Ray Healey
Chris Key (Treasurer) Bob Mason
Cynthia Ingram (Secretary) Arthur Pampling
Colin Birt Stan Wheatcroft
June Cook Adam Wright

Dr Jeff Lewis, Conservation Officer, WARNACT
John Fletcher, Conservator, Forestry Commission, Bristol
Bill Tyler, Head Forester (FM), Forestry Commission, Cannock

APOLOGIES: Dr Humphrey Smith

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs J. Cook as representative of Wolston Parish Council. He also welcomed Dr Lewis, Mr Fletcher, and Mr Tyler, who were present on this occasion to resolve the apparent communications problems which had occurred over the past few weeks.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: These were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of Ray Healey's name to those present at the Wolston meeting on the subject of a new extraction site.

MATTERS ARISING: The Chairman proposed to deal with these in conjunction with items 7 - 10 on the Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary handed over tickets to members who will represent the Friends at a forthcoming event held by the Coventry Society.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

The Chairman listed the recent events which had caused him and other members to form the opinion that we and the Forestry Commission were no longer working together. These events were:

1. Cleaning in Sector 32 where ride margin cover had been cut to ground level. The shrub layer had been cut to ground level. The trees removed had been left totally obstructing the ride for several days and then had been dragged into the area they had been felled from and left there untidily constituting a serious fire hazard at the very beginning of the school holidays. The Chairman said that we had been fortunate in having had enough rain to prevent a fire being started and hoped this situation would continue.
2. The Main Ride, Farm Ride and all other rides wide enough to get machinery into had been mown to their entire width during 19 and 20 August. This in preparation for road laying on Farm Ride and Main Ride running west from a point 60 yards to the east of the Farm ride down to the Tip area. The Chairman said that he had received a letter on 20 August stating that this work would commence on 26 August. We had previously asked for information on route and width of this road several weeks before work was to commence to allow us to remove certain plants and collect seeds from others. Regarding the east end of the main ride, we had been assured several times in the past that it was Forestry Commission policy to mow alternate sides each year, never both sides in any one year. NB the east end of the main ride is not involved in the proposed road, and in fact contained two of our only three orchid sites the seeds from which have been lost for this year.

In reply to these questions Mr Tyler admitted that his workforce had been over zealous on the first section but that the standard of work had improved towards the back of this section. He said it was impossible to remove the brushings as this would be too expensive in terms of labour charges. He

admitted that the work had been carried out at the wrong time of the year and that in future this type of work would be done during winter months when deciduous trees and shrubs were without leaves. He said he fully expected the shrub layer to have re-established itself in five years time. He said it was not possible to preserve ride margin vegetation but was willing to consider retaining individual sections if we could show just reasons for doing so in order to preserve particular

Mr Tyler was sorry that his letter posted second class on 15 August had taken 5 days to arrive. This would have given us five days (including a weekend and Bank Holiday Monday) to remove plants but unfortunately the machinery and labour force became available a week earlier than expected and had to be used when available. It was pointed out to him that the mowing having already taken place it will be extremely difficult to locate the plants already identified for removal but we will try to do this over the Bank Holiday period.

Mr Tyler gave the Committee a copy of the map showing the route of the road and informed us that it would be a maximum of 15 feet wide.

Mr Fletcher proposed and Mr Tyler agreed that in future his staff would inform the Friends on the first Monday of each month details of all work to be undertaken during the following month in order that we can alert him to any sensitive areas where care should be taken. Mr Tyler agreed that where possible his staff would be sympathetic. The Chairman pointed out that as this was the first year that survey work had been carried out in the wood we did not yet have a comprehensive record of species present in the wood. Dr Lewis stated that on WARNACT sites it was their policy not to do any work until the results of at least two years surveys had been obtained. (Secretary's Note: The following morning 22 August, Dr Lewis informed the Secretary by telephone that he would make the WARNACT Survey Team available to conduct detailed surveys of areas about to be the subject of Forestry Commission work forces, the Secretary thanked Dr Lewis on behalf of the Committee and promised to keep him informed and to pass on this excellent news to other members of the Committee).

Mr Fletcher stated that when he had been informed that there appeared to be a breakdown of communications between the Friends of his staff based at Cannock he had been so concerned that he had cancelled several appointments in order to be at this meeting. He reminded the meeting that the Forestry Commission were committed to this joint venture and hoped that his presence today had put the Joint Management of Brandon Wood as a Community Woodland back onto its original course. The Chairman thanked Mr Fletcher and Mr Tyler for attending the meeting and this was endorsed by the committee.

Mr Fletcher and Mr Tyler then left the meeting.

Shortly after Dr Lewis left the meeting.