

# The Whitchurch Maze



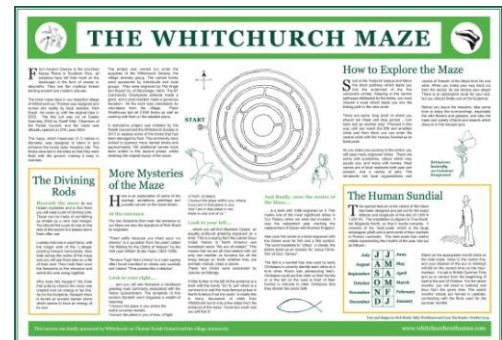
The Whitchurch Maze lies close to the junction of Hardwick Road and Muddy Lane. Local resident Nick Brazil came up with the idea for a brick maze in 2003. The first turf was cut in April 2004 and the maze was opened with a big party on Sunday 27th June that year. Nick wrote an account of the original project, which can still be read [here](#).

The maze is 21 metres in diameter and is designed to blend with the meadow site. The bricks are laid flush with the ground for ease of maintenance. Inside the maze there is a human sundial.

The project was carried out under the Whitchurch Society. Named bricks were sponsored by individuals and local groups. A BT Community scheme made a grant, and a local resident made a donation. The work was done by volunteers from the village. Pete Woolhouse laid the 2,650 bricks, as well as helping Nick with the layout.

An information board was erected at the site in 2005 (*right*). Click [here](#) for an enlarged version

Frost damage to the bricks became apparent after the first few winters, despite claims by the manufacturer, and a restoration project was set up in 2013 by the Parish Council and the Whitchurch Society to remedy some of the damage. The community was invited to sponsor more bricks and around 160 names were added. A more frost-resistant type of brick was used.



In 2018 Leslie Prater, who lives nearby in Eastfield Lane, organised and kindly helped to finance a new campaign of restoration, in which a further 149 named bricks were sponsored and installed and 660 damaged bricks were replaced by local bricklayers Phil Wise and his son Alec.

*Aerial view above by David Bowen, December 2018*

[See the next two pages for photographs of the Maze from 2004 to 2018.....](#)

## Fourteen years in the life of the Maze

The meadow  
in 2003,  
before the  
project began



Parish council chairman Geoff Weir cuts  
the first sod, guided by Pete Woolhouse,  
in April 2004



Pete excavates trenches and installs bricks



Muzzle loaders fire a volley to celebrate  
the opening in June 2004

and there is a big party



This is the Maze in May 2015



Phil Wise, Leslie Prater and Sally Woolhouse discuss restoration work in November 2018

Phil, working with his son Alec, replaces frost- damaged bricks



Pete lays one of the last new bricks, December 2018

Leslie Prater, Pete Woolhouse, Sally Woolhouse and Nick Brazil with the last four bricks of the 2018 campaign



*Photos by Nick Brazil*

*Webpage updated by Richard Wingfield, News Editor, 31st December 2018*