

SUCCESS: visitors enjoy a sunny day by the river Gardens are buzzing for Beanpole Day



TAKING A LOOK: A visitor checks out the plants for sale



THE PLACE TO BEE: Anne and John Booth from Friends of the Earth make a plea to protect the bees

Volunteers, and Friends of Harris Garden.

There were also willow workers,

LINDA FORT

THE sun shone down on Caversham Court on Saturday and brought out the eco-gardeners by the dozen.

Beanpole Day is an annual event to encourage environmentally-friendly gardening, and it was organised by Econet at the Thames-side venue.

Organiser Judith Oliver said: "It was a really lovely day and everyone felt that spring was really here at last."

"The gardeners all came out to buy plants for their gardens and sit by the river and have a picnic. It is such a beautiful place by the river with the sun shining."

Among those taking part on the day were the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Greenshoots, Reading and District Natural History Society, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, Traidcraft, Reading Urban Wildlife Group, Reading and District Beekeepers, Friends of the Earth, RISC's Food4Families, the Conservation



CHOICES: Visitors at one of the plant stalls

Pictures: MIKE ENGLEFIELD (Ref BK20136406)

basketmakers and secondhand tool renovators selling their wares. Mrs Oliver said: "We like to encourage sustainable gardening which is why the RSPB, the beekeepers and the butterfly society were there sharing their information."

National Beanpole Week is an annual event run by the Smallwoods Association to encourage gardeners to support Britain's coppiced woodlands by choosing eco-friendly, locally-grown coppiced beanpoles instead of imported bamboo canes.

This year the Reading conservation group Econet was selling bean poles and pea sticks from local woodlands managed traditionally.



BEAN THERE: Organiser Judith Oliver, left, sells some bean poles to Diana Hartup with her dog Woody