



THE ARBORY TRUST

Bishop Woodford House Barton Road Ely Cambridgeshire CB7 4DX
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NEWSLETTER

January 2006

Over the past year, the appearance of the Burial Ground at Barton has changed quite considerably. Not only is the wonderful new Memorial Lodge in use, which is already proving invaluable, but also the growth of the trees has been impressive, as has the abundance of wildlife enjoying the new habitat. We hope you will agree that the original vision at the time the Arbory Trust was created is truly becoming a reality. It is wonderful to hear the comments of those coming to Barton particularly for the first time, whether simply to have a look, or to attend burials – all seem struck by the beauty and calmness of the surroundings-whatever the weather!

It was lovely that so many of you were able to attend the Open Evening last September for the dedication of the Memorial Lodge, and we are most grateful to you all for your support.

Memorial Lodge Furnishing Appeal

Now that the construction of the building itself is complete, we would like to furnish it with something a little more beautiful and long-lasting than the current plastic chairs and trestle tables. Therefore we are now launching an Appeal to raise sufficient money to cover the cost of a table, six or eight chairs, and a suitable lectern-style table on which the Memorial Book can be displayed. All of these items would be in oak, to mirror the construction of the Lodge itself, and ideally we would also like a couple of benches to go on the covered area outside the Lodge doors. All of this will require a sum to be raised in the region of £8000, and furniture will be purchased as sufficient money is raised to cover its cost. If you would like to contribute in any way large or small, please send your donation, clearly marked for the Furnishing Appeal, to The Arbory Trust at Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely Cambs CB7 4DX. Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed!

Memorial Book.

Many of you will have seen the Memorial Book as a work 'in progress' at the Open Evening. I am pleased that after some unavoidable delays, we are now in a position to start compiling entries.

In order to ensure conformity to the appearance of this beautiful hand-crafted Book, all entries should be on paper which I have available for distribution. Each page will then be inserted by special binding (we are most grateful to Bob Proctor at the Fitzwilliam for his assistance with this) and will be done in batches of 25. It is hoped the first batch will be ready by Easter. The paper can be put through computer printers (but handwriting is fine), and will have on its front the name of the person in whose memory the page is written. Please consider carefully the use of sticky tape and glue as these age rapidly, becoming insecure and unsightly. We do not wish to have a 'scrap book' effect after a few years!

If you would like to contribute to this book, please send a stamped-addressed envelope (A4 size) to Bishop Woodford House, together with a note of the person's name to be inserted on the front of the page, and I will send this out to you. A few of you have already said you wish to receive the paper- do please call and remind me to send it to you! If you sent in contributions some time ago, these may need a little revision to fit the paper- I have two or three in my files, and will endeavour to send them out to you with the new paper.

General Ground Information

Several comments have been made about the inability to drive up the main grass ride at Barton. During summer months, when the ground is hard and firm, no damage is done to the grass areas by the occasional car being driven up. However, in the early autumn, we experienced some very wet weather, which coupled with considerable traffic up the main ride led to a serious problem with ruts and general boggy conditions being exacerbated.

It was never intended that cars should be driven around the Ground for general access- it is intended to be woodland- and whilst we do understand that for the more elderly or infirm it is very hard to walk the distance from the car park up to the higher glades, we must ask that particularly during the winter months, cars are left in the car parking area. A certain amount of traffic is necessary over this area for conducting burials, but this must be kept to a minimum and we would ask you to respect this. If you see people ignoring this advice, please do let us know, as we are keen to protect our Ground and its appearance.

As the Ground becomes more popular and well-used, we need now to ensure that our Rules and Regulations are adhered to, for the benefit of all who use or intend to use our facilities. These Rules and Regulations are clearly posted for view on our website (www.arborytrust.org), distributed with every brochure, and are accepted by signature by those who purchase or reserve plots. However, increasingly we are finding that these Rules are not being observed, to the distress of many. Therefore, **we will from now on be taking measures to ensure conformity at the Ground.** This will be done gradually in some instances, to allow families who perhaps have made other (non-conforming) arrangements time to adjust. In particular, the following **must be removed**:

- All stone plaques and all brass plaques attached to markers on graves- the Rules clearly state that graves may be marked with a wooden plaque- this does not include stone or brass.
- All artificial flowers.
- All stone or other memorial items not of a bio-degradable nature (this includes animals, glass jars for flowers, flower-holders with metal or brass parts, lanterns, stone).
- All flowerpots, cellophane, oasis and other man-made items.

By Easter, we would hope to see Barton restored to its wholly natural appearance.

Please also remember that at the time of burial, oasis arrangements are not suitable. Cut flowers are preferred. This may seem harsh, but the oasis is all that is left after a few days, is unsightly and requires disposing of.

The tending of graves is welcomed, but please do not try to create your own garden- wild flowers and bulbs (daffodils, bluebells etc) are encouraged, but the more cultivated plants are not appropriate- and please remember that ultimately these graves will form part of the grassy glades and will be mown over, with only the wild flowers and bulbs likely to survive.

We do not have refuse collections at Barton- we should not need to in natural woodland. Should you come to Barton and need to dispose of rubbish, please take it home with you! If you bring your dogs, as we know some of you do, please tidy up after them in similar manner.

General Administrative Information.

Please note that ALL correspondence should be sent to Bishop Woodford House- we do not have postal facilities at Barton.

Some people have mentioned that they always seem to get the answerphone when they call- I do apologise! However, there are a couple of points to make, which I hope will explain the situation clearly. Sally and I both work part-time, but we do check the phone regularly, working or not. Whilst I do spend quite a few hours each week at my desk, I spend an equal amount of hours 'out and about'. I do ensure that when I am not in meetings or attending burials, calls are forwarded to the mobile phone, but inevitably there are times when the answerphone has to step in. So please DO leave messages, they will be dealt with.

Finally, our records are in the process of being computerized, as some of you may already be aware. You have received this newsletter because you have either purchased or reserved a plot, are the relative of someone already at Barton, or you have signed up as a Friend. If you would prefer not to receive these, or any other information from us, please do let me know.

With best wishes to you all for 2006,

Deryn Coe, Administrator.

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