

The Wychwood Project Trees, Woods and Man

Woven Fencing

You may have noticed some medieval-looking fencing on Shipton's allotments, near the Swinbrook Road.

This is to protect the hazel

coppice which was planted last year. The fencing is made of split chestnut poles, woven together at the top with hazel whips. Volunteer Friends of Wychwood did all the work, under the guidance of David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group. All the materials were paid for by the Friends of Wychwood, and the site was helpfully made available by the Parish Council.

Beech, Oak, Ash and Hazel

With the help of the Cotswold Wardens, over 160 ash and hazel plants have also been planted at the old ash beds on Fernhill Farm. This area was, we believe, used in the past to grow ash coppice for making fencing and sheep hurdles.

Nowadays the coppice is likely to be used for fuel and hedge-laying stakes. Also with the help of the Wardens and Friends of Wychwood, we have planted the 'next generation' of beech and oak trees alongside existing veteran trees at land originally belonging to Shipton Court above Court Close in Shipton, and near the woodland fringes at Capps Lodge beyond Shipton Down. We have also planted a few hedgerow oaks in Shipton and Milton.



The Wychwood Project's Parish Conservation Challenge (PCC) aims to encourage more local conservation work. Ascott is exploring the possibility of re-walling the

village pound, and of encouraging richer roadside verges as mini-nature reserves. At Wychwood School, the PCC is working with members of the Wychwoods Local History Society to bring local and landscape history into the curriculum.

Woodland Wild Flowers

At Diggers Wood in the autumn we planted some plugs of typical local woodland wild flowers. It is difficult to establish wild flowers in new woodland on former agricultural land, but we hope we will be successful. We are planning to carry out some more formative tree pruning in Diggers Wood next winter.

Dates For Your Diary

On **Sunday 14th May**, the Friends of Wychwood joins with BBOWT in organising a sponsored walk in Blenheim Park and along the Wychwood Way. (See page 19) Later in the summer, this year's **Forest Fair** will be held at Crown Farm, near Ascott, on **Sunday 27th August** from noon until 5pm.

For further details please contact me on: 01993 831403.

Charles Keighley