

CHIDDINGLY COMMUNITY ORCHARD



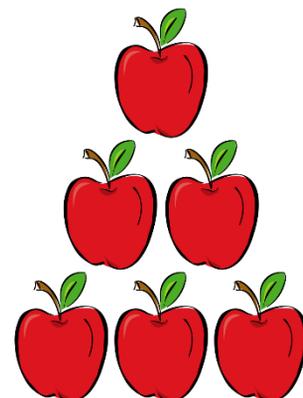
The Glebe Field has now been leased by the Parish Council to MOSAG (the Millennium Oak Sculpture Garden Trust) and so the Chiddingly Community Orchard is officially underway. We hope that everyone will feel welcome and happy to participate in whatever way they would like; whether harvesting fruit, making cider, tending the Orchard from time to time or just enjoying the sweet smell of blossom and the sounds of the bees.

MOSAG has instigated the creation of the Community Orchard with full support of the Parish Council and thanks the Council for the speed and assistance provided. In keeping with the Sculpture Garden, it is the intention that this project will not be a drain on the public purse. It will be managed by MOSAG, a registered charity, assisted by villager volunteers. We are very grateful to several villagers who have made generous financial donations to get the project started.

The Glebe Field allows us to plant approximately 25 trees, dependent on rootstock choice. We are getting guidance and valuable assistance from Peter May, a local expert on Sussex trees, and you may notice that we planted our first Sussex variety apple trees in mid-March. The plan is that the Orchard stocks a variety of trees and we will shortly be planting a mulberry, walnut, pear, plum, medlar and damson.

In the autumn, further Sussex variety rootstocks will be planted as they come available, so by the end of the year, planting will be complete. However, it will be several years before the community benefits from the fruit as we have been advised to pick the fruit after pollination in Spring 2019 to encourage good root growth.

To encourage pollination, the Glebe Field will be planted with a meadow flower mixture and the grass will be cut annually in September to encourage wildlife. Paths will be mown throughout the summer. Against the perimeter stock fencing, we will plant soft fruit: tayberry, loganberry and cultivated blackberry. A new gate will be added in 2019/2020 from the Sculpture Garden to allow access and we plan to provide some rustic seating when funds become available.



Fruit from the Community Orchard will be available to villagers free of charge in years ahead. There is no membership fee. However, we will be giving information as to how you can get involved if you wish to; we will need to prune and maintain on a regular basis.

We are launching "Sponsor a Tree" as a way for villagers to contribute, the cost of which is £50 per tree, covering the purchase of a tree with stakes and ties etc. Alternatively you can sponsor a fruit bush, which will be £15. If you would like to sponsor a tree or bush please contact one of the trustees (see below) or send a cheque to our Treasurer, Brenda Longley (Chauntlers, Chiddingly, BN86HD).

If you would like to be involved, please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Noel Hardy (872338); Barbie Harrison (872383); Simon Coxhead (873171)

