



Newsletter 2019

**AGM Tuesday 14th May 2019 - 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Room 3, Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3JP**

Report on 2018 for E&BGBS.



Ann Goddard, Chair of E&BGBS

The past year has been a difficult time for Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society (E&BGBS) as Borehamwood expands and inevitable conflicts arise between preserving the remains of our fragile Green Belt and community good. We all feel that ElsTREE and BorehamWOOD should be green and leafy but the natural environment is being steadily eroded. The traffic congestion and air pollution get worse daily and the infrastructure is overburdened.

The proposal by Wrotham Estates to build 58 houses on land along Potters Lane in return for donation of land for a Primary school was just such a situation. The Green Belt Society opposed it, as did many local residents, but despite our representations planning permission was granted.

Eight years ago Reviva was allowed to operate a green waste-recycling centre on Elstree Hill South. Those years have been an unpleasant trial for residents of Elstree and Brockley Hill as intermittent but vile stench emanated from the composting with possible health hazards from the effluvia, and heavy lorry traffic in and out of the site.

After protests from Elstree residents, local campaign groups- STENCH, Elstree Village Preservation Society, Elstree Residents United and the Green Belt Society permission was withdrawn. The publicity gained from a March organised by the leader of Elstree Residents United, Elsa Reyes, helped towards this outcome.

Reviva then applied to change the use of the site to processing and storing mixed wastes. This was also refused permission by Herts County Council in December 2018. The Green Belt was one of the speakers opposing the application. However victory was not ours for long. Another proposal for storage of non-organic waste by Reviva and three other waste collection companies is now in the pipeline, this time seeking permission from Hertsmere Borough Council Planning Department. Again we have all registered our objections and await the hearing date.

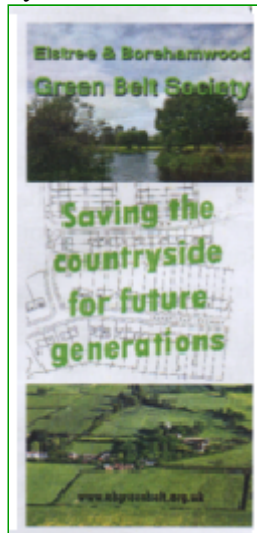
The fate of Aldenham Reservoir still depends on the decisions made in the New Local Plan, now delayed until 2020. Donation of sufficient funds repair the 18th century dam and maintain the Reservoir for community benefit as a Community Interest Company must be made an essential condition for planning permission to build on green belt land North of Centennial Park (HEL 171). The developers Liberty Aldenham in conjunction with Taylor Wimpey would then be fulfilling the Very Special Circumstances, ie preservation of the Reservoir, required for the release of Green belt land. The GBS agreed to this because no other source of funding was available. It would be a major tragedy for Elstree and surrounding areas if this beautiful and historic amenity were to be lost.

Among the sites selected for possible development was a large trench of land between Allum Lane and The Rise and Bishops Avenue where 280 houses were planned. The Green Belt Society supported local residents who objected strongly. The grounds were the permanent loss of Green Belt, inappropriate development near a quiet residential area, pollution from noise and traffic fumes, lack of an access road and

again a huge increase in road traffic on an already congested road grid.

Finally we ask for a moratorium on development as the increasing traffic congestion and strain of the infrastructure of schools, and health service is obvious to us all. The quality of life in our previously green and pleasant suburb is threatened. Apathy will result in Elstree and Borehamwood being one continuous mass of concrete and tarmac swathed in toxic exhaust fumes!

Join the Green Belt and help us to fight for survival.



Woodcock Hill Village Green (WHVG)

Alex Melsom led working parties on Woodcock Hill Village Green on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The usual clearance of scrub, brambles and litter occupied much of the time. The excavated ponds lacked water for much of the year but on the day of planting pond plants it poured with rain. The pond plants continue to do well.

It was great to play host to 'The Battles Over' commemorating those who had given their lives in WW1. The beacon was lit as part of the National Chain on Sunday 11th November. A joint initiative between the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and WHVG committee marked the occasion with celebrations at Fairway Hall. Guests were entertained by Borehamwood Brass. Later on the Hill, Andrew Grady played last Post as the Beacon was lit by Town Mayor Cllr Victor Eni, followed by George Macgregor playing The Battles Over. This was a specially commissioned piece for pipers to remember over 1000 pipers who had lost their lives in the Great War.

A notice board has been purchased and will soon be installed.

New members welcome. £5 per household per annum contact pat.strack@ntlworld.com

See us at www.woodcockhill.org.uk

**Our AGM is on Tuesday 14th May 2019,
7.00 for 7.30 pm at Allum Hall,
Our speaker is
Mrs Debbie Pearlman Hougie,
Senior Lecturer in Rural Geography and
Planning
at the University of Hertfordshire
speaking on
"Aldenham Reservoir
and the Campaign to Preserve It"
D.J.Pearlman@herts.ac.uk
All Welcome**

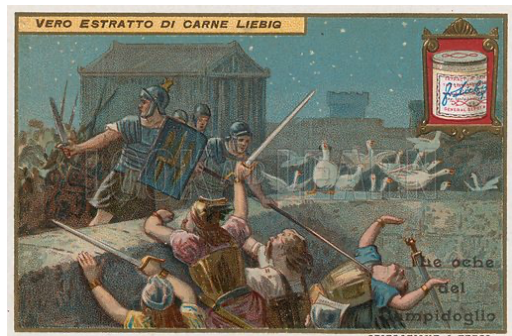


ONE GOOD REASON TO JOIN E&BGBS

When you join and contribute your £5, you can relax while we do the work of assessing the impact of proposed changes on the green belt.

We are like the geese in ancient Rome who alerted the defenders of an imminent sneak attack by the barbarians. Like those geese we HONK

- H.** Hold regular meetings
- O.** Observe what is going on and planned in the wider community
- N.** Notify those who need to know through our website www.ebgreenbelt.org etc.
- K.** Knuckle Down and take action



Our chair, Ann Goddard, has considerable moral authority and if that does not work she raps the knuckles of the planners with her British Empire Medal. (accreditation needed).