

News

Prince Charles 'in his element'!

On the 5th February HRH The Prince of Wales visited an exhibition at Ramsden, celebrating the first five years of the Wychwood Project. He was clearly in his element – so much so that he overran his schedule by half an hour - and



Digging in a tree

talked to everybody involved, including John Hartley and several others from the Wychwoods, about the work they had done for the Project.

The Project aims to raise awareness of the history and identity of the ancient royal hunting forest of Wychwood. During its first five years, the Project has provided advice and help leading to the planting of over 100 acres of woodlands, including our own Diggers Wood as well as woods at Charlbury, Leafield and Dean. This year the revived annual Forest Fayre will be held at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton, on Sunday 31st August.

After touring the exhibition, the Prince put on his wellington boots to plant a tree at newly created Breach Wood, Hailey. This is the seventh community wood created in the Wychwood Project area and is also designated a Jubilee Wildlife Site, an initiative set up by Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Despite the cold wind and the mud, the Prince talked and joked at length with the large crowd at Hailey. Prince Charles

said; 'I am so impressed by what I have seen and heard today. So much effort and dedication has gone into this Project to bring some elements of the old hunting forest back again. The wood is a wonderful example of what a community can do when it gets together.'

Charles Keighley



Charles Keighley, and John Hartley with The Prince of Wales

Tall Trees to close?

At the very end of January, Macintyre Care announced to those responsible for the residents of Tall Trees that they intended to close Tall Trees at the beginning of May 2003. This came as a shock and a disappointment, especially since we all thought Tall Trees was a settled part of our community. On the 13th February, representatives of several of the residents and the League of Friends of Tall Trees met with Macintyre Care to discuss Macintyre's plans and the problems and reasons behind them. At the time of writing (18th February) it appears that Macintyre Care have agreed at least to review their decision.

Maybe these problems are solveable, and we hope that the residents of Tall Trees and the Cottage can continue to live here in the Wychwoods.

Charles Keighley