

New signs for Welwyn wood

By Alex Lewis

LOCAL drugs company Roche has donated new welcome signs and information boards in Sherrardspark Wood, just outside Welwyn Garden City.

Roche has worked closely with the borough council, which owns the wood to design and install signs for the popular and ancient wood.

Staff and supporters gathered to see Roche General Manager John Melville and Deputy Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Councillor Kim Morris cut a ribbon at the new Campus West entrance to officially unveil the signs last week.

Mr Melville said: "We are very proud of our long-standing association with Welwyn Garden City and are passionate about education and sustainability. We feel the donation of these signs is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our continued legacy and our commitment to the local community for the next generation."



Roche general manager John Melville and Welwyn Hatfield Deputy Mayor Kim Morris cut a ribbon at a new entrance to the wood near Campus West

The new signs are made of very heavy oak and are expected to last well into the next 100 years. Each of the seven entrances to the park will benefit from a welcome and information board and several finger posts throughout the wood will help visitors find their way.

(more) Cllr Kim Morris said: "Sherrardspark Wood has been and continues to be an important part of the local community; it is a site of special scientific interest with trees dating back over several hundred years. These new signs and information points will be invaluable to the walkers and groups that visit the wood each year. We are grateful to Roche for the donation of the signs and wish the organisation continued success for the next hundred years."

Following the unveiling a number of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Roche staff enjoyed a short walk through the wood to see the new signs for themselves. Members of the Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society were working in the wood and on hand to give the visitors fascinating insights into its special ecology and wildlife. Peter Cade, Chairman of the Society said: "Our wood wardens dedicate their time on a weekly basis to look after this beautiful part of Welwyn Garden City. We hope these new signs will encourage even more visitors to the wood."

The donation by the company was given in place of an individual centenary gift to staff.