

BROXHEAD COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 6th June, 1968)

Chairman: J. H. ELLIS, Headley Mill, Bordon, Hants

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NEWS FLASH

25/6/75

I would like to draw your attention to the successful appeal made by Miss Doris Mellor, 81, to save Bachelors' Acre, New Windsor as a common for "sports and pastimes". During the course of this appeal to the house of Lords, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said that if Parliament delayed introducing legislation dealing with this and related matter, he would be tempted to infer that all land registered as "common land" should be open to the public at large, so long as they did not interfere with the rights of commoners or injure the pasture.

There have since been a series of letters in the Times suggest that there is a need for legislation soon, to grant these rights of access to the public in all sensible cases, the legislation could be based on the proposals made in 1958 by the Royal Commission on Common Land, and it would be appropriate if the centenary of the Common Act 1876 was celebrated by a Commons Act 1976.

It would appear that it is now very likely that the public at large will have rights of access to Broxhead Common within the next year or two, because either Parliament will legislate to that effect or his Lordship will "infer" that rights exist.

This raises the fight to save Broxhead Common from being a narrow one to protect the rights of Commoners, to being a more general one of the villagers of Headley fighting to save their last Common. This is as the Commoners would have always wished.