

Issue  
No.83

# Friends of Storeton Woods

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2011



Christmas Issue

Registered Charity No.1001472

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

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The oak tree by the middle gate at the "V" where the paths meet had to be felled because it was dead and the branches on it could have fallen and hurt somebody. The oak tree opposite the Travellers Rest had disease and also had to be taken down in case it fell into the traffic. Also in October a couple of Silver Birch fell across Rest Hill Road which had to be cut up by the council and the branches thrown back into the woods. The trees broke the fencing and posts on the boundary fence which will have to be replaced by a different contractor. Gordon our maintenance man has repaired the seat in the third glade. The bolts had rusted through and the seat parted.

The speaker for our A.G.M in 2012 will be Mr Harry Watson who will speak about the Air Ambulance services.

Next year we hope to plant some Scots Pine trees to replace the ones we have lost over the past years. We could do it for the Queens Diamond Jubilee (2012) and maybe involve some local schools.

Should you wish to speak to us face to face then please come to one of our workdays – next date is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Tea and biscuits are provided and it's only for a couple of hours starting at 10.00 a.m. at Rest Hill entrance. Thanking you for your continued support –

We Wish You A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year



Eric Forsyth (Chairman)



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Last year at this time we had 673 members. The current membership figure is 645 with 123 having renewed for 2012. Thank you for your continued support.

**AGM date - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 – Please put it in your diary now.**

**Views expressed** in Newsleaf are those of the contributor and are not necessarily those of the committee or members of Friends of Storeton Woods.

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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



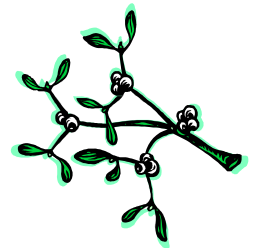
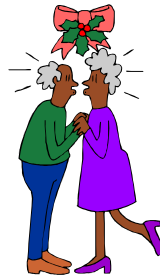
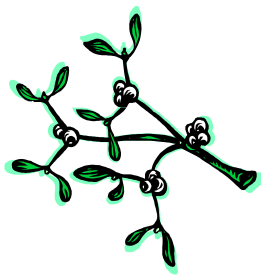
## BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY

The mistletoe is an intriguing plant, one usually associated with Christmas – a plant as rich in folklore as it is in more prosaic facts, and, as it's also an evergreen it's also considered to be a plant that flourishes between "earth and sky," to quote a pretty description, it's hardly to be wondered that so many legends have become woven around it. The known facts about its existence are interesting enough.

The seeds are spread by the mistlethrush – hence this bird's name. The berries ripen on the female mistletoe while the males grow the flowers – another example of how a small bird is responsible for the continuation of the natural world around us.

The Druids regarded the mistletoe with such reverence – the title "Balder's Bane," springs to mind, and some people say that the mistletoe flourishes on trees struck by lightning. This is probably just a myth. The custom of kissing under a sprig of mistletoe is an old one, bringing in love and good luck for the coming year – if you believe another legend.

More down to earth facts are known about this plant. Although the berries are poisonous, it is reputed that the rest of the plant can be infused as a drink used to treat some cases of cancer, improve circulation and help to bring down high blood pressure. A fascinating plant is the mistletoe – and all spread by the little mistlethrush. Linda Tilston



### **Membership Renewal for 2012**

It's time to think about renewing your membership. If you find a renewal form with this edition of Newsleaf, I would be very grateful if you could complete it and send it to me, together with your subscription, at your earliest convenience. If you wish to save yourself (and me!) a little time next year, you may wish to renew for 2012 **and** 2013, but this is, of course, entirely optional.

If you do not find a renewal form enclosed with Newsleaf, then you will either be paying your subscription by standing order or we will have already received your 2012 subscription. Please do nothing! Your membership will be renewed and you will continue to receive copies of Newsleaf.

While you are renewing your membership, perhaps you might think of enrolling a young relative – a son or daughter or grandchild for example – as a very small Christmas present. Although members under eighteen will not be entitled to vote, we may possibly encourage a further interest in the Woods and in the need to ensure its continuance as a public amenity. Youngsters can receive their own copy of Newsleaf. Just give me a ring on 645 3085 to achieve this. We would really welcome the influx of some new blood!

**Peter Golby (Treasurer)**

## The Secretary's Jottings

In the last edition of Newsleaf we asked if members would like their copies sent by email in a pdf document format. Take up has been slow and so far only 9 members have indicated that they would be willing to take up the offer. At the recent committee meeting, it was agreed that at present we would defer putting it in place until next year in the hope that we could attract more members to subscribe to it. Setting up the system includes a cross check on subscriptions paid and at least one hardcopy will be sent out to members when subscriptions are due or other requests are made. In the meantime we will monitor your requests.

During the summer months, Matt, as webmaster, altered the "contact us" set up so that members of the committee on email can receive your queries instead of Matt resending them out to us. If there is a delay in replying, usually it is that we are considering the request and, as Secretary, I will respond. Sometimes we receive requests from non-members who have accessed the web page and these go to committee or the Woodland Trust for an answer. I will reply to the e-mailer but rarely get a follow up thank you. Some even promise to join the FOSW but we never receive their application form (downloadable from the webpage).

We have now organised a guest speaker for the presentation after the AGM next April. As it is something different from the normal, the committee hope that the turnout will be improved from recent years.

This leads onto my final plea in that we are still hoping some of the younger FOSW members would consider putting themselves forward for the committee at the AGM (application form will be in the spring edition of Newsleaf). If you come to one of the workdays you can meet some of the committee and have a chat after all, we are normal.

As the end of the year approaches, on behalf of all your committee members, I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

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

### Winter Song

*Mist shrouds the Woods, in dark November,  
Holly and Mistletoe enhance December.  
Amidst the January snow,  
Red Robin makes a cheerful show.  
In February, so they say,  
Snowdrops bloom on Candlemas day.  
As new Green leaves burst forth in March,  
The branches form a vernal arch.  
Winter is past; the Primrose flowers,  
Nurtured by gentle April showers.*



*Kitty Stower*

### 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. Tea Towels are £3 each and Badges are £2. For information contact George or Garnette Bowler on the number listed below.

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### Dates For Your Diary

**COPY DATE** for next NEWSLEAF – 7th February 2012 for March issue. Your news, views and photographs are most welcome.

**WORKDAYS** - 15<sup>th</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (There are 6 workdays a year and they are held on the third Sunday of each alternate month starting with January – please mark up your diary with future dates). Meet at Rest Hill entrance at 10.00 am. Please be there to do your share. Stout footwear and gloves are recommended. Jobs for all capabilities. A warm welcome and good company is assured together with tea & biscuits.

		<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>		
<b>Chair</b>	Eric Forsyth			
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Barrie Old			
<b>Secretary</b>	Barrie Old			
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Golby			
<b>Newsleaf Editor</b>	Paul Wallington			
<b>Newsleaf Distribution</b>	Gordon Plumb			
<b>Police Liaison Officer</b>	George Bowler			
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