

Report on the Friends of Naphill Common AGM **Friday 21st January 2011**

About 45 people attended the AGM despite it being a very cold evening.



Chairman's report

Chairman Trevor Hussey reported that we had had another great year and summarised the main events and achievements as follows:

- Notice boards. Early in the year 5 notice boards were erected on the sites of the old ones.
- Junipers. This time last year our junipers had been crushed by snow and a fallen bough. They were patched up and are doing as well as can be expected. Local botanist Andy McVeigh, took cuttings from our plants and they are being cultivated in a laboratory in Scotland.
- Walks for Health. These are a continuing success taking in areas further a field now such as Bledlow and Radnage.
- Our membership continues to grow making us the largest organisation in the village (we believe). At the start of 2009 we had 11, 2010 we had 112 and this year we have 168.
- At the fete we had a stand and an exhibition of animal skulls that drew a lot of interest from children.
- FoNC visited Moorend Common in the summer to see the work undertaken there. That common had become extensively wooded and they have progressively cleared areas between trees to let grasses and wild flowers return to increase the biodiversity. There were many wonderful Marsh Orchids growing. In Naphill Common we used to have Spider Orchids, Lesser Butterfly Orchids, Bee Orchids and Fly Orchids. Could our orchids return if conditions were right?
- We did an insect survey and will hold a Mini Beast Safari in the summer where children will be encouraged to collect insects for identification.
- We held a tree recognition walk escorted by Peter Legg.

- The Fungus Foray attracted over 30 people including children, despite the rain.
- The Clumps are 5 rings of trees growing from earth embankments on the National Trust owned part of the common near to Bradenham and the umbrella tree. Neil Harris of the NT has agreed to support the work of removing the holly, scrub and saplings that have spread between the rings in the years since grazing stopped. The hope is to return at least a couple to their original state. FoNC have started to clear the scrub and the heaps of cuttings will be chipped and used in NT's wood fuel burners.

Photographic Competition – all entries and winners can be found on our website www.naphillcommon.org.uk

Under 16 winners



Left to right - Matthew Creaser – Commended, Harriet Slade - Winner
Trevor Hussey (Chairman FoNC), Emily Creaser – Highly Commended

Parking on the Common

Most of the households fronting onto Naphill Common have received a letter from Wycombe District Council stating that FoNC had complained about parking on the edge of the common. The Chairman wished to make it clear that no such complaint came from FoNC and we will write to WDC making this clear. Strictly, as it's a SSSI, people shouldn't park on or mow parts of the common. But we are aware minor infringements have been occurring for decades and FoNC has no desire to become the common's "policeman" reporting every infringement, we do not see that as our role.

Membership Secretary's report

Membership Secretary Stephanie Morgan reported that with 2 new members joining on the night our membership had now reached 200.

Treasure's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts to 31st December 2010 showed an income of £1197.00, an expenditure of £1040.04 and hence a balance of £640.52

Election of Officers

The existing Committee was re elected.

Speaker

The AGM then closed with a detailed and fascinating presentation by guest speaker John Morris of the Chilterns Woodland Project entitled “What makes Chiltern woods Special – the history, archaeology and management of Chiltern woods and commons.

At the end of the presentation the Chairman thanked Mr Morris for the wonderful talk and remarked that it would be fantastic if FoNC could start a history group to map and investigate some of the features we have, such as the British-Romano farmstead, smelting sites and saw pits.

Two books were on special offer:-

The Cultural Heritage of the Chiltern Woods by John Morris (a must for everyone interested in woods and commons.

Special Trees & Woods of the Chilterns

Together with details of ‘Woodland Archaeology Workshops’ taking place in March run by John Morris

Details of all of these can be found at www.chilternaonb.org



John Morris speaking

Copies of the AGM minutes will be available in due course – see website www.naphillcommon.org.uk