

Betjeman Poetry Trail



A poetry trail has been created in the Park which consists of six sculptures, designed by distinguished local sculptor Alec Peever, inscribed with extracts from Betjeman's poems.

1. "Preface to High and Low" (Bronze ground plaque)
2. "Uffington" (Blue/black Caithness Flagstone)
3. "Upper Lambourne" (York Stone)
4. "The Last Laugh" (Derbyshire Limestone)
5. "Distant View of a Provincial Town" (York Stone)
6. "On Leaving Wantage" (Pale Limestone)



Support the Park



The Park is managed by a small group of Trustees supported by a dedicated team of local volunteers.

Volunteers undertake a range of tasks from bulb-planting to leaf-clearing. The Trust runs work parties on the first Sunday of each month, 10.00 – 12.00. If you would like to find out more about our work parties or become a Friend of Betjeman Park and receive our quarterly e-newsletter, please get in touch!

Email: trustees@betjemanpark.org.uk

Find out more:

f www.facebook.com/BetjemanMillenniumPark

www.betjemanpark.org.uk

PLEASE DONATE

Betjeman Millennium Park is a fully independent charity relying entirely on local donations and support. Cheques made payable to: 'Betjeman Millennium Park'.



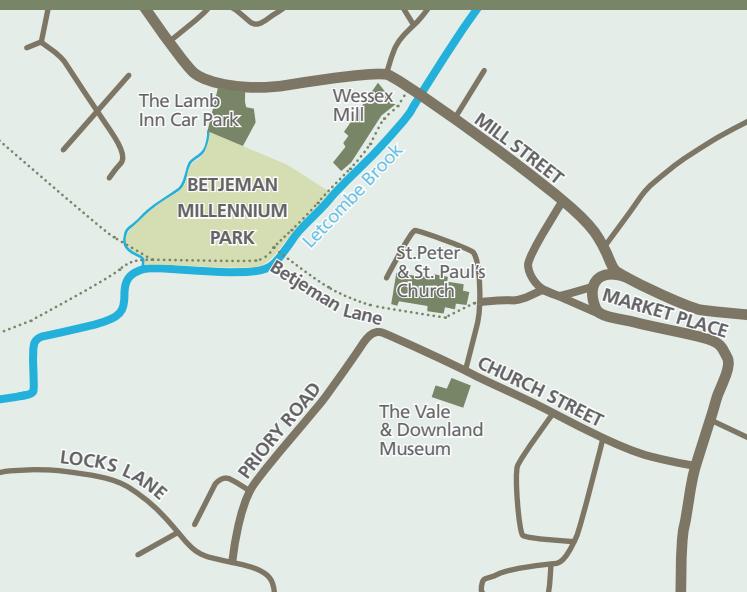
Betjeman Millennium Park is registered in England as Charity No. 1064054

Betjeman Millennium Park



A local green space in the heart of historic Wantage

Enjoy the Park



Betjeman Millennium Park is a semi-wild woodland area, located in the heart of Wantage, adjacent to the Letcombe Brook.

It is a haven of tranquillity for both wildlife and people.

With its native woodland trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs, the Park provides a unique habitat for many species of bird, animals and insects.

The Performance Area, enclosed by a ring of ancient Sarsen Stones is the perfect place for a summer picnic, while the Betjeman poetry trail can be enjoyed all year-round.

The Park can be accessed from the Market Place, via Betjeman Lane next to the Church of St Peter and St Paul, or from The Lamb Inn car park, off Mill Street.

The Park is accessible by wheelchair and is dog-friendly.

History of the Park

Betjeman Millennium Park opened in May 2002. It was created to celebrate the Millennium and the life and work of Wantage resident and poet, Sir John Betjeman (1906 - 1984).

The two-acre site, once a derelict piece of land threatened by housing development, was saved and bought by a group of local residents, with the help of a generous District Council grant.

A Charitable Trust was formed to conserve the site as a public open green space for the benefit of local residents and visitors to the town.

Today, the Park is managed by a small group of Trustees.



A Community Asset



The Park is a valuable community asset and has been recognised as a protected Local Green Space in the Wantage Neighbourhood Plan.

The Park hosts several annual events, including Art in the Park (with local schools) and the Betjeman Bike Ride (open to all).

It is also a great outdoor venue for local children - the Oak Leaf Forest School enjoys outings to the Park and the Wantage Cubs and Brownies use the Park to gain their Adventure Badges.

Students from King Alfred's Academy also use the Park to gain work experience.

