

Kings Worthy, St Mary's Church
Litter Pick & Dedicated Bench Installation
Sunday 10th August 2008



As arranged at about 11.30am a few members met outside the St Mary's church rooms, to be joined by the 'Waste Watchers' children's holiday club ready for their litter picking task. The combined group then made their way up towards the recreation ground. Lizzie and Maureen decided that they would collect litter and rubbish from the footpaths near the school and recreation ground. There was quite a bit of litter, but perhaps less than might have been expected!

After an hour of intensive picking we met up again with the leaders of the children's litter-picking group who took all the rubbish for disposal; however Maureen gathered up the cans and paper for proper recycling.

Maureen, Lizzie and other members of the WCV dispersed, some back to the churchyard for the next part of the task and several went homewards. It was very good to have Connie along. A good task all round.

Maureen Edwards – Task Leader.

Martin, Nick and Bruce arrived at Michael Edwards' house to pick up a new oak bench for installation in the churchyard. The bench was carefully loaded into Martin's van along with concrete mix, barrow and tools.

The solidly built oak bench was to replace an earlier bench dedicated by the Shaw-Lefevre family to Lord Eversley, who had lived his latter years from about 1906 at Abbott's Worthy House. Lord Eversley had been a minister in Gladstone's government and, among other claims to fame, had laid the foundation stone for Winchester Guildhall. The large commemorative plaque to Lord Eversley from the old bench was to be transferred to the new one, which also already bore a cast bronze dedication plaque from Maureen Edwards in memory of her father and her son Kenneth. Maureen donated the bench to the Church and the WCV were asked to install it on her behalf.



The installation went well and the new seat was concreted into the ground in a beautiful position at the bottom of the churchyard under the nearby Capodocian Maple tree. The heavy job took about 2 hours and was much enlivened by Maureen's chatter and the kindness of Lizzie who provided the workers with two refreshing cups of tea each and slices of her daughter's wedding cake, all brought over in great style from her house on the green, on a tray complete with china teapot!!

The afternoon was further enhanced by interested visitors from the church who were anxious to see that all was well, which indeed it proved to be much to their great satisfaction. Several other passing visitors remarked on the good appearance and position of the final bench installation.

Michael popped back a couple of days later to tighten the securing bolts and attach the large plaque.

Michael Edwards – Task Leader. Weather: dry with sunny spells, 22°C.

Next Activity: *Sunday 21st September, 1.30pm* – Nuns Walk Improvements.