

# The Volunteer



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## The Newsletter for all Ashdown Forest Volunteers

**Summer Lovin'** – It has been a wonderful summer, long hot days of glorious sunshine and blue skies with the odd dramatic thunderstorm or monsoon-like rain thrown in for good measure. The most important evening of the summer stayed dry and warm. The BBQ went off very well and was enjoyed by everyone – thank you for all your kind feedback! Once again we owe a big thank you to Janet Wirdnam and Anne Smith for all of their help with preparations – we couldn't do it without them! Below are a few snaps of the evening



**Rare Bird Alert – meet the Short Toed Eagle** – As you all probably know the Forest was visited by hundreds of very excited 'twitchers' and birders (some coming from as far afield as Yorkshire, Wales and the Midlands) all hoping to get a glimpse of the very rare Short Toed Eagle aka 'Snake Eagle'. The bird, a youngster by all accounts, made itself very much at home in the Wrens Warren Valley and decided that the pine trees at far end of the old airstrip (near the cattle enclosure) were a good place for the evening roost. Many of the birders were delighted by excellent views as the eagle soared over the valley or sat photogenically in a tree. There are dozens of lovely photographs to be found on-line but below are three stunning pictures – the top two from Bob Pask and the third from Neil Fox both of which can be found on the blog. The eagle stayed, on and off, for about four weeks – popping back and forth between Ashdown Forest, the New Forest and Essex and hopefully it has now made its way back to the continent and to meet up with others of its kind! ! Tom Simon has written about the eagle's visit in the Forest blog (visit <http://blog.ashdownforest.org/> and see the entry of 23 June).



## One-pan lamb & couscous...

**Whip up a deliciously flavoursome lamb dish in one pot and within half an hour – it's simplicity itself!**  
**Serves two**

1. Rub the lamb with half the harissa paste. If you like your foods spicy simply use extra harissa.
2. Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the lamb for 3 minutes on each side for medium-rare, or a little longer for well-done.
3. Lift the meat out of the pan and tip in the remaining harissa, the dried fruit and nuts, couscous and chickpeas, then stir to coat in the paste.
4. Take the pan off the heat and pour in the stock. Stir briefly, return the lamb to the pan and cover with a lid or tightly-fitting foil for 10 minutes until the couscous has absorbed all the liquid.
5. Fluff up the couscous with a fork, season to taste and fold the mint leaves through to serve.

If you want to ring the changes chicken works well in this dish too - rub 2 boneless chicken breasts with half the harissa and fry for 15-20 mins before following the recipe as above.

## Ingredients

- 2 lamb steaks, approx. 140g/5oz each, or 4 lamb chops trimmed of excess fat
- 1-2 tsp. harissa paste
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- handful dried fruit and nuts
- 85g couscous
- 400g can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 100ml/3½ fl oz hot chicken stock or lamb stock (from a cube is fine)
- handful mint leaves, torn



*Taken from the online version of BBC Good Food Magazine 2009.*

## Clerk's News...

Well, I wish I could say that the amendment to the Bye-laws has been agreed by the Secretary of State but you may not be surprised to learn that the cogs move very slowly and I am still waiting. Similarly, the Encroachment Policy has not yet been finalised although it is imminent. I think we have had a successful audit although that too is waiting to be confirmed! In the meantime I have continued with fine-tuning the presentation of financial reports to enable a better understanding of budgets by all concerned. With budgets getting tighter, this will become increasingly important. My work may seem a little dry but no day is ever the same! Our day in the office can be lightened by the most unexpected drama – the most recent being the arrival of the Short-toed eagle. Pat, Tracy and I were not going to be left out and we abandoned our desks in turn to go and have a look!

## A rare sight.....

### *A visit from a Purple Emperor*

We often see Steve wandering around with his camera on the Forest but it's not often we find him lurking in the lobby of the Education Barn! On enquiring about what on earth he was up too he began gesticulating wildly and mouthing Purple Emperor!! This rare and beautiful butterfly was first spotted by John, our caretaker, whilst tidying up in the barn and he alerted Steve who then snapped away happily for half an hour. I had the pleasure and privilege of having the gorgeous butterfly sit on my hand! He remained there quite happily while I transported him back outside and popped him on an oak leaf, at eye height, for Steve to get a few more shots!

Tracy



## Forest History - Abe Mitchell: The man on the Ryder Cup...



Henry Abraham 'Abe' Mitchell was born in the East Grinstead Union Workhouse on January 18th 1887. His mother Mary, an unmarried domestic servant, gave her son into the care of her parents, George and Sophia, who were residents in Forest Row.

Though young Abe was brought up with his grandparents and passed off as one of their seven children Mary kept in touch with her son. George and Sophia's home (acquired by way of an illicit encroachment on the Forest) bordered the Ashdown Forest Golf Club (founded in December 1888) where Mary's husband, Mark Seymour, was a green-keeper.

Abe started playing golf from a very early age at first using a stick as a club and only moving on to real golf clubs later. Though slight, hard physical work and incessant practice on the course did Abe no harm, he grew up with strong forearms – and ended up being one of the longest and straightest hitters of his time. It would appear it was family jealousy that led to one of Abe's 'siblings' revealing that Abe was, in fact, illegitimate and that his brothers and sisters were, in fact, his uncles and aunts. He also discovered that the Polly Seymour, living less than 100 yards away was his mother and that he now had half-sisters and brothers! Abe's prowess was noted by the Committee that ran the '*Cantelupe Artisans Club*'. Artisan Clubs had been founded to introduce golf to the locals (aka the working classes!) in exchange for labour on the maintenance and protection of the course.

The '*Cantelupe*' was established in the 1890s and named after Viscount Cantelupe, son of Earl de la Warr, the President and Landlord of Ashdown Forest Golf Club. The '*Cantelupe*' members had an aptitude for the game and the club soon became a 'nursery', producing golfers and green keepers for the clubs of the area. The first team to play in a match against the parent club included six Mitchells, some of them were green keepers and two, Arthur and William, went on to become professionals. Abe's interest in golf was fired by acting as a caddy for members whilst working as a gardener and tree-feller in the grounds of the course.

His caddying increased his knowledge of the game and developed his skills.

Before WWI tournaments were the preserve of amateurs. Professional golfers were not allowed to compete in the tournaments as they were considered rather 'lower class'. 'Artisans', such as Abe, though true amateurs, were working men and rather looked down on - so feelings about Abe competing were mixed. Abe's first test came at the age of 16 when he played against HG Hutchinson, only to lose by one hole. Five years later he played Hutchinson again, losing by the same margin. Hutchinson was so impressed that he recommended Abe to the selectors of the 1910 England team who were due to play against Scotland. Abe's selection was described as '*the advent of the working man of the ancient and honourable calling of a gardener*' – just a bit patronising but Abe was part of the winning team!

Six-weeks later he sailed through six rounds to win at Hoylake. He played at the Royal St George's Coronation Open in 1911 where '*he should have done better*'. He battled through to be the runner up in the 1912 Amateur Championship at Westward Ho! where he stoutly beat all-comers being beaten by John Ball of Liverpool Royal. The event was marred by vocal abuse from the crowds, aimed at the playing gentry, from members of Northam Burrows Golf Club and their workmates from Bideford shipyard. It was embarrassing and distasteful and seemed to put Abe off his stroke. The title had been there for the winning but it was not to be – this match was the closest Abe ever got to winning one of the majors of the day. Abe had won the Golf Illustrated Gold Vase in 1910 and went on to win again 1913 at St Andrews where he was watched by 'cold-shouldering amateurs' who believed English artisans should be classed as professionals, as were their own. Abe clung on to his amateur status and looked forward to competing in America – whether he was unable to afford the fare or his ambitions were thwarted by third parties we do not know, but Abe failed to make the trip and, at the age of 26 he turned professional and attached himself to Sonning Golf Club in Berkshire.

At the outbreak of WWI Abe enlisted in the Royal Artillery and served in France. Before embarkation he paid a visit to friends and family at Cantelupe and posed for photographs sitting on the left of the Club President. Abe was fortunate to have a relatively uneventful four years – he was still welcomed at the station as a hero by the village band and celebrated his return from France winning the PGA 'Matchplay', the Daily Mail Tournament and a share in the 'Victory' Open at St Andrews.

He briefly went back to work at the Ashdown Forest Golf Club and, in 1920, was offered a contract at the North Foreland Golf Club in Kent all the while winning tournaments in Great Britain. His best result in the Open Championship was to finish fourth in 1920 and 1929. In 1920 at The Royal Cinque Ports he conceded a 13 shot lead after two rounds to the eventual winner George Duncan. Abe and George Duncan thought that a few trips to the USA between open championships would help enhance their status and they set off to try their hand. Abe won the 1922 Southern States Open at Nashville and received a \$1,500 cash prize, considerably more than the £75 winners prize on offer at an Open. Abe's big hitting style wooed the crowds in the USA but members of North Foreland were probably less impressed when they failed to get their golf lessons.

When, in 1925, his contract expired at North Foreland it was not renewed, and a rather annoyed Abe threatened to emigrate to America. After all he had been as impressed with the USA as they had been with him. Luckily he met with millionaire seed merchant Samuel Ryder who had just taken up golf. Ryder, impressed by Abe, employed him as his personal instructor based at the Verulam Golf Club, St Albans, for a fee of £500 per year plus £250 to cover his tournament expenses. Ryder, who relentlessly practised his driving, pitching and putting six days each week, took most of his lessons at his stately home, Marlborough House. He quickly brought his handicap down to six.

Ryder became more involved with the Verulam Club and in 1923 he had gained some valuable admin experience in professional golf when he sponsored the *'Heath and Heather Tournament'* which was only open to professionals. His get-up-and-go enthusiasm earned him the club captaincy in 1926 and 1927.

Ryder turned his relentless energy to creating an international golf tournament and in 1921 and the first, unofficial, Ryder Cup-style match between Great Britain and the USA was played at the Gleneagles Golf Course in Scotland. Inspired by what he saw, he immediately called a meeting with the PGA and proposed that the match be made official and be played on a regular basis. To back his proposal he also offered to donate a trophy which would later be known as the Ryder Cup. The Cup, solid gold and designed by Mappin and Web, was donated by Ryder. As a thank you to Abe for teaching him the game he had a figure of his coach placed on top of the new trophy. *"I owe golf a great deal"* he told Ryder, *"What you have done, putting me on top of the cup is more distinction than I could ever earn."* Abe, now recognized as one of the very best golfers of his generation was to be the player-captain at the inaugural Ryder Cup in 1927 at the Worcester Country Club in Massachusetts. He made it to the

Southampton quayside and posed for photographs boarding the Aquitania but an attack of appendicitis rendered him unable to travel. The team sailed without him and the Americans won.



Making their way to Southampton are (from left) George Duncan, Archie Compston, Fred Robson, Ted Ray, Sam Ryder, FG Gadd (secretary of PGA), Charles Whitcombe, Arthur Havers, Abe Mitchell and George Philpot.

He did, however, play in the next Ryder Cup in 1929 at the less than glamorous Moortown in Leeds in freezing conditions, snow on the greens and battered by hailstones; he played again in the summer of 1931 at Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio under a merciless sun, and in 1933 at Southport and Ainsdale Gold Club – an event described as *'one of the rowdiest in the history of the trophy'* with 15,000 fans cheering the Prince of Wales who was in attendance. The Great Britain Team won the competition by a score of 6½–5½ points which at the time was the closest score possible other than a tie and would mark Great Britain's last Ryder Cup victory for some 24 years.

The Ryder Cup victory proved to be a fitting farewell to Abe's last year in the spotlight and on his retirement he was honoured by his peers when elected Captain of the Professional Golfers Association for 1933/34.

The Association, founded in 1901, aimed to raise the status and credibility of the men who earned their living from playing golf whilst also acting as caddies, green keepers and ball makers. It also set out to be recognised and respected as the body that promoted general welfare, creating the best working conditions, and looking after the interests of its members – professional golfers – throughout their careers. It was the very background that had nurtured the talent of young Abe.

Abe Mitchell has been described as *"Britain's best player by far"* and *"one of the greatest players the world has ever known"* and it is a mystery why he delivered his poorest performances on the biggest of stage – it could only have been a lack of self-confidence.

Mitchell died suddenly on 11 June 1947 at St Albans, aged 60.

## The Wag Log – “Fforest & Forest?” ...



Urm, Where's  
my picnic?

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*"If only my master was  
as smart and as  
handsome as me!"*



Hi folks. I'm sorry I missed you at the summer barbecue (not least because I'm particularly partial to Sammy's sausages!). The "old man" missed the barbecue for the first time since I've been a Forest Ranger. Still it couldn't be helped - he had to chauffeur me to his folks for a short holiday. He was stressing about how the barbecue would go without him (particularly "his" precious bar). Between you and me, I think he overestimates his own importance (I know, sad isn't it?). I doubt he was noticeable by his absence, whereas me on the other hand... Zaf has since informed me that his human, Steve, did a sterling job behind the bar, even if he was a bit embarrassed by Steve's rather retro outfit.

I'm afraid to report that I've been through the mill a bit again since my last WagLog. I've had to have two more growths removed, this time off my gum, and two more courses of chemotherapy. I'm feeling much better again now, so hopefully that's the end of that, at least for a while.

We set off one evening to drive all the way to Malvern to see his parents. He was en route to some hippy wedding, staying in a tipi in a Fforest near Ceredigion in Wales, which I wasn't invited to. Apparently he stayed up late drinking with his old hippy mates and "making shapes" (whatever that is?!). I was left to look after his old folks and make sure they got plenty of exercise. I had a fun weekend relaxing at my country retreat, but I was very pleased to see my man return in one piece on Sunday evening. On Monday morning we all set off for the Forest of Dean. We had a fab time – walking miles and miles, lots of swimming (it was so hot), picnics and pubs. I had a long walk and swim in the lake at Mallard's Pike with the old folks while he and my "step-mum" experienced "Go Ape!" (very appropriate in his case!). We stayed at an amazing B&B which was the old manor house in the picturesque hamlet of Newland, owned by two German Short-haired Pointers, Zeus and Gaia, and one Pointer-Labrador cross, Poppy. Poppy is Zeus's daughter with the local Labrador (they've got a bit of a reputation you know!) after he eloped for a night out on the tiles! They welcomed me into their home and we got on brilliantly, running through the fields and paddling in the stream together. Happy days!

**Scallywag X**

### From the Director's Chair...

I am pleased to say that from June, when we welcomed Ashley Payne, we are, for the first time in well over a year, up to full strength staff wise.

The other good news is that planning consent for the updating of the Forest Centre has been approved – this has been a long time coming, and I am told many of those involved over the last 10 years or so have turned grey during that time! The first change you will see be the installation of solar panels on the tractor shed roof, which we hope to get completed this September, thanks to a financial contribution from the Ashdown Forest Trust. We are still in discussions about the fund raising needed for the whole programme and also the second planning application for the improvements to the tractor shed, workshops and yard area – I will keep you all posted as to progress.

I am pleased also to be able to tell you that the Friends have agreed a grant to support the development of our education programme – this should provide us with some consistent 'teacher time' over the next two years to work in local schools during the Winter months and have more school visits to the Forest Centre during Spring/Summer time.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the last Coffee Morning and then to the 'training' session with Steve and Ros; the next Coffee Morning, **18<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00**, will include a session on 'flora and fauna' and also a short presentation by Philip Glyn, one of our Conservators, on The Bird of Ashdown Forest – having seen Philip in action with this presentation I do recommend it!

Of course I can't finish without a mention of the BBQ – what a lovely evening it was, thank you all for coming and joining in so enthusiastically!

And thank you for your continued support – we really do appreciate it.

Pat

## Events, Exhibitions, News and Reviews...

### Nutley Historical Society.....

This busy local historical society has put on a very interesting exhibition which is proving very popular with local visitors. The exhibition is due to close at the end of October (25<sup>th</sup>) and will be followed by a short hiatus while the exhibition space gets a lick of paint.

### David Higgs “Weald”.....

David Higgs is an award winning local photographer whose images are held in private and public collections in the UK, USA, Europe, Australia and Japan. David hand prints almost exclusively in platinum and palladium and he takes images of the trees, ghylls, hills and heaths. He will be hanging his exhibition between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November with a private view on 8<sup>th</sup> November. You can visit David’s website at <http://www.milesfromhere.co.uk/> to get a taste of his style. The exhibition, entitled “Weald”, will run through the winter until 25<sup>th</sup> March when we will look forward to a return visit by Mervyn Hathaway who will be exhibiting new works and prints.

### Activities for children.....

Our two teachers Rachel and Lisa held a series activity fun-days for children in July and August – a series of Mini Beast Hunts and the Holiday Clubs. They were all well subscribed, but not quite full, and proved to be very popular with the children and parents who attended. There are more days planned over the autumn and winter. Details about these events will follow in due course.

### Other events.....

The first **Sheep Proof Your Dog** training session proved to be extremely popular and very successful. Spaces were filled within 48 hours of being advertised and the feedback was very positive. A second session for early September has been filled without the need for advertising. The **Nightjar Walks** on 7 and 24 July were filled and were extremely popular with a good show from the birds on each walk. The Poets Walk in July was only half filled despite widespread advertising.

### Schools and Education.....

School bookings were about average for the summer terms and the Forest School Teacher Training Session didn’t really take off which is a surprise and a real shame! There are currently few bookings for the autumn and winter terms. However, we will have some exciting news on the education front soon!

### Cuckoo tracking.....

After the sad loss of Sussex the cuckoo the BTO have tagged two more birds on the Forest - Ash and Chester (the names were chosen by the children of Nutley and High Hurstwood Schools). To follow their progress south to the Congo (and back again) visit the BTO website [www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking/sussex](http://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking/sussex).

### Pop Up Cafe.....

The café will run over the weekends of August – and we will let you know how they went in the next edition of the newsletter.

### Christmas Tree Sales.....

At the time of writing it’s about 25 degrees outside and wet with the promise of afternoon sunshine – so the last thing on our mind is Christmas! Hopefully there will be sufficient trees (of a decent quality, shape and size) and manpower to bring some into the Centre – please look out for the e-mails as extra hands are always welcome.

### Coffee Morning.....

Another coffee morning is planned and we have yet to agree on a date so please keep your eyes peeled for information. These informal get-togethers are only for an hour or so and are a useful way of getting to meet other volunteers and get a bit of training. At the next session there will be an introduction to the Birds of Ashdown Forest. This audio-visual presentation will be given by Phillip Glyn, one of the Board members, and will be followed by a short introduction to the flora and fauna of the Forest by Steve Alton. There will also be a chance to ask questions. If there are any topics you would like us to cover in future sessions please let us know and we will put something together.

### Farewell.....

Many of you know Larry Chappell, a volunteer of many years standing, so it is sad to report that he has retired due to poor health. Larry started out as a ranger volunteer and in latterly helped in the information barn – we wish him well and hope that he will pop in and say hello from time to time.

## Conservation and Management News.....

**Mike Payne, West Chase** – it's been a bit dull recently with the usual maintenance work such as bracken mowing, site lines and other such humdrum tasks. However I am planning further pond maintenance in the Vachery for this September. The biggest push this year has been to try and contain the spread of Black Cherry *Prunus Serotina*. We have spent approximately 15 man days just spraying the site and anticipate at least another 10 more before this summer is out. Last year's Forest fire, in June, across the Airstrip has appeared to encourage the Black Cherry to spread from a site I previously had under control. On a more positive note we are participating in the National Garden Scheme Open Garden (NGS Yellow Book gardens) this September and I will be looking for volunteers to help out on the day – thank you to those who have already put their name down! Volunteers from The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy have carried out several days of hard work to remove rhododendron and assist with litter picking. The team and I have spent a couple weeks bringing in timber, cut during winter clearance, from the Forest and cutting it and stacking it ready to warm the Centre over the winter.

**Mike Yates, North Chase** – Spring meant that the Forest began to dry out so we could get on with some work! Commoners with permits rushed to get their wood home by the end of March but there were plenty of fallen trees that needed clearing from the winter storms so there was no shortage. More Turkey Oaks were identified on the North Chase bring the total up 58 mature trees across the Forest. Ride repairs and resurfacing of Lamberts Ride has taken place and an exchange of land is being negotiated by the Ashdown Forest Trust at a nearby property. The Public Byway at Tomsets Bank was so badly damaged during the winter by heavy goods vehicles that the residents can no longer maintain their access and discussions are taking place there too. A hen harrier was spotted on the golf course and we caught the garden contractor who had been fly-tipping on Priory Road. Deep joy!

**Chris Sutton, East Chase** – Summer is halfway through and we have, I hope, survived this hot spell without any fires other than the small controlled burns for the management of gorse and bracken on Kidds Hill and for removing dense grasses from the gentian area at Millbrook. We have spent time repairing the river ride crossing at the bottom of Church Hill after the winter storms had washed the stone away, and managed to finish the winter heathland clearance from the previous year in that area too. King Standing has had part of the car park re-laid with road planings and Church Hill car park entrance should look better now we have replaced some of the granite setts from the entrance. I think this car park last had work on it some 20 years ago so the efforts spent then have lasted well. I hope to be able to get Gills Lap car park lower entrance re-tarmacked this year too. The state of the car park didn't deter the 'twitchers' watching the short toed eagle that loved the snakes in Wrens Warren valley though! Winter work this year is being undertaken by contractors on the heath between the Quarry and Wrens Warren car parks and near Doves Nest cottage on New Road. Our team will be restarting the Alder coppice cycle again which was first cleared 24 years ago! I know that I suggested a Volunteer Ranger refresher course but this has been delayed and it will happen!

**Rich Allum, South Chase** – Bracken mowing continues apace, with Colin covering hundreds of hectares during the summer months. The Countryside team are tackling the invasive alien species on the South Chase – Himalayan balsam, small balsam, ragwort & Japanese knotweed. We've also been undertaking fence repairs where the cows have pushed their way through the fence to seek the greener grass on the other side! It's been a pretty good year for butterflies so far, in particular more peacocks, red admirals and small tortoiseshells than usual. We've also been treated to white admiral and purple emperor, plus dark-green and silver-washed fritillaries. I'm about to embark upon the daunting task of my annual tree survey of the South Chase. I'm afraid to report a sharp upturn in sheep worrying incidents in the last couple of weeks with several sheep being injured and a couple killed.

**Caroline FitzGerald, Grazing Officer** - For those who do not know, we have recently rented some land and dilapidated buildings at Hilldown Farm; this is to provide safe wintering for our flocks and herds, and this is where we made the hay, if you have been reading the blog. As I said the buildings are dilapidated and require some remedial work so is there anybody out there who would enjoy a spot of painting (soffit boards and doors)? We could also use carpenters, bricklayers and need help with just about every other maintenance task you can think of. Would anybody like to get stuck into a big project? Do please get in touch. Other news from grazing; we have a really pretty white Galloway calf and are expecting another one at any minute plus we have been given a new Exmoor pony, Cuthbert. He was actually born and raised on Exmoor so he should find Ashdown Forest a doddle!

**Steve Alton, Conservation Officer** – Back in May we took on the lease of two buildings and 35 ha of grazing land at Hilldown Farm, Twyford. Like the stables of King Augeus in the legend of Hercules, the buildings had not been cleared out in decades and were filled with compacted straw and horse manure. All of this was removed in two deeply unpleasant sessions by our stalwart Conservation Volunteers – very many thanks to them for their efforts. This allowed us to take a hay crop from the surrounding fields in June – again with the help of volunteers – and store it for the winter, making us self-sufficient for the first time. *Continued on page 8 .....*



## The Conservators of Ashdown Forest

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Ashdown Forest Blog  
[www.blog.ashdownforest.org](http://www.blog.ashdownforest.org)  
(1,519 hits since June)



(2,463 followers)



(829 friends)



E-news (970 subscribers)



(2,126 views)



*Continued from page 7 ...* Elsewhere on the Forest, great excitement was caused by a visit from a Short-toed eagle, a native of southern Europe and only the third recorded sighting in the UK. Its arrival was accompanied by a deluge of 'twitchers' from all over the UK, who rushed from car park to car park following the unfortunate raptor. Although its presence here was no doubt accidental, it's nice to think that the Forest is healthy enough to support enough of its prey – lizards and snakes – to tempt it here. We must be doing something right!

### Uniform - Information Barn Volunteers.....

A further reminder - if you would like a polo shirt to wear during your summer-time barn duties or a long sleeved sweatshirt for the Autumn please let us have your size. If you would like an enamel Volunteer badge let us know and we will leave one out for you on your next duty.

### Mileage Expenses.....

Don't forget you can now claim your mileage expenses. Forms can be found in the Information Barn. Payments are made by BACS straight into your account so please make sure you add your bank details and e-mail address on the form.

### When did you start Volunteering?

Please let us know when you joined so we can keep our records up to date – even an approximation will do.

### Events on the Forest.....

Some of you have asked for a list of events on the Forest that are not organised by the office. Here is a list of what is currently in the diary, more will be added as time goes on:

- 4 September - Sheep Proof Your Dog 2
- 13 September - Breath of Life Sponsored Walk
- 14 September - BMFA Flying Competition
- 16 September - NGS Vachery Open Day
- 21 September - AFRA Ride
- 28 September - Kit Wilson Sponsored Dog Walk – from Pylons
- 30 September - Walking Festival Walk – Broadstone to Tabell Ghyll
- 1 October - Walking Festival – Hollies & Broadstone
- 2 October - Walking Festival – Forest Centre to Cats Protection
- 3 October - Walking Festival – Poets Walk at Forest Centre
- 4 October - Walking Festival – Around Cats Protection
- 12 October - BMFA Flying Competition
- 2 & 7 November - Search and Rescue Dog Training – Box/Twyford area
- 7 December - Search and Rescue Dog Training – Box/Twyford area
- 7 December - Southdowns Orienteers – Broadstone Scouts
- 10 January - Trail Running Event – Forest wide
- 18 January - Dartford Orienteers – Vachery area

### And finally, two smashing views.....

