



THE ARBORY TRUST

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NEWSLETTER
July 2007



This Spring saw a wonderful increase in wild flowers on display- it has been a real delight to see them bloom and spread, and every year it just gets better. The trees seem to go from strength to strength- I swear some of them literally grew overnight after the recent downpours followed by strong sunshine. It is a wonderful testament to the foresight of those who inspired the development of the woodland burial ground, and it is so good to hear people saying how beautiful and peaceful a resting and visiting place Barton now is for all who come.

Open Evening

You are most welcome to join us again this year for an informal evening at Barton from 6-8pm on **Thursday September 13th 2007**. The staff and some trustees will be available to answer any questions you may have over a glass of wine. If you have any detailed queries, do please let me know beforehand, to ensure that we can be available to as many people as possible on the evening.

Whilst there will be no formal talks this year, we do hope you'll take the opportunity to come and visit, and perhaps bring a friend or two.

Furnishings

We have been tremendously fortunate to receive another bench for our Lodge, generously donated by Mr Falla. Slowly we are increasing the oak in the Lodge, and reducing the plastic chairs, and we are most grateful to all who continue to donate so generously to our fund for the furnishing appeal. We hope to be in a position to order another bench very soon. If anyone would like to donate to the appeal, please send a cheque to the Arbory Trust to the address above! Gift Aid is also appreciated- a form is available from the Lodge or by request.

The Lodge

The Lodge is open every Wednesday morning from 9-11am for people to drop in with questions or simply for a chat. We try to have at least two staff members there every week, so we have time to spend with all who come. We do leave fairly promptly at 11 am- if you are travelling a distance you may wish to call beforehand to let us know you are coming. We are happy to make appointments to meet at other times during the week (Monday to Friday) if Wednesday is not convenient. If you visit Barton at other times, and find the Lodge in use, please be aware that appointments have been made, and priority must be given to those who have made the appointments.

Funerals

We have had a few enquiries regarding our policy on use of the Grounds at weekends, so it might be helpful to set this out for you. Generally we require all interments to take place during the week (Monday to Friday), as we feel it is important that people should be able to visit Barton freely at weekends and on public holidays. Only in very exceptional circumstances would this be varied, and in such cases, we would ask you to be understanding.

Grave maintenance

With the amount of press coverage devoted in recent months to the subject of graveyard maintenance, it would be wrong not to mention ours here! Many of you are aware of our continued drive to tighten up on the number and type of items on graves at Barton in recent months. Whilst it has been hard for some to accept, response in general has been overwhelmingly positive, and I would like to thank you all for being so understanding and co-operative.

In order to make it easier for all, we have drawn up an easy-to-follow Summary of the Rules, a copy of which should be with this if this has been posted to you. It will be on the website shortly for those who receive this by email. Essentially, one simple wooden marker (roughly the size of an A3 piece of paper) is permitted, and must be laid flush to the ground. It must not have any brass or other plaque attached. Cut (not wrapped) flowers may be placed, or wild flowers planted, but no vases or baskets (of any kind) or ornaments of any kind are permitted (even if they are made of wood). We have contacted everyone that we have details for if there are items in contravention of these Rules (which have not changed, but are simply now being reinforced), but if you should find items removed from a grave, they may well be found behind the Lodge. I am very much aware that sometimes well-meaning friends come and place things without full knowledge of what is permitted, but we do also need to remove these. I should say at this point that some items have gone seemingly of their own accord (ie nothing to do with us!), and I suspect the wildlife.... This is another reason why we must be vigilant about what is on the ground at Barton.

Wild Flower Guide

In order to make it easier for those wishing to plant wild flowers or bulbs at Barton, Imogen has designed a Guide which is available in the Lodge (and a copy is outside in the noticeboard). You can request one to be sent also- just leave a message on the phone. We do ask that this guide is followed – it is important now to ensure a truly natural woodland develops, and whilst some of the more traditional garden plants are undoubtedly beautiful, they are not appropriate to the woodland. Those that are at Barton will now be phased out, and we would be grateful to all whom this affects for their understanding. It is also quite interesting that nature itself does seem to help here, as those plants that thrive in gardens do not seem to do well at Barton, so it makes sense to only put in things that will survive without regular care.

Tidiness.

We do now have a bin, but PLEASE DON'T LEAVE YOUR RUBBISH AT BARTON! This is for Lodge waste only. Compostable waste may be put into the compost bins, but everything else should go home with you.

Memorial Book.

I do truly believe we are close to the first binding! However, with about 40 pages out being completed at the moment (and this is not intended to rush anyone who is in the process of writing a page), I would like to await these, or at least the majority of these, before sending of the inaugural batch to be bound into the beautiful wooden cover. If anyone would like a page to complete, they should send me and SAE (A4sized, hard-backed) with the name of the person in whose memory the page is to be completed with dates if desired, and I will send the page out for completion.

General Administrative Information.

We hope to appoint a new Guardian to the Arbory Trust over the Summer months. In the meantime, Imogen and I look forward to talking to you with any questions you have at any time. Finally, if anyone knows of a local handyman who may be interested in helping out with a few odd jobs at Barton, I'd be delighted to hear from them!

Deryn Coe, Administrator.



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