

Issue  
No.80

Friends of Storeton Woods



March  
2011

# NEWSLEAF

Spring Issue

Registered Charity No.1001472

[www.friendsofstoretonwoods.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstoretonwoods.org.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –

### Happy New Year to You All

We had a bit of wind damage in November 2010. One Silver Birch on the top orbital path, another on a secondary path near Mount Road and a couple of smaller one's in the centre. These have now been dealt with. The Woodland Trust carried out their tree safety survey for 2010. You may have noticed some trees with numbers on. They had their tree surgery done at the same time. We have planted 30 small trees in the 2<sup>nd</sup> glade (Holm Oak Glade) around the perimeter e.g. 8 Cherry, 4 Elder, 6 Blackthorn, 6 Dog Rose, 2 Hazel and 4 Crab trees. We have had a request about supplying latches on the kissing gates for the safety of children and dogs running onto the lanes etc. The purpose of a kissing gate is to offer safety to all users by the freedom of the gate to swing on its axis both ways. May I remind you that it is your responsibility for the care and control of your children and dogs at all times within these woods.

Thank You.

On a happier note I hope you all had your cameras out this winter. The woods were stunning with the snow and frost. The scenery was something out of NARNIA.

Thanks to Rob Orr for his calendars. He managed to raise £140 for us.

I look forward to meeting you at our A.G.M. on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Victoria Hall. The speaker will be Tim Kirwin from the Woodland Trust.

Thanking you for your support.

Eric Forsyth (Chairman)

---

## Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Dear Member,

You are cordially invited to the A.G.M. on Tuesday 12<sup>TH</sup> April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall, at Victoria Hall, Higher Bebington. When the requisite business side of the meeting has been completed there will be a break for refreshments and time to view the exhibits and purchase tea towels and badges. Then we will be pleased to welcome our Guest Speaker which will be a presentation by Tim Kirwin of the Woodland Trust.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Obviously we are only part way through the annual membership renewals process with reminders and letters still to go out. However the current position with renewals compares reasonably with the equivalent month last year. Last year at this time we had 465 members, the current figure is 455 with 104 of those renewing for 2012. If you have not yet renewed we would be grateful for your prompt attention.

---

The WOODLAND TRUST own and care for STORETON WOODS with the help and support of 'FRIENDS OF STORETON WOODS'.  
The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham,  
Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL Tel 01476 581111



## The Secretary's Jottings.

It is well over 12 months since I last put my thoughts in motion for this column. Where did 2010 go?

The committee still meets every month and only once has it been called off due to the weather. That was in January 2010 when snow and ice made it difficult for some members to attend.

Since the AGM last April, the committee have been considering alternative venues to hold future AGM's should the Village Hall close. Although we considered a number of possibilities we were encouraged to delay making a final decision as word got to us that the Victoria Hall was still viable and taking bookings for 2011. This was confirmed during our autumn meetings and hence we released the date (April 12<sup>th</sup>) rather later than normal in Newsleaf.

At the end of last year, we came into possession of some pen and ink sketches of the Storeton Quarry workings signed by Peter Westley. They had been passed onto us through the daughter of a past committee member Ceris Williams (1994-2005). Ceris has recently moved south to be with her son and these sketches were discovered in the house clearance and offered to the "Friends". From information supplied with them, we believe they were sketched in the late 1800's and as they are in good condition the committee agreed to have them framed for display. Those of you attending the AGM will be able to see them along with the photographic display that Paul will be showing.

If any member has any information about Peter Westley (1880 onwards) I would like to know as, so far, I cannot find any reference about him in my limited searches.

A.D.B.Old. (Feb'11)

### IN THE PINK

Although the red campion is so called, its flowers can vary from pale to a deep pink. Its stem has delicate hairs growing and it stands 60cm. The campion blooms from May until June, and is a pleasing sight in the woods and shady places like hedgerows. Again we can see the value of the hedgerows of Storeton.

Ragged Robin, another pink flower, lives up to its name with its ragged looking petals and pretty leaves. It is found where areas of woods are damp as well as in marshes and meadows. Flourishing from April until June the ragged robin varies in size from 30 cm to 70 cm. If 'Ragged' Robin is just that - ragged in appearance, then the common knapweed resembles a brush, dark pink with graceful leaves a pretty green. It stands 40 cm, and is found on roads and hedgerows, from June until September. The common knapweed is a fairly long term 'tenant' of our beautiful and useful hedgerows.

Another pink plant, the leaves of which were once used to treat wounds, is the Wood Woundwort. It has a strong aroma, and also likes hedges and other shady areas. It stands 40cm, and grows from June until August.

The large bindweed is common around the Storeton hedgerows. It flaunts either white or pink flowers - very striking as its flowers are shaped like funnels. Its leaves resemble arrows, and it is profuse on hedges and waste areas. It grows up to 3m, so look for it from July until September.

Linda Tilston

**Friends of Storeton Woods.**  
**Annual General Meeting 2011**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 21<sup>st</sup>. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the FOSW will be held at **7.30 pm. on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011**, in the Small Hall, VICTORIA HALL, Higher Bebington.

All matters for the attention of the FRIENDS OF STORETON WOODS should be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the AGM agenda. These, and any proposed alterations to the constitution, must reach the Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM, i.e. **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**. The proposer \* must include his/her name and address.

In accordance with **Rule 6 of the Constitution** ONE THIRD of the Management Committee (the FIRST THIRD) retires at the AGM.

Nominations for Committee Membership must be in writing. **Note\*** all must be paid up members of the FRIENDS and be over the age of 18 Years. The Secretary must receive nominations no later than 14 Days before the AGM. i.e. **29<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

The retiring Third of the Committee are: Eric Forsyth, George Nelson, Dennis Clarke, Matt Adams and Jean Whittle. They are seeking re-election.

There is a vacancy available for committee membership.

Cut here \_\_\_\_\_ Cut here.

**NOMINATION PAPER. --- FRIENDS OF STORETON WOODS.**

Please Print. (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Hereby agree to be nominated to serve on the management committee

Signature. \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: - Barrie Old. Hon. Secretary, FOSW.

## **Public Consultation on Forestry Commission Woodland**

Anyone with an interest in woodland MUST by now be aware of the DEFRA Consultation about the future ownership and management of the public forest estate in England – land managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The consultation has been widely reported in the national and local media and has really brought ownership and use of woodland into focus on the current political agenda.

Obviously this does not affect Storeton Woods in any way because we are not part of the public forest estate managed by the Forestry Commission. However, The Woodland Trust who owns the woods that we help to manage has issued an official initial response to the consultation which is printed below. The Woodland Trust also currently has a petition seeking your support entitled “Save England’s Ancient Forests”.

The Friends of Storeton Woods is a non-political organisation and there is no political agenda in reporting these issues here. The government has asked for both the views of individuals and of community groups especially those involved in woodland management and I would recommend that you read the official consultation documents on the Forestry Commission website and make your own judgement and respond as you see fit.

Paul Wallington

---

### **WOODLAND TRUST INITIAL REACTION TO THE FUTURE OF THE PUBLIC FOREST ESTATE IN ENGLAND**

Sue Holden, chief executive at the Woodland Trust, said: "We are disappointed that there is no commitment to restore damaged ancient woods currently in public ownership. If these sites are sold, the current proposals cannot guarantee their restoration, one of the most significant contributions to wildlife conservation in a generation.

"Ancient woodland needs better protection than it currently has; as the equivalent of the UK's rainforest it is unique, irreplaceable and our richest wildlife habitat. Whilst we note the Secretary of State's proposition that safeguards for all woods will remain in place and "could be buttressed further", our initial reading of the consultation leaves us unclear as to the Government's proposals about how increased protection could be delivered.

"There are no specific questions asked about the overall effectiveness of existing protection measures. The main suggestion which Government is putting forward is the use of leases which will allow some degree of control and protection over public benefit in all types of forests. This is a proposal which we welcome, although we are disappointed that ancient woods are not treated as a category for special consideration in the categorisation of the estate.

"While we fully support the concept of community ownership, we don't believe that the charitable sector can be the solution to future care of all of the publically owned heritage woodlands, as it will not have the resources to manage these for decades into the future without substantial and sustained government funding. We don't believe the government has properly considered the feasibility of this option.

"We would certainly wish to work in partnership with government to look after the interests of ancient woods, perhaps even through management agreements, if there is no other way to secure their future, but subject to a wide range of considerations around funding for ongoing management, and the detailed terms of transfers.

"The paper goes further than anticipated in opening up the entire debate about the function of the Commission, and in attempting to remove the conflict of interest between regulation and management by contemplating the sale of the entire estate. This is extraordinarily bold and points to the process of reform, which will absorb huge amounts of Government and others' time for years ahead.

"There is a great deal to digest and consider within the paper and our formal response will reflect this."

**The consultation has been running since 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 for 12 weeks and finishes at 5.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011.**

The Consultation Document is available for download from the Forestry Commission website as is the map of the Public Forest Estate in England and an Economic Impact Assessment.

---

---

## BADGES AND TEA TOWELS

Our Tea Towels and Badges make splendid presents and each one sold makes a small contribution to F.O.S.W. funds. They will be available to purchase at the A.G.M. or contact a committee member for details.

Tea Towels are £3 each and Badges are £2 and brooch or stud fastening is available. Delivery outside Wirral will require additional payment for postage.

### General publication requirements

Articles for publication in Newsleaf can be posted or can be emailed to [paul@friendsofstoretonwoods.org.uk](mailto:paul@friendsofstoretonwoods.org.uk) (MS Word.doc or zip file). Photographs should be jpeg file formats and please be sure to obtain parental permission for any youngsters who are in the photographs. Articles should be relevant to the woods and please limit your item to no more than half a page of A4 in order to keep printing costs down. I reserve the right to shorten any articles that are too long. **Views expressed** in Newsleaf **are those of the contributor** and are not necessarily those of the committee or members of Friends of StoretonWoods.

