

## The Green in my Valley

A gem for the MHPS archive has been unearthed from an era when golf course applications were threatening to overwhelm the Totteridge Valley. Produced by Norman Saville (once the MHPS Solicitor but still an active member of the Committee) the DVD features members of the Society including the then Chairman - John Turtle. The film was made in 1991 and has great views of the Totteridge Valley and environs.

The challenge for the Green Belt at the time was **Set-aside** - a scheme introduced by the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1988 (\*1) to:

- (i) Help reduce the large and costly surpluses produced in Europe under the guaranteed price system of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and...
- (ii) To deliver some environmental benefits following considerable damage to agricultural ecosystems and wildlife as a result of the intensification of agriculture

The golf course entrepreneurs all saw the set aside land as potential for golf course installations. The fact that all the applications were defeated has to go down as one of the successes for the Society. The Totteridge Valley remains intact, but the film is a reminder of the threats that come and go. Thanks to the expertise of our Group Member *BAOBAB IT Services*, the DVD has been loaded onto YouTube so that it can be viewed via the Society web site.

To view follow the following link.... [https://youtu.be/Q9ZFu\\_iTTLg](https://youtu.be/Q9ZFu_iTTLg)

**NB: Wikipedia** gives the History of set-aside (\*2): "Set-aside became compulsory in 1992 for large arable farmers as part of the MacSharry reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. It was originally set at 15% and reduced to 10% in 1996. Following the introduction of decoupled payments in 2005, farmers who had historically claimed set-aside were awarded a number of set-aside 'entitlements' equivalent to the area they had previously set-aside. On 16 July 2007, the European Commission (EC) announced its intention to publish a proposal to reduce the set-aside requirement to 0% in 2008, and the proposal was adopted on 26 September 2007. This was to help mitigate current shortages in the EU cereals market and increase cereals supply. The EC agreed in November 2008 to abolish set-aside completely through the CAP Health Check."

\*1. "Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1272/88 of 29 April 1988 laying down detailed rules for applying the set-aside incentive scheme for arable land". EUR-Lex; European Commission; 29 April 1988; Retrieved 2 August 2012.

\*2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Set-aside>