

May 2024

Dear Member

PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS

Campden's draft **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is now closed for public consultation and thank you to all our members who have responded to the questionnaire. The NDP is important; it guides, but does not determine, all planning decisions relating to land use in the area and it should therefore reflect the views of all stakeholders in the neighbourhood. The Committee's response with this Newsletter. If you have any questions about the process of this consultation, please contact the Town Council.

The Campden Society continue to monitor planning applications for properties in the Chipping Campden and Broad Campden area; recent applications we have commented on include The Bakers Arms and The Campden Gallery. In particular, we look at the impact on the surrounding environment, neighbouring properties, potential flooding, parking, traffic flow, the commercial viability, and the heritage of the town. We encourage everyone to submit individual views about planning applications and local strategy to the Town Council and the Cotswold District Council.

Himalayan Balsam This invasive species has explosive seed pods which allow it to spread rapidly and smother an area, leading to bank erosion and clogging of the water course. Cotswold National Landscapes advice says: "*If you find invasive non-native plants on your land, you must stop them from spreading and causing a nuisance or damage to other land or property. If you do not, you could be responsible for any damage they cause and may be prosecuted.*" Luckily Himalayan Balsam is easy to hand pull as it has very shallow roots. We will be again organising a team of volunteers from the Cotswold Wardens and the Campden Society over the Summer months to remove all the visible plants 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 Balsam growing, or would like to join a weeding session, please let Vanessa know either by email or phoning on 849228. We are also setting up regular **Water Testing** of the Cam to get some baseline statistics to help improve this important wildlife corridor for the town. Again, if you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

WOLDS END ORCHARD

We will try not to mention the rain, but it certainly has turned out to be another cool damp Spring. Despite the weather, we enjoyed a steady stream of visitors throughout Blossom Day, including a healthy smattering of inquisitive children. Visitors were able to absorb the beauty of the Orchard in its full blossom and learn more about the science and pollination of the fruit trees. They could see the variety of activities we undertake and learn more about the volunteering opportunities available for those who enjoy 'big gardening' and learning practical skills in a social and friendly setting. It also provided an opportunity to simply relax and unwind in a fresh peaceful and tranquil space.

This year we are publicising the 'No-Mow May' campaign. This seeks to increase awareness

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

within meadow management of the importance of allowing wild plants already present within the Orchard to grow up and flower, adding colour and attracting pollinating insects and wildlife. Having cut the Orchard late April, our intention is now to undertake a late cut towards Autumn and cut some meandering paths for our open days in the meanwhile. We do still have some logs, of varying sizes and also a supply of wood-chip. These are free and available to any local residents who wish to collect them from the Orchard. Come along and collect during one of our Saturday work parties, you may even feel tempted to join in!

The programme for the Summer is gathering pace. So do make a note in your diary for the following events : Wolds End Orchard will be open as part of the **Chipping Campden Open Gardens Weekend** 15 & 16 June. We will also be holding our **Town Picnic** Sunday 14 July noon – 330pm - so bring a rug and a picnic and enjoy your Community Orchard in the full summer sun! (Are we tempting providence ?) On Saturday 27 July we will be hosting a **Summer Pruning Workshop**. Cost £30 per person (free to WEO volunteers). Places are limited to 10 people so book early to avoid disappointment by emailing us at foweo2020@gmail.com

WORK PARTIES : Saturdays 8 & 22 June 10am - 12 noon Please add to your diaries and consider coming along! Wolds End Orchard is your Community Orchard and as such relies on both volunteer support and donations. You can just turn up, but if you want to contact us, email us at foweo2020@gmail.com or through the Friends of Wolds End Orchard Facebook page. If you can't spare the time but would like to make a financial donation to help towards the cost of the work, you can do so by sending a cheque to The Campden Society c/o The Old Police Station or via the "Donate" button on the Wolds End Orchard page of our website : thecampdensociety.org

Wolds End Apple Juice is now available to purchase at £3.50 a 75cl bottle (or at a discounted price to Campden Society members of 6 bottles at £20 or 12 at £40) with free delivery in the Campden area; to purchase, please contact Geoffrey White on 0781 500 5879 or geoffreymwhite@gmail.com. In addition, they can be purchased from Court Barn Museum.

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

ART IN THE ORCHARD group held a diverse display of work at Blossom Day which illustrated the many ways in which we've found inspiration from the Orchard. There were paintings and lino cuts, textiles made to resemble bark, and an amazing Wassail ladle carved from a pear tree that had been felled by Storm Eunice. No-one had penned a poem though! If you're a poet (even if you don't know it), please think about popping into the orchard on one of our days that it's open. The June dates are Monday 3 & Friday 21 from 10.30 to 3.30. Come for a wander, a sit down or just to eat your lunch, there's lots to inspire you! Christina Kingsmill.

Elizabeth Devas
Chair

The Old Police Station, High Street, Chipping Campden GL55 6HB
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