



New Forest Association

**2007
Annual Report
&
Statement of Accounts**

Registered Charity No. 260328

New Forest Association

Patron

Belinda, Lady Montagu

President

Maldwin Drummond, O.B.E., J.P., D.L., Hon.D.Sc.

Chairman of the Council

William Ziegler
Lords Oak Cottage
Landford
Salisbury
SP5 2DW

Hon Secretary

Michael Chilcott
Penny Cottage
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Vice-Chairman

Peter Roberts
Sirius
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SP6 2NF

Hon Treasurer

Michael Perkins
Critchells Farmhouse
Lockerley,
Romsey
SO51 0JD

Trustees

Maldwin Drummond
David Humbert
Peter Roberts

COUNCIL MEMBERS

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2008

Mrs. P.Harvey-Richards, D.Humbert, Miss D.Macnair, Mrs A.Millar, T.Moore, P.Marshall, M.Perkins, R.Reeves, P.Roberts

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2009

M.Abbott, M.Chilcott, J.Cox, R.Errington, R.Manley, N.Sanderson, Mrs. J.Tubbs, W.Ziegler.

To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2010

G.Baker, P.Frost, E.Marris, G.Babey, G.Barnes.

Website

www.newforestassociation.com

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – 2007/08

“If you go down in the woods today, you will be sure of a great surprise.”

Some will be able to hum the “Teddy Bear’s Picnic”. Others, with a more serious bent, will remember the second purpose of a National Park is “to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public”. So “all the teddy bears that ever there was who gather there forever because” will be generally welcomed. The gathering of children and bears (Natural England) seems to be the spirit of the “new” New Forest.

However, the great surprise in the Forest today has nothing to do with children or bears. The reported failure to re-appoint the present Official Verderer for a third term is not only signally ungrateful but it is short sighted. Under his direction, the Court has made great strides in improving the lot of Commoners. The Single Farm Payment for Commoners owes much to Emma Rigglesworth of the National Park working with the Verderers. The Court’s document “Precious Wilderness or Suburban Park” is an important contribution.

The National Park Authority and the New Forest District Council are to be congratulated for the progress it has made with schemes such as the New Forest Marque. However, there are worries, from the planning point of view, that a tailor made New Forest Plan is long over due. This is sad because great strides were made by the New Forest Committee so the transition between the policies of the New Forest District Council and the Park could be relatively swift and seamless. Yet we are probably two years away from a final document.

DEFRA, through its own clumsiness and neglect of the Nolan rules, has allowed the blame for originally denying the re-appointment of the Official Verderer to devolve on the heads of the Forestry Commission and the National Park Authority. This has not helped in ensuring the three bodies work together. Their responsibilities are clear and their duty to the New Forest, its people, culture and the nation are well set out. There are also more than enough people to do the tasks.

Perhaps the thrust of the New Forest Association over the next couple of years should be to identify the problems facing the National Park Authority and suggest ways in which these can be overcome. The Association has been particularly good at doing this sort of thing in the past. The New Forest Association supported the idea of a National Park and some of our members are now working hard on that body.

I am to retire at this Annual General Meeting as your President. I was elected in 2003, having been in the same office some time ago when I was succeeded by Belinda, Lady Montagu and then Lord Manners. The Association is doing a great job under William Ziegler and his officers who I would like to thank on your behalf.

“If you go down to the woods tomorrow, you may be sure of a joyful surprise... the re-appointment of Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre as Official Verderer!”

Maldwin Drummond
President
February, 2008

Chairman’s Report 2007

In our last newsletter the editor included an extract from an Annual report of 60 years ago, which put me in mind to read some of the old Annual reports I have in my possession. It has been a fascinating exercise, and time and time again it has reminded me of the fact that so many of the problems facing the New Forest today are not new. Traffic, camping, parking, gravel extraction, animal accidents, inappropriate forestry practices and ongoing planning issues like the Lyndhurst Bypass. They all keep reappearing time and time again.

It has also demonstrated to me how successful the Association has been over the years. Repeatedly there are reports of issues being successfully tackled which, if not, would have had seriously detrimental effects on the Forest. It certainly helps put the work that we do into perspective and makes clear the importance of our role in the New Forest.

In particular I have been reading the report for 1968, as it is 40 years ago and covered 1967 during which the Association celebrated its 100th birthday. The following are some extracts from it.

Centenary Annual General Meeting

The Centenary Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Domus, Beaulieu on 22nd July, 1967, the 100th anniversary of the holding of the first formal meeting of the Association. As a certain number of members failed to sign the Attendance Book, the exact number of members who attended is not known, but nearly 140 members and their guests attended the Fork Supper which was held after the meeting.

Lt. Col. Sir Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre addressed the meeting on the occasion of the Association's Centenary, and spoke both of the

*history of the Association and of problems which had to be faced in the future. Lord Congleton**, the President, replied formally, and thanked Sir Oliver for his address. At the Fork Supper which followed there was a most useful exchange of views between the officers and members of the Association.*

** Sadly, the Annual report started with a long obituary for Lord Congleton who died in October 1967.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. R. V. Harvey, the Treasurer, reports:-

"On examining the membership figures it was found that during 1967 the total number of members was 678 of which there were 351 Life Members. The number of annual paying members was 327 of which 157 have not paid their subscriptions up to and including 1967.

The income from present members, providing that all pay, would be approximately £82. This, plus dividends from investments, would make the total income of the Association about £118 in a year. Examination of the Balance Sheet will show that this does not cover the heavy cost of printing including the Annual Report and other necessary expenses. The present excess of Expenditure over Income if continued will eventually seriously deplete the funds of the Association. New members, including new Life Members, cannot be relied on to close the gap between Expenditure and Income. The amount received in subscriptions during 1967 included a high proportion of new Life Members and I attribute this to the good work done by our Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Members of the Council."

At that time Life membership cost £5.00 and ordinary membership 5/- (25p)

Caravan, Camping and Parking Sites in the New Forest

One of the questions which has most occupied the officers and Council of the Association during the period under review has been the question of the provision by the Forestry Commission of special areas in the Forest for caravan, camping and parking purposes.

Whilst your Council feels that the right place for the larger caravan and camping sites, with permanent facilities, is outside the perimeter of the New Forest, it has recognised that there is an existing problem created by the large number of caravanners, campers, and picnickers in motor cars who are already using the open forest. There have been a number of exchanges of views on these questions between the

Association, the Forestry Commission and the Verderers, and it is felt that these have proved useful. The Association has put forward comments to the Forestry Commission upon the choice of locations by the Forestry Commission for concentrations of these activities. and the Deputy Surveyor has agreed to keep the Association informed of any further proposals made by the Forestry Commission.

And most importantly, the Countryside Bill, the concerns about which encapsulate so many issues still pressing today.

The Countryside Bill

Mr. H. C. Passmore, who has been intimately concerned with this Bill on behalf of the Association, writes:-

"In 1968 the English countryside has been faced with one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before Parliament for many years. The Countryside Bill, introduced with a view to allow the public greater freedom to enjoy the country, contains much that will be welcomed, but it also poses a potential threat which could easily outweigh all its advantages.

Broadly speaking it creates a new authority known as the Countryside Commission, and to this body together with certain Councils and the Forestry Commission are given very wide powers to acquire land for the purpose of constructing caravan camps, picnic sites, public parks and other recreational facilities. In providing such facilities power is given to erect buildings (including cafes) and carry out any necessary works. There are of course many other provisions in the Bill but those set out above most directly affect the Forest.

The Council of this Association, together with the New Forest Verderers, recognised immediately that such wide powers were fraught with danger, for an area of great natural beauty such as the New Forest could be destroyed utterly if these powers were used without understanding. Providing the authority concerned had an intimate knowledge of the Forest and its unique way of life then perhaps the provisions of the Bill could be implemented without ill effect, but many of the decisions might be made by bodies whose members had but a cursory knowledge of the Forest.

The Court of Verderers by its very nature must always comprise men whose knowledge of the Forest and its way of life is profound and

who surely could be relied upon to be the final arbiters on any schemes vitally affecting the New Forest.

That the Verderers are forward thinking is proved by their caravan and picnic scheme. which anticipated the Countryside Bill and which is ready to be put into operation forthwith

Your Council therefore, supported the Verderers in their representations to the Minister, requesting that the power delegated to the Forestry Commission under the Bill should be subject to the consent of the Verderers. Two deputations waited on the Ministry and were sympathetically received, and finally the Official Verderer (the Earl of Amesbury) obtained in the House of Lords the consent of the Minister to this request.

This was a tremendous victory and underlines clearly the need for a vigilant Court of Verderers and a live New Forest Association, for it is certain this is not the last time the New Forest will be this threatened.

This was a tremendous victory and underlines clearly the need for a vigilant Court of Verderers and a live New Forest Association, for it is certain this is not the last time the New Forest will be thus threatened.

It now remains for the Verderers in conjunction with the Forestry Commission to provide facilities for the better enjoyment of the Forest by the public, without damaging the amenities or destroying its character as a wild tract of unique country, and in their efforts they can certainly rely upon the full co-operation of the New Forest Association.

Membership

At the time of writing this report our membership stands at 1021, of which 391 are Life members, 626 are Ordinary members and 4 Corporate.

Although it is gratifying to see a slight increase in membership we would still like to see a substantial increase in numbers if possible. To do this we would ask you, our members, to help by spreading the word about the work we do and encourage others who either live in, or just visit, the Forest to join and support us in our vital work of preserving this unique and wonderful place. To this end we have included a membership form at the back of this report and would urge you to use it to encourage a friend or neighbour to join us.

As you will have noted from the AGM Agenda, there is a proposal to introduce a new membership category and to increase subscription levels. The new category will be for Affiliate members such as Parish Councils and local amenity societies. The suggested minimum subscription level for Affiliate members is £25.00 per annum.

At present the subscription for Corporate members (Companies & Businesses) is £12.00, and it was felt that this was too low and that a sliding scale was appropriate. It is therefore proposed that the annual subscription fees increases to £50 for Corporate members with 1 – 5 employees, £100 for those with 6 – 10 employees and £150 for more than 10 employees.

For ordinary (annual) members it is proposed to increase the subscription to £15 when paid by Banker's Order and £17 by cheque or cash. Life membership to increase to £300.

These represent quite substantial increases and the Council considers them necessary for a number of reasons, the most obvious being:-

- Inflation. The cost of every thing we do continues to rise, from the cost of postage and printing to insurance.
- Reserves. We are conscious that although our reserves have risen they are, in the overall scheme of things, small and would be woefully inadequate in the event of a major problem arising, especially at short notice. In the past we have had to employ the services of a barrister and know from experience that the existing reserves could be wiped out within a matter of days. When discussed in Council it was felt that we should be aiming for a “war chest” of at least £50,000 in excess of our normal reserves. An ambitious aim, but one we believe well worth trying to achieve.
- The lack of reserves also acts as a constraint. An example of this might be our involvement in a matter where our case would be much strengthened by a professional ecological survey, but where it was felt that the cost, as a drain on our reserves, would be too great. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs, as it impinges on our ability to carry out our aims.
- We are occasionally approached to offer financial support to projects, which although we feel would benefit the Forest are unable to support due to fiscal restraints. This can also apply to projects which emanate from the Association itself, and again this is a situation we consider unsatisfactory.

- Lastly, we are forced to recognise that there is just too much work to do without paid help. Of all the National Park Societies, we are one of the few who survive wholly on volunteer work. As a result we are conscious that there are things we could be doing and others which we are doing inadequately. However, before even considering employing someone to help for a few hours a week, we need to ensure that we can afford it.

We hope that you understand our position, and that this proposed increase will not affect your continuing support.

AGM

Last year we moved the AGM to a Saturday morning, and the response to this was very positive, particularly from those who attended the field trip in the afternoon. Personally, I found it fascinating to be in the open forest in the presence of some real experts whose knowledge and enthusiasm helped me look at it in a wholly different light.

Buoyed by this success we are repeating the format this year and hope to see you on 19th April.

The Official Verderer

You will all have been aware of the mystery surrounding the re appointment, or otherwise, of the incumbent Official verderer, Mr. Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre. I am not sure that we will ever get to the bottom of it, but to me one thing is quite clear. Someone either in or with the ear of Whitehall has been meddling and trying to influence what is meant to be an open and transparent process.

Given the excellent track record of Mr Crosthwaite Eyre in carrying out the job it can only be surmised that his success in making the Verderers Court more efficient and relevant than it has been for decades did not suit the aims of others. I am not sure what annoyed me most about this fiasco, the fact that A.N. Other wanted to deprive the Forest of such an able person or that they felt they could bend the rules so overtly and think no one would notice.

Happily the ensuing outcry was such that it was finally made clear that he was eligible to re apply, and I am very pleased that he has done so. At the time of writing this report we do not know if his application will be successful, but hope that whoever is chosen will be as independent and strong in their support of Commoning and the Forest as a whole, as he has been.

The National Park Authority.

In many ways things have not changed since my last annual report, with the Authority still working to find its long term position in the Forest. However

things are progressing, and they have now moved towards the next stage; being the preparation of detailed policies on which to centre their efforts in the future.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, to achieve this they have been seeking the views of numerous Forest bodies and organisations on a number of issues to establish what are considered the most important and pressing problems facing the New Forest National Park and to outline policies to tackle them.

The result of all our deliberations will come together at the final meeting in March, after which a full set of policies will be drawn up and presented to the wider public for comment.

It has been a long job involving many man-hours and, as you can imagine, the New Forest Association has been well represented and positive in putting forward its case. We can only hope that the outcome of all this work bears fruit and results in a set of practicable and workable policies that can be implemented to the benefit of the New Forest National Park.

William Ziegler, Chairman, March 2008

Committee Reports 2007 – 2008

Membership & Development Committee

In June last year I took over the Membership and Development Committee from Mark Abbott, who had run the committee for a little over a year. Although Mark said that he was just acting as caretaker he skilfully guided us through another very busy time for the Association. A big thanks to him for all his hard work and commitment.

In a world becoming used to sophisticated presentation systems and technology, and with standards of exhibition becoming more and more professional, the Association has to constantly update and refresh its message and ways of explaining the work that we do to the public. A very generous grant enabled us to purchase our own display tents, projector and screen, and trailer last year - just in time for our summer 2007 'show season'. It has proved a huge benefit to be able to pack, and keep, everything we need in one vehicle, and by the end of the round of shows and fêtes the set-up and striking of the stand had become a very slick operation!

Some of the best response we had came from the smaller fêtes and shows we went to, and we intend to spread our net even wider this year, manpower and time permitting. This is where we would like your help, to tell us the dates of local events in your area this summer where you think people might be interested to learn about the Association, particularly in the south of the Forest. And, most importantly, we would like you to come and help out on the stand –

absolutely no experience necessary! A list of the shows we already know we will be going to are, New Forest Show 29-31 July, Burley Show 2 August, Ellingham Show 9 August, Romsey Show 13 September.

Refining our exhibition and making it more interesting and appealing is an ongoing process and we hope to be incorporating some changes to the stand during the season. And once we have attracted people on to the stand we then like them not only to join but to buy our merchandise!

Last year we tried out some organic Hessian bags printed with our logo. These proved so popular we completely sold out and we will be doing them again this year. To carry around in this we will also be selling a range of pencils, pens, writing pads and coasters, again, all with our logo and name on them. The coasters will also reproduce scenes from the Embroidery.

Still a very popular seller are the Christmas and blank cards with photographs of the Forest from the collection of the late Terry Heathcote. Thanks again to Graham Baker for his unstinting work in putting them together and to Viv Heathcote for letting us use Terry's pictures.

As part of the general overhaul of everything we produce we are also currently going through a complete review of all our printed matter, from the joining leaflet to booklets, policy documents and reports. This is so that fresher designs and texts will be ready for printing when old stock is exhausted. We intend these to begin to appear later in the year.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who has helped us throughout the year, from manning a show stand to stuffing envelopes, or just fetching the coffee! If any other members would be interested in getting involved and can volunteer a little time we would be delighted to hear from you. There is no requirement for expert knowledge in anything; just knowing that you care enough about the Forest to belong to the NFA is enough!

Roly Errington, Chairman, March 2008

Land Management Committee

'Recovering Lost Landscapes', the New Forest Association's land management committee's vision document which seeks to guide Forest Design Plan process, was launched in October 2006. Consequently, during the early months of 2007, there was a fair amount of reaction to Recovering Lost Landscapes, including correspondence in the *Lymington Times*, and responses from the New Forest Commoners Defence Association and the Forestry Commission. In some cases our proposals were welcomed whilst the perceived shortcomings of our work were the focus of other respondents. Our committee's overview of the reaction

to Recovering Lost Landscapes concluded that further explanation of some aspects of the work was required (for example our proposals on removal or retention of fence lines) and that further work on the economic consequences of the changes we propose is needed.

To further promote Recovering Lost Landscapes we gave a talk in April to a group of members of the National Park Authority and in July we gave a full presentation with power point slides to the New Forest Consultative Panel. In both cases, we received an enthusiastic reception, with the in-depth question and answer sessions that are to be expected on the release of a document such as this.

Other work for the committee has included attendance of the Open Forest Advisory Committee meetings in April and October and our response to other reports and proposals. The operation, and indeed the existence of campsites in A & O woodlands remains a very fundamental concern.

The members of the Land Management committee are Jenni Tubbs, Jon Cox, Peter Frost, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson and David Humbert.

David Humbert, Chairman, March 2008

Planning Committee

These continue to be interesting times in the development of the National Park Authority as it begins to grasp the problems of managing this fascinating yet complex area. On a day to day basis the key to how it manages the pressures is seen in the development control process which this Association continues to monitor and comment on, as appropriate. The Authority has had a tricky start with a large percentage of its decisions being overturned at Appeal. Liaison between the bodies involved in these processes has led to an improvement of this 'failure' rate. It will be far easier for the Planning Inspectorate as well as the NPA once they are working to their own policies, rather than those of their predecessors. Inherited policies, particularly those from Salisbury District, have given rise to considerable concern because of the rash of developers keen to replace perfectly good dwellings with two new, often large ones that do not fit well with the area at all. The character of Nomansland as a Forest edge community has all but gone and stands in marked contrast to Woodgreen which still oozes the charm of its origins.

Conservation Areas

This year has seen the introduction of a major plank in retaining all that is good about the built heritage with new large Conservation Areas. We have supported this process, in person, by letter and by 'presentment' at the Authority meetings

for we feel our input plays a fundamental role in recognising and safeguarding an important part of the cultural heritage that makes this area what it is.

New Forest New Chapter

This is the title given to the start of the NPA's budding plans for managing the Park. Through the autumn and winter there has been much community involvement and feedback on the various aspects of these developing plans. The officers whilst guiding the process seem genuinely keen to receive feedback which we have been happy to supply both on the day at the various workshops and by a more studied approach through written submissions. It has also provided a useful forum for us to influence the thinking of other Forest users with, often, half a dozen NFA Council members attending events in one guise or another.

Major proposals

The threat that came with the proposals for a large new interpretation centre at Brockenhurst has receded although plans remain for re-use of the farm buildings. These applications show how important it is for bodies in the New Forest to take a sounding before their plans become too advanced and without due consideration of the impact they may have on the area.

The proposed extension of flight paths over the New Forest has involved us in considerable work but unfortunately to little effect. We have worked with a number of organisations on this including National Park planners, Council for National Parks and a number of local councils both within and beyond the New Forest. The consensus was that there is much at fault with the process whereby the organisation responsible has consulted widely and then ignored virtually all responses. There are clear implications for losing something of the tranquillity of the area particularly when it is noted that there are major expansion plans for Bournemouth and Southampton airports.

Similarly, as I write consideration of plans to alleviate Lyndhurst's traffic problems are awaited. The Association has played its part in offering advice on the difficulties that some routes would meet. It has also taken the time to influence other organisations with an interest in this matter.

We have a strong committee and my thanks go to Graham Baker, Mick Chilcott, Liz Malcolm and Edward Marris. I am sorry to say that due to the accidental death of David Addison last year we lost an important and influential thinker who has helped not only ourselves but also a number of conservation organisations in the Forest for many years.

Peter Roberts, Chairman, February 2008

What is a Conservation Area?

As you may have heard, a number of areas within the New Forest National Park have or are being designated conservation areas. As there has been much talk about these and what it actually means to be in one we felt that it might be of use to include some information about them. The following is a resumé of the facts, and is not exhaustive.

A conservation area is defined in Section 69(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an "area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". It is the quality and interest of the area, rather than that of individual buildings which is the prime consideration in designating a conservation area.

This Act imposes a duty on local planning authorities to designate conservation areas and to review their areas from time to time to consider whether further designation of conservation areas is called for. As a result of this duty the National Park Authority, as the planning authority, has been reviewing conservation areas in the National Park of which there are presently 18 with 4 more already proposed

The main aim of designation is to recognise the special value of an area, and to alert all to the need to apply the highest possible design standards to the buildings and associated landscape. This necessitates additional planning controls, which include:-

Conservation Area Consent

Consent is normally needed to demolish all or the majority of any building with a total cubic content exceeding 115 cubic metres. Consent is also needed for the entire removal of any gate, wall, fence or railing more than 1 metre high abutting a highway, public footpath or open space, or more than 2 metres high elsewhere.

Planning Permission

Planning controls over what householders can do to their properties in a conservation area are effectively identical to those applying within a National Park. However, planning applications, which, in the opinion of the Authority, would affect the character or appearance of the conservation area, must be advertised to allow public comment. This may include proposals outside a conservation area if it is felt that the proposal would affect a conservation area.

Trees

Trees in a conservation area have the same protection as those covered by Tree Preservation Orders. It is an offence to fell or prune trees with a trunk diameter

greater than 75mm (3 inches) without prior written consent from the Local Planning Authority. The Authority must be given six weeks notice of the intention to carry out work to protected trees in a conservation area.

Design of new development

The Authority has a duty to ensure that the character of a conservation area is preserved or enhanced, particularly when considering applications for development.

Adoption of additional planning controls

The planning authority may also impose extra planning controls within conservation areas by the use of an Article 4(2) Direction which removes the normal Permitted Development Rights from dwelling houses. This could mean that for buildings deemed to have a higher intrinsic value planning permission would be required for certain specified works, as set out below:-

- the erection, alteration or removal of a chimney from a dwelling house;

and any of the following permitted development rights for development *which would front a highway, waterway or open space*:

- the enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwelling house;
- the alteration of a dwelling house roof;
- the erection or construction of a porch outside any external door of a dwelling house;
- the provision, within the curtilage of a dwelling house, of a building, enclosure, swimming or other pool required for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house as such, or the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of such a building or enclosure;
- the provision within the curtilage of a dwelling house of a hard surface for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house as such;
- the installation, alteration or replacement of a satellite antenna on a dwelling house or within its curtilage;
- the erection or demolition of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure within the curtilage of a dwelling house; and
- the painting of a dwelling house or a building or enclosure within the curtilage of a dwelling house.

Although the additional requirements and powers may appear draconian, it does not mean that additional restrictions will automatically be imposed. What it does mean is that the planning authority has a duty to look more closely at any proposed development in Conservation areas and if needed can then use the additional powers to stop inappropriate works being carried out.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

Held at Minstead Hall
28th April 2007

Sixty one members attended. The Chairman, William Ziegler, opened the meeting and welcomed those present. The President, Maldwin Drummond, was unable to attend but had sent his good wishes to the meeting. The Chairman referred to the meeting day and time – a Saturday at 10.30am – as an experiment and invited comment in due course.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from 153 members and a further 10 were given verbally at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM had been printed in the Annual Report. On the proposal of Graham Baker, seconded by John Alsopp, the meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the minutes.

3. Matters arising.

There were none.

4. Amendment to the Rules of the Association – Clause 14.1.

Resolution: To bring the Association's rules within current Charity Commission policy, delete the words 'by order' and replace with the words 'except with prior consent'.

Following an explanation of the procedural matter by the Hon. Sec., the resolution was proposed by David Humbert, seconded by Peter Roberts and carried unanimously.

5. Amendment to the Objects of the Association – Clause 2.1.

Resolution: To delete the words 'including the areas added by the New Forest Act 1964' and replace with the words 'as administered by the National Park Authority'.

The Chairman explained that the effect of the resolution was to align the Association's rules with the boundary of the National Park.

The resolution was proposed by David Humbert, seconded by Peter Roberts and carried unanimously.

6. a. The Annual Report.

The Chairman took members through the Annual Report.

He mentioned the new campsite operator, Forest Holidays, and thanked three Council members for briefing the organisation regarding European and National legislation and its significance for the New Forest.

Objections to Southampton's Laser proposal are widespread with the Association making its opposition clear.

The National Parks Societies' Conference from 17th to 19th October 2008 will be hosted by the Association at Foxlease, Lyndhurst.

Relationships with the National Park Authority continue to develop satisfactorily. No dire consequences have arisen as a result of the designation and senior NPA officers have welcomed regular meetings with the officers of the Association. Many frequent contacts are made with NPA officers and members on both formal and informal occasions. We are confident that Clive Chatters, the NPA Chairman and a former Council member of the Association, will always 'put the Forest first'.

Membership had shown a small decline and it was clear that there is a real need to communicate with and to recruit younger members. Around 50% of members are in the 70s age group.

New display material had been used at a number of local shows. It is now housed in the Association's new trailer which is decorated with a large logo.

The report was adopted unanimously on the proposal of Georgina Babey, seconded by David Addison.

6. b. The Accounts.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Chairman noted that the Association's reserves had increased. He recommended that they need to be further strengthened in view of the high cost of any future, as yet unforeseen, legal costs.

The accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of John Allsopp, seconded by Roger Richmond.

7. Election of Officers.

President: Maldwin Drummond was proposed by Peter Frost, seconded by David Addison and elected unanimously.

Hon. Secretary: Michael Chilcott was proposed by Edward Marris, seconded by Belinda Lady Montagu and elected unanimously.

Hon. Treasurer: Michael Perkins was proposed by John Allsopp, seconded by David Addison and elected unanimously.

Auditor: Robin Lloyd of BDO Stoy Hayward was proposed by Graham Baker, seconded by David Humbert and elected unanimously.

8. Election to Council.

Graham Baker and Peter Frost were unanimously re elected on the proposal of Belinda Lady Montagu, seconded by Jeane Pollard.

New members Paul Hibberd, Edward Marris, Georgina Babey and Geoff Barnes were unanimously elected on the proposal of Michael Chilcott, seconded by Joyce Gifford.

Not standing for re election were: Roger Richmond, Joyce Gifford, Edwin Gifford, and Paul Hayes. The Chairman thanked them all for their service to the Association.

He thanked also Clive Chatters and Mike Cooper who had stood down during the year.

9. Other Business.

Alan Goodfellow asked if the Association had Public Liability insurance cover. The Chairman replied that not only this cover was held but that further cover had recently been negotiated to provide Trustee protection. The total cost of insurance had been reduced despite the increased cover.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 11.06am.

Following the meeting members heard an account of the Planning Committee's activities from its Chairman, Peter Roberts. They saw also a detailed presentation of the Land Management Committee's report 'Recovering Lost Landscapes' by Neil Sanderson and Peter Frost. After lunch members were taken on a guided field trip which illustrated aspects of the report.

New Forest Association - Trustees' Annual Report.

2007 - 2008

1. Legal and administrative information.

Registered Charity No 260328

The New Forest Association was founded in 1867 and is run according to rules which were restated in the 1999 Annual Report.

The New Forest Association can be contacted via the secretary:

New Forest Association, Michael Chilcott, Penny Cottage, Silver Street, Emery Down, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7DX

The trustees are: Maldwin Drummond, David Humbert and Peter Roberts

The officers of the New Forest Association are:

President:	Maldwin Drummond
Chairman of the council:	William Ziegler
Vice-Chairman of the council:	Peter Roberts
Hon. Treasurer:	Michael Perkins
Hon. Secretary:	Michael Chilcott

2. Aims and organisation.

The object of the Association is to promote the preservation for the benefit of the public generally of the New Forest as administered by the National Park Authority and generally to protect and preserve the character and amenities thereof and to protect and preserve the areas of scientific and ecological importance and the flora and fauna therein.

The New Forest Association is a membership organisation having Life Members, Annual Members and Corporate members paying a subscription.

3. Review of progress and achievements.

Throughout 2007, the activities of the Association's council and its Planning and Land Management Committees have continued to further the aims and objectives of the Association. Further progress has been made in establishing a working relationship with the National Park Authority and liaison with the Forestry Commission continues.

A considerable amount of preparatory work has been put into the organisation of the National Parks Societies annual conference which takes place in the New Forest in October 2008.

The rates for membership remain: Life membership £200, annual membership if paid yearly is £12 although this reduces to £10 if paid by bankers order. This remains very good value in view of the essential work undertaken by the Association.

The New Forest Association is represented on:

The New Forest Consultative Panel

The New Forest Design Forum

Western Commons Liaison Group

..and other bodies from time to time.

4. Review of financial activities and affairs.

The Association has achieved another very satisfactory financial performance in the year to 31st December 2007. Although total receipts were in line with the previous year, payments were lower, resulting in a rise in net receipts for the year, up from £7,313 in 2006 to £9,434 this time. It should be noted that these figures include the deposit paid for the hire of facilities at Foxlease for the National Parks Societies annual conference in October 2008, for which no income has been booked in this set of accounts.

This leaves the Association in the secure financial position of having a fund balance of £36,789 at the year end which is indeed an excellent result.

David Humbert. Trustee.

Peter Roberts. Trustee

March 2008

For and on Behalf of the New Forest Association

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity No. 260328

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2007

1. Receipts and Payments Account - General Purposes Fund

	<u>2007</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants, donations and subscriptions				
Ordinary member subscriptions	6,420		6,277	
Transferred from Life Membership Fund	630		633	
Donations and Sponsorship	5,915		7,603	
Tax Refund	3,044		2,061	
Fund Raising	190		-	
	-----		-----	
		16,199		16,574
Trading Activities:				
Sales		1,893		2,168
Investment Income:				
Bank interest		1,619		989
		-----		-----
Total receipts for the year		19,711		19,731
		-----		-----
Payments				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Stock Purchases	362		621	
Donations	100		925	
Council expenses	285		50	
CNP Conferences & Travel	1,506		850	
Insurance	113		397	
Marketing	744		177	
	-----		-----	
		3,110		3,020
Other Expenditure				
Web Site	500		954	
Stationery and Other	401		197	
Annual meeting, Report, Newsletters	2,461		3,596	
Subscriptions	1,100		891	
Capital Expenditure	2,705		3,760	
	-----		-----	
		7,167		9,398
		-----		-----
Total payments for the year		10,277		12,418
		-----		-----
Net Receipts for the year		9,434		7,313
Fund balance 1 January 2007		27,355		20,042
		-----		-----
Fund balance 31 December 2007		36,789		27,355
		-----		-----

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION- EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

I report on the Accounts of New Forest Association for the year ended 31 December 2007 which are set out on pages 20 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity in a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that will be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep account records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R B Lloyd ACA
Arcadia House
Maritime Walk
Ocean Village
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 3TL

Date: 7 March, 2008

New Forest Association Application Form

I would like to become a member of the New Forest Association.

Ordinary member By cheque - £12.00 pa (minimum).

By bankers Order £10.00pa (minimum)

Life member £200.00 (minimum).

I enclose my cheque for £.....

I would like to pay by bankers order. Please send me a form.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other.....

Initials.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone number*.....

Email Address*.....

Occupation*.....

Date of Birth*.....

*This additional information would be useful to the Association, but is not mandatory.

No personal information is disclosed to any third party.

Please return this form to:

Mr. M.J Perkins (Hon. Treasurer),

Critchells farm House

Lockerley,

Romsey

Hants

SO51 0JD

Making a Will?

Please consider
leaving a legacy to
the

New Forest
Association