N YOUR WAY



Pocket park is declared open

BRITAIN'S smallest pocket park has had a grand opening .

Stoke Albany Residents took the term 'pocket' almost literally – the park is only a tenth of an acre in size – but it's no less important because of that.

The park is on a piece of land next to the village hall, which used to be neglected and has now been cleared and replanted with wild plants, shrubs and trees.

Opening the park Stoke Albany's Parish Council chairman Sheila Mellelieu said: "It has taken a great deal of work from many village people to get where we are today but it has all been worthwhile.

" Everyone from youngsters to some of the older residents have contributed.

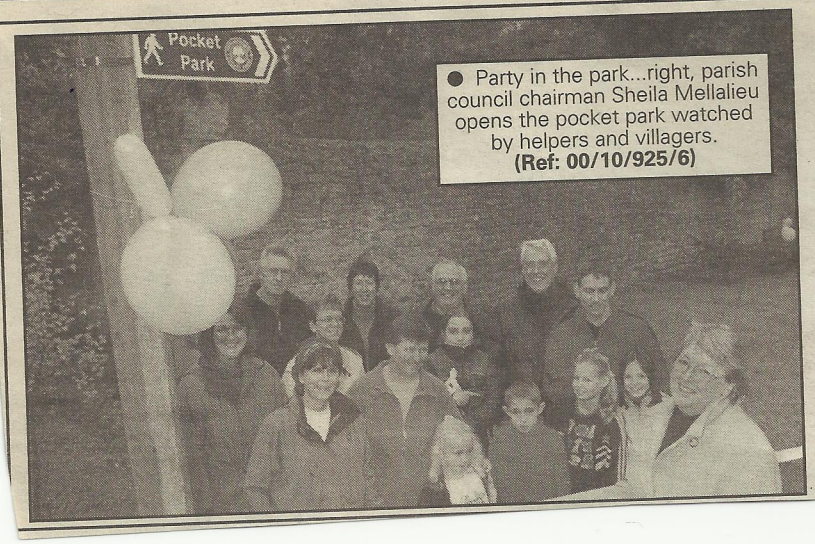
"We will do everything to ensure that this oasis in an increasingly stressful world is maintained for everybody to enjoy."

ET picture:CT10573.7

26 OCT 2000

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RURAL ROUND-UP



● Party in the park...right, parish council chairman Sheila Mellalieu opens the pocket park watched by helpers and villagers.
(Ref: 00/10/925/6)

Small is beautiful!

A NEGLECTED area of Stoke Albany next to the village hall has been transformed.

The new pocket park was officially opened on Saturday by Northamptonshire County Council's pocket park officer Sue Paice.

In keeping with the theme, Stoke's park is the smallest in the county, at a tenth of an acre.

The idea for the park came from County Hall's bio-diversity initiative, inspired by the UN Earth Summit.

Villagers began work on establishing it in 1997 and have created a wonderful natural environment for wildlife and visitors.