

# **PRESENTMENT TO THE VERDERERS' COURT**

**BY JOHN FRYER , 15 July 2015**

Official Verderer, Verderers, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

My name is John Fryer, I came to this Court just over three years ago, to express my horror at what had been done to some of the brooks, streams, and other watercourses of The New Forest, at that time. I went on to say that I had lived in the Hyde Parish for some sixty-eight years, and having worked for the Forestry Commission, then contracted throughout the forest for a number of years, I had always felt a very special attachment to, and an affinity with, the Latchmore area ... with Hasley, Sloden, and Alderhill Enclosures surrounding it.

I am amazed that, after three years, this perpetual ruination of the watercourses and their associated habitats, is still being allowed to continue. The persistent perpetrators of this heinous crime against nature and our heritage have proven beyond doubt that this scheme DOES NOT WORK, also that they are unable to repair the extensive damage they have already caused to the fragile habitats of many birds, mammals, fish, insects and micro-organisms ... these, of course, cannot be restored, especially in the case of the fish, as you were previously informed by eminent fish vet, Fiona Macdonald. The flora, many of which are rare and indigenous, are also being destroyed.

Verderers ... you, as custodians of The New Forest, have the ancient right to control what is actually taking place here ... I have already stated that the Wetlands Scheme has proven beyond doubt, to be an environmental disaster ... now is the time to say "enough is enough" – more than enough, in fact, and put a stop to this trail of destruction.

If this type of activity had been taking place on private land, particularly if that land had been awarded SSSI status, or similar, DEFRA would have called a halt to "work" as soon as it started ... Quite rightly, the annihilation of multispecies habitat in this situation would never be endorsed or, indeed, permitted. **WHY SHOULD ITS APPLICATION TO CROWN LAND, OUR FOREST, BE ANY DIFFERENT?**