Woolstone Village Gardens Open Day

Sunday 3rd July 2011 2-6 pm In aid of All Saints Church, Woolstone

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

Live music, teas, homemade cakes, and plant sale in the garden at Woolstone Mill House.

Adults £5. Accompanied under 16s free. No dogs please.

Please take care walking around the village and gardens. While the gardeners have endeavoured to ensure their gardens are safe for you to visit, all visitors do so at their own risk.

www.woolstonevillage.co.uk

1. YEW TREE COTTAGEMr & Mrs R. Godfrey

Following a major house extension project in 2010, the garden is slowly being restored and redesigned. The recent landscaping of the area in front of the house includes a line of pleached hornbeam underplanted with lavender and a gentle grass bank sloping down to the stream. On the other side of the water there is a densely planted herbaceous border that is undergoing a new planting scheme. On the other side of the gravel path there is a secluded gravel garden that has recently been replanted where you can sit and enjoy views up to the Ridgeway. Through the arch there is a meadow area that also has views up to White Horse Hill. Whilst this is very much 'work in progress' you are welcome to come and enjoy a glass of Pimms (for a small charge) and share our plans for the garden!

2. MERROW DOWN......Mrs L. Walker

An informal country garden with the village stream running through it; the flowers and shrubs are traditional English ones complementing the existing mature trees and the stream. Vegetables and fruit trees grow in various different parts of the garden suitable for them, rather than in a defined area. The planting is now maturing following completion of the renovation of the house 4 years ago but, as always, and particularly following last winter's harsh weather, remains an ongoing project.

3. 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.

4/5. 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.

6. COB COTTAGE......Professor Wendy Davies

This informal garden is planted to have something of interest throughout the year, as well as some untended space. Fruit trees (apple, pear, mulberry, medlar, quince) and raspberries wandering around; two long herbaceous borders, with delphiniums, several salvias and much more; some good mature planting,

including Robinia Tortuosa, with more recent Clerodendron and Pittosporums, though most of the latter lost in last year's winter; as well as old roses (at their best in mid-June), hollyhocks, phlomis, and places to sit and be quiet.

WHITE HORSE INN......Keith Adams

Open all day every day. Food is served from 12 to 2:30pm and from 6 to 9 pm. Ice cream and snacks are available from the bar.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. POND HOUSE.......Mr & Mrs D. Erwin

Designed in 2007 by Justin Spink with stunning views to Dragon Hill and the White Horse. New additions this year are the vegetable and rose gardens. The swimming pool garden planted in soft colours is hidden behind a yew hedge. Well worth the extra walk with Pimms 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 1195, 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.

WOOLSTONE GARDENS OPEN DAY TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY - NORMALLY ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY

Longcot Uffington

