



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

July 2024

Dear Member

## **PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS**

We are continuing to monitor applications, in particular those which involve a change of use from commercial to domestic for properties along our high street. We are keen to ensure that Chipping Campden continues to be a vibrant town for visitors and the local community and the loss of any further commercial property would be detrimental to the town. We are also concerned about planning applications that affect our architectural heritage so the design of buildings is of particular importance to our society to ensure the character of the town is not compromised in any way. We are particularly pleased to see the wonderful Lygon Arms sign back on the High Street.

We regularly attend the Town Council Planning meetings to give our comments on planning applications and raise concerns about issues that we think should be escalated to Cotswold District Council. Examples include: tree clearing at the Cley to ensure it is being monitored by CDC; concerns over compliance of planning conditions at Flag Close; raising objections to the overdevelopment of outbuildings such as those connected with Tithe House and the Bakers Arms.

**Himalayan Balsam Bashing** Our team drawn from the Cotswold Wardens, the Cam Clearance group, and the Campden Society have put in over 80 hours of weeding and are continuing to remove all the Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Cam that are accessible by public footpaths or private land where we have been given permission. If you spot any more of this invasive plant growing, or would like to join a bashing session, please let Vanessa know either by email [campdensociety20@gmail.com](mailto:campdensociety20@gmail.com) or phoning on 849228.

**The Cam Project** We held a meeting with Luke McCusker, Severn Trent's River Warden, to discuss the lack of fish and other wildlife along our town's water course. More investigation, including walking along the length of the Cam and checking for pollution; a visit to the sewage works; and additional water testing, is being planned.

Volunteers are now testing every week at three places along the Cam to track the water quality over time and distance. We are sharing the results with the SafeAvon group who are monitoring along the Stour and Avon tributaries.

## **WOLDS END ORCHARD**

Once again, our thanks to the fabulous team of Orchardeers who have continued with their hard work during our Saturday mornings readying the Orchard for this summer's list of social events. Enormous thanks are also extended to Mike and Jerry from the Cotswold Wardens for helping us to cut the central part of the Orchard in readiness for the Town Picnic.



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We are very lucky to have an active team of helpers within our Orchardeers, together with the support and back-up help from the Cotswold Wardens voluntary organisation. Thank you all.

This year's Town Picnic was a great success. It was well attended, blessed with some lovely weather. Food, drink and picnic hampers abounded. All washed down with a great community atmosphere and some lovely live music. It all made for a great fun day out for the Town.

This Summer events continue apace. During **the weekend of 17/18 August**, the Orchard will be hosting guests of the **Town's Twinning Event**. A group of French school children, their parents and also local school children will be enjoying the site. Our 'Art in the Orchard' group, alongside the Court Barn Museum, will be running some art based activities.

We will also be present on **the morning of 17 August at the Cidermill Theatre**, with a stall for both The Campden Society and the Friend of Wolds End Orchard. Our 2023 Apple Juice will be on sale. It is an opportunity for us to showcase the important place Orchards had – and still have - in our locality. It is also a useful forum to demonstrate some of the other ecological projects in which the Campden Society are currently involved. So please do come along and have a chat with us, if you want to find out more and perhaps become involved.

There will be our usual Work Parties held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays : 10 – 12 noon. This month they will be 10 & 24 August; next month : 14 and 28 September. We are looking to extend and co-ordinate our work party groups to help in other practical ecological projects being undertaken by members. So if these volunteering opportunities are of interest to you, please do get in touch. We are a sociable friendly bunch and offer a variety of tasks in the open air.

Best wishes from Geoff, Susie, Mike, John, Geoffrey, Steven and Owen.

**ART IN THE ORCHARD** The August dates are Monday 5 & Friday 16 (always the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) from 10.30 – 3.30. Come for a wander, a sit down or just to eat your lunch!

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Devas

Chair