

The Sounds of Silence

I was in a field earlier this week collecting wheat to make the table centres for the WI Harvest Lunch on September 6th and it was a beautiful warm, sunny day. I paused to admire the view and I was struck by the noises in that still, peaceful landscape. There was no traffic noise, no children playing, no chatter of passers-by but what there was, was the noise of the wheat ripening - a continual clicking, almost a popping, as the seed-heads warmed and spread in the sunshine. I have never heard anything like it. I was fascinated and stood transfixed. It begs the question, what other noises can we discover if we just sit and listen. A



walk in the Wild Garden will give you a cacophony of chatter from the ducks and moorhens, the rooks calling to each other, the squawking of blackbirds as they dash on their way and the scuttle and scamper of

small unidentified creatures in the undergrowth. Leave by the back gate and the gentle plopping of the water running into the horse trough is another lovely sound in a seemingly silent place.

This is most certainly not the idea behind Simon and Garfunkel's *The Sounds of Silence*, but I know I prefer it to their neon lights and rushing people.

Kay Shortland

Walk in the Secret Forest of Wychwood

Following on from the success of last year's event, The Wychwood Project and ROSY (Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters) are teaming up to put on a fund-raising walk through the Wychwood Forest, Cornbury Park on **Sunday 20th October 2013**.



Starting in Little Park, north of Finstock, the walk will follow a self-guided route around the heart of the ancient Wychwood Forest on paths that are normally not open to the public. The walk is 10 km long but with a shorter circuit also available. Walkers can start between 10.30am and 11.30am and are expected to be back by 2.00pm at the latest. Maps will

be available on the day. There is a charge of £10 per adult and £5 for under-18s payable on the day. The walk is free for Wychwood Project members, including those who join on the day.

Advance booking is not required and there will be ample parking. A BBQ and drinks are available after the walk (for which there will be an additional charge). All proceeds from the event will be split between the Wychwood Project and ROSY charities.

Any queries please refer to the Wychwood Project website www.wychwooproject.org, by email from wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk or by telephone: 01865 815423.