

Melro de Smithes Wood

(Blackbird Wood in Portuguese)

In 1991 the late John Smithes planted trees, shrubs and bushes in a two acre field he owned in Hynetown Road, Strete.

In 1997 a Trust Deed was made that is known as 'Nan and John Smithes 1997 Charitable Trust – Melro de Smithes Wood'.

The wood was established to encourage wildlife and a quiet enjoyment place for residents and visitors to the village.

In 2004 a plastic mesh was laid (vegetation grows through the mesh) on a circular path to make it accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs.

In 2006 the wood was entered in the 'Devon Woodland Competition' as part of the Devon County Show and was awarded 'Bronze Merit Award'.

In 2013 to celebrate 140 years of trading in the village, Luscombe Maye, Estate Agents, Chartered Surveyors and Auctioneers gave the village an oak tree which was planted in the wood.

The Trustees employ a professional tree surgeon to look after the woods.