

August 2024

Dear Member

PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS

We support the Town Council's new protocol on Planning Application Meetings (with Landowners, Developers or Their Agents). In particular, we note that Pre-application Briefings prior to a full public consultation must follow these three conditions:

1. Full public consultation is either already scheduled, or firmly planned.
2. The meeting is open to the public and has been reasonably advertised.
3. The developer meets all reasonable costs for hosting including large-scale paper plans for display.

A full version of the protocol can be found on the Town Council's website.

We are delighted that Mark Benson has offered to shepherd the Neighbourhood Development Plan through the next stages – even though he has stepped down from the Town Council.

Campden House Estate Wetlands Project In July, a group of our members, along with Cam Clearers and History Society members joined Tom Smith and his team for a walk around Campden House Estate's Wetlands Project together with the project's ecologist, Glyn Onione of the Aquatic Consultancy. Started earlier this year following extensive surveying, design, and consultation in 2022/23, the work includes the formation of leaky dams to help siltation along the valley; the creation of reedbeds, scrapes, and marsh in the area of the former bathing lake; and planting of a rough pasture buffer zone with native wildflower seed to entrap field runoff and improve biodiversity. The project is supported by Cotswolds National Landscape and the Environment Agency. Tom will be giving a talk about this work on **Tuesday 15 October** 7 for 730 in the Town Hall. There will be no charge for this event but please register your attendance by phoning or texting Vanessa on 0795 112 6869 so we can monitor numbers. Many thanks.

Himalayan Balsam Bashing Our team from the Cotswold Wardens, the Cam Clearers, and the Campden Society have put in over 130 hours of weeding and are continuing to remove 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, or would like to join a bashing session, please let Vanessa know either by email campdensociety20@gmail.com or phoning on 0795 112 6869.

WOLDS END ORCHARD

As we move into the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', one might well feel that our Septembers are increasingly warmer than the Autumnal conditions Keats may have experienced when first he penned these lines. Our fruits are ripening in all the sun and rain; the boughs starting to bend under the weight of their fruit. Throughout August, our team of



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

volunteers have been working hard to manage our crop with judicious summer pruning to alleviate some of this strain. Thanks to all our volunteers for their continued efforts.

We are now readying the Orchard for taking off this crop. We are very much a Community Orchard, so during September we will opening the site, both during our Saturday work parties, and during the 'Explore the Orchard' days, to allow local residents to come and pick fruit, purely for your own personal use, from those trees where the fruit is ready. Not all the varieties ripen at the same time, so we will leave markers by the trees which are good to harvest.

You are, of course, welcome to join in our work party, but equally you do not need to feel obliged to do so. Our only cautionary note is that you are mindful of the uneven surface in the Orchard, rabbit holes, etc and that you also note that the Orchard is a dog-free zone. Look out for the 'PYO' signage on the gate when the Orchard is open for this. Come in and have a chat with us. The other main task starting in September will be cutting the Orchard meadow grass, partly in readiness for **Apple Day on Saturday 26 October**; and partly also in readiness for the seeding of the Orchard with a wildflower meadow mixture which will blossom in 2025. This project will add greatly to the Orchard's biodiversity, as well as being a beautiful space to wander in and enjoy.

There will be our usual work parties held on 2nd and 4th Saturdays : 10 – 12 noon. This month they will be 14 & 28 September; next month: 12 & 26 October (which is Apple Day). 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, Marilou, Susie, Mike, John, Geoffrey, Steven, and Owen.

ART IN THE ORCHARD to EXPLORE THE ORCHARD We have had some lovely days in the orchard this Summer and in a bid to broaden our reach to potential interested parties are changing the name to 'Explore the Orchard' Hopefully this will encourage more people to join us on the first Monday and third Friday of the month to enjoy this lovely corner of Campden. This month we were delighted to host the Cidermill Theatre's Drama Academy students exploring the site for Forest of Arden inspiration as part of their work on "As You Like It" and visitors from Pont-D'Ouilly during the town's Twinning Weekend. The September dates are Monday 2 & Friday 20 from 10.30 – 3.30. Come for a wander, a sit, or just to eat your lunch!

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Devas

Chair