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Published by the New Forest Association
Views expressed in the NFA newsletter are not necessarily those of the New Forest Association
Any contributions should be sent to The Editor
The New Forest Association was founded in 1867 and is a Registered Charity No. 260328
Printed by EPS Print & Design, Ringwood.
Remains of the Schultze Gunpowder Factory can still be seen at Fritham
See page 8

Tree Facts

One tonne of recycled paper saves approximately 15 trees and their habitat

Lots of our ancient trees had to work hard for a living - they were cut regularly as pollards to provide fuel, fodder, timber and food

A large beech tree can provide enough oxygen for the daily requirement of ten people

It can take 250 years before a tree is a suitable home for some very particular lichens

It is estimated that the average person in the UK consumes the equivalent of 12 trees a year. The present rate of world consumption is unsustainable and yet trees are vital to our life on earth

Ancient yews are often found in churchyards - but are much older than the churches, as they mark places that were considered sacred to pre-Christian religions as well

Tree facts from - www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/3298815/Old-tree-facts.html
www.rsatrees.org/treefacts, and www.wildaboutbritain.co.uk/facts_about_britains_trees
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### Diary Dates

#### 2009 Shows/Events

- Sat June 6th - Landford Show
- Sat July 11th - Sway Fête - 12-4.30pm
- Tues 28th, Wed 29th & Thurs 30th July - New Forest Show, New Park, Brockenhurst
- Sat 29th August - Frogham Fair - 12-4.30pm
- Sat 12th September - Romsey Show - All Day

#### 2010

- AGM & Member’s Day - Sat April 17th
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Forest Campsites
Once again Forest Holidays are causing us concern. Firstly, with their ‘Camping for Beginners’ which they wish to offer at Holmsley and Setthorns campsites, where tents and caravans, ready for occupation will be available for hire. The intention is for 14 tents to be erected, 7 on Roundhill Campsite and 7 on Holmsley. In addition there will be 2 x touring caravans, each 22 feet long, at Holmsley.

In addition to this they are offering seasonal pitches at a number of sites, with their website offering the opportunity to “leave your caravan at

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE NEWS

There have been several changes in the Council. We welcome new members Eve Gillmon, Anthony Hawes and John Ward, and re-welcome Richard Reeves, who has returned to the fold following his recent travels. Anthony Hawes has kindly offered to take on the task of Membership Secretary, thereby relieving the Chairman of yet another task.

Eve Gillmon and John Ward have both joined the Planning Committee and Georgina Babey is now Chairman of the Membership and Development Committee.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre who has agreed to become our President. (See page 7) We know he will prove a worthy successor to Maldwin Drummond.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

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In addition to this they are offering seasonal pitches at a number of sites, with their website offering the opportunity to “leave your caravan at

"leave your caravan at"

2
your favourite Forest Holidays site for the season and save yourself the hassle (and cost) of towing it every time you visit.”

We believe this is a seriously retrograde step and in no way captures the spirit of the original consent for camping granted by the Verderers in the 1960s. You only have to leave something on your lawn for a week to see the effect it has on grass, and we are concerned that tents and caravans, if left for too long in one place will result in damage, not only to the grazing but also to the ecology of the sites as well.

Secondly, they have plans for a mobile shop to visit several of the Forest campsites, a plan which has been roundly condemned at both the Verderers Court and the New Forest Consultative Panel. This is a further blatant attempt at commercialisation and again, we believe, is in contravention of the agreement that, with the exception of Holmsley campsite, quite clearly prohibits shops. A shop with wheels is still a shop.

We have already made our concerns clear at both the Verderers Court and the New Forest Consultative Panel, and have a meeting scheduled to meet with Forest Holidays at which we will both be restating our concerns and listening to what they have to say.

Membership
At this year’s AGM it was agreed to add two new membership categories, Joint (£29 pa or £25 if paid by Banker’s Order) and Junior (£8.50/£7.50). Both categories are now available for “ordinary”, but not Life, membership. Both parties of a joint membership will have voting rights, as will Junior members once they reach the age of 18.

One of the reasons for introducing the joint category was that a number of husband and wife members had said that they would have been happy to receive only one copy of our newsletters and Annual reports. Although in theory it was easy to say this was possible, in practice it caused administrative headaches. However, following changes to our database this can now be easily achieved. The only requirement for joint members is that they live at the same address. If this applies to you and another existing member, or you wish to add someone to your membership please contact me and I will set the wheels in motion.
Likewise, if you know of anyone aged under 25 who would like to become a member and take advantage of the lower subscription, please let me know. My contact details are:
email: chairman@newforestassociation.org
Home Telephone: 01794 390344, Mobile: 07702638438

The Stewardship Scheme
Those of you that read the Minutes of the Verderers Committee meetings (available on their website), will have noted that over the last few months mention has been made of an application by the Verderers to renew and upgrade the existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

This scheme, which started in 2003, is due to run for 10 years and each year has bought in substantial amounts of money which has been used to pay Commoners for the vital conservation value of their stock on the open Forest.

The Verderers are in talks with Natural England and DEFRA about both the renewal of this scheme and its upgrading to the Higher Level Scheme and if successful it could be in place as early as 2010. The value of this scheme to the Forest is enormous, and I very much hope that they are successful in their efforts, especially as regards the possible upgrade to the Higher Level Scheme, which could bring further and greater benefits to the Forest.

William Ziegler, Chairman

left - The Chairman gently twisting the arms of prospective new members at the Landford Show, June 6th 2009

Photo: G Barnes
These last few weeks have seen much activity at workshops set up by the National Park Authority to refine the coming Park Plan. Attempts to reach a consensus on the way forward on a number of important issues have resulted in broad agreement on revised wording on some of the more contentious issues.

Speaking of contentious issues this committee has, unusually, objected to a planning application by a commoner, for a new holding on the Forest. The reasons are quite straightforward. The scale of the proposals is far greater than any previous application that has been made through the Commoners Housing Scheme. The plans for the proposed property will make it difficult, if not impossible, to afford by any young commoner in the future. Those applications that come within the Scheme have a vital element of ensuring that the new holding remains *in commoning use for all time*. The present application is outside the Scheme and carries no such safeguard.

The NFA has made a strong representation to the New Forest District Council over the Core Strategy which has a number of flaws from a conservation point of view. Essentially it fails to show that sufficient regard has been given to National Park purposes and that long term harmful impacts will arise from harmful cumulative incremental impacts that are in the proposals. There is a failure to effectively protect the existing green belt where its maintenance is intrinsically tied up with back-up grazing land vital to commoning. There are also huge concerns over housing numbers where there is no close conformity with the minimum development levels for housing and employment required by the South East Plan.

Complicated as these matters are, we proposed alternative approaches and hope that they will be picked up by the Inspector at the inquiry which is due to get under way as I write.

*Peter Roberts,*  
*Chairman, Planning Committee*  
*Mai 2009*
At the Authority AGM held on the 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2009, Lindsay Cornish, the Chief Executive of the Authority announced her resignation with effect from the 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2009. Her reasons for doing so were not made public, but we have always known that it was her intention to leave once the Authority had gone through its initial set up period. Her resignation therefore is not a total surprise but one has to wonder how much her decision to leave now was influenced by the anonymous letter, purporting to have been sent by eleven staff members at the Authority to the Permanent Secretary at DEFRA.

Having read the letter I was sad to hear that there was apparently such disquiet within the National Park Authority staff, but feel that it would be inappropriate to comment on what is essentially an internal matter and one about which I am not in full possession of the facts. I will say, however, that I do not approve of the tactics used of deliberately making public an anonymous letter, as I do not consider this to be the correct way of making known one’s discontent. To use a well worn phrase “it just isn’t cricket”.

Setting up a brand new Authority, especially the planning element of it, was always going to be an enormous task and there is no doubt that Lindsay Cornish has worked tirelessly to achieve it. Her background and contacts at DEFRA have also been of great value, especially as regards the additional funding for Commoning in which the Authority was heavily involved.

Looking to the future, it is quite obvious that the New Forest National Park is here to stay with neither of the major political parties central offices showing anything other than support. As such, the Association’s position remains the same and we will continue to work with the Authority and whichever staff they appoint; so as to further our remit of trying to conserve and preserve the New Forest for both the present and future generations.

\textit{William Ziegler}
A WORD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

It is an honour to have been asked to take over the Presidency of the Association from Maldwin Drummond, and in doing so I would first like to say a very big thank you to him on behalf of the members for all that he has done over the many decades of his close involvement with the Association, and as our President.

For my part I look forward to being part of the Council in the years ahead, which hold so many challenges for the Forest. History has shown that the NFA is a highly effective organisation when it comes to getting influence in the right places at the right time, and the sheer breadth of knowledge and experience that the members of the Council collectively have is probably the Association’s greatest asset. It will be a privilege to join in their work.

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre
President
New Forest Association

Visit our website
for all the latest information and event timings
- and to prompt friends and relatives to join us in our Forest campaigns!

www.newforestassociation.org

Shortlisted for the
Hantsweb
AWARDS
2008
THE SCHULTZE GUNPOWDER COMPANY

Anne Biffin

“Powder Mill Post. This post box was put here by the Schultze gunpowder factory which operated near Eyeworth pond from the 1860s until the early 20th century. The post box was erected to make the postman’s life easier in the days before delivery vans. Postal charges were one penny for letters and half a penny for newspapers (in the days when there were 240 pence to the pound.) The post box was recently restored by the Forestry Commission.”

So states the notice beside the cylinder standing at the entrance to Fritham car park, and the first stop on my Ramblers walk as an initial introduction to this once important New Forest industry.

Gunpowder was manufactured at Eyeworth in the early 1860s and is supposed to have been used by the Prussian army in the Franco Prussian war of 1870. In the late 1860s the Eyeworth Lodge lease, together with its stock, was acquired by Clement Dale and William Bailey for the Schultze Gunpowder Company to produce Captain Edward Schultze’s new smokeless sporting powder. Black gunpowder was used prior to this. Made from saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal, it was unpredictable, noisy and dirty. The smokeless powder was based on wood fibre treated with nitric and sulphuric acids. It was cleaner to handle, relatively safe, and more accurate to use.

Near Eyeworth pond, also known as Gunpowder pond, stands a solid Victorian dwelling, once home to the Schultze foreman. Through the trees to the left is Eyeworth Lodge, an imposing building and one time residence of Mr RWS Griffith, the company chemist.

Behind these buildings are the foundations of a stable. About 40 horses, sometimes more, were needed to haul the cartloads of gunpowder. Next to the stable site stands a carthouse where there would have been harness
rooms and nearby accommodation for the men in charge. A few cottages remain, once occupied by some of the 100 or more employees. The white clapboard bungalow by Eyeworth wood was once the packing shed. The men working there wore fireproof industrial clothing, magazine boots, and packed the powder into canisters from \( \frac{1}{2} \) lb to 50 lb in weight.

The factory buildings, some 60 or so, spreading across the fields behind a high fence, included shooting galleries and laboratories. A dynamo house supported lighting to allow 24 hour working from Monday morning to Saturday afternoon. It was the duty of the gatekeeper to search the workmen as they entered the factory, removing from them their tobacco and matches. Of the factory buildings the only visible trace is a grass covered mound which was a magazine. This is seen across the fields and pointed out to my group on the homeward track to Fritham bridge. Gunpowder was stored for three months in the magazines and re-tested before despatch.

The Schultze Gunpowder Company made a tenuous start, having to win customers over to the new powder. Slowly prejudice was overcome, and it enjoyed steady and prosperous growth for about 50 years, Schultze becoming the leading sporting powder. It was a major employer in the Forest; villagers from Fritham and the surrounding area worked there, some walking 6 or 7 miles across the Forest for a 6am start. Wages were £1 a week compared to the agricultural wage of 12 shillings. The company appears to have been a good employer, forming a Powder Mill band which entertained locally, and arranging works outings. It also contributed to the building of Fritham’s brick chapel.

As demand for Schultze powder grew, a gravel road was built through Eyeworth wood to avoid hauling it through Fritham village. Known as Powder Mill road, it is still shown on the Ordnance Survey map as a road used as a public path. Today it is a muddy track, though patches of gravel are visible here and there. About halfway into the wood is the Boxer Tree, a beech a few yards to the left of the track. It has the figure of a bare knuckled fighter carved into it, thought to be Jimmy Downer, an employee at the Schultze factory and immortalised either by himself or a colleague.

As the company expanded so did the need for more water, essential for
the Schultze process. In the 1870s the then Deputy Surveyor, Lawrence Cumberbatch, gave permission to dam Eyeworth pond. However, the work was stopped when it appeared to exceed the original agreement. It was not completed until more than a decade later under the jurisdiction of the new Deputy Surveyor, Gerald Lascelles. He considered a reservoir would enhance the beauty of the area, and today the waterlilies and wildfowl justify his decision.

The overflow from the pond cascades down a steep flight of stone steps falling into a culvert under the bridge across the road, and into what was once the factory complex. Unfortunately pollution became a serious problem as effluent from the factory made its way into the Forest streams. Dead fish were found several miles away, and it was some years before the waters recovered.

One of the sources of Eyeworth pond is a chalybeate spring rising in the wood a few yards along the track from the car park. Shown on the Ordnance Survey map as Irons Well, it is enclosed by a wooden fence and singularly unattractive. The surrounding area is dangerously marshy as the spring oozes its way to the pond. Water bubbles up through thick layers of silt, and clouds of orange sediment float just below the surface. This was a Holy Well thought to cure leprosy and other ailments. As recently as the 19th century the waters were believed to cure dogs of the mange. The unfortunate creatures were dropped in from the top and paddled out at the side.

It is hard to imagine in today’s tranquil setting how busy this area was over a century ago. The gunpowder company came and went, its operations ceasing in the early 20th century. The Holy Well bubbles as it always has, and the Forest remains as beautiful and enigmatic as ever.

Sources:
Draper, Jo. Hampshire Curiosities, Dovecote Press, 1989
Heathcote, Terry. Discovering the New Forest, Halsgrove, 1997
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE INFERNAL MACHINE

Georgina Babey

The quotes below come from the early years of the 20th century. The first from the artist Walter Crane who illustrated John Wise’s *New Forest: its history and scenery*, first published in 1863. Crane was a lad of sixteen when, sketchbook in hand, he accompanied Wise on his long Forest hikes to research the book. The quote is taken from Crane’s memoirs, published by Methuen in 1907:

“We can never overtake time... and the social effect of such inventions as the motor car seems to be to crowd more into the day, to put extra strain on the nerves, and to increase the already excessive restlessness of our race.”

from *An Artist’s Reminiscences*

The second quote is taken from the relatively recently published diaries of Henry Peerless, a pioneer motorist from Brighton, who came often to the New Forest on his holidays and motoring tours in the early years of the 20th century. This quote is from the entry for June 17th 1907, when he was staying with his family at the *Fox & Hounds*:

“I have never seen in any district more motor-cars than there are in and around Lyndhurst. From morning till night they pass up and down our High Street, and we are never many minutes without them.”

from *A Brief Jolly Change*, Edited by Edward Fenton, Day Books, 2003

It seems that we have not learned an awful lot over the last century. Not only are our cars causing substantial environmental damage but the fuel needed to run them is a finite (in the affordable sense) resource. We need to push for an improved public transport system. I live at Hale, a wonderfully peaceful corner of the New Forest. I can and do travel easily to Downton or Salisbury on the bus from here, but there are virtually no buses across the Forest.
At our parish council assembly recently the problem of parking at Hale Primary School was highlighted. Much damage has been done to Hatchet Green and the verges, as well as great inconvenience caused to neighbours, by the volume of individual cars delivering children to school. This problem is not confined, of course, to Hale; it is Forest (and nation) wide. We need to find ways to either supply all children with a free school bus, convince parents of the benefits of car sharing, or encourage ‘walking’ buses where the children live near enough.

My partner and I share a car and we endeavour to have at least one car-free day a week. We shop locally, often on foot. We regularly take walking holidays, or use public transport, to offset the few occasions when we drive or fly and I use my bicycle whenever practical.

The answer can never be, in my view, to continually build more roads and by-passes to accommodate an ever increasing number of cars. We must find alternatives to road use, before the New Forest loses its traditional character.
REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

New Chairman
On June 1st I officially took over from Roly Errington as Chairman of the Membership and Development Committee. After two years in the chair, Roly has been finding it increasingly difficult to juggle his work and NFA commitments. He will still be helping, when work permits, at NFA shows and events and we are extremely grateful for his continuing support.

AGM
A very successful AGM & Member’s Day took place at Minstead Hall on April 25th. Ninety seven members and visitors joined in the debates, purchased merchandise and enjoyed an interesting field trip from Millyford Bridge. Thank you to all those who were able to attend and make it such a success, and special thanks are extended to Peter Frost and Jenni Tubbs who led the field trip, and Val Thorpe who worked practically single-handedly in the kitchen.

Shows
At the meeting on the 1st June, the committee discussed last minute details of the first three of the coming summer shows at Landford, Sway and New Park. These, and all shows and events, are important opportunities to not only spread the word about what the NFA does but also increase our membership. We are going to try a quiz at the New Forest Show at the end of July, in an attempt to personalize, and hopefully attract more people to our stand. New panels are also planned and Roly has worked on a design for a new recruiting brochure.

Newsletter
Another important vehicle for dissemination of information, or airing views, is this newsletter. Please use it and send pieces, articles and letters for future use. We very much welcome your feedback on any Forest issues.

Various
Many other items were discussed, including ideas for fund raising, future social events for members and, perhaps most importantly, succession planning to ensure the future of the Association. It was agreed by all that we need to involve more young people and it was suggested that inviting
young friends or relatives to events, or Council Meetings as observers, might be a beginning. Another committee member has made contact with Kit Rogers, a science teacher at Priestlands School who is promoting NFA among his students. This could be duplicated at all secondary schools and colleges across the Forest given time and manpower. Are you a parent/teacher/governor of such a school or do you know of a young person who would like to become active in the conservation of their area? All ideas most welcome.

Georgina Babey
Chairman, M&D Committee
June 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES - 50 years ago

There is a hiatus in the run of Annual Reports of the New Forest Association in the 1940s and 50s. The Annual Report for 1959 opens with the words “Since the last report of the Council published in 1948, The Association has passed through a period of comparative inactivity”. Membership had dwindled to, what must have been, an all time low of 40. At the beginning of 1958, though, with pressures on the Forest ever on the increase, proposals were made to revive the Association. A new chairman, Mr George A Jonas of Fritham brought a new lease of life to proceedings and by the end of the year membership had increased to over 660.

The following extracts are taken from that first Annual Report for more than a decade, and give insight into why it was deemed so necessary to remain vigilant and “preserve the amenities of the New Forest”:

Oil.

Much anxiety was caused by the sudden appearance during 1958 of a large Shed and boring equipment on the Open Forest outside Hasley Inclosure. Boring continued night and day for some months but was eventually abandoned and the equipment has been removed.
Southampton Airport.
A suggestion was made that Southampton’s Airport should be moved from Eastleigh to the old Beaulieu Aerodrome. Immediately this news became public your Hon. Secretary wrote to the Press stating that any such proposal would be bitterly opposed by your Association.

Re-Seeding.
At the Verderers’ Court held on the 8th May, 1958 a Presentment was made on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under Section 14 (1) of the New Forest Act 1949 to inclose three areas totalling 95 acres for re-seeding. The proposal originated with the New Forest Commoners’ Defence Association by way of experiment as a means of drawing animals away from the main roads and reducing the terrible accident rate.

Accidents involving animals.
The total numbers of animals killed and injured in and around the New Forest was, in 1956 180, in 1957 234 and in 1958 314. The Verderers have set up a special committee to consider the problem upon which your Association is represented.

Fifty years ago the Association was also welcoming a new President, as we are in this edition of the newsletter. In 1959 Sir Robert Perkins of The Manor House, Downton was elected to replace the retiring President Colonel Sir John Mills of Bisterne. In recognition of his service to NFA, Sir John was elected as the first ever Patron of the Association.

Remember us in your will
Please consider mentioning the New Forest Association in your will
Associations like ours benefit greatly from people having the forethought to bequeath us a sum in their wills. These amounts are used to increase our ‘campaign’ funds, and will give you the prospect of being able to help influence important decision making into the future
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Anne Millar, Timothy Moore, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson,
Brian Tarnoff, Val Thorpe, Jenni Tubbs, John Ward

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