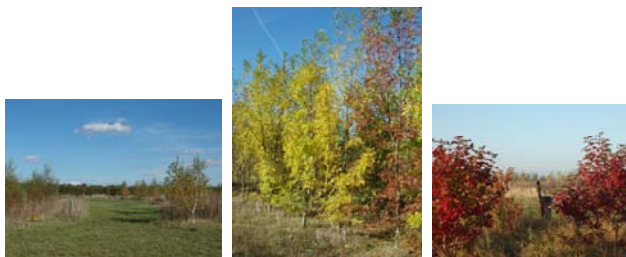




THE ARBORY TRUST

Bishop Woodford House Barton Road Ely Cambridgeshire CB7 4DX
Tel. (01223) 303874

NEWSLETTER January 2008



We were blessed this last Autumn with a truly glorious display of leaf colours around the grounds at Barton, which lasted for a good few weeks and brought to a close another astonishing year in terms of growth for us. The trees are truly holding their own now, after nearly eight years, and as we enter our ninth year we can only look forward to even stronger growth as they continue to develop. If you get the chance to visit in each season, you will begin to appreciate the real developing beauty of Barton Glebe. Be sure to visit in the Spring, when you will certainly catch some vividly coloured wild flowers on display.

An area of new planting to enclose Oxslip Glade (9) was completed just before Christmas, and this will enhance the appearance of the grounds even further. This new planting includes some barberry (rather rare), dogwood and yew, in addition to aspen, hornbeams, ash and field maples, and are of course available for adoption as all other trees are!

We welcomed **our new Guardian**, Elizabeth Goater, in the Summer, and she is now a very valuable member of the team you will meet at Barton. Together with Imogen Loke, who looks after trees, flowers and ground maintenance, and myself the Administrator, we are now fully staffed again. We are usually all at Barton on Wednesday mornings (9-11am) when the Lodge is open to visitors, but we are also happy to meet you at other times by appointment (Monday to Friday).

Do come and see the **Memorial Book**, which is now kept in the Lodge, and contains nearly 30 entries already. If you would like to contribute, please request a page from the Administrator, with a stamped addressed hard back A4 envelope please, stating the name of the person in whose memory the page is to be completed. We are most grateful to Mrs Young for funding the Book and bringing the project to completion after a few setbacks along the way!

Furnishings

We continue to request money for the Lodge furnishings, and are delighted to announce that we will be taking delivery of a backed bench for the Lodge shortly into the New Year. We aim to have a few more of these, as well as some individual free standing chairs, when we can then finally banish the plastic chairs for good! We are most grateful to our everyone who continues to donate towards this project- it is much appreciated.

The website.

By the time you read this, or shortly thereafter, the website will have a new look, having been thoroughly revised and updated, so do take a look (www.arborytrust.org) when you have a moment.

Ground maintenance

We have recently sown a large amount of grass seed in an effort to improve the grassy areas, and also to encourage appropriate growth on graves both hold and new. We would ask that no grass seed is disturbed, as it is essential that all graves do blend in with the glades rather than remain earthy. Seed will continue to be sown as and when we deem it appropriate. We do say a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have removed all items that are not permitted under our Rules- we do appreciate that it is often hard, but are grateful for your understanding. Please note that all grave markers (which must be wooden) should be flush to the ground or as near as possible- it was never the intent that very visible markers should protrude upwards, and we feel that it is important that they should all be as unobtrusive as possible. It is important to remember that one thing that distinguishes us from most other cemeteries is that the aim is ultimately to have no visible trace of graves, and indeed many choose to come to us for this very reason.

Benches.

With immediate effect, we have taken the decision that no further benches will be permitted for the foreseeable future. On close inspection we feel that there are now more than enough, and we have to turn down requests almost daily. Imagine what it would look like if we agreed to them all! There are a couple still to be placed which we have approved in principle, but these will **ONLY** be placed with a member of staff being present. If you believe you have permission for a bench, you are invited to talk with the Administrator before taking any further action.

Deryn Coe, Administrator.

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