



Protecting the architectural and historic quality of Chipping Campden, its open spaces and its natural setting.

March 2024

Dear Member

AGM Thursday 25 April 7 for 730pm

Our AGM this year will be held on **Thursday 25 April at 7 for 730pm** in the Upper Town Hall. We do hope that as many members as possible can join us for a glass of wine or Campden apple juice. The meeting's papers will be sent out in early April but please put this date in your diary and phone Vanessa on 01386 849229 to register your attendance. We have three vacancies and currently have two willing candidates standing for election to the Society's main committee – and so are looking for one more. If you would like to consider joining us and support the charity's work, do get in touch. After Society business, we are delighted to have **Alex Bolt, Architect and Conservation Director for ARB Architecture**, as our guest speaker. He will be taking through a selection of conservation projects from a hands-on perspective.

BLOSSOM DAY SATURDAY 27 APRIL : 11am to 4pm

Once again we are delighted to celebrate Blossom Day and we do so alongside hundreds of others across the country, all celebrating orchards as important and also magical places for the benefit of people and nature. Come and enjoy the glorious pink and white mosaic at Wolds End Orchard with its 120 fruit trees, both young and ancient. Bring friends, family – even a thermos or a picnic if the weather is good! Or perhaps bring your camera or some art materials so you can enjoy this brief spell of breaking blooms at the start of the annual growing cycle. Apple juice from the orchard will also be on sale. Just pop in over during the day and have a wander around to inspire the senses and take in the beauty of nature.

Note: The orchard is very uneven underfoot so ensure you wear appropriate footwear. Also, no dogs please as the orchard is a nature reserve as well as a working orchard.

It was terrific to see the Town Council expressly include community orchards and wildflower meadows within their Climate Emergency Working Party Terms of Reference in February and acknowledge that these places are part of something much bigger and more important. The Orchard has been on the Wolds End site continuously for nearly 200 years and during that time it has nurtured hundreds of animals, plants and microorganisms by providing food sources and safe nesting places as the town has expanded and the traffic has increased. The Orchard Project estimates that a single orchard can provide habitat for up to 1,800 wildlife species; so the benefits to biodiversity are enormous. And why is biodiversity so important? Well, it is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth, including humans. Without it we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat. In addition, spending time with others in nature is proven to boost health; around the country networks of GPs and health practitioners are increasing using what's known as "social prescribing," which includes physical and nature based activities, to improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness and build confidence – all of which goes to support the hard pressed NHS. Luckily for our town, the Orchard is a glorious place to be to stimulate the senses – particularly in the Spring!

WORK PARTIES : Our work party morning this month is **13 April 10am -12 noon** (as 27 Saturday is Blossom Day) – please add to your diaries and consider coming along! We have cleared elder from the hedges now, so that a greater diversity of hedgerow plants can flourish. This month we will be planting more whips in the hedges to fill the gaps with a range of species. Volunteers have pulled grass away from the roots of the young trees so that they can get well established. New branches have been trained to grow low, making future harvests easier (you will see these, gently tied in place with soft brown tethers). We have also, thanks to last month’s workshop, made grafts from trees in the orchard so as to be able to replace the veteran trees when they finally fail. There are lots of jobs to get done to fit every level of activity, knowledge and enthusiasm. The Orchard’s future and health depends on volunteers. You can just turn up, but if you want to contact us, email us at foweo2020@gmail.com or contact us through the Friends of Wolds End Orchard Facebook page.

Best wishes, Julianne, Geoff, Susie, Mike, John, Geoffrey, Steven and Owen

ART IN THE ORCHARD : The early March Monday of Art in the Orchard was enjoyed by several people and having the longer hours allowed us to enjoy the sunshine. Please come and join us on **Monday 8 April** (one week later than usual due to Easter) and **Friday 19 April** any time between 10.30 - 3.30. Christina Kingsmill.

PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS

Campden’s draft **Neighbourhood Development Plan** (NDP) will be open for public consultation from Monday 8 April and comments are invited for 6 weeks. During this period, the full NDP will be accessible via the Town Council’s website and hard copies will be available for reading in the library and at the Visitor Information Centre. Further details, along with a response form, are in this month’s Campden Bulletin. The NDP is important; it guides, but does not determine, all planning decisions relating to land use in the area. It should therefore reflect the views of all stakeholders in the neighbourhood. We strongly urge all residents to respond to the consultation; your opinions need to be taken into account in the process of finalising the NDP. To assist Campden Society members in this respect, we will be issuing a further communication in a Members’ Newsletter in the early weeks of the consultation period. We do not intend to provide standard wording, but rather to help you develop your own responses by providing additional explanations of the NDP policies, their consequences, and why they might be important to you. If you have any questions about the process of this consultation, please contact the Town Council

We encourage everyone to submit individual views about planning applications and local strategy to Cotswold District Council. They are currently inviting comments on their **Partial Update of the District’s Local Plan** to make it “Green to the Core” and you can read the papers and take in a digital survey by visiting their website. The consultation ends on Sunday 7 April.

With our best wishes and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM,

Elizabeth Devas - Chair
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