

# Burton Business Club News Release

## All You Need To Know About The National Forest

**Ever wondered why the National Forest is not all covered in Trees or where it is? A well attended meeting of the Burton Business Club on 13 May 2008 were keen to hear the answer to these and many other questions from Simon Greenhouse, Woodlands Officer of the National Forest organisation based at Conkers, Moira. If your geography is a bit hazy, Moira is slap bang in the middle of 200 square miles of the National Forest area and about 8 miles South-East of Burton.**

Members were interested to know of its origins in 1987 as a not-for-profit company set up by DEFRA as the biggest single environmental enterprise to bring back a sustainable forest to the lowlands on lands exhausted by the mining, brick and pottery sunset industries. Between the ancient woodlands of Charnwood in the East to and Needwood in the West, the National Forest people have been in partnership with landowners, local business sponsors and the general public to create a diverse forest environment.

Simon Greenhouse went on to say that it is not just a forest in the making but a whole new set of local business opportunities including Camping, Farm Shops, Craft villages and tourism. They are always looking to support environmentally sympathetic business opportunities with practical help in exchange for sponsorship.



Members were intrigued to hear that whilst the forest wasn't particularly visible at the moment, the trees that have been planted by the hundreds of thousands since 1897, are just getting above hedgerow height and it won't be long before the countryside will dramatically change. Also, last year alone, Conkers was visited by over 250,000 visitors and this is set to grow as the enterprise expands and diversifies.

The new Chairman and well known local businessman, Derek Liddle warmly thanked Simon for his enthusiastic and informative presentation commenting that members would do well to consider sponsoring the National Forest enterprise.

Derek informed members that the next meeting at the Coors Visitors Centre on Tuesday, 10 June 2008 will definitely be the last as the Centre is closing its doors. He went on to reveal that future meetings will be at the Branston Golf and Country Club. Intriguingly, he added that he is confident that the Visitor Centre will be saved, but not in time for the closure. Derek asked members to continue their strong support to save the Centre. The next meeting will feature Linda Wain, International Fine Artist.

**For further information about the club, its activities and how these can add value to your own business, please contact Club Chairman Derek Liddle on 01283 516878 or log onto the Website at [www.burtonbusinessclub.co.uk](http://www.burtonbusinessclub.co.uk).**