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Note
Unattributed photographs within articles were supplied with the text and are understood to have been taken by the author or to have been submitted with the photographer’s permission. Other photo credits are given in italics.

Cover picture
A flourish of lesser celandines (Ficaria verna) at Stuckton.
photo: Graham Long
Welcome to our Spring edition which again combines the Newsletter and Annual Reports. I hope that you will enjoy this issue and not just stop reading when you come to the reports. There you will find our Council’s thinking on the structural changes considered necessary if the Association is to be fit for purpose. We live in a fast changing world where the pressures on the Forest constantly mount and the officially allocated resources to meet them dwindle annually.

The Association has always been at its strongest when the Forest has been facing serious challenges and there has been a battle to be fought. To this extent, it has shown strength in reaction. The challenge today is surely to turn that around and to exhibit foresight, commitment, energy and resources pro-actively. That is, the need is to be ahead of the game, for these are worrying times.

We hear reports that other National Parks are having to sell-off natural assets in order to maintain core services. The protection, thought to be more than adequate, given to SSSI sites is clearly not sacrosanct. Not only are they not being maintained to an acceptable standard but now some at least are deemed ideal for development, with planning consent granted. The protection afforded to the Parks against fracking is only to work on the surface, not to invasion of the geological structure beneath. And the final shape proposed for the management of Britain’s woodlands has still to be unveiled.

So I am grateful to John Fawcett for his further article on deer, and to Paul Brock, for building up the series on why the Forest is so important. Also I’m especially grateful to Peter Roberts for his biographical note on Thena Clough whose name, I guess, will be unfamiliar to the majority of our readers. Her insights seventy years ago were prescient, and are even more pertinent today than they were then. ‘Those who value the forest as a national park and playground must surely watch and work for its restoration.’ I hope you’ll agree and give the Association your full support.

Graham Long
The core strength of our Association is the fact that it has a significant amount of expertise and ability within the membership which, when it is brought to bear, can positively influence Forest affairs. This has been proved time and again during its 148 year history. I have seen this for myself on countless occasions during my time as a verderer and more recently as a member of the National Park Authority. Our Association has built up a solid reputation for defending the New Forest whenever it sees a threat, and presenting balanced argument whenever necessary, in its work to protect and conserve the landscape.

An ongoing example of this is the work of our Planning Committee which scrutinises applications for building and development. There is no doubt that whenever a Council member attends the public planning meetings the representations made on behalf of the NFA are heard with respect, and can in some cases be decisive. The reason I mention this is because our strength comes from our membership, and now is the time for all members to consider if they might be able to help, in however great or small a way, in the Association’s work.

Since my election as chairman of the National Park Authority last June my involvement in Forest affairs has, slightly unexpectedly, stepped-up several gears. A fascinating aspect of the role has been attending the meetings of the national organisation that represents the interests of all the national parks in England, Scotland and Wales. These gatherings bring the chairmen and chief executives together, usually in London,
and it has been no surprise to discover that we all have to face largely the same problems. At the top of the list is finance, and this will remain the case I suspect for several years to come.

Most of the nation’s national parks have already suffered over 40% cuts to their government grants since the last general election, which is radical to say the least! It is a pity that, rather than being able to concentrate solely on conservation, our park authorities are also having to cope with the consequences that this level of cuts brings. Being so closely involved with the running of the National Park gives me an opportunity to help steer the policy and direction of the Authority. When I was elected I made it clear to the members that they had chosen a chairman whose simple policy is to ‘put the Forest first’ in every decision that is made, and only if a decision is good for the Forest will I support it. This position, I believe, broadly reflects the longstanding approach of our Association, and I will find out if my fellow members favour this approach when I come up for re-election in June!

Since the last report, in which I mentioned cycling, I am pleased to say that matters have progressed in the right direction despite some vigorous opposition from the commercial businesses that run mass cycle races here in the Forest several times a year. With the support of numerous key statutory and non-statutory organisations a Cycling Charter has now been agreed, which places a cap of 1,000 cyclists per day participating in organised events in the Forest. The cap has the support of locally elected representatives including both our Members of Parliament and the majority of our parish and county councillors as well as Hampshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Robert Goodwill M.P., has encouraged us all to try self-regulation first before looking at changing the law, and the Charter is our attempt to do this. The position will be reviewed in January 2016 and, if there is evidence that the Charter has been ignored, then we will go back to the Minister with strong and widespread support from across the Forest, and ask for the law to be changed.

A common objective, and our long-standing approach ‘to put the Forest first’.
I would also like to mention another matter that is causing growing concern, and that is the commercial picking of fungi in the Forest. This is something that now needs to be addressed in order to deter the well organised gangs whose simple instruction from their employers appears to be to pick every mushroom they can find – presumably the haul is sorted out later by experts who select the valuable edible species and throw away the rest. Sadly the Forestry Commission’s byelaws are too vaguely written at present to tackle this problem, and it is something I know is causing growing concern to Council. Efforts are now afoot to see if a change can be made to those byelaws; we know it’s possible because it has been very effectively achieved in Epping Forest where picking any fungi at all is banned.

As ever, on behalf of all the members of the Association, I would like to conclude my report by thanking the Council for all its vigilant and hard work over the year, and to express very special gratitude to those members of the Council who are about to retire.

Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre

Sylvia Edwards

Sylvia Edwards, of Lover, became a member of the NFA at our stand at the Lover Summer Fête in 2007. She soon also became a close personal friend and we worked together on the organisation of the National Park Societies Conference – the first (and to date only) National Conference that the Association has hosted - at Foxlease, in October 2008. The administration of such an event always takes a lot of careful planning, and Sylvia used the skills she had acquired as Area Secretary for the BMA. That the conference was such a huge success was due in good part to her input. Sylvia died, in Salisbury Hospital, on 20 November 2014, two days after her 69th birthday. She is sorely missed.

Georgina Babey
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Events and Activities in 2015

Saturday 18 April  ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
commencing at 10.00 a.m. at Minstead Village Hall.

Wednesday 13 May  Walk through Sloden Wood & Sloden Inclosure
led by Anthony Pasmore
Meet at the Gorley Bushes Car Park (Grid Ref: SU230141) at 6.00 p.m. for this
guided walk to learn about the History of Sloden under Anthony’s expert
tuition. Stout footwear. Allow 2 hours.

Thursday 16 July  Frohawk Walk led by Dr June Chatfield
Hopefully we shall see Silver-washed Fritillaries, including the variety after
which the great entomologist named his daughter Valezina. 16 July was his
birthday and this walk is to be led by his biographer and well known
Hampshire naturalist. Meet at Standing Hat car park at 11.30 a.m. Grid ref.
SU314036. Approx. 2 hours. As this walk will be weather dependent, please
notify Graham Long (details on back cover) if you plan to join the party.

Sunday 4 October  NFA Barbecue
Forestry Commission barbecue site at Anderwood. The site lies off Lyndhurst
Road which runs between Burley village and the A35 in the direction of
Lyndhurst at Grid ref. SU249058. Join us for a guided walk at 11.00 a.m.
before the barbecue starts at 1.00 p.m. Bring your own barbecue food and
drink. Visitors welcome. Contact: geoff.barnes56@googlemail.com or
secretary@newforestassociation.co.uk

Mid-week in October  A Fungus Foray led by Sarah Cadbury. The exact date
and location will be published on the website and via email nearer the time
when the season and weather which so much affect the development of
fungi can be better assessed.

For up-to-date details, or late alterations to any of
the arrangements given above, please consult our
website www.newforestassociation.org
Annual Shows

We shall again have a stand at shows during the summer season. We do need volunteers for these. If you can help, please contact, our Honorary Secretary. The Shows we shall attend are as follows:

**The New Forest Show**  
Tuesday 28 July, Wednesday 29 July and Thursday 30 July

**Romsey Show**  
Saturday 12 September

We are always delighted to meet members attending the shows, so please do come along and introduce yourselves to our volunteers on the stalls. Details of any additional Shows will be announced on our website.

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**PEOPLE WE NEED**

The NFA currently is seeking the following key appointments –

* Chairman for Council
* Honorary Secretary
* Chairman of the Membership & Marketing Committee and also an Editor for the Newsletter (could be a job-share).

In addition, the following volunteers are needed to undertake practical research for us –

⇒ a **researcher** to identify where overhead cables are capable of being buried;
⇒ a **campaign leader** to head up a move to reduce the number of non-statutory sign-posts and roadside structures, and **data collectors** spread across the Forest to work with that leader;
⇒ a **technologist** to design a system using cell phones and android apps to measure overhead aircraft noise with the aim of gathering hard evidence of its nuisance rating in the New Forest and South Downs National Parks.

Details of the **key appointments** can be obtained from John Ward, and those for the **volunteers** from Graham Baker. The contact information for them is on pages 35 and 28 respectively.
Some visitors and even residents see relatively few butterflies in the New Forest some years and may find it disappointing. Yet dig deep and, although it may not match the huge numbers of butterflies seen on some chalk downlands, the area is a classic joined-up range of different habitats which many conservationists strive for, beloved by entomologists (insect specialists), as it rarely disappoints. True, some entomologists are collectors, but most are sensible and, without their recording of tiny flies, beetles and others, our knowledge of some insect orders would be rather limited.

If one asked an entomologist what they wanted to see in the Forest, it would probably be one of the rarest species, such as New Forest Cicada *Cicadetta montana* (not seen since c.1992 although there has been possible song heard since then), the rarely recorded Mole cricket (more later in these notes), Southern Damselfly, heathland butterflies such as Silver-studded Blue and Grayling and the Dark Crimson Underwing and Light Crimson Underwing moths, which Victorian collectors used to covet.

**A rich diversity**

Heathlands, acid grasslands and mires are internationally important and have an interesting insect fauna, some of it rare in Britain. In fact, insects with a conservation status are commonplace in the Forest, some Red Data Book species, others Nationally Scarce. Articles published in the NFA Newsletter in 2014 by Clive Chatters (No.18) and Martin Rand (No.19) document the legislation and importance of habitats the insects rely on in what many regard as a wilderness. Saproxylic (dead wood) beetles and others thrive in ancient woodlands and Inclosures and are particularly well known or even restricted to the Forest. Grasslands grazed by animals result in a reduction in potential

Anyone planning to collect insects is required to apply to the Forestry Commission, Queen’s House, Lyndhurst for a permit. This rightly prohibits collecting certain groups and specific endangered species. It is expected that records will be submitted.
foodplants and nectar sources, with a reduction in insect populations, but there are even specialists in these areas. It is notable that an estimated 63% of Britain’s 24,000 species of insects are found in the Forest. Although rarely in the numbers recorded during Victorian times, many species are still fairly straightforward to find. Some past losses were inevitable and sadly included a few rare butterfly species.

Examples of insects studied

I like to target challenging species each year (including some ‘new’ to me) with a view to either photographing them or finding out more about them, as details are often lacking in the literature. Some collectors tend to quickly net insects and seldom take time to observe them in nature, or publish details. The following are good examples of just a few of the Forest’s insect treasures, although even I have to confess that bot flies hardly fall into that category!

**Mole Cricket *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa***

(Red Data Book, endangered)

is a conspicuous digger, up to 46 mm long, that has a three year life cycle. It is possibly confined in Britain to a single damp heathland locality near Brockenhurst at present, where Brian Harrison (sound recorder) and I heard four males singing from underground burrows on 19 May 2014. There are enough older records in and around the Forest to suggest it is likely to be found elsewhere, albeit in low numbers, although males sing only on some warm nights. We hope to see at least one of the elusive adults next season, which are at the edge of their range in Britain.

**Flame-shouldered Blister Beetle *Sitaris muralis***

(Red Data Book, endangered)

is only known at present from Brockenhurst, where it was first recorded in 2010. These 8-14 mm beetles develop in very old brick walls feeding on the host, Hairy-footed Flower Bee *Anthophora plumipes*. Around four specimens of these clumsy, colourful beetles are seen each year in August, at least half already dead on the pavement!
Horse Bot Fly *Gasterophilus intestinalis* (Nationally Scarce) is well known to vets and commoners, with at least three out of our four British *Gasterophilus* species found in the Forest. They parasitize horses and donkeys, with *G. intestinalis* the most widespread, mainly seen in August and September. Each female of this species lays c.1,000 yellowish eggs, usually on the hairs of the animal host legs, before dying a few days later. The larvae migrate through the tongue to the stomach, passing out in the dung the following year. My challenge in 2015 is to find the other species and try to obtain photographs – not an easy task, but untreated ponies kicking out are often a sign these large insects are flying around them.

**What hope for the future?**

Rare insects have always flourished in the New Forest. The general lack of information on even our common species and where to find them, prompted me to write *A photographic guide to insects of the New Forest and surrounding area* (Pisces, 2011). One reviewer thought this may be perceived as ‘madness’ commercially, little appreciating the popularity of this area and general interest in its wildlife. Long may the Forest remain a stronghold for many of our insects, although we need to learn more about some rarer species, such as how widespread they really are, their biology and habitat requirements. To quote from David Sheppard’s article on Mole Crickets in the *Biologist* (1998), ‘Protecting a very rare insect is a good idea, but is rather an empty gesture when one cannot find any to protect’. Let us hope the Mole Cricket surfaces, and other rare and elusive species show themselves – the New Forest Cicada is proving to be particularly elusive, even with extensive searches. An app developed by Southampton University encourages the general public to help search. However, with an approximate seven-year life cycle, rediscovering this species (Britain’s only cicada) could be the biggest challenge of all! There is no doubt Britain’s insect populations in general are in decline – the greatest single threat to insect populations in the Forest, as has happened elsewhere, is loss of habitat. For species to flourish in future, knowing where they occur, continuing to preserve the Forest and ensuring the habitat is managed appropriately for rarities, is crucial.
**Hornet Rove Beetle**  
*(Velleius dilatatus)*  
(Red Data Book, endangered)  
at a sap run on a Goat Moth infected oak on 21 July.  
They eat fly larvae developing in Hornet nests in tree hollows – hence are rarely observed

**Flame-shouldered Blister Beetle**  
*(Sitaris muralis)*  
(Red Data Book, endangered)  
These 8-14 mm beetles develop in very old brick walls feeding on the host, Hairy-footed Flower Bee *Anthophora plumipes*

**Large Marsh Grasshopper**  
*(Stethophyma grossum)*  
(Red Data Book)  
Purple form found in a few Forest bogs.  
This rare colour form occurs only in larger populations of this species

**Lymexylon navale**  
(Red Data Book)  
are narrow-bodied wood-borers in oak belonging to the Ship-timber beetle family Lymexylidae, here photographed in Denny Wood on 2 July
A typical New Forest roe deer ranges mostly within about 10-15ha, but there are two forms of departure from that routine. Periodically an individual makes a trip perhaps a kilometre away but usually returns after a day or so. Sometimes it doesn’t return for weeks or even months, or it may oscillate between two locations, possibly depending on the season. Oscillations and trips have obvious survival value in finding better habitats. Those mechanisms operate when roe discover and promptly fill a nearby vacuum caused by excessive shooting. Deer stalkers and others have often commented on the rapidity with which shot roe are replaced.

But how do roe behave here when not suffering such imposed mortality? Not like other deer. Not even like roe elsewhere. For example, roe sometimes form larger associations in winter or gather in spring to gorge in pasture on the early bite of new growth; but both events are rare in the Forest.

In winter, two bucks may occupy the same home range, within which they avoid each other. Similarly, a doe with kid sometimes shares a winter range with an adult of either sex, also with mutual avoidance. But outside the rut a doe without kid, or after a kid departs, may appear to form a companionship with a buck, or sometimes another doe, each seeking the other’s company and often re-establishing the same association year after year. This contrasts with the separation into male and female herds characterising other deer species.

Oscillation between areas seems mostly seasonal. Relocation in the summer, although influenced by availability of forage and other resources (including shelter and reduced disturbance), seems related...
more to reproduction. Around June or July, before the rut, a doe may migrate a kilometre or more; sometimes the buck with which she has been associating follows to the same area. The female appears to be seeking and often finding an alternative mate but, when unsuccessful, she accepts her winter companion if he too has moved to her summer location. But a gathering of buck, doe and kid(s) doesn't establish the paternity of offspring – current or future. So 'family party' is a misnomer.

Sometimes mutual affection between a doe kid and its mother – for example, with mutual grooming – appears to continue almost until she gives birth again. Elsewhere mothers are reported to drive their kids away but in the Forest, although body language may be exceptionally subtle, it seems to be the kids that initiate independence, especially the bucks. But a doe yearling often establishes a home range close to, or overlapping, its mother’s.

Around April, when ties with mothers loosen, occasionally a male kid seems fascinated by an adult buck, particularly when cleaning velvet from its antlers, and may seek its company. Adults react with varying levels of tolerance, generally decreasing as the weeks pass. Buck kids becoming yearlings sometimes associate in pairs, usually amicably but occasionally with jousts during the rut, apparently playful although really establishing dominance.

The spring moult, starting at the head, is usually most conspicuous in May but dates vary greatly from year to year. In autumn, winter coat growing through the summer pelage often appears about the second week of September. The head and neck become duller and greyer; then dark blotches often spread from the chest until merging is complete around mid-October.
Antlers

The annual antler cycle is very different from that of other deer, predictable from the earlier rut (July to August instead of October). Roe antlers are cast in the autumn or early winter. Growth of new ones is slower than in other deer, the covering velvet usually frayed off around the first half of April.

Antler size and shape are even less reliable to define age than in other deer species. The same buck may have apparently random fluctuations from year to year and some New Forest bucks never achieve the typical head with three points on each antler.

Male deer watchers are often preoccupied with antlers, and even people not obsessed may focus selectively on male deer because antlers facilitate individual identification. We men concede that the number of females, not males, determines the number of offspring, and consequent population changes, but there are more subtle ways in which females are influential, perhaps even in determining bucks’ territories.

Roe deer provide exceptional opportunities for long-term study of individuals and many were studied during a New Forest research project, intensive over twelve years. Doe A was first identified as an adult in 1989 and followed continuously until 1997. Her 1989 kid had survived over a year before we lost contact, but her subsequent six pregnancies failed in
different ways to produce kids surviving as long. Then her 1996 kid was observed closely for over twelve months, like the 1989 kid seven years previously. That mother’s maternity record deviates from expectation that a doe rears kids most successfully in mid-life. Her protracted death in 1997 followed a dog attack, after which she hid for a week with a badly ripped abdomen, suffering unseen.

Still-births are found rarely but resorption of the embryo may occur in New Forest roe when resources in April are poor. If males are resorbed more often than females, this would help explain the unusually low ratio here of bucks to does, particularly before habitat improved in recent years.

In the Forest, kids are seldom killed by foxes because they hide until accompanying their mothers who ably defend them. Encounters are rarer because populations of both species are low, and we record foxes taking more abundant squirrels and rabbits back to their cubs. Unfortunately many deer – including adult roe – die from dogs, often unknown to handlers who let them wander off the lead. Lactating does need to concentrate on finding forage and ruminating; even deer merely disturbed remain distracted long after dogs have passed, thus contributing to kid deaths from malnutrition.
When the NFA was revived in the late 1920s much had changed in the world. The war apart, perhaps the most noticeable aspect was that women had the vote and were in a much better position to take an active part in the affairs of the world including the New Forest. In 1927 three women, Maud Lovell, Penelope Eyre and Thena Clough were on the executive committee of the Association and playing a very active role. The Lovells are a comparatively well know family who had resided at Hincheslea for many decades. Maud's father Francis was heavily involved with the cause of the Forest in the 1860s and 70s. Penelope Eyre, the daughter of Briscoe, is also from a prominent family, who have played a vital work role in the preservation of the Forest and continue to do so today.

This article concentrates on Blanche Athena Clough known through much of her life as Thena. She was born in 1861, the year her father, the poet Arthur Hugh Clough, died. Never close to her mother, Thena's formative years were heavily influenced by her aunt Anne Jemima Clough, the founding principal of Newnham College, Cambridge.

**A notable pedigree**

A cousin was Florence Nightingale and, through a curious entail, Embley Park near Romsey came to be her childhood home for a number of years. Here she grew to know and love the Forest. Her biographer, Gillian Sutherland, said ‘...Thena developed a passionate
love of the countryside, and of the New Forest in particular, which was to sustain her throughout her life.’ Much of her adult life was spent at Newnham where she became an assistant to her aunt, writing her biography in the years after her death in 1892. Thena was clearly an able administrator and was offered but declined the post of Principal, preferring to work behind the scenes as Vice-principal, a role she held from 1900-1920. In that latter year she finally accepted the senior role, which she held for three years. In that time she was heavily involved in the fight for the recognition of women's colleges as part of the University of Cambridge. This was a fight she had witnessed before in 1896-7, so she was well placed to make the fresh attempt. At the same time she was one of two token women on a Royal Commission enquiring into the University set-ups following a request for government money after the difficulties of the war years. Although many members of the Commission sympathised with the women's position, the report was fudged and little changed.

**Settlement in the Forest**

On retirement in 1923 she returned to Burley Hill House where she had first come to live in 1896 outside of term time at Cambridge. Her brother, also Arthur Hugh, lived close by at Castle Top. He was a keen architect and anxious to promote his ideas of community living. He designed and invested in Garden Close, a distinctive development in Burley. There remains a Clough Close in Burley. Here for a time she was able to devote time to her passion as a birdwatcher and naturalist.

The issue which brought about the revival of the Association was felling of ancient and ornamental woods in Burley Old Inclosure in contravention of the 1877 Act. A letter to *The Times* signed by her cousin Barbara Stephen in February 1927, announced the problem to the nation. The response by the Forestry Commission, that this was just
part of the 'ordinary process of management', was considered highly inadequate. A letter signed by, amongst others, her brother Arthur Hugh Clough, brought about a much more positive response by the Forestry Commission that there should be an advisory committee to assist them. At the first major meeting of the Association since the war, Thena was elected to the Executive Committee and then nominated as one of four NFA representatives on the advisory committee alongside two verderers and representatives of the National Trust and the Commons and Footpaths Society.

**A re-invigorated Association**

The Association membership grew rapidly and the management responded accordingly. It was decided to set up four regional committees to better look out for problems. Thena was chosen to chair the South-West group. Reports from her on closing of inclosure rides, cutting of chestnuts in Wilverley and a meeting with the Deputy Survey, Mr Osmaston, showed great activity. By the autumn of the following year much work had been done by the advisory committee and it was considered that perhaps eighty per cent of the NFA aims had been agreed by the Forestry Commission. Her epitome of the work of the committee was commended when it was published in the first annual report.

After years in her professional life of having to be careful what she said and consider the opinions of all around her, Thena was quite prepared in retirement to let her views be known. At the first AGM in October 1928 she put forward a resolution that the New Forest ought to be recognised and managed as a ‘National wild park’.

In October 1928 Thena put forward a successful resolution that the New Forest ought to be recognised and managed as a ‘National wild park’.

‘That whilst the meeting wishes to express its appreciation of the
consideration shown by the Forestry Commissioners to the views which this Association represents, and of the value of the concessions made in response to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, it must at the same time put on record its conviction that the New Forest ought to be recognised a National wild park, that the only objects of its administration should be the preservation of its beauty and interest and maintenance of its amenities for the use and enjoyment of the Nation and the protection of the inalienable rights and privileges of the Commoners and that it should therefore be in the charge of some body of officials who are free to carry out this policy unhindered by commercial considerations.’

The motion was strongly opposed by Heywood Sumner, but few others. He eventually resigned from the Association over the issue. The resolution was carried with only six members voting against.

For the first three years of the revived NFA Thena did not miss a meeting and perhaps apart from the secretary, Capt Sutton, took a more active part in affairs than anyone else.

A casualty of the Great Depression, rescued by her friends

During the winter of 1930/31 she gave apologies and missed a number of meetings as indeed she did in the following years. Her attention was on matters closer to home. The economic climate in the 1920s was not good and the stock market crash of 1929 caused repercussions all round the world. The business affairs of her brother in Burley were not immune from this. He had overstretched himself with his building plans and was in severe financial difficulties. Unfortunately for Thena, her finances were not completely separated from his, following the death of their mother. It became necessary to sell her home, Burley Hill, which she did in February 1928 moving in with her brother and sister-in-law at Castle Top. This did not resolve their problems: the banks foreclosed on her brother and in September 1933 he was forced to petition for bankruptcy. Castle Top was sold in the spring of 1934; Arthur and his wife Eleanor were able to move to a property that was in her name alone in Winterslow.

Thena had no such option but had a number of good friends, one of whom offered to share a flat in London. Barbara Stephen and her husband, Sir Harry had recently moved to Hale and made enquiries on
her behalf for a property, eventually finding Folly Hill, overlooking Hale Purlieu. Friends had clubbed together to provide funds, held in trust, so that she could live out her retirement in her beloved New Forest. She moved in during the summer of 1935 and remained there until her health deteriorated to such an extent in 1947 that a move to a nursing home in London was forced. There she died, a month before her 99th birthday in 1960.

She kept up her love and support of the Forest and one of her last letters was to The Times in February 1944 when 1000 acres of heathland were threatened with agricultural use. She reminded readers of the value of the land for grazing and added:

‘Those who value the forest as a national park and playground must surely watch and work for its restoration when peace comes, and must keep in mind the law of the land and the Act of 1877, which saved what still remains and laid it down that no further inclosures should be permitted.’

Sources

Letter to The Times February 1944
New Forest Association Annual Report

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COUNCIL MEMBERS & TRUSTEES

To retire at the Annual General Meeting 2015
Mark Abbott, Emma Blake, Maureen Bromley-Smith, Clive Chatters, Michael Chilcott,
Jonathan Cox, Roly Errington, John Fawcett, Eve Gillmon, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson,
Brian Tarnoff, Jenni Tubbs, John Ward, William Zeigler.

To retire at the Annual General Meeting 2016
Graham Baker, Geoff Barnes, Leo Randall.

To retire at the Annual General Meeting 2017
Gale Gould, Keith Howe, David Humbert, Graham Long, Dionis Macnair, Anne Millar.

Website
www.newforestassociation.org
http://www.facebook.com/NewForestAssociation
twitter.com/nfanews
The New Forest Association has been engaged with Forest activities and issues on a broad front throughout the year but without a single major threat to the Forest requiring us to focus on a specific campaign. While we certainly do not wish to face large scale policies or proposals likely to harm the long term future of the Forest, it can be more challenging to grapple with the incremental but insidious changes that continue to undermine the special qualities and character of the Forest that we are resolved to protect.

As usual Council has been a forum for discussion of Forest issues and for setting some policy directions, with the ongoing work of the Association being delivered through our two functional committees, the Planning & Transport and Habitat & Landscape Committees. Their reports provide more information, but, for example, subjects with which we have been engaged include commercial fungi gathering, tranquillity, aircraft noise, undergrounding power cables and national planning policy changes for affordable housing and wider permitted development rights. And, of course, monitoring, supporting or opposing the never-ending flow of planning applications made for development throughout the New Forest.

The saga of the National Park Authority’s work on a Cycling Code of Conduct and a Cycling Charter has continued through the year. We have stayed with the discussions, but unfortunately many of the wider issues about commercial exploitation of the Forest without regard to its special qualities and just what should be the National Park Authority’s policy for managing recreational activities and events have been lost. Instead the Authority has concentrated its staff resources onto the single issue of some large on-road cycle events. Our main concern with cycling remains that of the harm done by off-road cycling on the open forest away from designated gravel roads, about which no effective action is being taken by the National Park Authority or Forestry Commission.

Much of the effectiveness of the Association comes from our being the only independent body free of specific interests within the Forest, but with a very broad range of interests, skills and Forest knowledge within our membership. All of the informal contacts and networking opportunities this provides have meant that we continue to be a strong and influential organisation. While not every one of us is always facing in quite the same policy direction, Council meetings through the year have provided the key moderating touch to keep the Association’s responses to issues co-ordinated. In addition we have strengthened our formal liaison meetings with the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission and are grateful to the Chief Executive and Deputy Surveyor for helping to maintain these relationships of “critical friendship”. We have also maintained an active membership as a Council member of the national Campaign for National Parks, which provides a valuable means of sharing experiences with other National Park societies and ensuring that a New Forest viewpoint is included in the lobbying of Government and ministers.

The Association has been present at various shows around the Forest, explaining our “agenda” and work and seeking to recruit new members. As always we are grateful to the team who transport and put up the stand, and then represent the NFA at these events.

The Association’s Education Group has continued its work with the National Park Authority developing plans for a Secondary Schools New Forest Conference. This will be held in Brockenhurst later this year.

So far as running the Association, delivering a campaigning programme and developing our role as a National Park Society is concerned, 2014 has been a disappointing and not very successful year. While there are plenty of members elected to Council who contribute valuable
experience and knowledge, the Association has struggled to fill officer posts, including Chairman, with people who are willing to put in the voluntary time and effort to make the NFA an active body that others perceive to be the focus of campaigning for the Forest. While of itself restructuring will not resolve this problem, we have reviewed the existing governance arrangements for the NFA. New terms of reference have been drawn up and approved by Council for four committees: Management; Planning and Transport; Habitat and Landscape; and Membership and Marketing. The Management and Marketing Committee began to get to grips with strengthening and improving the reach of the NFA through various media, including a new website, but currently the committee is in abeyance for lack of a chairperson and active members. We have also looked at the roles of Council members and NFA charity trustees. A separate report and recommendation has been brought to this AGM proposing changes to keep the best of what we have, but also to streamline the organisation to be better adapted to meeting the challenges of change that the Association needs to grasp.

Finally, the trustees thank those volunteers who have supported the Association through 2014 and would particularly thank Graham Long who has so ably edited and produced our excellent Newsletter, but is now standing down leaving this important post vacant.

**Council and Trustees Report to the Annual General Meeting 2015**

**Proposed Constitution changes to the New Forest Association**

**Introduction**

During the past year the NFA Council and Management Committee have struggled to find members willing to come forward to fill key posts or to volunteer to be active committee members willing to work to:

- promote the organisation,
- publicise the NFA Agenda,
- encourage a wider, active membership and
- increase the NFA’s presence within the New Forest.

This is essential if the NFA is to be seen as the independent active campaigning organisation seeking to protect and enhance the New Forest for the long term, rather than just being regarded a passive organisation responding to threats to the Forest as, when and if they arise.

While changing the structure of the organisation will not of itself achieve any of the above, part of our deliberations have included looking to see if the structure of the NFA and its committee terms of reference could be better organised to more effectively govern and run the organisation.

**Current organisation**

At present the NFA membership at the AGM elects:

3 officers:

- President
- Hon. Treasurer
- Hon. Secretary

and a Council comprising the NFA Officers + not more than 30 elected members.
In addition there are 2 Officers elected at the first meeting of the Council following the AGM:

Chairman
Vice Chairman.

The maximum size of the Council may, therefore, be up to 35 members.

There is no prescribed place, time or frequency for meetings of the Council.
(At present Council meets 5 times per year)

This structure pre-dates 1 January 1970 when the NFA was registered as a charity. Since then all members of the NFA Council are also trustees for the purposes of the charity.

NFA Council may appoint sub-committees. At present there are 4:

Management
Planning and Transport
Habitat and Landscape
Membership and Marketing

The first three are active. The Management and Marketing Committee currently has no chairperson and is inactive.

**Comments on the current functioning of the NFA**

The Council of the NFA has an exceptionally large number of members to be the trustees of a charitable organisation.

Currently the NFA is a “Trust” - an unincorporated association. NFA financial investments and assets are held on behalf of the NFA by two trustees. Alternatives are to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or a Charitable Company (limited by guarantee).

A significant number of Council members do not wish to be part of the NFA charity “trustee board” and are not actively aware of their responsibilities in this role.

Meetings of the Council are not an effective forum for the governance and strategic policy setting of the NFA charity.

Meetings of the Council are an effective and valuable way of bringing together a core group of NFA members to discuss current issues within the New Forest and to discuss what might be the best way for the NFA to engage with or respond to these issues.

The Council brings together individuals with a wide breadth of knowledge of the New Forest, engagement with other New Forest organisations and a diverse set of professional skills valuable to the work of the NFA.

The number and terms of reference of the NFA sub-committees have been recently reviewed to bring them up to date. There remains a difficulty in recruiting members to lead and to be active members of these sub-committees.

The position of President of the NFA makes that person a member of Council and a charity trustee. While this may be appropriate at some times it unnecessarily restricts the NFA from attracting someone who might be a high profile personality or be widely recognised in the New Forest, who is willing to promote the NFA but does not wish to be responsible for or commit the time to being a trustee of the organisation.
Proposed Changes

To revise the structure of the NFA to comprise:

**Trustee Board** of not more than 10 members, including

4 Officers:  
- Chairperson  
- Vice Chairperson  
- Hon. Secretary  
- Hon. Treasurer

Officers to be elected annually at the AGM.

Other members on a rotating basis at the third AGM following their election.

Board to meet not less than 2 times per year.

To have the power to appoint committees in a similar way to the present Council.

To have other powers and duties similar to the present Council.

Non-officer trustees should have job descriptions, of which 3 should be to chair the 3 functional committees of the Trustee Board (or other committees as may be formed from time to time).

**Advisory Council** of not more than 30 members, including

10 Trustee Board members.

**Members** (other than the Trustee Board) to be elected on a rotating basis at the third AGM following their election.

To meet not less than 4 times per year.

The Advisory Council would fulfill much the same role as the present Council in bringing together individuals with a wide breadth of knowledge of the New Forest, engagement with other New Forest Organisations and a diverse set of professional skills valuable to the work of the NFA. Members should be actively engaged as volunteers within the NFA, serving on committees or filling other roles.

**President**

To be appointed annually at the AGM  
To be an honorary member of the NFA Advisory Council  
And if he / she wishes be eligible to stand for election to the Trustee Board.

**Charity Structure**

Changing the NFA to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) would be relatively straightforward. Changing to a Charitable Company would require more administration and cost and is not warranted by the size and financial commitments of the NFA. It is suggested that the merits of remaining an unincorporated association or becoming a CIO are further considered.

Name; Objects; General Powers; AGM and EGM arrangements; Records of meetings; Charitable Objectives and Dissolution of the Association to remain as now

**It is recommended that**

This AGM approves  
the principles for reviewing the “Rules” of the New Forest Association as outlined above and  
instructs Council to bring a revised constitution to a subsequent AGM or EGM for approval.
Planning & Transport Committee Report

As well as development control, the planning committee has also dealt with transport, recreation and tranquillity matters over the last year. The New Forest is an extremely popular place to live. Within the Park housing availability is limited; prices can only be afforded by those moving from London and Surrey, and local youngsters and young commoners are squeezed out. All around our borders there are high build levels with a growing population wishing to use the Forest as a playground. Against this background the NFA continues to fight the slow retreat.

It’s ten years since the creation of the National Park and I believe there is now little difference between NFA objectives and those of the Authority. Between us we have largely fought off the Government's efforts to relax planning controls in the National Park. We have jointly opposed efforts to build houses beyond the village boundaries, and also jointly opposed efforts to build landscape-destroying solar farms. We have jointly welcomed the efforts of the Forestry Commission to restore streams. We will always have differences at the margins, but hopefully will be together in resisting the efforts of neighbouring authorities to burden the National Park with their recreation, community and employment facilities.

Review of Park’s Management Plan & Core Planning Policies

The New Forest National Park Authority will update its management and planning documents in the next two years and the process is already underway. NFA has welcomed the first draft of the revised Management Plan, given its underlying theme of the conservation of the special qualities of the Forest and its inclusive nature.

Following issue of the Management Plan, the Authority will update local planning policies. The process is required to ensure the local plan complies with the raft of new rules contained in the National Planning Policy Framework document. A key requirement is an assessment of housing needs in the Park and this could produce a figure several times the current build rate. This figure will be modified by other Government advice giving special protection to national parks, and following consultation with neighbouring Authorities. Policies to yield the agreed housing figure will then need to be constructed and examined. This will include discussion on the level of affordable homes and the village boundaries. All other policies will be reviewed and NFA will emphasise the need to protect from all development, even community use, the small gaps between the Park's boundaries and Ashurst and Sway and any pasture adjoining the open forest.

Recreation & Tranquillity

The dreadful Recreation Management Steering Group, which on occasions made PM's question time seem tame, is no more. It has been replaced by representatives of statutory bodies and landowners working to achieve the agreed objective of managing recreation to accommodate increasing numbers and enhance the tranquillity and wilderness of the New Forest. Judging from the published minutes, progress is being made and some principles have been established, such as the primacy of stock management. The Cycling Events Charter has been published for on-road cycling, but the battle to ensure compliance is still ahead. Off road, enhanced wilderness will likely require control of vehicle entry points and speed of traverse.

The 1995 Tranquillity maps have been revised and NFA members and others spent a pleasant few hours testing the results in the summer. This involved couples finding their way to specific spots in the Park and assessing their tranquillity over 15 minutes. We were sent, via a graffiti-covered underpass, to a spot only a couple of hundred yards or so from Morrison's at Calmore –
but what a difference those yards made – how stark the contrast between the start of Britain’s sixth largest built-up area and the protected landscape of the New Forest. Another couple were erroneously sent to the middle of the Beaulieu estate where the remonstrations of a gamekeeper did little to improve tranquility.

Having measured tranquillity we now need to enhance it, and NFA are promoting several campaigns. Initial work on burying overhead cables has been undertaken, as has work on a study with CPRE and the Park Authorities into ways to reduce disturbance from private and military aircraft and helicopters in the New Forest and South Downs. Efforts are now turning to a campaign to reduce road signage and furniture in the Forest.

The Planning Committee is in good heart and has expanded recently to strengthen representation in the defined villages. New members are always welcome and, with well defined roles and opportunity to learn on the job and progress to other areas, the Committee is a good starting point for volunteers. Call Graham Baker (Chairman) on 01590 623935.

Habitat and Landscape Committee

The Land Management Committee along with redefining its terms of reference this year has been renamed the Habitat and Landscape Committee (HAL), both to express what we cover in plain English, as well as to differentiate ourselves from our Planning Committee for the many of us who do not follow the nuances of policy-speak. We have eight members; a mixture of amateur and professional ecologists, and meet at least four times a year to promote the NFA’s objectives within our remit.

Site Visits

HAL members attended site visits for a variety of Forestry Commission led habitat restoration and maintenance project proposals. We offer both supportive and critical advice. Additionally our ecologists often revisit the sites on their own to refine our responses. This past year has included:

- North Slufters
- Harvestlade Bottom
- Amberslade Bottom and Broomy Inclosure
- Pondhead
- Longbeech Inclosure and Mire
- Holmhill Inclosure
- Studley Wood
- Cranesmoor (felling review)
- Greenford Bottom and Roe Inclosure
- Norley Mire / Upper Crockford Bottom

The first two of these have since been granted planning consent. The next two have been
applied for and are awaiting decisions. I was very heartened by a proposal by Natural England during the recent walkover of Norley Mire to broaden the scope of the FC’s extremely modest felling proposal to restore much of the currently wooded area around the mire to heathland. This kind of aspirational thinking has been missing from that much pared down reactive organisation, and the suggestion was welcomed by all the stakeholders present.

**Tree Species Selection**

As part of our ongoing research to bolster our evidence and analysis for our views on The Forest Design Plan, we commissioned a study to look at future tree species selection to provide the Forestry Commission with guidance covering resistance to pests and climate change, and looking beyond species that the foresters may favour for their decreasing and already negligible crop value.

**The Forest Design Plan**

Consultation for The Forest Design Plan is now set for Q2 2015. We see this as one of the NFA’s best opportunities to push for habitat restoration in the inclosures of the Crown Lands. We will be putting together a seminar for the key stakeholders in the consultation to present the findings from our research over the past decade.

**Fallen Timber**

During the Winter of 2013/14 there was a larger amount of fallen timber due to the damp soil conditions and wind-blow. We fielded many concerns from our members that this was being capitalised upon. Naturally fallen timber is an important part of the habitat, home to invertebrates as well as a nursery for the regeneration of woodland. Removal may be done for safety reasons, but we expect the Forestry Commission and their agents to follow its own policies which in the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands promotes repositioning over removal.

**Going Forward**

Other areas of concern we hope to address in 2015 are:

**Recreation and Tranquillity** – these are now part of our committee’s remit, and we will be looking for someone with expertise in this area to join us. We will continue to call for a review of the outdated recreation infrastructure, carparks and campsites. Effective management of the demand of recreation on the Forest cannot be achieved without a critical rethink of this infrastructure.

**Open Forest Management** – we will be continuing to promote ways to allow natural processes and minimal intervention to improve the habitats of the unenclosed forest.

**Brian Tarnoff, Chairman**
Fifty-one members attended. The President, Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, welcomed them all to the meeting and opened the proceedings.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from twenty three members.

2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

The draft minutes of the previous AGM had been included in the Spring edition of the Newsletter which had been sent to all members. On the proposal of John Ward, seconded by Brian Tarnoff, members agreed unanimously to adopt the minutes.

3. Matters Arising.

There were none.


The Annual Report had been included in the Spring edition of the Newsletter which had been sent to all members. The Chairman, Peter Roberts, took members through the Report and touched on the following topics: Cycling, the Natural Environment Strategy, Education the Future of the Public Forest Estate, the dangers of large-scale Commercial Recreation and the success of the campaign to prevent the proposed unrestricted conversion of barns to open market housing in National Parks as well as elsewhere in which NFA had played a significant role.

On the proposal of Russell Webb, seconded by Alison Bolton, members agreed unanimously to adopt the Annual Report.

4b. The Accounts.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014 and the Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees had been included in the Spring edition of the Newsletter and had been sent to all members. On the proposal of Alan Goodfellow, seconded by Graham Baker, members agreed unanimously to adopt the Accounts.

5. Election of Officers.

President: Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre was elected unanimously on the proposal of Peter
President: Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre was elected unanimously on the proposal of Peter Roberts, seconded by Michael Chilcott.

Hon. Secretary: Michael Chilcott was elected unanimously on the proposal of Jeanne Pollard, seconded by Peter Frost.

Hon. Treasurer: Brandy Gill was elected unanimously on the proposal of Brian Tarnoff, seconded by Richard Reeves.

Hon. Independent Accounts Examiner: Martyn Smith was elected unanimously on the proposal of Alison Bolton, seconded by Graham Baker.


On the President's proposal, seconded by Peter Roberts, the following were elected unanimously: Gale Gould, Dr. Keith Howe.

7. Peter Roberts.

The President made a presentation to mark Peter's service as Chairman after Peter had announced that he will not seek re election at the May meeting of Council. He said that Peter still has a lot to offer to the New Forest and he thanked him very sincerely for his past work.

Peter thanked the President, his fellow officers and the Council for their support. He said that NFA is at a 'crossroads' and that no one has come forward yet to stand as Chairman. He thought that the Council is too large to be fully effective and he advocated that a reduction to between ten and fifteen members should be considered. His view is that NFA's future work in education is crucial and he hopes that strong successors will be available to ensure that the Association prospers in the long term. His own plans include writing a history of the NFA.
NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS YEAR ENDED 2014

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<td>Charity Activities</td>
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PAYMENTS

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<tr>
<td>Charity Activities</td>
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Net Receipts

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Cash Funds Opening Balance

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Cash Funds Ending Balance

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<td></td>
<td><strong>151,094.94</strong></td>
<td><strong>140,110.96</strong></td>
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NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES YEAR ENDED 2014

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Other Monetary Assets

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<td>Plus: value of new stock purchases</td>
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<td>Less: value of goods sold</td>
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Investment Assets

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Assets for the Charity's Use

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<td>Exhibition Equipment</td>
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<td>New Forest Embroidery</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Notes on the Accounts

1. The Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared as a Summary of receipts and payments made during the year by the New Forest Association.
2. These Accounts have been prepared in a format which complies with guidance issued by the Charity Commission.
3. NFA has committed £25,000.00 to the Rockford Farm project and has so far paid £490.00 (in 2012).
Independent examiner’s report to the trustees of the New Forest Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2014, which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present ‘a true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Acts; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Martyn Smith FCCA
Bridge House, Boldre Lane, Boldre, Hants  SO41 8PD

5 February 2015
Who’s Who & Contact Details

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Belinda, Lady Montagu

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Habitat & Landscape - Brian Tarnoff
Planning & Transport - Graham Baker
Membership & Marketing - vacant

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