



**New Forest Association**

**2009  
Annual Report  
and  
Statement of Accounts**

**Registered Charity No. 260328**

# **New Forest Association**

## ***Patron***

Belinda, Lady Montagu

## ***President***

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre

## ***Chairman of the Council***

William Ziegler  
Lords Oak Cottage  
Landford  
Salisbury  
SP5 2DW

## ***Hon Secretary***

Michael Chilcott  
Penny Cottage  
Emery Down  
Lyndhurst  
SO43 7DX

## ***Vice-Chairman***

Peter Roberts  
Sirius  
Hatchet Close  
Hale  
Fordingbridge  
SP6 2NF

## ***Hon Treasurer***

Michael Perkins  
Critchells Farmhouse  
Lockerley,  
Romsey  
SO51 0JD

## ***Holding Trustees***

David Humbert  
Peter Roberts

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS & Trustees**

### **To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2010**

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

### **To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2011**

D.Humbert, Miss D.Macnair, Mrs A.Millar, T.Moore, P.Marshall, M.Perkins, P.Roberts,  
Mrs V Thorpe

### **To retire at the Annual General Meeting for 2012**

M.Abbott, M.Chilcott, J.Cox, R.Errington, N.Sanderson, Mrs. J.Tubbs, W.Ziegler. Mrs  
E Gillmon, R.Reeves, B.Tarnoff, J.Ward

## **Website**

[www.newforestassociation.org](http://www.newforestassociation.org)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2009/10

During the year there has been much activity in the Forest, and the Association's committee members have been an ever vigilant watchdog for the Forest as can be seen from the various reports contained in this annual review.

The tensions that have always existed between those who use the Forest for recreation and those who use it for agricultural purposes will never go away, and it is one of the Association's main purposes to do all that it can to make sure that a correct balance is maintained so that the Forest is not damaged.

In the meantime the most recent notable event has been the signing of a new Higher Level Stewardship Agreement which will ensure a significantly greater flow of funds for the Forest until February 2020.

The Verderers have managed their Countryside Stewardship Scheme for the last seven years, and the in-coming HLS (Higher Level Scheme) now replaces that scheme for a fresh ten-year period. The very fact that Natural England (Defra's conservation agency) invited the Verderers to consider upgrading their CSS is testament to how successful it has been to date. HLS Schemes are far more complicated, and Natural England have entrusted a large amount of UK tax payers money into the hands of the new HLS in a show of confidence in the Forest's ability to organise itself.

The new HLS will receive a guaranteed fixed annual payment of £1.6 million pounds, which will be split in half so that a fraction under £800,000 will be ring-fenced for exclusive use by the Verderers for the support of grazing on the open Forest. This portion of the annual fund will be called the Verderers' Grazing Scheme. The other half will be used for landscape restoration and conservation projects, which will be monitored by Natural England and undertaken largely by the Forestry Commission and the National Park Authority jointly.

Because the new HLS has, certainly as far as the Verderers are concerned, a new dimension which encompasses complex restoration and historic environment projects (designed to satisfy various layers of habitat regulations) it was felt from an early stage that extra expertise and support was needed. As a result the Verderers approached the FC and the NPA and asked if they would be prepared to join forces and form a partnership to manage the new and much bigger scheme that was being offered by Natural England. Although it has taken many months of discussion, that partnership has now been created, and I believe it is a good example of how the main bodies responsible for managing, regulating and conserving the New Forest can get together and work with a common purpose. The partners have formed what will be called the HLS Board which will make all decisions relating to the HLS, and the three partners will share financial and management responsibility equally.

Over and above the annual fixed payment, anyone can approach the Board with a

project which, if agreed, can be funded by extra monies through the HLS. These will be called Special Projects. Potentially the spending power of the HLS can be increased by up to an extra third per annum, depending on how many special projects are chosen. Only special projects that support the conservation objectives of the HLS can be funded by the Board, however the scope is wide and potentially can even include ideas that involve capital expenditure. If you have an idea for a project you are encouraged to bring it forward!

As you can imagine this HLS has been widely welcomed, especially by practising Commoners who now know that a further ten years of support for their own grazing activities is forthcoming, along with numerous other much needed grazing related projects.

Although the actual signing of the HLS on March 1st was fairly low key, the Board hopes to have an official launch on the first anniversary of the scheme early next year when much more detail can be given about what work will be done, and which projects are being funded.

This is the largest conservation project of its type in Europe, and the next decade should prove to be a busy time for those involved in the HLS. At arm's length there are those who may perhaps be tempted to quote the words of Macmillan and say that the Forest has never had it so good. However I strongly believe that this continued level of support from central Government is long overdue. I know that it is the Board's intention to make the most of it, and ensure that the HLS leaves behind a positive legacy that can benefit the Forest for at least the next generation, and hopefully beyond.

**Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre**  
**President**

---

### **Chairman's Report 2009-2010**

In last years report I commented on the Stream of proposals and plans emanating from various sources, all of which have to be read, considered and where necessary commented on.

This year has proved no different, with the major documents being the National Park Authority's management plan, core strategy and recreation management plan. Overall, we feel that these documents contain much that is commendable, but are concerned that as a result of un-informed comment and negative publicity they have now been watered down too far and do not make clear the Authority's commitment to put the New Forest first. A development we regret.

All National Park Authorities have two statutory purposes which, by implication, would have equal weight in law and when making policy decisions. They were updated by the 1995 Environment Act and read as follows:-

- 1) *Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage*

2) *Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public*

In circumstances where conflicts arise between the two purposes, as for example when more emphasis is given to the enjoyment by the public than to the preservation of the environment, the 1995 Environment Act states that ‘...*any relevant Authority ...if it appears that there is a conflict between those two purposes shall attach greater weight to the first*’ (i.e. the environment).

This is known as the Sandford Principle after Lord Sandford who was asked to review the operation of the 1949 National Parks Act and to make recommendations for possible improvements both to the legislation and to the management of the Parks.

**Higher Level Stewardship scheme**

As reported by our President, this year has seen the signing off on a 10 year Higher Level Stewardship scheme, which will replace the existing Stewardship scheme. This is excellent news and I would congratulate all involved in bring it to fruition. The new money this will bring into the Forest is considerable, and if spent wisely will bring great long term benefits. However, it is not a panacea for all ills and the fact that large sums of money will be available for the next few years must not be seen as an indicator that all is well with the Forest. One only has to look at many of the works proposed to realise that in one way or another a large number relate to the repair of work/damage done in the past either directly or by neglect.

It also will not address (although hopefully may help) the problem we see in the future caused by house prices in the Forest. These are so high that they prohibit the vast majority of young Commoners from every even hoping to own a suitable holding from which they can carry on the tradition of Commoning, which is so vital to the continued existence of the Forest landscape.

As has been said so many times before, the Commoners’ stock are the true architects of the Forest landscape and to make certain that there continues to be stock on the open Forest in the future we need to secure the next generation of Commoners by ensuring that they have suitable holding from which to continue their work.

This is a problem recognised and being worked on, but a suitable answer has not yet been found and I can only hope that this extra money coming into the Forest will not be allowed to mask the problem by creating an impression that all is well and no further work is needed.

**Campsite Survey**

Apart from all our usual work, the Association has over the years been involved in the commissioning of various research documents, and I reported last year that the latest was to be a full survey of the infrastructure of the Forest Holidays campsites on the open Forest. This survey is now very nearly complete and should be of great use to the Verderers and others in the future. Details of the survey are contained later in this report

and all I would like to add is my thanks to those other bodies that have helped support it - The Verderers, the National Park Authority, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the New Forest Trust and the Commoners Defence Association.

### **Legacies**

The subject of legacies has been mentioned before, and I am pleased to report that the Association has been left a substantial sum by a Forest supporter in their will. We do not know the amount yet as it is a percentage of their estate, which is not yet settled. However, we believe it may be as much as £40,000. This money will not only replace that spent on the campsite survey, but also bolster our reserves.

This may raise the question as to why the Association needs large reserves. Personally I believe it vital that we build up and hold our reserves for a variety of reasons.

The first is that, as we know from experience, when specific issues come up they can involve considerable expense. For example, our contribution towards the defence against the Dibden Bay proposal was £10,000. It is therefore imperative that we have funds available at all times for when it, or another issue comes to the fore.

Secondly, it enables us to consider more research work, which we know, can be of enormous benefit to the Association in its work especially when the research has been done to support a position. An example of this would be the 2005 Commoners' housing review, which I know has been quoted extensively and its conclusions are evident in other documents such as the NPA management Plan.

Thirdly, I would like to see the Associations finances reach a level that would allow us to employ someone on a part time basis to help, especially in those areas we know we are lacking.

To achieve all these aims costs a lot of money. I would therefore urge you all to consider including a legacy in your will for the benefit of the New Forest Association to help us not only with the work we already do but to expand on it as well. Such legacies are very easy to arrange and your solicitor will be able to advise you as to the best way of doing it.

**William Ziegler,  
Chairman, March 2010**

---

## **Committee Reports 2009 – 2010**

### **Membership & Development Committee**

A new Chairman mid-year was the first of several changes in the M&D Committee make-up during 2009. I had stopped attending M&D meetings myself, in 2008, as I felt the committee was already too large and by the time we had all aired our views, there was little time left to reach decisions and allocate jobs. Subsequently, several members who have given years of valued service to the committee by attending meetings agreed

to simply receive the notes post-meeting and respond to issues in that way. This leaves a core of seven members who will attend meetings whenever possible, including William Ziegler, Geoff Barnes, Val Thorpe, Roly Errington, Hilary Harper, Sylvia Edwards, and, of course, the Chairman. Nigel Deacon, if he is able to take on the Treasurer's role at the 2010 AGM, will also be invited to attend.

Another successful AGM & Member's Day was held on Saturday April 25th 2009 at our normal venue in Minstead, but it was felt that this one meeting (plus two newsletters) was little enough to offer our members. Consequently, for 2010, we are planning to introduce an Autumn Member's Event at Foxlease - the Girl Guide centre in Lyndhurst – on Saturday October 23rd. This will give members the opportunity to experience the venue, as only a few council members were able to when we hosted the annual National Park Societies Conference there, in October 2008. Foxlease is not, of course, usually open to the general public and we feel members will welcome an opportunity to learn the history of this unique building, explore the grounds and enjoy locally produced food, whilst socialising. Friends and families of members will be encouraged to attend, and a raffle and other fund-raising efforts, organised.

More than £900 worth of merchandise was sold at summer shows during 2009, and the usual stalwart crew gave freely of their time once again, to erect the tent and stands, and man the stalls throughout the day. A disappointing number of new members, however, were recruited, and a slight fall in current membership remains a concern as we enter a new decade. We are all convinced that both are a direct result of the financial recession. Committee members discussed, earlier in the year, having another postal membership drive, but the majority felt this would be wasted until the financial situation improves. We are now actively seeking corporate and group membership and if any member knows of a company who would be likely to support our conservation work, in return for a listing in newsletters, reports and at events etc., we would be pleased to hear from them. As ever, our enemy is time.

The refurbishment of panels, printing of new membership forms, and procurement of a new white roof for the show tent are all underway, in preparation for the 2010 show season. Those confirmed so far are Copythorne Rally Sun June 13<sup>th</sup>, New Forest Show 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, Burley Show Sat Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Hamptworth Country Fayre Sun Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, Nomansland Show, Mon Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, Romsey Sat 11th Sep. Others are awaiting confirmation.

**Georgina Babey**  
**Chairman, March 2010**

---

### **Land Management Committee**

The Baseline survey of New Forest Campsites has been the most notable undertaking by the Land Management Committee during 2009. The objective of the survey is to 'provide a clear-cut source of information as to exactly what facilities exist on the

ground down to the finest detail, along with all features including trees.’ The aim is that, once completed, ‘the survey of the campsites will give a definitive base-line against which any future change can be monitored’.

The data collection on the ground was under way in early May, after which time the leaf cover interrupts the use of the satellite mapping equipment. By the end of 2009, much of the laborious survey and mapping work had been completed and publication is expected in mid-March 2010.

**Islands Thorns.** Tim Dixon, my illustrious predecessor as chairman of the Land Management Committee (or Broad-leaved Woodlands Committee as it was then), battled for years with the Forestry Commission over endless bouts of damage to Island Thorns Inclosure and the mess left by very poorly managed timber extraction. During 2008, the important archaeological site at Studley Castle was damaged and more felling was carried out during 2009. Land Management Committee member Brian Tarnoff made presentments to the Court of Verderers on this subject in March, in May and again in September. Partial cosmetic repairs were carried out to archaeological remains but the deep ruts made in the wet soils by the extracting equipment destroy the soil structure, which can never be restored.

Our view is that forestry operations in this inclosure are too damaging to the soil structure, and the important archaeology, and that the whole woodland should be returned to Ancient and Ornamental woodland. If any work is carried out in this inclosure in the future, it should require an Environmental Impact Assessment to be implemented and rigidly adhered to.

**Howen Bottom & Warwickslade Cutting.** Very considerable machinery operations were being carried out more or less at the same time less than a mile from Island Thorns, at Howen Bottom. This stream restoration work has been completed very neatly by very specialist contractors.

At Warwickslade Cutting, the same specialist contractor installed a highly innovative temporary railway line to transport materials. Time will tell, but both of these restoration projects appear to have been a great success. Congratulations to all involved and shame on all those involved in the desecration of Islands Thorns. The contrast could not be more stark.

During the year, the Land Management Committee also reviewed, and commented on, The Public Forest Estates Consultation, The Draft River Basin Management Plan and Natural England’s Protected Landscapes Consultation. We also attended the Open Forest Advisory Panel, the Verderers Court and other outside committee meetings.

Members of the Land Management committee are: Jenni Tubbs, Jon Cox, Peter Frost, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson Brian Tarnoff, Philip Marshall and David Humbert.

**David Humbert,  
Chairman, February 2010**



Islands Thorns Inclosure. Extraction damage, 25 July 2009



Howen Bottom. Stream restoration, 18 July 2009

*Photos by David Humbert*

## **Planning Committee**

Very much a mixed year for the work of the planning committee. We were very disappointed to see such a watered down revision of the National Park Management Plan after all the good work that had gone before. Two years of preparation, consulting with a range of organisations including pressure groups, Councils and land managers was lost thanks mainly to misinformation that was repeated in the press. Despite giving support at public and private meetings, our views were ignored until the final stages when we found it necessary to mount a brief but reasonably effective campaign to beef up both the Plan and perhaps more importantly the Core Strategy.

The last nine months have shown a marked change in approach from the authority with a strategy of appeasement to woo all and sundry. We look forward to the time when consideration of the New Forest is again their first priority. After all, if their aim is just to please the public, they are following a line that the Forestry Commission took years ago and serving no useful purpose at all in conservation terms.

We have continued to oppose planning applications that appear to have an adverse effect on the Forest. One, which has not been decided at the time of writing but has caused concern, is at Culverley. This is a proposal for a large commoning based business where the access track is across nationally and internationally designated land. It will necessarily involve a considerable number of traffic movements on a daily basis. Whilst we are keen to promote dwellings for young commoners, we have raised questions as to the benefits of re-locating what is clearly an established business to such a sensitive area. This is perhaps the time to debate what the Commoners Housing Scheme is for. It has an 'exception to standard planning conditions' basis. The purpose being to assist the future of Commoning by providing the opportunity for appropriate housing for young commoners. The main questions that arise here are what, if any, limits should be provided on size, location and potential damage to the Forest?

Housing in general concerns us. The government office for the south-east has allocated the Forest 220 houses to build between 2006-2026 – 11 a year. For the last eight years the completions have run at 36 per year, more than three times the allocation. At present, there are something like 150 outstanding planning permissions. If the NPA accepts this situation it means that there would be virtually no building in the area for a considerable period, perhaps only social housing to take up the balance. This policy has proved effective in at least one other National Park, the North York Moors where developers now understand that if a 'site' becomes available then Social Housing is the way forward.

Our most important message at the end of the year to the Park Authority is to remind them that they have National Park purposes to uphold and if that means making decisions which are unpopular, but provide long term safeguards for the Forest, they will receive our support and all who care for the future of this place.

**Peter Roberts,  
Chairman, March 2010**

# New Forest Campsite Baseline Survey

## Introduction

There are ten campsites in the New Forest that are managed by Forest Holidays in partnership with the Caravan and Camping Club. These are all located within the internationally important habitats of the New Forest and within statutorily designated wildlife sites; namely the New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Site.

The facilities available to campers within these sites is variable, with more facilities available at Holmsely, Ashhurst and Hollands Wood and much more basic facilities at Denny Wood, Matley, Longbeech and Aldridge Hill.

The New Forest Association (NFA) and other organisations with an interest in the conservation of the Forest are concerned that there has been a gradual increase in the impact of camping on the environmental quality of these campsites. This may be reflected in numerous small changes that accumulate over time.

The purpose of this survey was to provide a clear baseline of the current configuration of the campsites against which future change can be monitored. This has involved the use of a differential global positioning system (GPS) to map the location and extent of features in each campsite. This data is then being converted into detailed digital maps of the sites. These maps can be used to monitor change or to record additional features or information in future years. This might include further physical data as well as biological data.

It is anticipated that the results of the survey will also be of use for a range of other applications including tree health and safety monitoring, camp site management and further ecological survey and monitoring.

## Information capture

Following discussion with the NFA and Verderers, the range of features to be mapped in each campsite was agreed. This was categorised into features of the built environment and those of the natural environment, as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Features of the built and natural environment mapped within the New Forest campsites

<b><i>Built environment</i></b>
Gravel and other tracks and hardstandings
Buildings and other built structures including wash houses and lavatories
Dragons teeth, bollards, kerbs and other barriers
Water points
Electrical points
Notice boards

Fixed fire-fighting points
Fixed litter disposal points
Chemical closet disposal points
Information boards and canopies
Wardens' gardens and other enclosures and compounds
Permanent staff caravans and sheds
Picnic tables
Seats
Any other built elements that can be mapped
<b><i>Natural environment</i></b>
All trees with diameter greater than 20cm, including hawthorns, holly and other mature scrub species. The species of each tree has been recorded and information on whether it has undergone recent tree surgery.
Dead stumps of trees and where possible, these have been identified to species.
Large pieces of dead wood, fallen trees and felled wood stacks.
Holly clumps >2m dia. (with individual stems <20cm dia.).
All ditches, open drains and culverts.
Extent of bare ground created by trampling or camping activity including areas with partial vegetation cover.
The extent of tree canopy cover and scrub cover is being mapped from air photographs

The survey began in March 2009 but an early spring meant that satellite signals were soon blocked by the tree canopy coming into leaf in the wooded campsites. Survey was postponed until the autumn after leaf fall and started again in November 2009. Mapping continued apace through December and all GPS data was captured by the end of January 2010.

However, to complete the survey, air photographic coverage was needed to plot the extent of tree canopy and scrub. Problems in obtaining digital air photographs delayed work during February and so final mapping and characterisation is being completed in March 2010.

Once this data has been recorded, the final report will be prepared. This will include:-

1	Maps of all ten camp sites with individual data layers for each of the features listed in table 1.
2	A short report summarising the methods and results of the survey including areas of each camp site, areas of hardstanding/bare ground etc., numbers of trees in each camp site.

3	Air photograph interpretations giving areas of scrub and tree canopy cover in each camp site.
4	Recommendations for further work and monitoring of baseline.

Analysis of the air photographs and data collected during the GPS survey is now being undertaken with the intention of providing a final report before the NFA AGM.

---

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION  
Held at Minstead Hall  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

Eighty three members and sixteen guests attended. The President, Maldwin Drummond, had sent his apologies and, in his absence, the Chairman, William Ziegler, took the meeting through the agenda.

**1. Apologies for Absence** had been received from 119 members.

**2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been printed in the Annual Report. On the proposal of Denis Lyle, seconded by Alison Bolton, the meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the minutes.

**3. Matters Arising**

William Ziegler said that the need for a Young Members' subscription had been taken up and would be dealt with under agenda item 7.

**4a. The Annual Report**

National Park Plan. William Ziegler stressed that the document published in August 2008 is a DRAFT. Too many people have criticised its content without reading the text. NFA has commented that it strikes the wrong tone in some parts and there are doubts about some policies. Overall, however, it contains beneficial proposals for the Forest. There is a danger that the good majority of the draft will be lost in the outcry against some minor parts of the document. Perhaps the draft Plan conveys the impression that the NPA runs the Forest. It does not. The powers of other bodies (e.g. Verderers, Forestry Commission etc.) remain unaffected.

National Parks Societies' Conference. William Ziegler thanked the NFA's team of volunteers who, he said, together with the excellent Foxlease venue, had set a new high standard for this annual conference.

Membership. Last year's increased subscription rate has led to a small decline in numbers to around 975.

**The President.** William Ziegler warmly thanked Maldwin Drummond who is not

seeking re-election. He has been involved with NFA since 1961 in various active, working roles. His knowledge of the Forest and its people is unsurpassed. The NFA owes him a great debt for his years of service.

**Planning Committee.** Peter Roberts, Chairman of the Committee, added Edward Marris' name to those he thanked in the Annual Report. He mentioned the NPA's review of Conservation Areas and said that NFA intervention has led to increases in the size of several of them. Alison Bolton said Boldre Parish Council is critical of Conservation Areas but Peter Frost regretted that Boldre PC had challenged the concept which is enshrined in national legislation and is not National Park related. Terry Scriven congratulated William Ziegler and the NFA on well judged remarks about the draft National Park Plan. Members applauded in agreement.

Peter Frost spoke in place of David Humbert, Chairman of the Land Management Committee, who could not be present. He described the study of the condition of Forest Holidays campsites which is being led by the NFA with financial support from several other organisations. It will establish a data baseline from which to judge future developments and any damage. Richard Deacon criticised pre erected tents and pre sited caravans. Also the letting of seasonal pitches. William Ziegler said that the survey will be detailed and authoritative.

Roly Errington, Chairman of the Membership and Development Committee, mentioned a skills gap in Public Relations in promoting the NFA. Volunteers in this area will be very welcome. He commented on the value of legacy income which enabled subscriptions to be kept low with, hopefully, the consequence of higher membership numbers.

#### **4b. The Accounts**

Michael Perkins, the Hon. Treasurer, mentioned that he will stand down at the next AGM. He called for a volunteer to replace him. In presenting the accounts he thanked INEOS and Fawley Power Station for their generous financial and 'in kind' support for the National Parks Societies' Conference.

The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Brian Tarnoff, seconded by Graham Baker.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

President. Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre was elected unanimously on the proposal of William Ziegler, seconded by Val Thorpe.

The Hon. Secretary, Michael Chilcott, the Hon. Treasurer, Michael Perkins and the Auditor, Robin Lloyd of BDO Stoy Hayward, were re elected unanimously on the proposal of Terry Scriven, seconded by Mrs. A. Millar.

#### **6. Elections to Council**

On the proposal of Alison Bolton, seconded by Michael Perkins, the following were re elected unanimously: Mark Abbott, Michael Chilcott, Jonathan Cox, Roly Errington, Neil Sanderson, Jenni Tubbs and William Ziegler together with new Council members:

Eve Gillmon, Richard Reeves, Brian Tarnoff and John Ward.

## **7. Proposal for New Membership Categories**

On the proposal of Georgina Babey, seconded by Roly Errington, it was unanimously agreed to introduce the following new membership categories with immediate effect:

Joint Membership. Both members to have voting rights. Subscription £25 paid by banker's order, £29 paid by cheque. Junior Membership. Up to age 25. Voting rights at age 18. Subscription £7.50 paid by banker's order, £8.50 paid by cheque.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Members raised the large amount of FC felling and clearance work in places like Islands Thorns which is causing unacceptable damage. Peter Roberts wondered if, whilst monitoring the NPA, NFA has taken its eye off the FC. Verge damage by HCV's was mentioned. A member asked if there are controls over cycling by the NPA but William Ziegler said that cycling on the Forest remains a FC matter. Members discussed the spread of 30 mph signs in many villages. In some cases their location seemed bizarre. The need was mentioned for robust country parks located outside the Forest to take some pressure away from the more fragile National Park.

The Annual General Meeting was closed.

## **Post AGM**

Clive Chatters, Chairman, New Forest National Park Authority, led a wide ranging discussion about the role of NPA's and of other statutory bodies with National Parks. He remarked that, since the South Downs announcement, the New Forest is no longer the youngest National Park. Members questioned Clive on many topics including the impact on the NF NPA of the outcry over the draft Plan; the possible expansion of the NF NP's area; and the staffing and resources of the NF NPA.

---

## **DONATING TO THE NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION**

If you support and appreciate the work that the NFA is doing in the New Forest and you would like to make a contribution towards this work; there are three ways of making a donation.

The first, if you are a tax payer, is by signing a gift aid declaration in support of a donation or your subscription. This is described on the application form for membership.

Secondly, you may like to help by leaving us a legacy. Most people will want to remember their family and friends in their Will, but increasingly people may consider leaving an amount of their estate to help other people or charitable organisations. The New Forest Association offers an ideal way to leave a legacy in your Will that will be carefully administered according to your instructions for generations to come.

Normally you should consult your solicitor about the exact wording, but the following

specimen clause could be sent to your solicitor to be added to your Will as a codicil. “I give to the New Forest Association (registered Charity Number 260328) the sum of £..... for the general purpose of the Association and the receipt by the Treasurer shall be a full discharge to my Executors” It is also possible to give shares or property, or the residue of your estate when all other bequests to family or friends have been made.

Finally, taxpayers who are due a tax refund may ask the Inland Revenue to give all or part of it to a Charity of their choice. If you would like to give all or part of your refund to the NFA, the procedure is very simple. On your Tax Return tick the “Yes” box in question 19, and then complete the boxes in question 19A, putting the NFA Charity Code in box 19A.3 which is “FAG98MG”. If you are a taxpayer and the declaration shown applies, then tick box 19A.4 and tick box 19A.5 if you don’t want the donation to be anonymous.

---

## **The New Forest Centre branches out!**

### *The New Forest Centre holds the NFA Embroidery on long-term loan*

The Family Fun Tree, the new central display at the New Forest Centre’s Museum, came about as a result of numerous comments from members of the public who kindly filled in our visitor exit surveys and shared their thoughts and feelings with us about the museum experience. There simply weren’t enough things for children to do and it was clear that parents wanted to be able to enjoy the learning experience alongside their children. People couldn’t find their way around and so we wanted to integrate the two floors of the Museum and to highlight the New Forest Embroidery.

Having removed the then central display that was lovingly referred to by the staff as the ‘Tardis’, we then filled in the exposed area with laminate flooring and simply let children use the space in the way they wanted. It was our intention to build an interactive exhibit there that would satisfy the demands of our users. It was our then Development Education Officer who realised one activity day, that what we really needed to do was to leave the activity space alone (kids just wanted room to move about) and to build a large tree in the area opposite where we currently had display panels. It was a eureka moment as we suddenly realised that that way we could access the exhibit at two levels simply by cutting through the existing balcony area. Of course that was the easy bit; we then needed to secure the money.

INEOS had already very generously donated us £10,000 and we decided to use that as match funding for a Heritage Lottery Fund ‘Your Heritage’ bid. With the help of Kathryn Boler of the NPA and a lot of hard work and discussion later, we finally sent off our bid and crossed our fingers. By this time, we’d already contacted a number of specialist companies and had settled on one in Farnham called Far Post. Their design work formed part of the bid to HLF. The call telling us we’d been successful couldn’t

have been better timed. It was just before a Trust Executive meeting and it was the boost we all needed.

As we had to shut the Museum for the build, we decided to delay it until the winter months in order not to interfere with the summer season. In practice, the amount of time needed to firm up on the detail of the designs meant that we certainly weren't left twiddling our thumbs. When we did eventually shut down, we had to remove all the exhibits to protect them from dust or in the case of the Embroidery; wrap the entire case in plastic sheeting. The build it has to be said did not go smoothly. Not pestilence and plague exactly, but certainly building regulations, sickness and snow! What could go wrong did go wrong, but suffice to say we ended up with a tree to be proud of.

So why a tree? Well, it symbolises the Forest, neatly intertwining the social and natural history that is the hallmark of this unique landscape. It also provided a focus to the Museum and we like to think you can't see the joins between the old exhibits and the new tree. And lastly as we all know, trees are just big fun whatever age you are. There's bark rubbing, the chance to find giant bugs, hear the sounds made by forest animals and my personal favourite; Poo Corner. That by the way is a chance to match the animal to its tracks and its poo (in glorious 3-D and lifelike form). On the top floor, there's a walkway out from which you can view the Museum below and a timeline tree ring flooring that brings the tree together with the Embroidery, itself a timeline.

So has it worked? Well judging by the number of delightfully noisy children and fantastic comments in the Visitor's Book – YES! More people are finding their way upstairs and the Museum well, sort of makes more sense. There's still scope for additional activities, a few bits have fallen off (nothing that super glue won't solve) and there's been a few teething problems (nothing that a bit of lateral thinking won't solve). Creating a bespoke product such as this is hard work, costly and at times frustrating but every time I walk into the Museum I marvel at our magic tree and are thankful that we took the gamble.

**Hilary Marshall**  
**New Forest Centre Manager**



**NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION**  
**Registered Charity No. 260328**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2009**

**1. Receipts and Payments Account - General Purposes Fund**

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants, donations and subscriptions				
Ordinary member subscriptions	8,128		6,615	
Transferred from Life Membership Fund	722		647	
Donations and Sponsorship	1,400		6,895	
Tax Refund	1,941		1,687	
Fund Raising	-		5,390	
Campsite Survey grants	5,500		-	
	-----		-----	
		17,691		21,234
Trading Activities:				
Sales		1,611		1,481
Investment Income:				
Bank interest		1,155		1,828
		-----		-----
Total receipts for the year		20,457		24,543
		-----		-----
<b>Payments</b>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Stock Purchases	604		1,971	
Council expenses	479		145	
CNP Conferences & Travel	87		6,940	
Insurance	438		479	
Marketing	416		148	
	-----		-----	
		2,024		9,683
Other Expenditure				
Web Site	198		1,016	
Stationery and Other	53		-	
Annual meeting, Report, Newsletters	2,940		4,040	
Subscriptions	1,097		1,170	
Capital Expenditure	385		-	
	-----		-----	
		4,673		6,226
		-----		-----
Total payments for the year		6,697		15,909
		-----		-----
Net Receipts for the year		13,760		8,634
Fund balance 1 January 2009		45,423		36,789
		-----		-----
Fund balance 31 December 2009		59,183		45,423
		-----		-----

**NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION**  
**Registered Charity No. 260328**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2009**

**2. Receipts and Payments Account - Life Membership Fund**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	£	£
Receipts:		
Life member subscriptions received in the year	1,400	800
Transfer to General Purposes Fund	(722)	(647)
	-----	-----
Net (Decrease) / Increase for the year	678	153
Fund balance 1 January 2009	5,823	5,670
	-----	-----
Fund balance 31 December 2009	6,501	5,823
	-----	-----

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2009**

	General Purpose Fund	Life Membership Fund	Total <u>2009</u>	Total <u>2008</u>
	£	£	£	£
<b>MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
Bank current account	1,546	-	1,546	1,264
Bank deposit account	57,637	6,501	64,138	49,982
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	59,183	6,501	65,684	51,246
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**OTHER ASSETS**

For use by the Charity and belonging to the General Purposes Fund:

New Forest Embroidery, nominal value	£100
Stock, at cost	£1,414
Exhibition display equipment	£470
Trailer	£151
Tent	£176
Lap top	£140
Projector & Screen	£208
Printer	£192

Approved .....P Roberts (Trustee)

Date: 3 March, 2010

.....A D Humbert (Trustee)

**Notes to the Accounts**

1. The Receipts and Payments accounts have been drawn up as a summary of the receipts and payments made during the year by The New Forest Association. Amounts are included as received by the charity, or as cheques are drawn.
2. The Receipts and Payments accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities have been prepared following the guidance for Accounting for Smaller Charities issued by the Charity Commissioners.
3. Each year 10% of the Life Membership Fund is transferred to the General Purposes Fund.

*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 2009 which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

**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: 15 March, 2010

# New Forest Association Application Form

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

- |  |                                      |                          |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ordinary member                                  | By cheque - £17.00 pa (minimum).     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | By Bankers Order £15.00 pa (minimum) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint £29 (£25 B.Order) <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior £8.50 (£7.50 B.Order)         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Life member £300.00 (minimum).                   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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. N. Deacon (Hon. Treasurer elect),**  
**South View**  
**Coombes Lane,**  
**Sway**  
**Hants**  
**SO41 6BP**