

Living Heritage



WOODLAND
TRUST

The Woodland Trust legacy newsletter No 6 Spring 2005



1805 – 2005 The Battle of Trafalgar remembered

VICTORY WOOD – LEGACIES HELP SAVE FLAGSHIP SITE • INSPIRATIONAL BEGINNINGS



Lamberhurst Farm

WTPL/Christine Punter

A glorious Victory

In the middle of the Twentieth Century a vital part of one of the UK's largest and richest areas of ancient woodland was lost. But with the help of two generous legacies it will be transformed into both a wild treasure and a unique classroom, bringing to life one of the UK's most famous historic events.

The view from Lamberhurst Farm is breathtaking. Resting on gently undulating hills, the neighbouring woods stretch as far as the eye can see and on the horizon lies the sea. Half a century ago, the land here was wooded, but over a 25 year period all of its trees were lost to agriculture and it became an arable desert starkly contrasting with the ancient woods to its east, west and south which form the Blean Woods complex.

Conservationists agree that ancient woodland is our richest wildlife habitat and the bigger the better. At some 7,000 acres, the Blean Woods complex near Canterbury in Kent is one of the UK's most important natural areas. When, in its midst, Lamberhurst's 350 acres of farmland became available, nearby residents were disappointed to see it fall into the hands of another commercial venture. When planning permission for industrial use was refused, the

Woodland Trust, using two substantial legacies and generous public support, grasped the opportunity to acquire the land, an achievement that local nature lovers saw as a real victory.



Nelson's Column

www.picturesoflondon.com

The new wood is to be named 'Victory Wood' because 2005 is the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, one of the most memorable events in our history. The Woodland Trust has teamed up with the Society for Nautical Research to mark the occasion on a grand scale, showing how trees played an important part in building the fleet.

The British fleet, commanded by Lord Nelson on board HMS Victory, was built from many thousands of tonnes of native oak. We are creating

a wood for each of the 27 major ships in the fleet, planted all over the UK and this site in Kent is the ideal choice for the flagship wood.

The Victory and several other ships that took part in the battle were constructed nearby at Chatham Dockyard. The place where Lord Nelson's body was brought ashore is visible from the site. Once mature, the trees planted at Lamberhurst would theoretically be capable of yielding enough wood to recreate the entire Trafalgar fleet. And as far as wildlife is concerned, there could hardly be a better place to create a wood.

We feel sure that the two benefactors whose legacies helped to make this acquisition possible would have been delighted to know that their foresight is creating a better future in so many ways. Not only will the wood provide a new home for potentially hundreds of species, it will act as a living classroom and give local children the chance to connect with nature by planting a tree. As they do so, they will hear the dramatic story of the battle and discover for themselves one fascinating example of the relationship between people and trees.

The children who remember Trafalgar by planting trees at Victory Wood will also be contributing to *Tree for All*, the Woodland Trust's ambitious new campaign to engage young people.

Over five years, we aim to involve one million children in planting 12 million trees, one for every child in the UK. Whether at a Trust wood, a community site or in their own back yard, it will give them an unforgettable experience that will ultimately start to reverse the trend of a new generation that is growing up disengaged from the natural world.



Truly dedicated



Sky Weir, born 12 December 2003

Steve Weir

If you were asked what gifts you were given when you were born, would you be able to name any of them? For most people the answer is no, but thanks to the foresight of their family and friends, cousins Matilda Mathews Weir and Sky Weir will not only remember their gifts, they can experience them throughout their lives. Both babies have had an acre of newly planted woodland dedicated to them in Lineover Wood, Gloucestershire. The woodland will be protected by the Trust and grow as the

children, and their children do.

Woodland dedication is a wonderful, lasting way to celebrate a birth, remember someone or mark a special occasion. The Woodland Trust offers many different ways to dedicate woodland all over the UK. There are options to suit all needs and budgets, including stands of trees, whole acres, and benches/grove posts with plaques – set in their own dedicated acre.

For more information call Cherrill Deans on 01476 581136 or visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk/dedication

An inspiration

Regular Living Heritage readers may remember Wheeldon Copse, a very special new wood in Cheshire being created in the name of its benefactor, Leslie Wheeldon. As part of an innovative experiment, the site was planted with wildflowers in an attempt to suppress invasive weeds that can choke newly planted

saplings. We are delighted to report that it has been extremely successful, creating a stunning riot of summer colour as well as giving the young trees a head start.

Woodland Officer, Simon Mageean said, “This site has had an unprecedented positive reaction from people and it’s obvious that

wildlife loves it too. Already it is alive with a really good variety of birds and insects. It’s an inspiration.”

The wildflower experiment will now be reviewed and rolled out to other new woods in partnership with fellow conservation charity, Landlife.

Below: Wheeldon Copse in the summer of 2004

WTPL/Simon Mageean



Clive Anderson speaks out



Clive Anderson

WTPL/Matt Limb

As with everything else to do with the law there are technicalities to watch out for. A good solicitor can pilot you round the pitfalls and the gobbledegoop. As can a booklet produced by the Woodland Trust 'Are you willing to save a wood' which translates fancy legalese into plain English and gives you useful tips about the whole process.

So why not send off for the Woodland Trust booklet and while you are about it, why not leave something to the Woodland Trust in your will?

Of course, as President of the Woodland Trust, I am biased but it seems to me there is a special affinity with trees and woodlands at either end of our life. When children plant a tree they anticipate the trees growing up in their lifetime. Saplings turning into sturdy oaks, or whatever. And when we contemplate our own demise, we think about what we can leave behind. What better than a tree or woodland which might survive you for centuries. A gift of land, if you have some, a bequest of money, large or small if you want to help save an ancient woodland or create a new one.

There it is, this is my sales pitch over. Don't forget to make a will. Don't die too soon. Don't forget the Woodland Trust.

I must stop now and re-write my own will.

Clive Anderson
President of the Woodland Trust

I am writing this with a slight sense of guilt.

Years ago, the author of one of the leading textbooks on wills famously died intestate, that is without leaving a will of his own. Did he do it as a joke? Or was he just too busy telling everyone else what to do to get round to putting his own affairs in order?

I am not in quite that position. For a start I haven't written a leading textbook on wills, or anything else. And I have written a will, just about. But it was drawn up in a hurry years ago and now it is hopelessly out of date.

But here I am advising you to write a will and keep yours up to date.

With a will, if you leave it too long you could leave it too late. You, or I, could die tomorrow, people die every day. So it is a kindness to those left behind to make it clear what you want done with your property. And of course by writing a will you can also make sure it goes where you want it to go.



The Advice column

Question

I am about to make a will and now need to decide who will administer it for me when I am gone. Is it best to choose a friend or family member to do it or should I nominate a professional?

Answer

This is a good question for which there is no right answer. Here's a list of pros and cons to help you decide which is best for you. If you choose someone who is not professionally trained in this area, they are known as a 'lay executor':

Lay executor

Pro At a cost to your estate, they can decide to employ a professional to deal with the administration which leaves the lay executor with some control without them having to get to grips with complicated legal paperwork.

Con As your executor, they are responsible for your estate and as such they will be personally liable for any claims made by beneficiaries and for any expenses or debts that arise that may have been overlooked when your estate was administered.

Con Because they are not legally trained, they may have difficulty with the administration of the estate and carrying out the instructions in your will. They may find the process very time consuming and it could also be very emotional for them.

Professional executor

Pro Emotional detachment enables them to be completely unbiased which can be an advantage should any problems occur, such as friends or relatives contesting the interpretation of your will.

Pro He/she has the expertise to administer your will efficiently.

Con The cost of using a professional executor may be greater and the fees will be taken from your estate.

Helen Billing, Legal Officer FInst.L.Ex,TEP

FOUR NATURAL GEMS

To celebrate *Tree For All*, our new campaign that will see millions of trees planted, we focus on four very special woods taking part, all of which have benefited from people kindly remembering the Trust in their will.

Ancient and modern

Kiln Wood in East Sussex already contains fragments of ancient woodland, the UK's richest wildlife habitat. These three acres are dominated by mature oak and graced with increasingly threatened species like bluebell, wood anemone and wild service tree. Last November, 400 local children at a *Tree For All* event started the planting which will protect and strengthen the existing ancient woodland. By spring 2006 almost 8,000 new trees will have been planted.



Natural neighbour

At Geordie's Wood in the Ochils, we are gradually thinning the exotic conifers and restoring the native woodland cover, with 200,000 new trees planned as part of *Tree For All*. Peppered with burns and springs, this wood creates a natural passageway connecting the local community at Muckhart with another Trust site at Glen Quey where native trees are being planted over a vast area.



Saved from the tip

Nearly fifteen years ago, Home Farm, set in the North Hampshire Downs, was destined to be a waste tip. But now, it is in the safe hands of the Trust and already native broadleaved trees are rising up to create a beautiful wood, laced with sunny glades and rides. By spring 2007, over 39,000 trees will have been planted here as part of the *Tree For All* campaign.



Big and beautiful

This 506 acre site surrounding the village of Fordham near Colchester will become one of the biggest new native woods in England. With the help of local people, and as part of *Tree For All*, we are planting hundreds of thousands of trees on this spectacular site. Once it was arable land, haunted by the threat of development but now it is being imaginatively transformed into a mosaic of habitats including woods, wetland and grassland.

Trust launches matchmaking service

Are you worried about the future of your land? Our new service may be able to help.

The Woodland Trust has launched a groundbreaking service that will ultimately ensure that more land is protected and managed for the benefit of wildlife.

The newly created Conservation Land Trust (CLT) acts as a unique brokerage service, helping landowners to make sure that their land is properly cared for when they are no longer able to look after it themselves. And it will help those looking to acquire their own piece of conservation woodland.

The Woodland Trust's head of land and property, David Smith said, "We have always regretted that we can't acquire every piece of woodland offered to us. We simply cannot afford to buy or manage them all. So we have developed this new service in the hope that people will use it to ensure that ecologically important sites are not degraded by neglect or development."

CLT matches owners with likeminded potential buyers who will properly protect and care for the land. The service includes assisting in negotiations and, ensuring that the land is protected by appropriate

conservation covenants. CLT even makes sure that the agreement is enforced if necessary once the land has changed hands. This greatly simplifies the hand over process, giving everyone involved peace of mind.

To find out more about the Conservation Land Trust service including the costs and how to register, call 01476 581100, visit www.clt.org.uk or write to Conservation Land Trust at the usual Woodland Trust address (see below).

Contacts

Why not look at our simple guide to making a will by visiting our website at www.legacies.org.uk or ask for a copy of our free comprehensive brochure.

If you are considering leaving a specific item, for example a gift of land or woodland, paintings or jewellery, we have a special gifts leaflet which we would be pleased to send you.

To receive the brochure or gifts leaflet or to get in touch with one of the legacy team please either:

Phone: 01476 581129 or 581151

Email: legacies@woodland-trust.org.uk

Write to: The Legacy Team,
The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park,
Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

Use the contact forms on our website at: www.legacies.org.uk

Campaign

You may well have noticed the Remember a Charity campaign – it's been in the newspapers, on the radio and is coming soon to television. The Woodland Trust has been part of this groundbreaking project from the start and now over 130 UK charities are members. We are all working together spreading the message that everyone can leave the world a better place, simply by leaving money to a charity or charities in their Will.

everyone can leave the
world a better place
remember a charity in your will

The Woodland Trust
is part of Remember A Charity
Charities working together for a better future

Website

As part of our on-going work to green the Woodland Trust and in response to numerous requests, Living Heritage, past and present is now available to view online. Just visit www.legacies.org.uk and click on Living Heritage. If you wish to receive future issues via email instead of by post please contact

legacies@woodland-trust.org.uk

Another new addition to our legacy website is a section on frequently asked questions as a quick helpful guide. As ever, if you have any questions or want to talk please don't hesitate to get in touch. All our contact details are shown on this page.

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