

July 22

Dear Member

## Planning Matters

The Town Council is turning its attention back to the **Local Neighbourhood Plan** which needs to be completed so the town can receive the full Community Infrastructure Levy of 25% (rather than 15%) from large developments in the area. Residents may remember that the draft submitted several years ago needs to be substantially amended to be passed by CDC.

We have joined the Working Party looking into potential sites for **Green Space Designation** and we are reviewing the draft of the **Chipping Campden Design Guide**, aimed at providing guidance for planning applications. These are both important issues for the town and we would encourage you to look at the design section of the NDP which is up on the Town Council's website and a hard copy is in the library. We have been working with Campden History Society to fact check the Historical Overview of the Design Guide. A list of amendments has been sent on. If you have any comments, please get in touch with ourselves and the Town Council.

## Wolds End Orchard Update



We were delighted when John Ellis spotted the first orchid we've seen so far in the orchard. This is the Common Spotted Orchid and a real beauty. In June, a **Wildflower Survey** was undertaken with the help of Cotswolds National Landscape and co-ordinated by one of our Orchardeers, Steven Law. The AONB team is running a project, "Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands," which aims to create the largest network of wildflower-rich Jurassic limestone grassland in the country – and we are delighted to play our small part.

In the 1930s, 40% of the Cotswolds AONB was covered in wildflower-rich grassland. This habitat supports a vast diversity of wildlife and is particularly important for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Sadly, agricultural intensification and changing land management practices have led to the loss of almost all this wildflower grassland – now less than 1.5% remains. Through careful management it is possible to restore previously 'improved' grasslands and create new species-rich grasslands. The results of the orchard survey will be out in the autumn and will inform the next step as we prepare the wildflower area in late September. Using seed collected by the Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands brush seed harvester, we plan to over-seed a small area of the orchard to improve its diversity with wildflowers of local provenance and genetics.

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



Over 70 people enjoyed sunshine (and the rain), picnics, cake and music in the orchard on 3 July for our **Town Picnic**. During the day, we were asked by one visitor whether it would be possible to leave a bequest in her will specifically for care and maintenance of the Orchard. We confirmed that, following our AGM and constitutional changes to further protect the orchard, this could certainly be done and she suggested we share this information more widely with our supporters.

The **pruning workshop and afternoon talk** by Martin Hayes in the Church Rooms last Saturday was well attended. We enjoyed his personal take on the history of itinerant workers and his experience of pruning techniques and orchard management. Martin will be back with us later in the year, under his project funded by DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes.

Our next event will be in the Autumn, for **Apple Day on Saturday 22 October** - so please put the date in your diary. We are looking for an **Event Co-Ordinator** for Wolds End Orchard. We would like some help to ensure our events run smoothly as well as doing some publicity. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Donna on [foweo2020@gmail.com](mailto:foweo2020@gmail.com), we would love to hear from you!

Update from the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee: Geoff Carr, Julianne Davis, John Ellis, Donna Evans, Chris Leese, Mike Newman, Susie Tombs, Geoffrey White.

## Society News

At our AGM, we elected **David Roberts** to our Committee and re-elected **Julianne Davis** and **Teresa Newman**. The members present approved constitutional amendments primarily to further protect Wolds End Orchard and also approved adding a further trustee to the Society's committee, given the depth and breadth of work our Committee is now taking on. The Minutes of the AGM are attached.

If you would like to consider joining the main committee as a co-opted Committee Member and support the charity, do get in touch via [campdensociety20@gmail.com](mailto:campdensociety20@gmail.com)

After this business, **John Evetts** gave an entertaining and informative talk about his long association with the Landmark Trust and his passion for restoration.

**Elizabeth Devas**

Chair

Images: Orchid & Picnic/CS.