



April 2016

Dear Member,

April Newsletter

We had a successful Annual General meeting on Tuesday 22nd March with all the resolutions passed, thanks to those attending.

It has always been acknowledged that the Round Pond is a very important feature in the Wild Garden and the major discussion, after the AGM was concluded, was over plans for its restoration this summer.

By way of background, the restoration of the canals over the last four years has been carried out using a mix of contractors and volunteers; however this approach does lead to extended timescales. The general feeling has been that the restoration of the Round Pond needs to be carried out using a single contractor working to a tight timeframe to minimise the inevitable disruption.

As a preliminary, we have already commissioned an Aquatic Survey to give us a baseline reference on the water quality, the aquatic life and the toxicity of the silt before any work starts. This survey has given us encouraging results and if the restoration is successful would allow us to consider restocking the ponds with native fish.

The restoration work involves the removal of the tree stumps growing in the pond wall, dredging and disposing of the silt to regain water depth and rebuilding the surrounding stone wall where it has eroded or been damaged. We have obtained quotes from four contractors, all experienced in this work, and are now in detailed discussions with AES with a view to concluding a suitable contract. Our target is to have the work completed by June. We estimate that the work will involve around 2 to 3 weeks of disruption around the pond area.

Our constraint as always however is financial. We have around £28,000 in the bank and would normally wish to retain a significant reserve against our normal running costs of approximately £4,000 a year. The AES quote is for £20,000 and we estimate a further £4,000 to £5,000 for additional walling and topping stones. This leaves no margin for additions or errors. While we are currently seeking additional sources of grant funds there is no guarantee these will be available in time to start the work in May.

We need YOUR help!

We are therefore now seeking further private donations specifically for the restoration of the wall including new stone, to enable the project to start in May. We would like to make some form of public acknowledgement for all donations if the donor wishes. Please let me know as soon as possible if you feel able to make a specific donation towards this very important project.

We have two fund raising events already scheduled for later in the year, please do support these if you are able.

The Wild Garden is taking a stand at the Shipton Church Fete on **Saturday 18th June** on the Shipton Village Green. If you are able to help man the stall for some of the afternoon this would be most welcome. We will be promoting the garden and looking for additional memberships and donations.

Shipton-under-Wychwood Wild Garden and Woods
A company limited by guarantee

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Company Registration No. 7030839 Registered Charity No. 1133334

Madeline Taylor is once again very kindly opening her garden at Hunters Lodge in Shipton on **Sunday 3rd July** from 2pm. This is a lovely garden and teas and cakes will be on sale. Help is needed to man the entrance desk and to help with teas and cakes

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Watson

P.S. If you are receiving this Newsletter by post it means we do not have a valid email address for you on file.

If you have email and would like to help us reduce our administrative costs please email us at **info@wychwoodwildgarden.org.uk** and future correspondence will be sent to you by email.