

TACWET CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a challenging few months for Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands Enterprise Trust, with a wet and cold winter making not only work in but access to the woodlands difficult.

Nonetheless, the beautiful woodlands which we as a trust took over three years ago from Thornborough Parish Council (which had taken on a 99-year lease with Buckinghamshire County Council) continue to provide a calm oasis in the middle of North Bucks for everyone - including our canine friends - to enjoy.

The County Council has continued to sell off its dwindling assets, and during the past year Coombs Farm, an integral part of the Woodlands, has been bought by Thornborough farmer Eddie Bullman, who in turn has sold off some of its land to Old Brightmoor. We look forward to continued good relations with our neighbours.

The trustees have continued to manage the woodlands both physically and financially, and we are indebted to those who have joined work parties and helped to raise funds. Our long-term aim is to involve in the Woodlands with forest schools, but in the meantime we have welcomed archaeological and other groups, including an apple-pressing day last autumn.

We are still enjoying the Bags of Help windfall from Tesco with its £12,000 local donation from the proceeds of plastic bag sales, which we have drawn on to purchase equipment for mowing, shredding and the other essential tools required to maintain a 168-acre woodland. But we still need funds, and in addition to the Friends of Thornborough Woodlands scheme, which invites paid membership from regular users, we continue with fund-raising events at The Two Brewers and The Old Thatched Inn. Our thanks to both Andys!

I would again like to thank my fellow trustees - Andy Spurr, Sarah Powell, Mary Taylor, Rupert Bursell and David Parker – whose role as a board is to preserve and manage the woodlands for the benefit of the public, to preserve its biodiversity, geological and archaeological features, and to encourage its educational use.

Thanks are also due to Andy Spurr and his regular work parties who do much of the heavy work involved in thinning and clearing. There are still 96 years to go...

MARK COLE JP

Chairman, Thornborough & Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust