

# Woolstone Village Gardens Open Day

Sunday 5th July 2009 (2-6 pm)

In aid of All Saints Church, Woolstone  
and the National Gardens Scheme

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's Heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth*

Teas & homemade cakes, games and plant sale in  
the garden at Woolstone Mill House and music  
from The Mill House Quartet.

Adults £5 (£4 -Woolstone Mill House only),  
accompanied under 16s free. No dogs please.

## **1. BREAKSPEAR COTTAGE ..... The Loeb Family**

Nestling under the Downs, with just over an acre of untamed, unplanned, wild garden, it is maintained by the longest standing resident of the village. Follow the winding paths through shrub roses, haphazard herbaceous plants and an orchard. This garden is a sanctuary for birds and wildlife.

## **2. COOPERS .....Mrs S. Smart**

The garden was designed for Sidney and Pam Smart by Bill Spink (c1996). Lawns and herbaceous borders lead to a Spiders Web pergola. Behind the yew hedges is a secret garden, small fernery, old fashioned roses and interesting trees. There is a vegetable garden through the laburnum arch.

## **3. MEDWORTH..... Col & Mrs H. Rogers**

This couple have lived here for 25 years and try to make their half-acre patch, which is mostly grass, easy to manage by themselves and at the same time colourful. The greenhouse is used mainly to bring on many bedding plants; about 500 this year.

## **4. MOSMAN.....Mrs J. Nelson**

Enter by a gravel drive of lavender which leads to a fence of Clematis, a stripey shed and wonderful views over the fields towards Faringdon. There is a fine established Copper Beech hedge and a recent addition of a charming summer house.

## **5. HICKORY HOUSE .....Mr & Mrs D. Blount**

The previous owner opened her garden every year, this is our first summer in Woolstone and as such we are trying to maintain the tradition! We would be very grateful if you could help us; we would dearly love to know the name of any plants and flowers in the garden. So if you know the name please write it down and attach the label to the particular plant.

## **6. COB COTTAGE..... Professor Wendy Davies**

This informal garden, which surprises with its different parts, is planted to have something of interest throughout the year. Fruit trees (apple, pear, mulberry, medlar) and raspberries wandering among the vegetables; two long herbaceous borders, with crambe, delphiniums, several salvias and much more; some good mature planting, including Robinia Tortuosa, with more recent Clerodendron, Pittosporums and Cupressus Sempervirens; as well as old roses (at their best in mid-June), hollyhocks, phlomis, and places to sit and be quiet.

## **7/8. THE LODGE & WATERFALL COTTAGE ....Mr & Mrs L. Hollingworth**

The River Ock rises just above this garden forming a lake and natural waterfall. The garden designed by Justin Spink includes herbaceous borders. There is a beautiful Tom Leaper water sculpture and vegetable garden with fruit arbours, leading to the swimming pool. From The Lodge, pass the majestic cedar towards Waterfall Cottage, where shade and water-loving plants thrive.

## **9. WOOLSTONE MILL HOUSE .....Mr & Mrs A. Spink**

This garden is starred in the Best Garden Guide. There is a topiary parterre and terrace looking on to circular herbaceous borders with the Downs beyond. Medlars and old fashioned roses lead to the bog garden and vegetable garden over stepping stones. Don't miss the thatched tree house which has spectacular views.

## **10. MERROW DOWN..... Mrs L. Walker**

Informal beds of roses, shrubs and other plants, the majority of planting done in the last 2 years, with vegetables and a mix of old and new fruit trees, all surrounded by native hedging and the stream running through the garden.

## **11. YEW TREE COTTAGE .....Mr & Mrs R. Godfrey**

This is a cottage garden that has an unexpected sense of space as you first enter through the garden door. Immediately in front of the house is a south-facing garden with heavily scented climbing roses, clematis and herbaceous planting as well as a rose-covered Wendy House. Over the bridge, you will come to a grass walk with a sloping bank down to the water's edge and a colourful and densely planted herbaceous border. Opposite is a secluded gravel garden with lovely views up to the Ridgeway. The wild meadow also has views up to White Horse Hill and a small vegetable garden.

## **12. POND HOUSE.....Mr & Mrs A. Breton**

This garden was designed three years ago by Justin Spink. There is a beautifully planted terrace and borders look over the mill pond with stunning views to Dragon Hill and the White Horse. The swimming pool garden planted in soft colours is hidden behind a yew hedge. Well worth the extra walk. Pimms is on offer for a small charge.

## **ABOUT THE VILLAGE & ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Around 950AD the Saxon King Eadred gave an area of land to Wulfric, being known as Wulfric's tun or what we now know as Woolstone. The oldest building in the village is the church, dedicated to All Saints. It dates back to some 20 years before Magna Carta. Built from chalkstone, known locally as 'clunch', the church is remarkable in having at least nine sundials carved into its walls, although not easy to spot—most have only one. The church boasts a Norman doorway and interesting early font.

There are now 10 or so remaining chalk cottages dating back as far as the 17th century. Of these Waterfall Cottage, Cob Cottage and The White Horse Inn are amongst the oldest having timber frames at least in part. At Waterfall Cottage the date 1611 is said to be scratched into the south wall. The deeds of the cottage at Woodruff Orchard in Lower Woolstone record that it was built in the reign of "Good Queen Bess".

Thank you for supporting our Gardens Open Day which will help provide us with much needed funds to maintain this ancient and beautiful building.

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE A LOVELY AFTERNOON. WOOLSTONE GARDENS OPEN DAY TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY.**

