

### **Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee Report**

January to December 2021 was exceptionally busy as we got the Orchard into shape for opening to visitors and made biodiversity improvements. This was led by the Orchard Sub Committee comprising Julianne Davis, Geoffrey White, John Ellis, Susie Tombs, Donna Evans, Mike Newman, Geoff Carr and Chris Leese. Work was done by our fabulous group of volunteers – or Orchardeers as we are now known – and supporters who turned out in all weathers to prune, plant, mow, chip, rake, weed, bake cakes, take photos, play music and welcome visitors. We also had visits from fruit trees and biodiversity experts offering advice. Our work was underpinned by grants and donations from individuals and organisations to whom we offer our thanks, and without which we would not have been able to do so much to rejuvenate the orchard.

Below is ***Wolds End Orchard 2021 in Numbers*** to give you a taster of what we were up to::

- ✓ **£3,044** raised in grants from Severn Trent Big Biodiversity Fund and Mid-Counties Co-Operative;
- ✓ **£1,340** received in donations from Friends, Members and visitors incl £550 to Fruit Tree ID Project;
- ✓ **£632** received in donations in respect of bottles of donated Campden Mill Apple Juice;
- ✓ **450+** visitors were welcomed to events and open days: April's Blossom Weekend, July's Town Picnic, the fortnightly Fruit Harvest Saturdays during September-November, Jecca's House Open Day, Beaver Scouts Minibeast Hunt, and October's Apple Day;
- ✓ **100** new whips were planted to improve our boundary hedges for wildlife habitats;
- ✓ **94** fruit trees were numbered and their locations mapped, creating a tree log to record information about each tree, its care and its fruit;
- ✓ **46** Orchardeers have joined our merry band, plus more supporters baking and fundraising;
- ✓ **18** Saturday Work Parties were held to undertake maintenance and projects resulting in **100s of** hours of work undertaken in the orchard – plus more hours on paperwork, marketing & fundraising;
- ✓ **20** new young trees planted – many grafts previously taken from existing veteran trees;
- ✓ **8** seating logs, donated by Campden House Estate, were installed and enjoyed by visitors and workers alike;
- ✓ **3** days of pruning was undertaken – both Winter veteran pruning and Summer formative pruning;
- ✓ **3** previously unknown trees were identified using DNA testing as part of our Fruit Tree ID Project;
- ✓ **3** gate signs designed and erected, including a 'Thank You Volunteers' sign in the style of Banksy, which is now a treasured piece of orchard memorabilia!
- ✓ **2** local Duke of Edinburgh students undertook a program of volunteer orchard work;
- ✓ **1** Christmas Drinks event for our Orchardeers was organised – then postponed due to the pandemic.

We continued to be delighted by the scale of interest and support for Wolds End Orchard and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to join us at events, weekend work parties and the apple and pear harvesting sessions. 2022 activities include:

- Wolds End Orchard Wildflower Project with help from Cotswolds Glorious Grasslands
- Hedge Rejuvenation Project with help from GCC Build Back Better Scheme
- Art in the Orchard – monthly sessions
- Blossom Weekend 30 April-2 May
- Campden Open Gardens participation - 18-19 June
- Town Picnic - Sunday 3 July and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Gloucestershire Orchard Trust talk – Saturday 23 July
- Apple Day on Saturday 22 October – with apple experts on hand to talk about apple identification
- more pruning, planting, mowing, trimming and research to execute our Wolds End Orchard Management Plan.

**Report by Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee:** Julianne Davis, Geoffrey White, Geoff Carr, Susie Tombs, John Ellis, Chris Leese, Donna Evans and Mike Newman. **July 2022**