



THE ARBORY TRUST

Bishop Woodford House Barton Road Ely Cambridgeshire CB7 4DX
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

Open Evening



You are warmly invited to attend our annual

**Open Evening on
Wednesday June 10th 2009
from 6pm -8pm at Barton**



**An opportunity to see the grounds in early summer glory, meet the staff and some of the Trustees and enjoy refreshments in the evening sunshine!
We hope you can join us.**

You may have thought you had missed a newsletter this year, since it has been the custom to send one out in January and July. This year we delayed, in order to let you know about the new date for our Open Evening this year, which as you will see is to be in June. Do join us!

On the topic of the newsletter, please note that *WE WISH TO DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY* from now on, so if you are able to receive the newsletter via email or to download it from the website, I'd be very grateful to hear from you with an email to enquiries@arborytrust.org so that I can update my records accordingly, and reduce the paper and postage costs. All newsletters are posted on the website (www.arborytrust.org) so we encourage you to check this regularly for news and information.

News

We are delighted to confirm that we are extending our grounds at Barton, and have now acquired the field to the North of the current site. This will be planted with trees in a glade style this Winter, and in the meantime there will be a fair amount of work going on to establish the joining of the two pieces of land, and ensure easy access. It will be a couple of years before we commence burials in the new area, as we wish to let the trees become established before opening it up for this purpose, but we are excited to be more than doubling our size with this development.

We also have plans to increase the size of our Lodge, to enable gatherings of a larger size than can presently be accommodated, and to offer better facilities for all visitors. We hope to have plans available for viewing at the Open Evening for both this and the second phase of development as detailed above.

This Lodge extension will of course be a large financial commitment for the Trust, and we are now inviting donations, large and small, towards the cost of this venture, which we believe will be hugely beneficial to the work that we do.

Signs

We have recently erected signs to remind people of the following:

- Please **CLOSE THE GATES IF YOU ARE THE LAST TO LEAVE**- we need to do all we can to keep deer out, particularly as we are about to plant new trees, which are very vulnerable to these creatures. It only takes a couple of minutes, and will make a real difference. Thank you.
- Please ensure **ALL dogs are on leads** on site- they may be friendly, but not everyone appreciates being greeted by dogs off lead. Please also clean up after them, for everyone's benefit.

Graves and planting

As mentioned last year, *we are now strictly removing all plants that are not permitted, along with all ornaments and other items which are not allowed.* This now includes ALL vases and jars (including wooden ones), flowerpots, wooden animals, stones, plastic plant markers, and all plants not on our list or otherwise agreed with Imogen. Some items may be found behind the Lodge, if we have removed them (not plants). Up to this point we have been lenient with regards wooden items like vases, *but it is only fair to ensure that all graves are treated alike*, and so we must now strictly enforce our (unchanged) Rules.

As for planting, we do sow each new grave with a mix of grass and wild flower seed, and you are welcome to add some planting of your own in accordance with our wild flower leaflet. Please make sure the plants are permitted, and don't waste money putting in things that are not, because we will remove them.

Just a reminder, too- we do review all cut flowers that are placed on graves at least weekly, and remove all those which have gone over as and when we deem it necessary. This does vary on weather conditions, and also on whether the flowers have been nibbled by the wildlife! Please try to ensure that any such flowers placed are not artificially coloured, or wrapped in foil, cellophane or brightly coloured ribbon. The placing of birthday cards is discouraged, since they quickly become soggy and blow around.

Grave Markers.

For similar reasons, we will now be undertaking a programme to ensure that all grave markers are now flush to the ground. This will mean that some older ones will now be lowered, the posts on some having to be removed to ensure that they are now able to lie directly on the ground or grave, avoiding the possibility of damage from ground maintenance programmes, and not remaining highly prominent. NO post should be visible, and no marker should be more prominent than any other. Once again, we hope you will understand the reasons for this- and bear in mind always that in woodland you would not expect to find highly visible markers spoiling the natural surroundings. They are, after all, intended to be for the benefit of individual families, rather than a public reminder of the grave that is there.

Benches.

No new benches will now be permitted to be placed at Barton. It is now over a year since the last permissions were given for outstanding benches to be placed, and to allow any more to be placed now would be unfair to those who continue to ask. We ask you to respect this decision.

Summary

I hope you will agree with us that the grounds are now rapidly developing into a place of real beauty. We continue to be thrilled with the growth of the trees which are really making the place their own now, and with the continuing return of some wonderful plants (thank you to you all for observing the guide and encouraging this development!). It will still be a little while before some of the true woodland birds come in, but the signs are good, and we'll keep watching!

Whilst it is a naturally a very sad time when many of you come to us for the first time, we do so hope that for everyone connected with Barton and the Arbory Trust, you can experience some of the joy that nature brings with its changing seasons and continued growth at Barton Glebe.

As always, you are most welcome to contact us at any time, via email or telephone, or visit on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am, or at other times by appointment.

Deryn Coe, Administrator.