

The Wychwood Wild Garden - Now Open

After many hundreds of hours of volunteer efforts, generous donations from local residents and businesses, marvellous support from the Cotswold Conservation Board, the Doris Field Trust and the HDH Wills Trust, the Wild Garden is now open!

If you pass the main entrance on the Shipton High Street you will see the gates and pillars restored to their 1903 splendour and if you walk down Dog Kennel lane you'll see the new double - gate entrance built by volunteers. We have also carried out work on eleven trees to reduce the risks of branch-fall in high winds.

Managing the Future

Now the real hard work begins; managing the Wild Garden to meet your various and differing expectations! This process started with over 60 people attending a review workshop on our Conservation Management Plan, the first steps towards really understanding the 'story' of the Wild Garden. We are now updating our plans taking into account these comments. One of the most emotive issues that has arisen concerns the control of dogs in the garden. After considering all the inputs

from the workshop questionnaires, the Director/Trustees decided that the rule should be that **all dogs are on leads at all times**. We recognise that some people will not like this decision, but consider that it is unambiguous, protects the interests of those who don't particularly like loose dogs and also helps ensure that dog foulings are picked up. There were also some very imaginative suggestions on the sanctions that should be taken against those who continually flout the rules, although the committee has not as yet decided on the best approach!

Going Wild

There were also many comments and requests asking us to preserve the 'wild' nature of the garden and to do the minimum of maintenance. We all agree that the Wild Gardens should stay 'wild' but we should not forget that today's 'wild' look is the result of considerable work over the last 25 years by Brian Gorton, with over 1000 new trees planted, many areas cleared and restocked, the ponds repaired and paths maintained. Nature is not very good at managing itself!

Mike Watson

Your 'Must Have' Gift This Year

For the 'must have' gift this Christmas you can get a copy of the beautiful Wild Garden Calendar, a set of Wild Garden notelets or, even better, both!

The limited edition calendar and notelets have been specially commissioned to raise funds for the maintenance of the Wild Garden and feature seasonal views



of the Wild Garden, taken by local photographer Terry Wigley. Available from local shops and businesses the calendars cost £7.50 each or three for just £20. The notelets, in packs of ten,

cost £5 per packet.

For further information ring Jeremy Huntingford on: 01993 831140.