

Epping Forest Countrycare

How to contact us

is the District Councils countryside management service, which aims to maintain and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

This is achieved by creating and maintaining habitats, improving public access and increasing awareness of our rural heritage.

Countrycare's team of five paid members of staff work with schools, volunteers, youth groups, tree wardens, wildlife organisations and national agencies, amongst others, encouraging participation in practical environmental projects.

Operating across the whole of the Epping Forest District, Countrycare undertakes a wide range of community-based activities and coordinates a regular programme of practical conservation tasks. This includes the management of the District's 9 Local Nature Reserves.

Countrycare is one of the Council's primary "enablers" and the service involves people of all ages and abilities in all aspects of its work. With a credible and proven track record for delivering quality projects over the last 20 years and an obvious public interest in the countryside, Countrycare is in the enviable position of being able to recruit and keep volunteer help. In 2005/06 Countrycare organised 121 practical project days involving 1,196 volunteer days. The service also coordinated over 30 educational events and walks.

Countrycare Team Email: countrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
(01992) 788 203.
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare

The Tree and Landscape team deal with tree and landscape issues in connection with Planning applications; applications for works to trees within conservation areas; making and administering of Tree Preservation Orders; liaising with members of the public on tree issues.
Email trees@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Chris Neilan	(01992) 564 117
Melinda Barham	(01992) 564 120
Robin Hellier	(01992) 564 546
Elizabeth Haines	(01992) 564 452

The Historic Buildings, Conservation Areas and Urban Design Team. Deal with most matters relating to historic buildings and conservation areas, including grants, enhancement projects, buildings at risk, repairs, enforcement, prosecutions and advice. They also advise on the design of new development, prepare planning and development briefs and design guidance leaflets.

Paul Sutton (01992) 564119 Lucy Davis (01992) 564 068

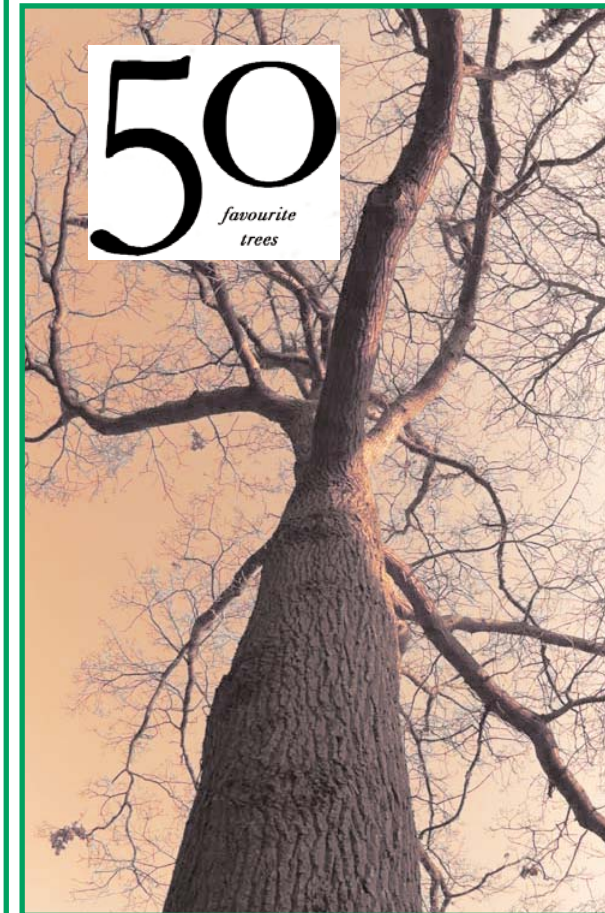
Postal address for all sections :
Planning Services, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BZ
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/planning



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Enhancing your environment
Countryside and conservation news



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20th Anniversary Edition

Issue 08 - July - September 2006



Epping Forest District Council

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Countrycare 20 not out - by Paul Hewitt, Countryside Manager

In April 2006, Countrycare entered its twentieth year, a great achievement for a countryside project that was initially set up to run for just three. As is fitting of such a milestone we have decided to celebrate the fact with several events. I also thought it was a good excuse to look back at where it all started and who has been involved over the years.

Twenty years takes us back to April 1986, when the ideas of a few staff in the Council's Planning Department including Andrew Robinson and Ivan Le Gallais saw the creation of Countrycare. Partnership funding was secured from the then Countryside Commission and things got started. Originally the pilot area for the project was restricted to just those parishes within the M25 and it also started out with just one member of staff Countryside Manager - Andrew Graham.

One of Andrew's first jobs was to recruit an Assistant and in the October 1986 Tony Bradford joined the staff. In the early days it was very much a question of gaining credibility, making local contacts and reviewing the state of the district's countryside. The main aims were to establish a series of walks and ensure there was a rights of way network that was at least open for use. Things went really well and by 1989 the project had been given an extension and its area expanded to include the whole of the District. When Andrew Graham left in late 1989, to join what is now the Environment Agency, I wonder if he realised what he had started and if he ever thought it would still be going seventeen years later.

One of Countrycare's key successes has been staff continuity and with Andrew leaving Tony Bradford took over as Countryside Manager. At the same time the team grew as Ian Whitehead and Rachael Lewis joined to increase staff numbers reflecting the expansion to the whole of the District.

From 1990 onwards things continued to develop and grow. Ian and Rachael left (Rachael now looks after the countryside of Somerset) and were replaced by Nick Gordon and Richard Jillings. The strong volunteer support was starting to grow and

projects began on the Council's own countryside sites such as Linder's Field and Roughtalley's Wood. Further Country Walks were also being established centred on villages across the district. By mid 1991, the staff increased to four with Jason Ward promoted from the Youth Training Scheme to a full time Countryside Assistant.

In 1992 the Countryside Commission, having supported staff costs since 1986, reduced their input to just grant funding on a project basis and even this was slowly phased out. Effectively the District Council took over the major costs of the service. 1992 was also the year I joined replacing Nick Gordon who left for Devon.

In October 1994, Tony Bradford after being with Countrycare for eight years left to join the Hertfordshire Countryside Management Service and I was promoted to Countryside Manager. Also by this time Richard Jillings had moved back to Derbyshire where he still works for the County Council's Countryside Service and Ric Bayne had joined us from Kent. In early 1995 Steven Jack also joined the team. Perhaps one of the biggest milestones for the service came in 1995, when District Council members gave the go ahead for Countrycare to become a permanent Council service. The rest as they say is history.

For nearly 5 years Ric, Steve, Jason and I all worked as a team (the longest period of time without any staff changes). Volunteer numbers doubled and many memorable events were organised with the Council's Arts Team.

Eventually by 2000, it was time for Ric, Steve and Jason to move on. Ric and Steve now manage their own Countryside Services in Kent and Lincolnshire and Jason after nine years with Countrycare left to work as a tree surgeon. Those of you who live in the District will have no doubt seen Jay in the Gristwood lorry!

The replacement team of Sarah Stevens, Benjamin Sanderson and Zoë Drew (Freeman) was formed.

In 2002, Sarah left to work for the National Trust in the Gower and when in Ben left in 2004 after 5 years (to travel the world) the current team was formed.

World Conservation News

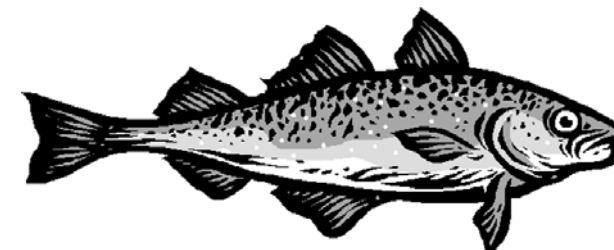
At times you wonder if there is any end to the bad news, but these stories caught our attention.

The end of Cod and Chips?

According to scientists from three leading research bodies our favourite fish the Cod is doomed.

A recent study has shown a 50% drop in plankton that Cod larvae feed on in the North Sea. This alarming drop (especially if you're a cod) is down to changes in the ocean currents believed to have been brought on by climate change linked to global warming.

A new species of plankton has become more abundant, but it spawns at the wrong time of year for Cod larvae. So even if the issues of over fishing are overcome the long-term future for the Cod looks bleak.



World biodiversity - more on the brink?

Two well-known animals the polar bear and the hippo have sadly joined the ranks of species threatened with extinction according to the The World Conservation Union, or IUCN*.

The IUCN has listed more than 16,000 species of animals and plants that are at risk of disappearing. These include one in four mammals and one in eight birds. The main threat to the planet's biodiversity continues to be us, with CO² emissions, over fishing and hunting all continuing to take their toll.

Some 530 new species have been added to the IUCN's 'Red List' of endangered species since the last version was released just two years ago.



Global warming and climate change is one thing that has had loads of publicity recently and it obviously will be one of the key factors in species decline.

For example, unless global warming can be slowed things look bleak for the polar bear. It has been estimated that if things continue as they are now, the population of bears will drop by more than 30% by 2050. This will be down to habitat loss and the melting of the polar ice cap depriving the bears of vital sea ice on which they hunt seals. The bears will simply starve.

The polar bear is now classified as a 'vulnerable' just one step down from 'endangered' in its ranking of extinction risk.

The common hippo was also ranked as vulnerable, because of a catastrophic decline in the Democratic Republic of Congo where unrestricted hunting has caused a 95% decline in the central African country's hippo population since 1994.

It not all doom and gloom though as conservation measures can make a difference. On Australia's Christmas Island, the seabird Abbott's booby was declining due to habitat clearance and was listed as 'critically endangered' in 2004. But thanks to conservation measures the species is now ranked as recovering and has now moved down a category to 'endangered'.

* The membership of the IUCN includes 81 governments, 850+ non-governmental groups and 10,000 scientists from around the world.



Tree Wardens Corner

What are Tree Wardens?

Tree Wardens are local people appointed by their community group, residents association or parish council to gather information and to encourage practical projects relating to trees in the community. You do not need to be an expert as you will be provided with an "action pack" and training to give you the basic knowledge you will need. What is important is that you should genuinely care for trees and the environment.

The Tree Warden programme is run by Epping Forest District Council on behalf of the Tree Council. The Tree Council's role is to improve the environment by encouraging tree planting and to gather knowledge and understanding about trees and their management.

Tree Wardens are needed because, over many years, trees, woods and hedgerows have been disappearing from our landscape at an alarming rate due to many causes such as disease, urban sprawl and changes in land management.

If you are not currently a Tree Warden but would be interested in joining then please call Zoë on (01992) 788 203 for more details.

Latest News.....

50 Favourite Trees Project

Our tree wardens will play a vital role in the success of this project and many were present at the launch of the project on the evening of 31st May. Please contact us to get your posts and nomination forms to help spread the word about the project.

10th Anniversary of the Epping Forest Tree Warden Scheme (actually it's 12)

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Epping Forest Tree Warden Scheme we have been invited by The Tree Council to a celebratory reception at the House of Commons on Wednesday 29th November 2006.

The day will be the chance for us all to celebrate the achievement and hard work of the network over the last 10 years.

There are 3 places up for grabs for each network - one for the Tree Warden Co-ordinators, one for a senior executive or Councillor and a Tree Warden. So that we can be fair we would like anyone interested in going to let us know by Monday 26th June and we will put all the names in the hat and draw out a winner!



I believe there have been two key factors that have helped Countrycare over the years. The first has to be the fantastic community support it has enjoyed. This has taken two forms - the



volunteers on practical project days and the support and enthusiasm of the local community groups, Town and Parish Councils. It is obvious that people care about their countryside and Countrycare has been a vehicle to help them do something about it.

Clearly a second significant factor has been the succession of dedicated staff that have taken on the Countrycare ethos and given the service stability. This has to be reflected in the fact that over the twenty years there has been just seventeen paid members of staff many of whom have worked with Countrycare for a number of years.

Over the coming year a series of events are planned. On the 25 May 2006 we organised a staff and volunteer reunion. (see below) It was a great day (the rain stopped for the first time in weeks) and over 50 volunteers and former staff enjoyed a tour of the LNRs and a BBQ.

On a personal level it's hard to believe I have been here 14 years. Time has flown by and there have always been plenty of challenges in what is a hugely rewarding job.



Nazeing Triangle LNR



I would really like to thank everyone who has supported Countrycare over the last twenty years, too many to mention, but you all know who you are. It simply would not have been possible without you.

To finish, I tried to list some of the highlights of the last twenty years that I think help to explain what Countrycare is all about and why we are still here. Here's to the next twenty years!

- 115,000 hours of volunteer time has been given to improving the District, at current rates recognised by grant funding bodies that's £718,750.
- Organised 1100 practical project days since 1996 equating to 2 a week.
- Organised the declaration of 8 new Local Nature Reserves since 2000.
- Helped to secure the future of Swaines Green in Epping.
- Raised over £108,000 of external grant funding since 2000.
- Involved 5,500 school children in practical conservation work.
- Organised over 500 walks, talks and events involving 16,000 members of the public.
- Installed 333 bridges, 1103 waymarkers and fingerposts and 332 gates and stiles across the public rights of way network.
- Created and now maintain 16 Country Walks and Rides totalling 112.5 miles (180km)

Countrycares Volunteer Diary Dates

July

Thursday	06	All Saints Church, Epping Upland
Thursday	20	Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey
Thursday	27	Home Mead LNR, Loughton

August

Thursday	03	Epping Green Millennium Garden, Epping Upland
Sunday	13	Swaines Green, Epping
Thursday	17	All Saints Church, Berners Roding
Thursday	24	Linder's Field LNR, Buckhurst Hill

September

Thursday	07	Nazeing Triangle LNR, Nazeing
Sunday	10	Swaines Green, Epping
Thursday	28	Roughtalley's Wood LNR, North Weald Bassett

Above is just a small selection of the volunteer projects Countrycare will be undertaking over the next 4 months. If you would like details of all our projects in a monthly update, please contact us. Please note the above list may be subject to change.

Unless otherwise stated there will be a pick up from Loughton Station at 9.30 am for all volunteer projects and we will aim to have you back there for 4.30 pm. Please bring a packed lunch, sturdy boots and plenty of enthusiasm. We'll ply you with tea, coffee and biscuits to help keep your energy levels up!



order. Of course the additional information also meant that if a threat did occur then protection could be easily applied.

One of the difficulties, however, with Landmark Trees was putting the information in a form where it was readily available. Another was keeping it up to date. 50 Favourite Trees is a way of building on the same ideas, achieving the same objectives but using the worldwide web and the many advances in digital technology to create a widely available database of people's favourite trees. The project is funded from a grant by Local Heritage Initiative of just under £25,000. The money will allow us to build a database that will be easily accessible to everyone who is interested and which will hold not only photographs, but also voice and even video recordings. The 50 Favourite Trees that are eventually selected will have specially commissioned photographs, but all of the nominated trees can be recorded and made available. The database will also give us an excellent way of recording the Landmark Trees previously submitted and also to revive the idea elsewhere in the district, as a tree warden project.

Through the 50 Favourite Trees Project we hope that we will have a huge variety of suggestions from individuals and groups as to their favourite trees and the reasons why they are important to them. These may be to do with family connections, or personal reasons, or historic importance. We hope that the results will not only be useful but give an interesting insight into why people value trees, as well as being inspiring. We are hoping that we will be able to encourage contributions from children, via their schools, but also from older members of the community, including those in our old peoples homes. We hope to use the project to generate public interest and have the support of the local paper for local publicity.

If you are interested in contributing please contact Paul Hewitt at Epping Forest Countrycare or myself at the contact numbers below. The nomination period will be until the end of the year. We will send you a nomination form by post, or by email, if you contact us at

Countrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk.



50 favourite trees

50 Favourite Trees Is there a tree that you think is really special and that makes life just that bit better? Would you like to tell us why?

We know the trees work very hard for us - for our health, our wellbeing, for biodiversity and for the appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. However, trees also matter for more personal reasons. It may be because of some historical or family connection, their location, size or appearance. Whatever the reason, if you would like to share it with others then the 50 Favourite Trees Project is for you.

The very best suggestions, which may be from individuals or groups, will become the 50 Favourite Trees of Epping Forest District. If the tree you nominate is chosen you will be presented with a poster of your tree, specially designed by a local photographer. Each of the 50 favourite trees will also have a specially designed web page with, as long as you agree, a video recording of you explaining why the tree is special. However, our database will also be designed to hold all the suggestions we receive, so all the entries will be recorded and published on the web site.

The search for the district's 50 favourite trees has been made possible thanks to a £24,744 Local Heritage Initiative Grant, a partnership grant scheme between the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency.

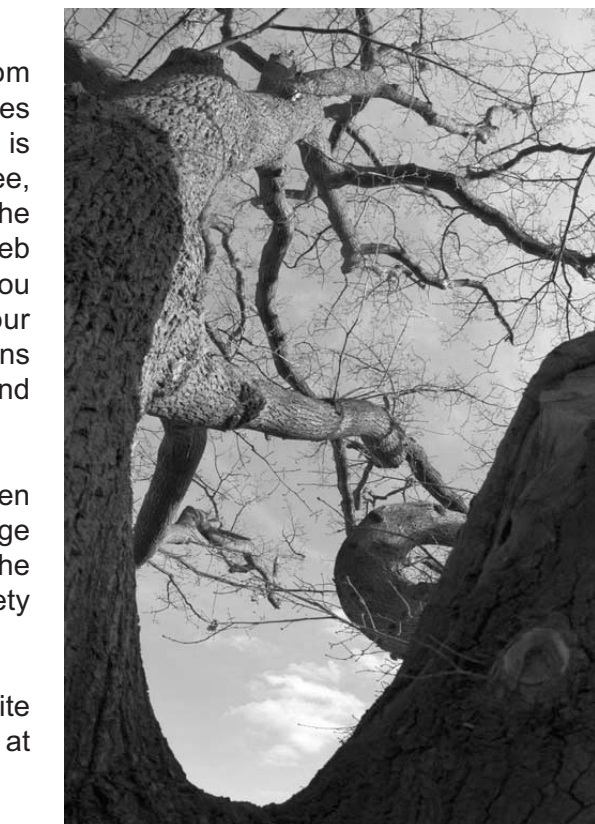
This project builds upon the pilot project, 10 Favourite Trees, chosen by the district tree wardens, exhibited at the Waltham Abbey Museum in 2005.

An exhibition of the 50 Favourite Trees will also be held at the Museum at the end of the project in May 2007. Entries close December 2006.

Protecting our Tree Heritage

One of our priorities over many years has been to find ways of protecting trees without using Tree Preservation Orders. Of course Tree Preservation Orders are extremely useful and effective and they are the main means of protecting trees given us by law. However, they have a number of disadvantages. They are purely negative, containing no positive powers and no means of encouraging people to do the right thing. They work through punishment rather than encouragement. They are very time-consuming to make and enforce and also, of course, they imply a certain lack of trust.

Given the pressures on land and given that when land becomes available there is always a danger that trees may be felled, Tree Preservation Orders remain essential.



But there seems to be a 'gap in the market' for a way of protecting trees that works positively, involves and engages people and isn't overly bureaucratic.

Some years ago we came up with the idea of Landmark Trees as a way to support tree owners but not take control from them. Trees only became 'Landmark Trees' with the agreement of the owner. The owner was approached by the local tree warden, which gave a useful first point of contact. Tree wardens from a number of parishes collected ideas for Landmark Trees. In several parishes, including Roydon and Ongar, the suggestions were widely publicised. The idea was that the most important trees would be protected through positive publicity and making the community as a whole aware of them and their importance, rather than through a legal

Countrycare Project Details



Old Shire Lane in Waltham Abbey is a relatively new site acquired by Countrycare in 2001 and it's hard to remember what it looked like just 5



years ago when Countrycare took it over. To date almost 1000 trees have been planted on this 0.8hectare site, a large pond has been excavated and a wild flower mix has been drilled in to the grassland areas. This year we will be carrying on this successful work, cutting parts of the grassland, putting in a bench, enhancing the wildlife value of the pond and undertaking a large-scale litter picking session.

Meet: 10.00am Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey M25 JT 26 Opposite the Marriot Hotel.

Grid Reference: TL 404 000

Home Mead LNR in Loughton consists of mixed species secondary woodland, scrub and acid grassland. Again Countrycare has achieved a great deal on this site since being involved in its management in 1999. Opening up grassland

areas, thinning scrub/ wooded areas, creating a grassland field layer to the woodland floor. In August 2004 a granite pathway was laid encouraging a great deal more interest in the site, and enhancing its appeal to the local community. The grassland areas are full of bugle, creeping cinquefoil, oxeye daisy and fine grasses, surrounded by age and species diverse scrubby areas, making this mosaic habitat excellent for



invertebrates and small birds. The project over the summer will be to cut and rake off the grassland areas so they are kept open, and fertility is kept to a minimum. There will also be a continuation of putting up motorbike proof fencing and clearing around the pond area.

Meet: 10.00am, at the entrance to the site at the junction of Clays Lane and England's Lane, Loughton. Please park sympathetically in roads nearby (please do not use the golf course car park).

Grid Reference: TQ 438 978.



Nazeing Triangle LNR, possibly one of the smallest Local Nature Reserves in the country, this site is home to the Great crested Newt a

Biodiversity Action plan flag ship species and is a good example of a wetland habitat. Capel Manor College worked on this reserve last winter with us, and did some more willow coppicing and bramble clearance. The project will involve, an annual grass cut and rake off and removal of some bramble.

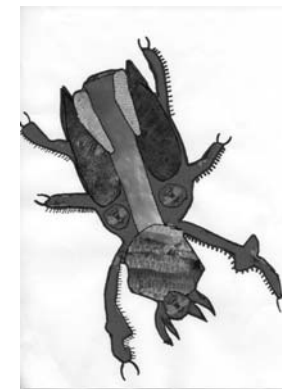
Meet: 10am, Please park sympathetically in Betts Lane and surrounding roads nearby.

Grid reference: TL 414 065

All Saints Church, Epping Upland has been looked after Countrycare for many years now and the benefits are being reaped as an impressive array of spring flowers was to be found there earlier in the year including primroses and cowslips. This project day will be the first of two at the site to cut the wildflower areas and rake off the cuttings to keep nutrient levels low so that the ranker grasses do not start to out compete the wild flowers.

Meet: 10.00am, Parking at the church off Epping Road.

Grid Reference: TL 444 045.



Epping Upland Millennium Garden is situated in the heart of Epping Upland and is becoming an attractive place for local people to visit after several years of work by Countrycare staff and volunteers. The pond was reworked earlier in the year and is now looking much better and the wild flower mix sown with local school children some five years ago is really starting to take off. We will be giving the area its annual cut to further encourage the wild flowers.

Meet: 10.00am, car park next to the Traveller's Friend Pub, Epping Road, Epping Green.

Grid reference: TL 434 055

All Saint's Church, Berners Roding. This attractive churchyard is tucked away right at the top of the district. The day will be spent giving the site its yearly cut to keep the wildflowers blooming! Please note the later start time.

Meet: 10.15am, Essex Farms, Berners Hall Farm car park, Berners Roding.

Grid Reference: TL 602 101.

Linder's Field LNR This lovely Local Nature Reserve has been getting the Countrycare treatment of late and this project day is no exception, as we will be working hard to finish off the access path started back at the start of May. The path will make access by those less able and those using wheelchairs and pushchairs much easier.



Meet: 10.00am, Powell Road entrance. Please park sympathetically in roads nearby.

Grid Reference: TQ 415 945.

Nazeing Triangle LNR. Our smallest Local Nature Reserve (LNR) will be getting a cut on this project day to help prevent it scrubbing over. This lovely wetland site hosts a thriving population of great crested newts and is a delight on sunny days when you can watch the dragonflies hawking backwards and forwards over the water.

Meet: 10am, Please park sympathetically in Betts Lane and surrounding roads nearby.

Grid reference: TL 414 065

Swaine's Green. After a break over the last few months, the practical work calendar is up and running again at Swaine's Green. We will be working on some of the grassland areas to prevent them from scrubbing over and to encourage a greater diversity of flora.

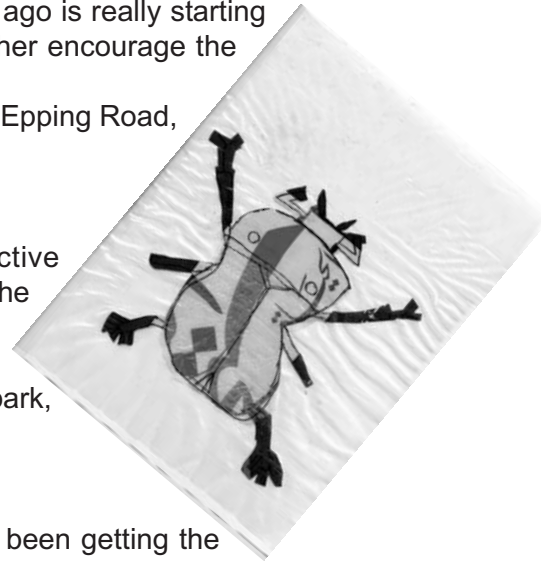
Meet: 10.30am Lower Swaines, Epping at the entrance to the recreation ground. Please note the later start time.

Grid Reference: TL 454 024.

Roughtalley's Wood LNR has several areas of grassland, which we will be turning our attention to. They include a lovely area, which boasts healthy populations of both common spotted orchid and bee orchid. By cutting these areas and removing the cuttings we aim to further improve them for wild flowers.

Meet: 10.00 am, Norway House car park, off Epping Road, North Weald.

Grid Reference: TL 488 037



Half of the 50 acres of the Chigwell (Row) recreation ground referred to, is of course, Chigwell Row Wood LNR, a very small remnant of the Hainault Forest left after the disafforestation acts of 1851, 1858 and 1863.

It was spared because it was given in trust for the people of Chigwell and Lambourne to use as a Recreation ground by George Shillibeer in 1866 - a coach maker. He introduced the first omnibuses to London in 1829 and lived in Chigwell Row at 'The Grove', an Elizabethan Manor house nearby.

The 'ancient rights and customs' referred to, were the grazing of the locals animals and the right to lop wood, which resulted in the pollarded trees. The pollarding was done to provide fuel for heating and for charcoaling. By cutting the trees, with a long handled axe, about 8 ft from the ground it prevented grazing animals from nibbling off the topmost new shoots that would then grow big enough to provide fuel in about another 20years time. Truly sustainable cropping!

The oaks were 'timber' trees, required for ship and house building. They were, as a general rule, not pollarded - but a few were, much to the annoyance of the landowners! This use of the trees and woodland is known as Wood / pasture.

So next time you are in Chigwell Row woods, make sure you take a good look at the Hornbeam pollards and the majestic Oak trees there. You will be looking at a small piece of a woodland scene that hasn't changed much in a thousand years, or even, perhaps, as far back as the Bronze Age!

By Peter Comber



Veteran oak pollard Chigwell Row Wood LNR



Veteran hornbeam pollards

Hainault Forest's 100th Anniversary

One hundred years ago on the 21st July 1906, on Cabin Hill, the Right Honourable the Earl Carrington, G.C.M.G., President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, made a speech of Dedication to a distinguished company from the London County Council and many local authorities.

Thanks to one man, Edward North Buxton, 802 acres had been saved after the tragic disafforestation that started in 1851 when 1,917 acres were grubbed out in six weeks and converted to farmland.

Two further acts allowed nearly all the rest of the 4,000 acres of Hainault Forest to be enclosed.

As we entered the 20th century, Edward North Buxton saw an opportunity to repurchase some of the enclosed land that included Fox Burrows Farm. The total cost would be £21,830; half was raised from private subscriptions and the local councils, and the remainder contributed by the London County Council. An act was passed; 'The Hainault (Lambourne), Fox Burrows and Grange Hill Act, 1903'.

After the farmland was converted to parkland and new woodland was planted, the Dedication ceremony took place on Cabin Hill on 21st July 1906.

Lord Carrington in his dedication speech, paid tribute to Edward North Buxton, "to whom it was largely due that a fine open space had been rescued and saved for the use of their fellow citizens".

He concluded; "In the name of the public of our mighty country, in their name, and in the name of their children and their children's children, I declare this magnificent forest of Hainault open, and belonging to the public for ever and ever."

This pronouncement was received with loud cheers from the thousands of those present and the band played The National Anthem.

On Saturday 15 July 2006 there will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary. See events.

Chigwell Row Wood ...Nothing can exceed the beauty of this fragment of the ancient forest



"... the 50 acres of Chigwell recreation ground on the south-west of the Romford Road, remains in more or less its original condition, save for the growth of the pollard trees since the disafforestation, and it is here that we can trace the effect of those ancient rights and customs which have already been referred to. Nothing can exceed the beauty of this fragment of the ancient Forest. The tall oaks rising above the gnarled and spreading pollards, the dense undergrowth of holly and fern broken by winding cattle paths and grassy lawns, present a charm and variety which could be attained in no other way, and telling their own story of the days that are gone."

Extract from 'The Essex Naturalist' 1909-1910 Vol. XVI - the journal of the Essex Field Club.

It is hard to believe that these words were written nearly one hundred years ago; as they could have easily been written yesterday!

Events

COMMON OR GARDEN *an exploration of sheds and village greens*

Common or Garden questions our concept of the quintessential village green and provides the opportunity to explore the notions of place, home and sanctuary. Devised by Sofie Layton, Common or Garden is an interactive 'installation' sited at five village greens across the District; Roydon, Matching Green, Theydon Bois, Epping Upland and Chipping Ongar. Artists Roxane Permar, Mark Storer, Carl Stevenson, Anne Eggebert, Sofie Layton and Emily Jost have worked with schools and community groups to create unique and innovative interpretations of an 8x6 foot garden shed. Each shed explores a diverse and eclectic mix of ideas, including exchange and communication, inner sanctums, magical spaces, thresholds and portals. There is even a sumptuous fairy tale shed transformed into an edible treat. A magical event for all the family full of intrigue and beauty, expand your imagination as you journey from green to green.

Shed Installations

Sat 17 & Sun 18 June 10am - 4pm

Come and explore all five sheds at Roydon, Theydon Bois, Matching Green, Epping Upland and Chipping Ongar. You will be able to tour around the district with a map and information programme about the individual sheds, their background, the artists and groups involved in their creation. Also in conjunction with this event Epping Forest Countrycare will be running a circular guided walk from Matching Green to Matching on 18th June 2006, promoting the '50 Greatest trees of Epping District' a project funded by the Lottery Heritage Initiative.

Sat 8 & Sun 9 July 10am - 4pm

A culmination of all six sheds at Theydon Bois Village Green. During this weekend join us for a family picnic (12-2pm on Saturday), guided walks with Countrycare, gardening, performances and other events.

For further information please telephone 01992 564551 or email: efa@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
www.eppingforestarts.org.uk

24th June - Family Fun Day at Roding Valley. An environmental day, celebrating 20 years or nature reserve designation so come and join us for bug hunting, arts activities and much more. For further details please contact us.

15th July - Hainault Forest 100th Anniversary. As 2006 is a Centenary year for Hainault Forest Country Park the dedication Ceremony that took place on 21 July 1906 will be celebrated on Saturday 15 July 2006 opening to the public from 11.00 a.m.

This event will feature activities and displays provided by local community and environmental groups. Come and join in the fun, entertainment will be available for the whole family to enjoy. Admission and activities are FREE with the exception of model train and Shire horse and carriage rides. Attractions include:

Centenary Concert
Shire horse & carriage rides (fee payable)
Kite making workshop & flying display
Environmental games
Traditional fair ground rides & much more

Model train rides (fee payable)
Cricket, football & archery activities
Guided Nature Trail
Countryside Displays & Stalls (craft items for Sale)

Roydon Conservation Area Character Appraisal

At the end of March this year, we sent out the first draft of the Roydon Conservation Area Character Appraisal for public consultation. Over the last two months, local residents and business owners in Roydon have had the chance to have their input into the final version of the character appraisal, which is due to be published this summer.



View across the village green in Roydon

What is a character appraisal?

Local authorities have a duty to formulate proposals to preserve and enhance their conservation areas. However, in recent years there has been increasing pressure on them from the government to produce character appraisals and accompanying management plans for all their conservation areas. A character appraisal looks in detail at a conservation area and attempts to define what its most important characteristics and features are. It also highlights any parts of the conservation area that may be in need of improvement. Following on from this, a management plan sets out specific plans for the protection and enhancement of a conservation area over a number of years. Character appraisals are a useful management tool for controlling and guiding development in a conservation area and they provide a basis for making all kinds of planning decisions that affect the area.

What is a conservation area?

Conservation areas are often historic centres of towns or villages, but they can also be historic residential areas or country houses in large landscaped grounds. A conservation area is officially defined as: 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'



The Niche, St Anne's Cottage & Dowsett's House, Harlow Road, Roydon

(Section 69 of the Planning Act 1990 - Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas). Special controls apply in a conservation area which mean that you need consent to demolish any building or part of a building or carry out works on unprotected trees. There are also restrictions on the size of extensions, satellite dishes and advertisements and any new development in a conservation area has to be designed so that it complements the character of existing buildings. The aim of all this is to ensure that the special character and historic interest of the conservation area is retained for the benefit of future generations.

Roydon Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Roydon conservation area contains a large number of listed buildings, many of which date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. A large proportion of these are built in a local traditional style and feature traditional elements such as hand-made plain clay tile roofs and traditional weatherboarding. The conservation area was generally found to be in good condition. One main problem we identified was a number of intrusive road



An untidy group of signs at the top of the High Street

signs or groups of road signs which detract from the conservation area in certain places. We also identified two 'gap' sites in the conservation area where there may be some potential for sympathetic redevelopment. The management plan at the end of the appraisal sets out the Council's plans to collaborate with the Highway Authority to reduce and improve public signage and other street furniture in the conservation area and work with local residents and community groups to protect and enhance the area's historic fabric.

Future character appraisals

Roydon Conservation Area Character Appraisal is to be the first of many such reports. There are currently 25 conservation areas in Epping Forest District and the Council plans to produce more character appraisals over the next few years. The next character appraisal will be Matching Green conservation area, which is due to commence this summer.

How residents can help

If you live in a conservation area, here are some ways you can help to protect and enhance its character and appearance:

- **Keep your property in good condition.** Maintaining and repairing the external features of your house and keeping your front garden cared for and tidy goes a long way towards creating a positive image.

- **If you live in an old house, always retain original features where possible.** In general, use traditional materials for repairs and replacements and avoid using modern materials that are incompatible with historic buildings such as aluminium, uPVC, concrete and cement.
- **Make sure that any additions to your house are in keeping with the building and the conservation area.** As a rule, mass-produced 'period-style' front doors, windows, and 'add-on' features such as lamps and shutters should be avoided as they look out of place in an authentic historic area. Extensions and services such as satellite dishes, waste pipes and burglar alarms should also be discreetly located so that they are not visually intrusive.

Further Information

The first draft of the Roydon Conservation Area Character Appraisal for public consultation and it is now available to view online at:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/conservation/conservation_areas.asp

Alternatively, you can obtain a paper copy by contacting:

Conservation Section
Planning Services
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping
CM16 4BZ

Email: conservation@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

For further advice and information about character appraisals and conservation areas in Epping Forest District contact: Lucy Davis 01992 564068