



THE ARBORY TRUST

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NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

Open Evening



Primula Vulgaris



Primula veris

You are warmly invited to attend our annual Open Evening on
Thursday September 11th from 6pm -8pm
At Barton



An opportunity to meet the staff and some of the Trustees, enjoy a glass of wine or juice,
and, we hope, some Autumn evening sunshine!
We hope you can join us.

It seems that each few months that pass brings us to an even more exciting stage in the development of Barton, and this Spring we were truly excited to discover a multitude of primroses and cowslips springing up throughout the site. Although doubtless this was helped by initial planting to re-introduce them, we feel sure that nature is now taking the upper hand in the spread of these, as they appeared in many areas too wide for any individual to have planted them separately. We have also seen the spread of other species of wild flowers, and it is wonderful to see the colours and varieties now truly beginning to thrive.

Ground maintenance

It was lovely to see a vivid splash of colour this Spring with a multitude of daffodils, but we would ask that these are planted sparingly, and only the native variety please, as with all wild flowers planted. They will then spread naturally if they are going to do so at all, which is again what we aim to achieve.

We continue now to sow each new grave with grass seed soon after interment, and to review each grave periodically. *We would ask please that graves are left un-gardened, to allow seed to take and grow- each grave should have grass growing over it, and not have a freshly 'tilled' appearance, as some still do.*

May we also re-emphasise 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. We will lower those that we now find upright, and we would ask that these be left in the lower positions. It is important to remember that one thing that distinguishes us from most other cemeteries is the ultimate aim to have no visible trace of graves. Indeed many choose to come to us for this very reason.

Now that we have completed the clearance of all ornaments and other non-permitted items from graves, we must turn our attention more particularly to the plants on the site. We have a Wild Flower Guide to indicate what is permitted, and we will now be beginning a thorough audit of all plants to ensure that what is planted is in keeping with the natural woodland appearance we are creating, and is in line with the Guide. This will mean that plants such as heather, gladioli, patio roses, cotoneasters, all bedding plants, shrubs such as lavender and rosemary, pieris, oriental poppies, iris, fuschias etc. will ultimately be removed. As with the ornament clearance, we do hope you will be understanding if you find that plants are removed from a family grave. It is not a process intended to cause additional grief, but it is intended to ensure that the Rules are properly enforced again for the benefit of all. Where plants are removed, we will sow wild flower seed by way of replacement.

Although it is somewhat early to be thinking about Christmas, this is our opportunity to mention the adornment of graves at that time with seasonal decorations (or indeed at any other time of the year which may be special to you and your families). Tempting as it may be to bring a little tinsel, balloons, baubles, or even a small tree, they are not appropriate, and will be removed. It is fine to place a wreath made of natural materials eg holly without plastic flowers, but nothing else, please. Any such wreaths will be removed by January 6th 2009.

Research

Over the next couple of years, we will have a Durham PhD student called Hannah Rumble working closely with us, researching into woodland burials. She would be most grateful for some help from those you who feel willing and able to answer some of her questions at any point, and she will also be at our Open evening, so do come along and meet her!

Access

May we remind you that all cars are to be left in the car park- it is not permitted to drive up to the Glades. Anyone with special requirements for access is invited to contact the Administrator if they have not already done so.



Conclusion

I am sorry to be sending out a newsletter which contains so much by way of 'do's and don'ts', but wanted to end on a positive note! The reason for tightening up on our ground's appearance really is a true sign of the success of the Arbory Trust, and what it offers in terms of a real alternative to the more traditional graveyard experience.

As we become more popular, we feel it is essential to be firm in developing the Ground with one set of Rules to which all must adhere. For our part, we have introduced a new regime of mowing and ground maintenance to allow easier access into the Glades when the grass is high, whilst maintaining a healthy and attractive habitat to the returning wildlife. This will include some additional landscaping to the Entrance in due course. Keeping the balance for both human and animal access is delicate, but we do recognise that we are a working Ground, and we hope to be more pro-active in this area from now on.

I continue to be thankful to all of you who are kind enough to call or write with words of encouragement, thanks, suggestions and constructive criticisms - feedback in any venture is always welcome, and we do listen.

Finally, a very big THANK YOU to everyone who has generously donated to the Furnishing appeal. One backed bench has already been delivered, and we are ordering two more to complement the seating in the Lodge further. Plastic chairs may well be a thing of the past before long!

As ever, do come as meet us on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am with any questions, or call us on 01223 303874, or email on enquiries@arborytrust.org.



Deryn Coe, Administrator.