

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 21

April 2018

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL 2018** commencing at **7.30 p.m.** at the Coton and Hopwas Social Club, School Lane, Hopwas. The meeting will elect the committee for the coming year and reports will be presented for the past year including an update of current activities affecting the Wood.

It is important that there is a good attendance by Members so that views can be aired and the current working of the Friends discussed to ensure that the elected committee has a clear mandate for action.

In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Members of the Committee should be submitted to the Secretary 72 hours before the meeting and supported by at least two Members and bear the signature of the person nominated indicating their willingness to stand.

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of previous AGM**
4. Chairman`s Report
5. Treasurer`s Report
6. Election of Committee
7. Subscriptions
8. Any other business

Current Activities

The Committee has not been very active over the last year as pleasingly there have been no major issues for consideration that directly affect the Wood and long may that continue. That said they do monitor the activities of the landowners when aware of such activities such as the removal of certain trees to meet the safety requirements of the MoD or whether any thinning works are to be carried out and such matters as the use of mountain bikes and quads, particularly

along the public rights of way. However such activities are a matter for the landowners as the Friends remit is to ensure the protection of the Wood as ancient woodland. Therefore if any member has concerns over activities in the Wood please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman.

Keith Anderton

It is with great sadness to announce that Keith has sadly passed away. Keith was a valuable member of the Committee and is missed by us all.

Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2017-18 was discussed at the AGM in April 2017 and it was again agreed that an annual subscription of £5 should be paid by each Member.

It was agreed that subscriptions should be paid following the AGM with a cut-off date of the end of July. Therefore in accordance with the Constitution if any member failed to pay their subs by the end of October they ceased to be a member.

The following is the current condition as per the constitution regarding subscriptions:

"Subscriptions shall be payable to give a true representation of the Membership. The Annual General Meeting shall determine the level of subscriptions and the date for payment for the next year. Notification of the subscription amount and the due date agreed at the AGM will be sent to each member. Any Member falling more than three months in arrears shall be excluded from membership subject to adjudication by the Executive Committee and notice of such action being given in advance to the defaulting Member. A Committee Member falling in default under this rule shall forfeit Committee status forthwith."

The Committee however recognise that the payment of a £5 subscription can easily be forgotten or if received not recorded for whatever reason. Therefore they have used their discretion as to whether or not a member who has not paid by the due date should be removed from the membership.

The subscription for 2018-19 will again be decided at the AGM and members are requested to make their payment as soon as possible. **Payments can be made using any of the following methods:**

1. **CHEQUE:** Cheques should be made out to 'Friends of Hopwas Wood' and sent to the Treasurer, Martin Handley, at 8 Newlyn Close, Lichfield, WS14 9SH. If you want a receipt please let Martin know. Cheques can also be given to Ray Vanstone.
2. **INTERNET BANKING:** Payment can be made via internet banking to the Friends Nat West bank account number **73530662** sort code **53-70-15**. If you are making payment in this way please ensure that you identify the payment with your name. Please notify Martin by e-mail at mhandley1@aol.com to say that you are making payment this way.
3. **CASH:** Cash should be given to Ray Vanstone. **However methods of payment 1. and 2. are preferred as they provide a clear audit trail of payments made.**

Thank you all for your continued support.

Access to the Wood

As you are aware there is limited access to the MoD part of the Wood due to firing on the range or exercises in the Wood itself. Details are posted on our web site so please check it before venturing out. If anyone has any concerns regarding access please let the Chairman know. In addition it is important that when accessing the Wood that you keep to the designated public rights of way.

E-mail

One of the easiest ways of communicating with members is via e-mail therefore if you are on e-mail and have not already given us your address, then please send your email address to Martin Handley at mhandley@aol.com.

Web Site

As you are aware we have a web site with a domain name of friendsofhopwaswood.co.uk. The site has a number of pages as follows: Home, About Us, History, News, Newsletters, Photos, Apply for Membership, and Constitution.

On the Home page there is a list of Recent Posts

(see below) which importantly include details of the Wood closures on the MoD site.

Recent Posts

- [Whittington Firing Times 9th to 23rd March 2018](#)
- [Newsletter update](#)
- [Subscriptions are due by the end of July 2017](#)
- [Latest Newsletter – Giving notice of the AGM on Wednesday 12th. April 2017](#)
- [Old Quarry Adjacent to Coton and Hopwas Social Club off School Lane](#)

Please visit the site if you have not already done so.

History of the Wood

We continue to find as much as we can of the history of the Wood so that we can keep the web site up-to-date. We try to find interesting historical facts about the Wood and in particular the Woodhouse. In addition we received some interesting memories from one of our members regarding the Wood such as the time when a bomb landed in it.

If anyone would like to volunteer to take over the History page please contact the Chairman via e-mail.

Feedback

It is hoped that this newsletter has been informative and a further newsletter will be published September 2018. The Committee would welcome any comments and views from Members and these can be forwarded to any Committee Member.

Current Committee Members

Chairman: Ray Vanstone(rayvanstone@btinternet.com)
Vice Chairman: Lorna Bushell
Secretary: Barbara Stubbs
Treasurer: Martin Handley
Tom Jackson

