

## 1. Sarah inspired us...

Sarah Olney sadly died unexpectedly in 2020. Sarah worked for Natural England and was the driving force behind the development of the new “Eco Area” beyond Calais Field and, before that, the Woodland Walk and the very successful “woody dams” along the Littlestock Brook; MuW has a lot to thank her for. She was an adherent of letting nature take its own course and the “re-meandering” of manicured streams to reduce flood damage and make a natural landscape. She was also passionate about soil health – see the inscription on the memorial seat below.



**A memorial tribute to Sarah Olney**

Sarah’s Seat: the inscription reads; “The Earthworm Champion of Soil Health, Aerating and Recycling. For Sarah Olney Champion of Soil Health in the Evenlode Catchment”.

Her contribution has been recognised in the making of a wonderful memorial seat now placed in the Eco Area. Sarah’s passion for soil quality is acknowledged in the seat’s shape as a worm. The seat was “unveiled” by Andrew Russell of Natural England on 18 December, 2023 on a cold and windy day with a small group of former colleagues and local farmers who had benefited from her advice and support for various biodiversity initiatives. The seat was made from an oak tree at Blenheim Palace by Rodas Irving.



### **Unveiling Sarah's seat**

Do take a walk in and around the Eco Area, remember Sarah, admire the superb artistry and craftsmanship, and rest your weary bones on this stunning memorial seat - it is a lovely asset to MuW's Eco Area.

More about the "Eco Area" in the next section...