



# ASHDOWN FOREST VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Volunteers .....

Issue 2, Summer 2008

Welcome to issue two of the Volunteers Newsletter!! I hope you enjoyed the last issue and thank you for all your feedback! Please continue to make comments, suggestions and contributions!

## Information Barn Volunteers - What's new!

*Handbag security* - a small locker is now in the radio room to help keep your bags safe, the key is attached to the till keys and we have a spare in the office.

*Credit Card Machine* - so far, so good! The machine has been working well and as many of you have found out it is very easy to use. If you still haven't had a go, let us know and we will show you how it works. Takings have been increasing and we can even do riding permits! There has been one problem involving a PIN number - but it was correctly resolved!

*Exhibitions* - the spring time nature table was very popular and a big THANK YOU to Anne and Janet for all their help! The current exhibition will go on right through the summer. The wood turners, who enjoyed themselves immensely, want to come back for Christmas but it would be nice to have something in between! Ros and Tracy were thinking of something on hibernation and migration - any suggestions?

*The AV Unit* - little fingers (and big ones for that matter) like to fiddle with the channel and volume controls on the right hand side of the AV screen! These are very sensitive and it doesn't take much to alter the settings (or fix them again). The controls are volume ↑ and ↓. These are also the buttons to use if you find the volume too loud. Gently touch the slightly embossed arrows - your progress is shown on the screen. If the channel has been changed try lightly pressing the input button that changes the viewing 'mode'!

*Wool* - we now have our very own, limited edition, Hebridean knitting wool for sale. It's mixed with a little Alpaca to make a lovely soft yarn. It was expensive to produce - hence the price (£11.00) and once this batch is sold there is no more! There is also a sack of fleece in the barn (at 50p per bag). It's good for hanging baskets and for keeping slugs off new growth. It also makes good compost - it is a bit smelly so it has been moved as far from the till as possible.

## What's On!

*CONSERVATION GROUP*  
29<sup>th</sup> June and as usual the last Sunday of the month. Meet at the Centre car-park at 10.15.

*SUMMER PARTY*  
Please join us at the Summer BBQ - outdoors if the weather is good on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 19.00 for 19.30 - all volunteers very welcome, please let us know you are coming!

*STITCH N' BITCH*  
Our monthly needlecraft group meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 19.00 until we run out of things to say or do! Meet at the Forest Centre

*For the most up to date information on what's going on why not visit our website*

[www.ashdownforest.org/news](http://www.ashdownforest.org/news)



## East Grinstead Volunteering Day

We had a very attractive stand at the above event on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Rich and Tracy were there the first day and Anne and Pat on the second day. It was a great chance to promote the Forest to the public and we met lots of really interesting people - some of whom signed up to volunteer (and a few have already started training in the Information Barn).

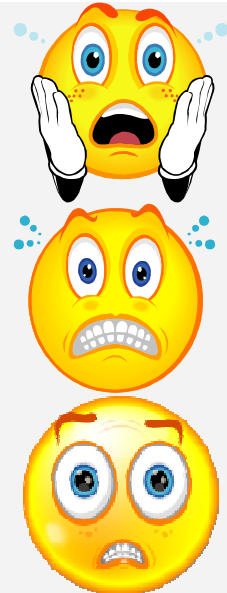
## Roman invasion!

29<sup>th</sup> May saw a very strange sight at the Forest Centre - a fully armed Roman legionnaire! Lexicus Deanicus came along to chat to children and parents about life in the Roman army and what the Romans got up to on the Forest. We have had some really positive feedback and in total 124 visitors took part!



### TILL TERROR!!

I know, through talking to you and reading your diary entries, that there have been having some horrid problems with the till again. The codes shown allow you to find out the exact cause of the problem in the manual and how to fix it. I have had a conversation with the suppliers and discussed the problems with them and I hate to say it, they think it is operator error (eek!). Just in case it is mechanical I have a new hand scanner just to see if that resolves things. Top tips from the supplier are - remember to place the scanner squarely on the bar code, then depress the button, await the till to make its beep then release the button. Do not drag the scanner over the bar code whilst depressing the button, - that's how multiple entries happen! Make sure when you lift the scanner from the bar code you lift it up and away and not over - again this can cause multiple entries! You can void the last item and the whole sale if you need to (and start again) by following the simple instructions on the front of the green book. The key is DON'T PANIC!



### ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ SHEARING DAY ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

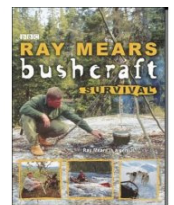
Despite the truly hideous weather and the fact the sheep were just too wet to shear (a great disappointment for Louise who really wanted to get the job done) the day was a great success!! We had 130+ people meeting the sheep and visiting the barn. The sheep were rather snug, but a bit bored, in the tractor shed, however, being hand fed sheep nuts was a consolation! The ladies of the Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers enjoyed the event too. Most importantly a great big THANK YOU to Gwen, Anne and the two Johns for their much needed help! For more details the sheep blog, <http://www.ashdownforest.org/blog.php>

### New Barn Stock

We are always on the look-out for new and interesting things for the barn - particularly books. So far have 'Teashop Walks in East Sussex', 'Walks for Fitness in East Sussex' (so you can walk off your cream tea!) the classic 'Food for Free' by Richard Mabey and two books by local outdoor hero Ray Mears - 'Bushcraft' and 'Wild Food'. If you should come across any interesting, unusual or exciting items in other visitor centres or shops, that you think would do well for us, please make a note of the product name (title, author and the ISBN number for books) - and we will have a look and see what we can do (at a reasonable price of course!)

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**Food for Free**



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