

## Special Feature

# The Wild Garden - A Very Special Place

As highlighted in our last issue, the opportunity has arisen for the community to purchase and manage the Wild Garden in Shipton for the benefit of all. An Open Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October, held in the New Beaconsfield Hall, attracted about 120 people, and gave overwhelming support for the project but also raised questions about the ongoing maintenance costs and about how owners should control their dogs in the Wild Garden. The committee is currently working on getting further clarity in some of these areas. An encouraging start has been made on fundraising, we would now like to widen the interest to both Milton and Ascott and Open Meetings are being planned for 4th December in Ascott and 11<sup>th</sup> December in Milton. We shortly expect to have our own web site established to keep everyone up to date, in the meantime please visit

**[www.thewychwood.co.uk/garden](http://www.thewychwood.co.uk/garden)**  
to learn more about the project and to pledge your support to us.

### A Special Place

We are very aware that the Wild Garden has particular memories and significance for a number of local families, whether it is a tree, a bush or just a special view. As part of our planning to preserve the peace and tranquillity of the Wild Garden, we would like to know about any areas of special significance to you, so do please get in touch and let us know so we can include these in our management plans.

**Mike Watson, Tel: 01993 830368**  
**Bank House, High Street**  
**Shipton under Wychwood**

*The following letter was received from June Gorton.*

### Misunderstandings – Wild Garden

The Wild Garden is owned by Brian and Barbara Gorton, who live in Witney; and after 22 years of caring for the Wild Gardens have offered the Parish Council the opportunity to purchase it for the people of the Wychwoods.

It is a misunderstanding that members of the Gorton family who live in and around the Wychwoods are not interested or concerned with the future of the Wild Gardens.

Since the Parish meeting held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we have faced a lot of criticism, and it has been a very difficult time for all of us. We do thank those people who have been respectful and understanding and who, like us, are concerned for the future of the Wild Gardens.

We look forward to the next meeting to listen to the Parish Council's proposals, and for questions to be answered in more detail.



**June Gorton**

*Our thanks to Jan Harvey for her marvellous illustrations on pages 11, 13, 31 and 51. Come and look at prints and paintings by Jan Harvey on display at the Wychwood Surgery, 1<sup>st</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 11am to 3pm weekdays. [www.janharveyartists.co.uk](http://www.janharveyartists.co.uk)*