

FPT Committee

The Committee currently meets five times each year to discuss issues that have come to our notice in a number of ways. These include planning applications received by the Town Council, reports and planning notices in local newspapers and our own observations.

They obviously represent your interests in their deliberations but would like to raise any concerns of members regarding preservation issues within the bounds of Fairford. Any issues brought to our notice would be discussed at the next meeting and appropriate action taken. It may be that a member could be invited to a Committee meeting to bring forward a matter for discussion.

email: fairfordprestrust@gmail.com

Committee 2010-2011

Chairman: Stewart Benzie 01285 713395

Secretary: Alison Hobson 01285 711768

Treasurer: Phil Trickett 01285 712421

Edwin Cuss, Len Eales, Phil Green, Liz Hope, David Perry (President)
Greg Phillips, Ian Westlake

Committee members are elected every two years in rotation.

FPT Membership 2011/12

Members can either rejoin at the AGM or fill in the form below and return to: **Mr P Trickett, 24 Moor Lane, Fairford, GL7 4AL**

I enclose cheque/cash for £6....per household or £4per retired household (please tick)

Name/s:.....

Address:

.....

Postcode :GL7.....

Telephone: 01285.....

Email:.....

Signature:.....



Fairford Preservation Trust

Newsletter No. 1

March 2011

Annual General Meeting

Friday April 1st 2011, Palmer Hall at 7.30 pm

After the business meeting the speaker will be

Jon Stokes

from the National Tree Council who will talk on 'Why trees matter?'

Coffee served from 7pm

Welcome to this Newsletter. Your Committee feels that this is a good way of giving you information about the current activities of FPT, in advance of the AGM.

Good communication is very much a part of the times in which we live. So as well as this Newsletter we also now possess a shiny new website. Do please log on to www.fairfordpreservationtrust.org.uk for more information.

Over the last few months we have considered a number of Planning Applications, fewer in number nowadays, as well as other topics. In this document are contributions from Committee Members on some of these: Liz Hope on The Croft; Ian Westlake on Footpaths; Greg Phillips on Tree Preservation; and Phil Trickett on Membership involvement. All expertly co-ordinated by Alison Hobson.

Other relevant current/ future issues are: developments at the Horcott Lakes, flood prevention, parking and road maintenance. Ideas and information for inclusion on our Website or in future Newsletters are always welcome.

And do please remember to attend our AGM on April 1st. This brings you an opportunity to discuss any current burning issues, as well as to be entertained and informed by our Guest Speaker, Jon Stokes on the subject of 'Why Trees matter'. I hope to see you there.

Stewart Benzie, FPT Chairman

The Croft by Liz Hope

I joined the Preservation Trust in order to help maintain the natural beauty and facilities in Fairford.

Lately, my main concern has been the Croft – protecting the grass borders, the lovely trees and their roots from damage caused by parked cars. The general access to the High Street end of the Croft is also a cause of concern.

I have also made enquiries to the Council about the fact that motor vehicles enter and use the one-way system in the Big Croft Alley. The state of the High Street end of the Little Croft Alley – especially in the mornings leaves much to be desired.

The Council are now doing their best to address some of the above – but the double parking outside Croft House still needs to be sorted as emergency vehicles would not be able to reach some of the properties.

I will continue to put pressure on the relevant authorities, but realise that at present, costs are a major factor.



Trees by Greg Phillips

Fairford does not have a very good record when it comes to preserving the town's tree landscape. Area Tree Preservation Orders failed to protect the fine trees that were felled to allow the Lygon Court and Fayre Court developments.

Sadly, other trees have 'disappeared' over the last few years often under the guise of 'Health and Safety' issues. Perhaps we need to remember that work to trees in the conservation area needs permission.

It is not all doom and gloom however, in the recent National Tree Week the government launched 'The Big Tree Plant' with a view to encouraging local people to plant, protect and care for trees in their local communities.

Trees are a vital part of our heritage and a living framework for our town, we neglect them at our peril, and once they are gone they are gone!

The great thing about trees is that they are an investment for future generations and a positive statement of our hopes for a more sustainable environment in the years to come.

If you want to read more about 'The Big Tree Plant' go to www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant

Footpaths by Ian Westlake

The FPT has taken a keen interest in the state of footpaths round the old Bowmoor Lake.

A great effort was made by the people of Lechlade and Kempsford to make sure that the paths round this lake were kept open in spite of the efforts of the developer to keep them closed. They succeeded, but the developer has found many reasons for closing the path for the last two years. Last November a new temporary closure was granted. Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way are aware of the strong public feelings. There is now a circular walk round the new Bowmoor Sailing Lake.

Concerning Lake 104 nearer Fairford it was reported to the Committee last September that far fewer people were using the restricted path round the lake. This has probably been noticed by the developer.

A proposal was put to ECT that a permissive link path, from Pitham Bottom westward to the Donkey Well path, be allowed. This path, if approved, would avoid some dangerous road walking. The idea was declined and Jonathon Stebbing visited a FPT Committee Meeting to explain why this was not possible at the present time.

FPT also suggested to the Council that the path at the western side of Burdocks be extended to link with the Horcott lakes. We have had no feedback on this. Indeed, we cannot now be sure that the popular paths round the Horcott lakes are secure for the future. The Fishing Club and Scouts have had their terms of lease shortened.

One small success for walkers was that Mike Barton of the GPRW delivered a stile to Lady Lamb Farm at the request of the FPT and it was installed immediately by the gate on the A417.

