



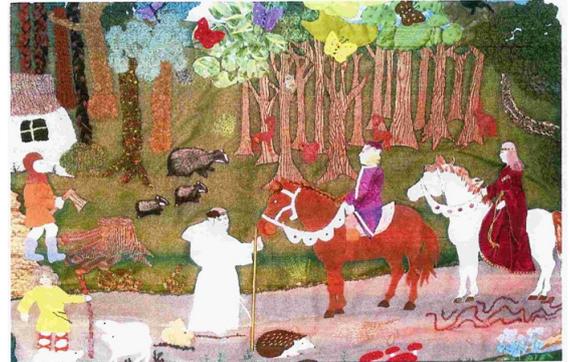
The Friends of

Putnoe Wood & Mowsbury Hillfort

Putnoe Wood History Timeline

The name in its present form has been around since the 16th Century, but was formerly known as 'Puttenhoe' and 'Putenho' indicating the spur or 'hoh' of land belonging to an unknown Anglo-Saxon settler Putta, hence 'Puttas-hoe'.

- 1010. Original Saxon Settler named PUTTA
- 1066. Norman Conquest. Anschil or Asketill. Scandinavian Origin.
- 1087. Domesday Book. Hugh de Beauchamp, first Baron of Bedford.
- 1190. Putnoe Woods endowed to Cisterdan Abbey of Warden.
- 1224. Siege of Bedford Castle. Putnoe Wood devastated by the Royal Forces of Henry III.
- 1304. Compensation received by Warden Abbey up to this date for the ravaged woodland.
- 1537. Dissolution of monasteries ended Warden Abbeys ownership. 1539. Surrender of Warden Abby to Crown Estate passed to the Gostwick Family of Willington.
- 1731. Sold to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough.
- 1774. Purchased for Francis, fifth Duke of Bedford.
- 1798. Charles Abbot's "Flora Bedfordiensis". First botanical records of Putnoe Woods.
- 1886. Sold piece meal.
- 1934. Goldington Village absorbed into Bedford and Putnoe Wood transferred to Ravensden.
- 1966. Boundary extensions brought the wood within Bedford Borough.
- 1968. Demolition of Putnoe Farm ended a continuous period of nine hundred years during which time the site had been at the centre of a manorial estate.
- 1971. Start of detailed eco-surveys printed in the Journal of The Bedfordshire Naturalist.
- 1972. Wood forms part of Mowsbury Park
- 2011. Formation of Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort.



Putnoe Wood. Tapestry and associated poem by Putnoe Library Walk WI and on display at Putnoe Heights Church.

A secretive mouse and some tough little pigs
Lived in a wood amongst brushwood and twigs,
Some hedgehogs, and badgers that foraged by night,
And a woodcutter keeping his axe very bright
In this forested hideout of badger and bird
An encounter like this may well have occurred:

One summer day a mysterious priest
Met the lady and lord on their way to a feast
Had they met there by chance or by secret design?
Were there orders to give with a purpose malign?
Did the woodcutter overhear news that seemed strange
Of a murder? A birth? A political change?
The fate of a king or a great treasure found?
Or the news of a castle razed to the ground?
Did the lordly ones finish their journey that day
Or turn back in alarm to make plots or to pray?
Putnoe Wood is still here; you may walk in its ways
And under its leafy boughs spend happy days
There are snowdrops in February, bluebells in May,
And it has not much changed since that far distant day
When the rustling leaves muffled all that was said.
But the moment was captured by needle and thread
And everyone there but the secretive mouse
Can be seen on the wall inside W. I House!

