



Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, and the leading voice for woods and trees. It campaigns to protect precious ancient woods, restore the ones that are damaged and fight for those under threat, as well as working with communities, schools and organisations to create new native woodland.

The Trust inspires people to visit woods, plant trees, treasure wildlife, and enjoy the benefits woods and trees offer to our landscape and lives.

[POLICY HUB \(POLICY-HUB.ASP\)](#)

[PUBLICATIONS \(LINK-PUBLICATIONS.ASP\)](#)

Wildlife and
Countryside



[HOME \(\)](#) [ABOUT \(ABOUT.ASP\)](#)
[MEMBERSHIP \(OUR-MEMBERS.ASP\)](#)
[OUR WORK \(OUR-WORK.ASP\)](#)
[CAMPAIGNS \(CAMPAIGNS.ASP\)](#) [NEWS \(NEWS.ASP\)](#)
[CONTACT US \(CONTACT-US.ASP\)](#)



([\[trust.org.uk\]\(http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk\)\)**](http://www.woodland-</u></p></div><div data-bbox=)**

**Website: (<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk>)
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
(<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>)**

NO GREEN FINGERS IN SIGHT
But plenty of muck on their boots!

I notice from the BH&HPA website, the absence of a President. It was, for many years, Professor David Bellamy, who is now 80. His name very soon became linked to the claim that the BH&HPA membership were so keen on getting involved in conservation on a wide scale, that many were rewarded through the David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme. As time went on, there were rumours that one or two recipients later destroyed such areas in exchange for re-development, but kept the certificate on show, of course!

Everyone is well aware of the marvellous work Professor Bellamy has done over many years, particularly in conservation of woodland and protecting same from development, which would radically despoil acres of outstanding natural beauty. So, was he outraged as much as I was, and I am sure the vast majority of our readers, to learn, as I did, the fate now besetting Brokerswood in Wiltshire?

The Woodland Trust aired their concerns on BBC Farming Today at 5.50AM on Friday 16th March, naming BH&HPA member Haulfryn, using Lambe Planning & Design, who were, quote : **“boastful of their ability to gain planning permission, contrary to local planning policy, especially in areas of outstanding natural beauty, conservation areas, and impacting upon listed buildings. There are a raft of reports submitted with the application on ecological reports”.**

WE ARE TALKING HERE OF ANCIENT WOODLAND THAT HAS REMAINED INTACT SINCE THE YEAR 1600AD AND EXPERTS PREDICT 600 PEOPLE A DAY WILL OCCUPY the site 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR!

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE BBC ASKED “SEVERAL TIMES”, BUT HAULFRYN FAILED TO RESPOND. And don't we just know why?

As you would expect of PHRAA it has already been in contact with the Woodland Trust and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, providing each with valuable facts and information. Yet another classic example of a company not thinking of the local and national condemnation of what can only be described as vandalism of an important and cherished area of great historical interest and pleasure. One can only hope that potential buyers will think twice about this mass of destruction, with the added loss of all that goes with it, before they part with their deposit, wouldn't you agree?

But to conclude, at the end of the day, the hard fact is this; it is yet another dreadful example of a bloody weak and pathetic so-called law that comes with the cast iron guarantee of driving that coach and horses through it by those lobbyists, like the BH&HPA, and others with the same vested interest (greed) who routinely stick their two fingers up to the cherished history of areas such as this. Nothing is seen as sacred in this tiny island anymore, I fear!

If you feel, as I do, that enough is enough by this industry then there is word of a revision of the law on this topic, but as I see it, yet again, not enough, protection. Lobby your MP if they're any good, that is, or contact the two campaign groups, and urge them to fight this industry. Find out what Professor Bellamy thinks...is *that* why he's not mentioned by the BH&HPA? It is surely a great insult to his efforts to secure the natural beauty of areas such that future generations can enjoy that which was created 418 years ago. And all just to 'plant'

a mass of luxury wooden boxes on wheels in the place of trees, with no act of parliament to protect their occupants, but a hefty 15% surcharge plus VAT on selling up if its not to your liking or your conscience. COLIN 3/18

SOLICITORS FROM HELL

They still exist on paper

I believe I was one of the first to view this short lived site, which was swiftly closed down by the Law Society in September 2011. Rick Kordowski was the founder, but paid a heavy price. I remember saying to myself at the time that a percentage of those named would have been seen as 'sour grapes' cases. There followed a 'copy cat' site where the operator was also heavily fined. 'They don't like it up 'em, Mr. Mannering! I just wonder how robust and fine detailed the research required to prove that such solicitors were harmed to the extent they claimed in order to secure a case against the accuser. Not a chance of finding out, for sure! His fine was a reported £10,000 in damages to a city firm who "Was rude and intimidating".

Excuse me, but I've come across more than one sighting of that listening to cases. This is therefore an example of "its OK for me (the solicitor) to intimidate a victim, but not for the victim to do the same to the solicitor, for good reason. That's equality in Justice is it?

An article in the *Guardian* makes reference to solicitors in general seen as "arrogant, slow and crooked"! Whilst another bleated that he had been 'intimidated and frightened'. And pray, how many times have vulnerable park home residents been treated exactly the same by solicitors within this sector? I have mentioned the usual frightening and arrogant nature suffice to breach the Malicious Communications Act. Can they be given £10,000 each for suffering the same treatment from rogue solicitors? We all know the answer to that, but it serves as another perfect and real example of another form of intimidation, and discrimination inequality served up to victims within this sector, on a far too regular basis It so happened that glancing down the current list displayed on the Solicitors from Hell website, was the name of my father's solicitor in the late 40s early 50s. Yes, they've been going wrong a long time.

As we have said many times, the involvement of solicitors is a retrograde step in terms of the credibility and future success of a business. Who in their right mind wants to hear of yet another court case against vulnerable residents by that 'so and so' who owns xyz park. Far better to resolve simple issues over a drink and a chat. It is very often the case that residents have not been shown the 'full picture'; there are differences, some of which do not make much sense to newcomers used to bricks and mortar all their life thus far. A simple explanation and reason for this and that is far better and cheaper than getting a sledge hammer to crack a small nut. Keeping solicitors at bay is another key to happy park home living. When will this simple fact sink in? When its too late?

So, to conclude. yet another bombshell dropped onto their own front door in the shape of destruction of ancient woodland, this time round, that sends a wicked kick in the teeth to a fine gentleman that did his very best, I am sure, as President to attempt to educate members to respect the wildlife and all that encompasses the best of what this country holds. But instead, is of no consequence where progress in this industry is measured only by how much profit partners in industry can make, regardless! May many sleepless nights ahead beset those in favour of wrecking our heritage; that which can never be restored.

Colin Packman President March 2018