

Gone but not Forgotten 'Woodman, Woodman, Spare my Lawn'

When Jane and I came to Shipton 25 years ago we were smitten by the beauty of our garden, which had been the end of the Court's garden, with stonework and beech trees planted some 150 years before. The trees were each about 60 feet high, containing six or seven tons of wood in each.



The Lawn Man Cometh

'Twas on a Monday morning that the lawn man came to call.
The turf was full of patches and it wasn't nice at all.

He set to work to make our lawn the best it's ever been:
He fertilised and scarified till no weeds could be seen.

Losing our Old Friends

It is sad that they began to reach the end of their days in the last 30 or so years: we found an aerial photograph of the garden taken in 1959 showing all seven as they had been originally. It hurts us, more than just financially, to have to take them down, even when they are dead. Each one brought down is like losing a very big old friend.

However, this year another one had to be felled and, though the tree surgeon did his skilled and brave best, some damage to the lawn was inevitable. Doubly sadly we had spent rather a lot on lawn-care this year!

This led a friend to pen the following poem, with apologies to Flanders and Swann.

Peter Hills

At last the work was finished and the grass was green and thick
And after that October came and the leaves all fell on it.

Alas, one day the woodsman came with chainsaw, axe and rope
And cut down our big beech tree with many a merry joke.

The chainsaw sang all through the day
and the timbers fell to earth
And dug big holes aplenty in that stretch of precious turf.

So now we've wood in plenty for many a winter fire
But come next spring again, alas, the lawn man we'll have to hire!

Jackie Clark

LOGS AVAILABLE

We have split logs available from the recent tree work in the Wild Garden.

Contact Jeremy Huntingford on: 01993 831140.

A Trailer Load contains about 120/130 logs and if you don't have a trailer we can help with delivery. Suggested donation, £40 a load, all proceeds to the Wild Garden.