

The Volunteer



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The Newsletter for all Ashdown Forest Volunteers

Winter Woes - November, December, January and February were very much dominated by the truly biblical weather across the SE. On Christmas Eve a reduced team dealt with 25+ fallen trees in a seven hour shift and made the local papers! Since then there has been torrential rain, gales, flooding and yet more trees to deal with – a very busy time for all but we may, in the big scheme of things, have had a lucky escape.

Volunteers Christmas Party - Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner on 12 December – good time was had by all, the company was great, the food went down well and the quiz proved fiendish! Our dishwasher was a HUGE help with the team finally getting away about an hour earlier than usual. A big thank you to Janet Wirdnam, who, as ever was an absolute star! A quick plea for next year – please, please rsvp – despite pleas we had a few extras we were not expecting – which can make catering very difficult.

Coffee Morning - will be on **Thursday 27 March at 11.00** - it's open to all volunteers, so please do come along and have a cuppa (and a few biscuits) and find out what is happening / planned for the next few months!

Welcome to Tom Simon – Tom joined the estate workers team in late November and immediately got stuck into the role! Tom is also a keen photographer and you will find some of his pictures on our Facebook page. Tom is also keen to write a blog for the website and, once the software is up and running, will be keeping us informed of what is going on out on the Forest.

Welcome to Steve Alton– we welcomed Steve as our new Conservation Officer in December. He has over 25 years' experience in the conservation sector. Originally a conservation officer for the Wildlife Trusts, he then spent 13 years running the UK programme of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank project. Steve is overseeing the day-to-day conservation management of the Forest, and takes a particular interest in interpretation. He brings with him Zaf, an irrepressible flat-coated retriever cross. Steve will, be attending various meetings such as the Commoner's and the Public/Residents. You will get a first change to meet him at the Coffee Morning and later at the summer BBQ!



Update on Grazing...from Caroline FitzGerald...

Winter again; most of the animals are wintering off the Forest on various bits of grass. Conditions have been really horrible with constant rain, storms and mud, mud, mud. Still I suppose that we should be happy that we aren't actually flooded. Our Exmoor ponies are toughing it out on the heath, keeping body and soul together by eating the gorse. Spring will be along soon



Our ponies on the heath – photo Steve Alton
and so will lots of lambs. PS Hoggett and mutton sales have been a great success!

Scotch Pies...

How to make Paul Hollywood's traditional pie

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking parchment. Cut four strips of greaseproof paper, about 5cm/2in deep and 25cm/10in long, to wrap around the pies. You'll also need four pieces of cook's string to secure the paper.
2. For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and season generously with salt and white pepper. Work the liquid into the meat, divide into four portions and mould into balls. Refrigerate while you make the pastry.
3. To make the pastry, heat 160ml/5½fl oz of water, salt and lard in a saucepan until just boiling. Meanwhile, put the flour in a mixing bowl. Pour the hot liquid onto the flour and mix together with a spoon. Once cool enough to handle, tip onto a floured surface and knead until you have a smooth dough.
4. Working as quickly as you can, cut off a quarter of the pastry and set aside. Divide the remaining dough into four equally sized balls. Roll out each ball to an 18cm/7in circle, about 5mm/¼in thick. Roll out the remaining pastry and cut out four circular lids, 10cm/4in in diameter.
5. Place a ball of filling on each large circle of pastry. Gather the pastry around the meat and bring up the sides to form the shape of a pork pie. Keep stretching the pastry so it comes above the meat by around 2cm/1¾in. Dampen the edges of the pies with water and press the lids on top of the filling. Seal the edges together using your fingers. Wrap a strip of greaseproof paper around each pie and secure with string (to make sure the pie holds its shape when cooking). This is much easier if you have someone to help you.
6. Technique: How to shape hot water pastry for a raised pie .How to shape hot water pastry for a raised pie
7. Put the pies on the baking tray and cut a steam hole in the center of each. Brush with beaten egg yolk and transfer to the fridge to rest for 30 minutes. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden-brown. Serve hot.

Ingredients

For the filling

- 600g/1lb 5oz mutton mince
- ¼ tsp ground mace
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 5 tbsp gravy or stock
- salt and white pepper

For the hot water crust pastry

- ½ tsp salt
- 120g/4¼oz lard
- 360g/12½oz plain flour
- 1 free-range egg yolk, beaten, for glaze



Taken from Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds Book
Bloomsbury Publishing (24 Oct 2013)



Also known as mutton pies, these have a very long history. In the middle ages, they were frowned upon by the Scottish church, viewed as luxurious, decadent English-style food. In later centuries, they proved to be convenient and sustaining snacks for working people, who would buy them hot from pie-men or pie-wives in the city streets. The space on top of the pie, created by the raised crust, would sometimes be filled with gravy, beans or mashed potato.

Clerk's News...

Since 1976 the Byelaws have served Ashdown Forest well by clearly setting out what can and cannot be done on the Forest by local residents and visitors. However, the set fine of £50 has become derisory. Updating has always been a problem as all the byelaws have to be renewed at the same time and the process involves informal consultations with the local authorities and residents before going to Defra for provisional approval. This is where we are at the moment for we have sought approval from ESCC, WDC, the Town and Parish Councils, the Friends, AFRA and the volunteers who have attended recent meetings. All have agreed that increasing the maximum fine to Level Two of the Standard Scale (£500) is sensible. This means that we will never have to go through this exercise again as the fine will be increased as the Standard Scales are revised by regulation. After seeking provisional approval from DEFRA, the Conservators must formally resolve to adopt the Byelaws and then there is a period of formal consultation when notice of the new Byelaws will be published in the local press and the public will be given the opportunity to inspect them in the office. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to confirm the Byelaws, taking into consideration any objections received during the notice period. The new Byelaws will come into effect one month after their confirmation.

Forest History – The Nuns of Ashdown Park...

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were founded in Amiens in 1803 by St. Julie Billiart, a peasant woman, and Marie-Louise-Françoise Blin de Bourdon, Countess of Gézaincourt.



Julie Billiart came to her religious vocation late in her life, at the age of 51. She was born in 1751, the fifth of seven children, in the small village of Cuvilly. She helped in her father's shop and from the age of 16, began to teach to help support her family.

When Julie was a young girl her father, a draper, was attacked and almost killed. Thieves stole the fabrics from his small shop. Responding to this crisis, Julie took the remaining cloth to a nearby town, where she succeeded in selling it. However, the attack traumatized her and this was perhaps was the root of her physical paralysis which caused her to lose her ability to speak. Her paralysis lasted for 22 years. During the French Revolution, Julie opened her home as a hiding place for priests, forcing her to flee from danger several times. Her situation could not have been more dangerous - being paralyzed she was totally dependent on her friends. At one point, in order to save her life, Julie's friends hid her in a hay cart and carried her to safety at Compiègne. It was during this period that Julie began to have visions, and heard voices telling her that she would begin a religious institute for the Christian education of young girls. Even while she was paralyzed, Julie attracted people by her wisdom and joy in the midst of suffering. She welcomed them and gave her visitors what we would probably call today "spiritual direction". When Julie along with Françoise Blin de Bourdon founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; she was still paralyzed. In 1804 a invited her to pray with him and at the end of the prayers

commanded her to stand up and walk. She did – and from then on never stopped walking, often travelling miles through France and Belgium to visit her spiritual daughters.

Julie understood that educating girls was not only a benefit to the girls themselves, but also to their families. With financial resources from Françoise Blin de Bourdon, the Congregation's co-founder, Julie opened free schools for girls living in poverty (1806). She also opened day schools for middle-class girls and academies for the wealthy, both of which supported the free schools. Pupils flocked into the class-rooms at once. The bishop of Amiens thought the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur belonged in only one diocese – his! Julie knew her calling lay far beyond those boundaries and argued her case. The bishop finally lost patience and expelled her from Amiens. Most of the Sisters choose exile and found a home in the diocese of Namur, Belgium.



Françoise Blin de Bourdon, a wealthy French noblewoman and it is her "Memoirs" that tell us so much about Julie and the early history of the Order. Françoise provided the first "Rule," which described the spirit of the congregation and the way of life for the Sisters. She was the first "donor," providing the financial support from her inheritance which enabled the Order to expand during the early years. She succeeded Julie as the superior general of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Françoise grew up with a doting grandmother, on a luxurious estate, with access to the upper echelons of 18th-century society. A woman of deep spirituality she was lead to Julie was a guest in the home of Françoise's brother in Amiens. At first, Françoise found visiting the sick

woman distasteful. Gradually a strong friendship grew between them. With Julie's guidance, she spent her whole life "letting go" of anything that could come between her and God and before her death, she had given away all her material goods.

Françoise, whose family belonged to the French aristocracy had been presented at the court of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette in Versailles. After the king and queen were guillotined the 'Terror' began. Members of the aristocracy and clergy were executed and Françoise found herself imprisoned awaiting execution. Just one day before her date with the guillotine, Maximilian Robespierre, the mastermind of the French Revolution, fell from power, and Françoise was freed.

At first Françoise was unsure about Julie. At times, it was hard to understand her speech but she spoke often of God Françoise kept coming back to be with her. The friendship between the two women developed, and Françoise found herself confiding in Julie and when they were unable to talk face-to-face wrote frequent letters to each other.

Their friendship was the foundation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. On February 2, 1804, the day that the Sisters consider as the "birthday" of the Congregation, Julie and Françoise consecrated themselves to God. Later, they professed vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as Sisters of Notre Dame on October 15, 1805. Françoise, whose name as a religious was Sister St. Joseph, wrote the first biography of St. Julie and the first history of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Mother St. Joseph eventually became the second superior general of the Congregation.

The Order in England



Father de Buggenoms, a Belgian, superior of a small mission at Falmouth, saw an urgent need for schools for poor Catholic children. He asked for, and obtained, from the Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame a community of six sisters, and with these he opened a small school in Cornwall. It lasted only three years as the place afforded no means of subsistence to a religious house. The community was transferred to Clapham in September 1848 and it was through the recommendation of Fr de Buggenoms that the Hon. Laura Maria Petre, a rich widow entered the Clapham convent. The wealth that she brought with enabled the expansion of the Sisters work.



With Laura's money the Order were able to establish schools in Liverpool, Glasgow and, in 1920 Sussex, with the purchase Ashdown House. The magnificent building, then known as Ashdown Park, was erected by the Liberal MP Thomas Charles Thompson in 1867. He had demolished an earlier classical house dating from 1815 and built a dramatic limestone and red sandstone Gothic mansion. His building forms the centre piece of a complex of wings added later by new owners. The Order modified the building to suit their monastic needs - frosting the windows to stop the sisters from gazing out into the world beyond their cells and, where guests now enjoy luxury accommodation in the East Wing, creating a cloister. The nuns also set about building their own grand Chapel of Our Lady

in the main buildings and they commissioned eight stunning windows, based on the Life of the Virgin Mary, from the famous Irish stained glass artist Harry Clarke.

In January Clarke 1924 visited London and, while there, he travelled down to Sussex to meet Sr. Bernard, the Superior of the Convent, and the architect, Henry Smart (of whom little is known other than he designed a copy of the Ashdown Park Chapel for the Sisters of Notre Dame at their new foundation in Leeds – working again with Harry Clark). Clarke sent his designs to Sr. Bernard. It was the beginning of a long and difficult correspondence. Sr. Bernard proved an extremely demanding client! When Clarke sent the cartoon for the 'Visitation' window, Sr. Bernard objected to the unicorn and disliked the Virgin's emaciated face – the cartoons were amended and the unicorn is absent in the window. In October 1925, despite a bout of ill health, Clarke travelled to Sussex to oversee the installation of the windows. The tower window shows Mary surrounded by angels in a deep blue sky and the windows are reputed to have thirty-five different shades of blue in the design.



The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur owned the estate for some fifty years. Up until the 1960's the Sisters wore a traditional black habit and wimple it, rose at 5.30am for morning prayers, meditation and Mass. They prayed again before lunch and at 4pm there was a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. At 7pm, there was evening meditation and at 9pm, night prayers. In between they recited the Rosary, made the Way of the Cross and did spiritual reading – this was on top of their everyday studying and teaching. The buildings

were sold in 1971 and the Catholic Herald reported that "*Ashdown Park, the former provincial house and novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame (Namur), has been sold by the joint dioceses of Southwark and Arundel and Brighton to the United States International University in England for £275,000*".

Little is known about the individual lives of the nuns, however, we know about one inhabitant Wendy Beckett. Sr Wendy was born in South Africa, and raised in Edinburgh, where her father was studying medicine. In 1946, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur that appealed as it were dedicated to education. She was sent to England where she completed her novitiate at Ashdown Park and then studied at Oxford under Prof. JRR Tolkien where she was awarded first class honours degree in English Literature (she shares the highest marks ever awarded with Harold Wilson). Outside her academic work, she lived at Ashdown Park which maintained the strict code of silence typical in convents prior to the reforms of the 2nd Vatican Council. After attending the Notre Dame (Liverpool) and gaining a teaching diploma, she returned to South Africa to work at Notre Dame, a girls school in Constantia, where she taught English and Latin. After 16 years health problems forced her to abandon teaching and to return to England. She obtained papal permission to the convent and to become a hermit under the protection of the Carmelite nuns at Quidenham. She still leads a contemplative life in the convent grounds where she dedicates her life to solitude and prayer, allotting two hours of work per day to earn her living through writing about her favourite subject – art.

Today there are about 2000 of Notre Dame de Namur in at least 14 countries. In Britain there are have about 100 groups. Both founders have been canonised.

The Wag Log – “The Ignominy!” ...



Hi everyone. You'll be pleased to hear that I seem to be back to full health. I hope you enjoyed the Christmas Party; can you believe he's still basking in the glory of his Christmas Quiz (I bet he never told anyone it was really Tracy's idea!)?

Remember I told you last time about Chip taking early retirement which was very sad for me? Well, I have a new friend called Zaf who is our new Conservation Officer, his human is called Steve. He came all the way over from Ireland to a local rehoming centre to rescue Steve. Zaf's only about 14 or 15 years old (around 2 of your human years) so he's quite tough to keep up with. No-one seems quite sure exactly what breeding he is, but my theory is that he's a mixture of Belgian Shepherd, Border collie and flat-coated retriever. My favourite thing about Zaf is that he has one ear that sticks up and one that bends over which means he has a permanent quizzical / comical look. Dottie the greyhound hates Zaf even more than she hates me – if we ever dare to pile into Dottie's office to see Ros & Tracy, she comes flying out with her only remaining fang bared at us. I know it's bad, but we do quite like winding her up!

A while ago now, “him indoors” was driving across the Forest near Spring Garden (too lazy to walk as usual), I was doing my best carriage-dog impersonation, trotting along beside the truck when a lamb (well, I say lamb but it was already much bigger than me!) ran out the gorse and bracken right in front of us. I am very good at ignoring sheep, so I didn't pay it any attention, but when it saw me it shot off down the ride in front of the truck. Next thing you know, the lamb's mum (a giant ewe) came out the bracken behind the truck (although I didn't see her). I don't know whether she thought I was chasing her lamb (which of course I wasn't), or whether she was just in a hurry to catch up with her lamb. Anyway, she charged down the ride behind me, but because of the noise of the truck I didn't hear her coming. Next thing you know she's right behind me, coming straight for me at full-tilt! As I say, she was probably the biggest ewe on the whole Forest. I have to admit she took me completely by surprise. Apparently, (according to him) the look on my face as I turned round and saw her was a picture. He was roaring with laughter at me being “chased” by a sheep! I put on the “afterburners” and managed to do a slick side-step that some of our England rugby internationals would do well to emulate and let her go flying past. Nothing injured apart from my pride of course. As you can imagine, he's never let me live it down!

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



From the Director's Chair...

Yet another busy period for staff and volunteers! We were delighted to say hello to two new members of staff Steve Alton, our new conservation officer and Tom Simon our new countryside worker – I am sure you will meet them both as time goes by.

The Strategic Plan is moving forward, albeit slowly, and work will soon begin on the Annual Report – watch this space for progress. A quick update on the **Forest Centre development** – the plans were submitted to Wealden District Council at the end of October – since then, despite various nudges, nothing has been heard. We will keep you posted.

Our **Health Walks** continue to be very popular in spite of some terrible weather. Numbers remain steady with 20+ walkers at each session. The second **Poet's Walk** led by local poet Sian Thomas was fully booked and very much enjoyed by all. A third session is planned for the end of April.

As part of the **Every Dog Matters** programme we are holding, in partnership with Raystede, a **Dog Care** day for children in April. There are two sessions on the day for children of different ages and it sounds like great fun. We are also offering **Holiday Clubs** (two in February & two in April) run by our Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) teachers Lisa and Rachel – bookings are going well.

On the education front you may have heard of Forest Schools and we are working closely with SWT to host a week of **Forest School Teacher Training** in early March, three days of **Story Telling Training for Teachers** (one day a month in April, May and June) and three days of **Outdoor Activities Training for Teachers** in May and June.

For the general public, we are offering a series of four bird walks (lead by volunteer Clive Poole) two **Dawn Chorus** and two **Nightjar** walks – these are proving very popular. Keep a look out on the website for the latest events!

Events, Exhibitions, News and Reviews...

Helen Bardsley and Jay Kendall....

The exhibition of photography, paintings and handicrafts from is coming to a close at the end of March and we hope Helen and Jay enjoyed the experience of exhibiting their work.

Dave Brooker Photography....

Popular local photographer and Forest chum, Dave Brooker, will be exhibiting again from 1 April through to the end of May. As usual this will be a selling exhibition and purchasers can take the works away with them.

Nutley Historical Society

This busy local historical society will be putting up an exhibition from 2 June to the end of October. There are no sales associated with this exhibition. Full details will follow in due course!

Activities for children....

Our two teachers Rachel and Lisa held two activity fun-days for children in February – Woodland Skills/Den Building and Deer Tracking. They were well subscribed, but not quite full, and proved to be very popular with the children and parents who attended. There are two more days planned for 7 and 9 April and details will follow.

Other events....

On 1st November 'The Dogs Trust' offered free micro chipping at the Forest Centre – this was well attended and the Trust were very pleased with the turn out. There will be a Commoners meeting on 7 March at Nutley Village Hall (look out for the draft minutes on the website). On 8 April Raystede Animal Rescue will be holding a fun activity day for children of all ages emphasizing how best to care for a pet dog, there will be games, quizzes and fun activities! There will be a third Poet's walk on 29th April and we will be advertising and taking bookings very soon. Clive Poole is leading four more of the very popular Bird Walks – with a dawn chorus walk on 3 and 15 May and nightjar walks on 7 and 24 July – bookings are going very well. *Details for all events can be found on our website.*

Schools and Education....

School bookings remain slow but there is plenty lots going-on on the education front! SWT are holding a week-long Forest School Teacher Training Session on 10-14 March using the Centre and the old quarry for activities. There is story-telling training over three days (30 April, 21 May and 25 June) and we are in the process of setting dates for outdoor activity training for teachers over three days (May & June).

Cuckoo tracking.....

Sussex stopped transmitting in November and it is likely he is dead. His travelling companions Chris, BB and Chance all reached their destinations by late November and have now turned around and are starting their long journey back north. It is possible that Sussex may re-appear (Chance was missing for six weeks). To follow their progress north visit the BTO website www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking/sussex.

Pop Up Cafe.....

The café ran 26th October to 2nd November and during Christmas Tree sales – it wasn't as busy as we had hoped as this was the start of the horrid winter weather, but it will be back in the Spring / Summer. If you would like to get involved with the Pop Up Café please let Tracy or Ros know.

Christmas Tree Sales.....

The team brought in a good crop of trees this year and, though quieter than previous years, they sold well. Next year may be difficult as there are less and less trees of the right size available.

New Volunteers.....

Hello and a warm welcome to our new in-training volunteers Ann Whiddon and Deborah Barber – hope you enjoy your training and we look forward to getting you fledged and active in the afternoons (week-days) from 1 April!

Coffee Morning.....

PLEASE let me know if you are coming to the coffee morning on 27 March (at 11.00) it's only for an hour or so and gives you a chance to quiz us and a member of the Board. This time you will have a chance to meet the new conservation officer Steve Alton and put your questions to him.

Conservation and Management News...

Mike Payne, West Chase – this winter has seen a lot of scrub clearance to the West of the A275. I have also had the Spearhead Destroyer tidying down the Airstrip after the fire in June. I had a small contract out behind Millbrook East doing scrub clearance that, unless you go looking, you wouldn't notice. The team has been out clearing a large amount of Rhododendron re-growth in the Black bog area (SE of the Airstrip) in order to allow the grazing team to graze cattle there, hopefully this summer. This winter heathland work was heavily disrupted with the weather loosing us probably about 1-1.5 months as were out the tidying up fallen roadside trees. If weather and bird nesting permits I am hoping to have a controlled burn in the Millbrook East area with the intention to encourage the spread of Marsh Gentians. Work continues to control the spread and re-growth of American Black Cherry in the Chelwood Gate area. Spring's work for the west chase will consist of dealing with trees across rides or footpaths, repairing or replacing wooden structures like barriers and dragons teeth and making a start on cutting sight lines for car parks and ride crossings.

Mike Yates, North Chase – In spite of the weather conditions winter work on the North Chase has been successfully completed with scrub clearance below the cricket pitch at Coleman's Hatch and some intensive heathland management between Windy Ridge and the Pheasantry. As a bonus we cut and bagged £250 worth of logs to be sold in the information barn. There a lots of trees down on rides which we cannot clear yet because it is too wet. I have been busy trying to find wood for commoners, not an easy task because the Forest is too wet drive on but with two large beech and two oak trees coming down in the storms we have been able to provide people with logs. As the saying goes *It's an ill wind that blows no good fortune!*

Rich Allum, South Chase – contractors have finished scrub clearance on two areas of the South Chase – behind Stonehill car park and the steep west-facing bank down from Duddleswell towards the ghyll below Airmans Grave. We've spent several weeks clearing windblown and roadside trees. Winter work has been seriously affected by the wet weather but hopefully we'll still get a chance to some bracken clearance with the AHWI (forest mulcher) before the bird-nesting season. The Exmoor ponies are doing a fine job on the area known as Ardens between Nutley and Misbourne Farm, they appear to be coping well with the conditions and managing to find enough forage (including gorse!).

Chris Sutton, East Chase – a great deal of time has been spent dealing with the aftermath of the gales and clearing fallen trees on the highway. Other than that not a lot has been happening on the East Chase due to the exceptionally wet and windy weather. Contractors have been able to clear the heath behind Wrens Warren car park and we hopefully will finish off what we started last year below the track leading to Crowborough Warren from Friars Gate. Other work has been the review of the Health and Safety Risk Assessments (you will get a copy of the Volunteer ones in due course). What has been highlighted by the review is the lack of refresher training of the Volunteer Rangers. We will be addressing this soon probably in the form of a Saturday training session for all to cover things like manual handling and fire-fighting. This is something that used to take place in the dim and distant past!

Steve Alton, Conservation Officer – My first winter as Conservation Officer has been – almost literally – a case of 'in at the deep end', with the wettest winter month on record hampering conservation work. Not only has heathland management work been difficult due to the muddy rides, a combination of high winds and saturated ground has led to an unprecedented number of fallen trees on roads, all of which have to be dealt with. Still, as I keep telling myself, things can only get better.

Ashdown Forest in the News...

What do Trip Advisor Reviews say about Ashdown Forest? Here are just a few...

"Favourite stomping ground for 40 years"

I have spent many happy hours walking around the differing parts of the forest from open land to shady forests. Anyone interested in hiking, the forest is a wonderful place to explore'

"Beautiful"

Well worth going to the Ashdown Forest Centre then you have toilets, picnic tables and when it is open a very interesting inside info area with things kids can enjoy.

"Beautiful, Unspoiled Countryside"

Acres of rolling countryside to walk through at your leisure. It has long been a family favourite with the children walking to Pooh bridge and playing Pooh sticks. The children are now all grown up but we had a great day out in the forest this weekend with the dog.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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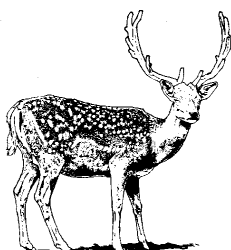
(2,242 followers)



(440 friends)

E-news (936 subscribers)

**Our three Forest films can
now be found on**



Information Barn Opening...

1 April we are back to our spring / summer schedule – open every week-day afternoon from 14.00 to 17.00. Please pop in and fill up a slot on the wall planner – thank you!

Uniform - Information Barn Volunteers...

A further reminder - If you would like a polo shirt to wear during your summer-time barn duties please let us have your sizes. If you need 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 on the form.

When did you start Volunteering?

If you have been with us a long time please tell your joining date – even an approximation will do.

Ashdown Forest Life...

The spring / summer AFL is now in production and will be available in the Barn and on our website in due course – please look out for it.

Conservation Group...

The Sunday Conservation Group remains stood down until Steve has fully settled into his post and has decided how the group will go forward. Please keep a look out on the website for an update.

Events on the Forest...

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

1 March - Search and Rescue Dog Training - Box/Twyford area

8/9 March - Evans Cycle Event – crossing Forest

8 March - Greater London SW Scouts Night Hike to Broadstone Camp

16 March - BMFA Flying Competition

6 April - BMFA Flying Competition

23-26 May - Music Festival – Pippingford Park (3000+ attending)

20 June - Arts Festival – Pippingford Park

13 July - BMFA Flying Competition

13 July - Sponsored Horse Ride – south west area of Forest

26/27 July - Historical Re-enactors – Pippingford Park (3000 attending)

26 July - Endurance Ride – north east area of Forest

26 July - Kent Long Distance Walkers Association – to and from Hollies

10 August - BMFA Flying Competition

31 August - BMFA Flying Competition

14 September - BMFA Flying Competition

21 September - AFRA Ride – route tbc

28 September - Kit Wilson Sponsored Dog Walk – from Pylons

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