

THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST NEWSLETTER

The George Fentham Arboretum



The Trustees of the George Fentham Trust are delighted that the George Fentham Arboretum, together with the Spinney, Wildflower Meadow and the village flower planters, have been awarded a certificate from The Royal Horticultural Society and Heart of England in Bloom 'It's your Neighbourhood Award' for outstanding achievement, scoring 98 out of 100 points.

The George Fentham Arboretum was the initial idea of Peter Adams, the then chairman of the Trust, and together with fellow trustee Nigel Pettman put the plan in action.

In 2008 a proposal was approved by the Trust to construct an arboretum on the Fentham Trust's 14 acre field farmed on the south side of the existing Parish Council's spinney. The top four acres were planted as a deciduous woodland, with an avenue of walnut trees from the Spinney opening to the proposed arboretum. In 2009 the farmer Nigel Redfern, relinquished the field and after harvesting his crop prepared and planted the remaining 10-11 acres with seed of a slow growing grass.

In 2009 Nigel Pettman and Peter Adams asked Robert Vernon of Bluebell Nurseries to prepare a planting plan for the field and in early 2010 he came and placed 230 stakes with names of the trees to be planted.

Before the trees could be planted, a group of volunteers had to spray a circle of weed killer around each stake to clear the grass and add manure to the planting ground. In April 2010, in the pouring rain, which got heavier as the day went on, twelve volunteers from the trustees, the Gardening Club and the Conservation Group planted all 230 trees.

A water supply with six hose points was installed by the Trust and connected to the mains by Severn Trent, luckily it was not a very dry summer and only 10 trees failed to survive which were replaced by the Trust in the autumn. We were kindly supplied with six lorry loads of wood chippings and trustees and volunteers delivered wheelbarrows full of chippings to each tree.

During 2011 which was a very hot and dry summer the arboretum was divided into three sections for watering which was done by the Trustees, the Gardening Club, and the Conservation Group. Continual maintenance of mowing, weeding and extra chippings for the trees was undertaken by the volunteers. An area at the top of the arboretum, (north end surrounded by balmoral fencing), was cleared and some 3,000 bulbs of daffodils, snowdrops and bluebells were planted. Maintenance has continued during 2012, but unfortunately the field

has become waterlogged and so far 20 trees have died which have been replaced this autumn by the George Fentham Trust.

The trustees are delighted that all 230 trees have been sponsored and plaques have been placed at each tree with the sponsor's name and dedication. Any broken plaques are replaced by the Trust.

A planting plan has been drawn and shows the names of the trees planted. This can be viewed at the George Fentham Meeting Room.

The Trustees have also planted over 20 acres of trees, on farm land owned by the trust, with pathways for walkers. This was opened by the Duchess of Gloucester in 2003 who planted a tree at the entrance to the Arboretum.

Please come and enjoy the George Fentham Arboretum, woodland and wild flower meadow which are provided for the village residents as a leisure facility.

Peter Adams has done an enormous amount of work in setting up The George Fentham Arboretum, and together with the Trust and volunteers from the village, has worked very hard to maintain it.

The next plan being considered is to extend the arboretum into the field behind the Spinney, which used to have the football pitches. This will give further opportunity to sponsor trees.



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