



Friends of Magog Down

'Friendship' has been promoted over the summer following the 'Magog Down' postcard campaign in village magazines, local shops and pubs. At

Stapleford Flower Show and the Great Shelford Feast, the eye-catching display of photos of birds, flowers, snails and the Down itself prompted many to consider becoming a '**Friend of the Magog Down**'. At Shelford Feast, 'Guess the Number of Bees' competition attracted a good number of visitors to the Magog Down stand and for the curious, there were 2,851 bees in the observation hive. £30 was contributed to the Feast through this competition.

During **Friendship Week** on Magog Down, at the end of July, hundreds of visitors were directly approached by volunteers. They were asked to comment on Magog Down, their experiences, whether they were members and their thoughts on charging for Car Parking. Many constructive comments were received and this feedback will help the Trust to maintain and support Magog Down. We are aiming towards every visitor to Magog Down becoming a '**Friend**' and this campaign has added around 100 new Friends to our existing membership.

The 163 acres of Magog Down is a very special environment for South Cambridgeshire, the City and beyond; our thanks to all those who support us.

If we missed you on the Down, and you would like to become a Friend please email administrator@magogtrust.org.uk



Come and join our work parties!



*an hour or two in the fresh air on the Down.
1st Wednesday of month at 2.30 in the Car Park.*

If there are enough volunteers, we will set up a weekend work party; please email administrator@magogtrust.org.uk with subject heading **Weekend Volunteer** and tell us whether a Saturday or Sunday would be better.

Next year we would like to use our **hay crop**. Dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs, prevent use of the crop for animal purposes. That is one reason we ask that dogs be kept on leads on the north down, at all times, so that they are in close control. PLEASE – see that you always clear up after your dog and ask others to do so. Plenty of bins are provided and emptied regularly by Whoopsy Daisy.



@ Postal charges impact on our communication attempts. We would like to expand our database of email addresses to cover as many members as possible. We **WILL NOT** send unnecessary emails or pass addresses on to any other organisation.

Members and Friends **please** send an email to administrator@magogtrust.org.uk, with **email address** in the subject line, so that we can update our files.

The Magog Trust Annual Review

An active volunteer force represents the community value and interaction the Governors would like to promote, with regard to the upkeep and maintenance of the site. To this end, a new category of membership i.e. Friend of Magog Down, has been introduced and has met with a positive response. This will provide a mechanism available to Governors, under the Articles of Association of the Company, to raise revenue for the Trust wider than its current Membership base. The value of your subscription is greatly enhanced if you pay income tax by making payments with a Gift Aid declaration.

It is hoped that every visitor to the Magog Down will become a 'Friend' and so contribute to this beautiful spot, a very valuable resource to both the Parish of Stapleford as well South Cambridgeshire and the City of Cambridge.

We are supported by a new Governor, Doug Clarke who has had an interest in Magog Down since its inception and who is taking an active role in this campaign.

Our volunteer band is at present quite small. It meets monthly, under the guidance of Bill French, to carry out various tasks on the Down. The work done this year includes: hedge planting, clearing the bowl barrow; bramble clearing, litter picking and ragwort pulling. The volunteers meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm on the Down. They support work carried out by the contracted Ranger service and the Mid Week volunteers, (run by Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust). Local Scouts clean the benches. Our openers and closers man the gates daily, for which we must all be grateful, and even though we worked with the Parish Council to install further bollards, there are those who abuse the opening and closing hours of the Car Park, parking in a hazardous and unsociable manner, on the verges. Local police have given their support to our leafleting these cars to inform them of this unacceptable behaviour.

The Rangers are working hard to ensure that dog owners walk their dogs responsibly on the site, following the dogs-on-leads policy, except for designated areas. We have a Health & Safety Policy which is regularly reviewed and a detailed Risk Assessment was carried out this year. Badger activity is giving English Heritage (EH) cause for concern on the Bronze Age Bowl Barrow, a scheduled ancient monument.

EH supported an archaeology survey which confirmed the middle Stone Age period Causewayed Enclosure encircling Little Trees Hill. We are in continuing discussions with them to ensure that our future activities do not result in any further degradation of the archaeological remains on the site. This will necessitate some tree removal and relocation of field and woodland boundaries which will be done as part of our overall management programme.

The Governors are developing their formal business plan to take full account of the risks and opportunities that lie ahead. Sustainability is one of the key criteria we apply to our work. The creation of woodlands on Magog Down changed the map of Cambridgeshire in a small, but significant way. In the coming years we have to budget for work to manage those woodlands to allow the trees to come to full maturity for the benefit of succeeding generations.

Further bike racks have been installed, and with the new cycle route from the City to Wandlebury, cycle access will be easier. Unfortunately we were unable to support an application for the routing of a bridleway due to the sensitivity of part of our Chalk grassland site.

Future Developments

The Governors are looking to recruit new governors to carry forward the work of the Trust. The need is for able local people interested in what we are trying to achieve with the restoration of intensively farmed arable land to traditional chalk grassland. The Board of Governors needs to have people with a wide range of knowledge and skills to inform our discussions and decisions. Collectively we need working knowledge of current environmental issues, finance, land management, relevant legal requirements but Governors do not have to be experts in any of these areas, we can and do seek professional advice from experts. We need people able to give time to helping the Trust and its small army of volunteers without whom we would be able to achieve very little.

Land management income is set to decline in respect of 'traditional' farming activities. The Land Management Committee successfully applied for Higher Level Environmental Stewardship on behalf of the Trust and the first payments have been received. At the same time the work programme is being developed to minimise the costs of land management whilst fully meeting the strict requirements of Higher Level Environmental Stewardship.

The present level of income is adequate to support the current level of activity but will not permit a contribution from the income to our Endowment Fund in future years. The governors are aware of the need to secure the long-term management of the land and consider that drawing on reserves will be appropriate in the short term whilst additional sources of revenue are developed. The Governors consider the financial position of the charity to be satisfactory and its policy is to have cash funds available to meet the foreseeable medium term needs.

Dates for your Diary:

29th September 2010

9th October 2010

21st Birthday Party for Friends and Members 7.30pm Johnson Memorial Hall, Gt Shelford

Magog Trust AGM 2pm Johnson Hall, Stapleford

DIRECTORS AND GOVERNORS

The Directors, also Governors, who served during the financial year, are as follows:

Mrs Kathleen Foreman	Chairman
Mr Michael Bond	Honorary Treasurer
Mr Doug Clarke (from October 2009)	
Ms Lucy Evans	
Mr Jon Gibbs	
Mrs Liz Megson (to October 2009)	

Company Secretary: Mrs Kathleen Foreman
Registered Office: Verger's Cottage, 1 Gog Magog Way, Stapleford, Cambridge CB22 5BQ
Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5NA
Independent Examiner: Geoff Mann, Accountant, Dee House, Highworth Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2BQ
Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Francis House, 112 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1PH
Investment Managers: UBS Wealth Management (UK) Ltd, 1 Curzon Street, London W1J 5UB

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2010	2009		2010	2009
INCOMING RESOURCES			RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Membership funds	6,870	7,751	Direct charitable expenditure	58,598	50,331
Donations and gifts	2,246	5,921	Costs of generating funds	-	-
Sale of goods & fund raising events	-	-	Governance and other costs	8,789	10,770
Grants	-	-	Publicity Expenses	1,003	525
Tree sponsorship	145	-		-----	-----
Miscellaneous Income	100	-	Total Resources expended	68,390	61,626
Land management income	51,330	41,152		-----	-----
Investment Income	16,260	20,318			
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Total Incoming Resources	76,951	75,142			
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STATEMENT OF OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS

	Accumulated Fund	Expendable Endowment	Designated Funds	General Fund	Total 2010	Total 2009
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net income for the year	-	-	-	8,561	8,561	13,516
Investment gains (losses)	-	(984)	-	-	(984)	-
Unrealised gains (losses)	-	107,232	-	-	107,232	(117,299)
Transfer to Exp. Endowment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Designated Funds	-	-	(879)	879	-	-
Discharge of Long-term liability	90,000	-	-	-	90,000	-
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds for the year	-	106,248	(879)	9,440	204,809	(103,783)
Total Funds:						
Brought Forward	377,335	343,112	19,901	36,892	777,240	881,023
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Carried Forward	467,335	449,360	19,022	46,332	982,049	777,240

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAGOG TRUST (charitable trust limited by guarantee) will be held at The Johnson Hall, Stapleford, on Saturday 9th October 2010 at 2pm for the following purposes

- To note the appointment of the Chairman of the Meeting
- To receive the Governors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010
- To confirm the appointment as Governor
Mr Michael Bond RESOLUTION I
Mrs Kathleen Foreman RESOLUTION II
- To confirm the appointment as Independent Examiner, Geoff Mann, Accountant RESOLUTION III
- To deal with any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting

A **Member** entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him/her. A proxy need not also be a member
Kathleen L Foreman Secretary to the Board of Governors

NOTES

- Only those MEMBERS of the Trust joining on or before 1st September 2010 are eligible to vote. **(Friends are NOT eligible to vote)**
- A proxy form is included with this notice; if you will be attending the AGM you need not complete the proxy form but should bring it with you.
- If you are not attending the AGM but wish to vote you must complete the form and return it to the Secretary, at the Registered Office at the address below, before 1st October 2010.
- Any member wishing to have a copy of the Minutes or Annual Accounts before the meeting should apply to the Secretary in writing enclosing a SAE.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT - THINNING Jon Gibbs (Land Management Committee)

Twenty years ago when Magog Down was created, the grand plan was to convert an area of farmland into a site that would be a haven for wildlife, as well as an area that could be used by the public for quiet recreational activities. To this end a landscape design was carried out in which areas of woodland planting were incorporated to help create a greater variety of habitats, increase the biodiversity and at the same time make the site more interesting for all users.

There were (and still are) one or two areas of more mature woodland but plans had to be made for replacement trees which would eventually take the place of the mature woodland. Eric Winterflood, a founder Governor with wide experience as a Forester with the Forestry Commission, devised a planting scheme.

Eric decided that the best method of planting would be the traditional use of young whips (1 - 2 year old) planted at close spacings, which has been proven to get the best results as young trees are less affected by their removal and adapt very quickly to their new surroundings. The close spacing also helps encourage quick straight growth whilst suppressing the growth of weeds which are competitors for available nutrients.

However some losses were expected and it is not unusual to lose 10 - 20% of the trees planted, much greater than this and the whole area would be re-planted.

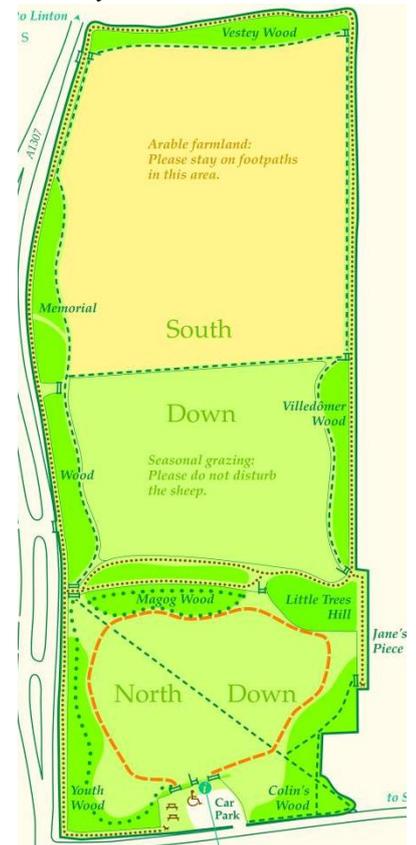
Eric was so successful in his choice of stock and planting that he in fact had a success rate of approximately 97%. Whilst very good on the one hand, it does mean that there comes a time when the trees need to be thinned in order to give more room for growth and slow down the rate of straight growth which could lead to the trees toppling due to a top heavy crown on a weak spindly trunk.

The time for thinning has now arrived and ideally we need to reduce the tree cover by approximately 50% overall. However, this needs to be done in stages in order not to have too great an impact on the areas of woodland visually and the wildlife within. It is also better for the trees, because when grown close together they learn to depend on each other for stability and if too many trees are taken out the wind may have a tunnel effect and blow through the newly made gaps towards trees that have always relied on others to provide a wind break. By removing the trees gradually those which are left have the necessary time for their root systems to strengthen and adapt to the exposure.

We intend to start the thinning this year, in a sympathetic manner, which

- will not leave the woodlands looking too sparse,
- will help with a more natural method of tree removal leaving a variety of species, shapes and sizes,
- help with the creation of glades
- provide improved cover for wildlife with the creation of an understory, as all the trees are native species and will grow into coppice stools.

As a number of these trees have been dedicated over the years, considerable effort will be needed to communicate with those who donated in this way.



You can help with the continuing management of the woodlands by specific donations for this purpose; to commemorate a birth or a birthday, an anniversary or in memory of a dear one. Look no further for a Christmas present – support our woodland management – the woods will be there for a long time!



Archaeology on Magog Down

Aerial photography from the 1950's through to 1984 indicated the possible presence of a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure coincidental with the 65 m contour of Little Trees Hill. A Bronze Age Bowl Barrow is present near the summit. As a result, this area was scheduled as an Ancient Monument by English Heritage in 1994. During 2008 and 2009 the local Rheesearch Archaeology Group conducted Magnetometer Surveys of the area around the Bowl Barrow. Their findings indicated a possible ditch line. This work led to English Heritage arranging a Topographical Survey of the scheduled area by Northamptonshire Archaeology. This has confirmed the presence of the enclosure and ditch surrounding the Bowl Barrow. Funding has also been made available from Cambridgeshire County Council, English Heritage and Natural England for shrub and tree clearance on and around the Barrow and protective fencing along the top of the quarry. This and future work will ensure the survival of these ancient remains for future generations.