

October 23

**Dear Member**

### **WOLDS END ORCHARD - APPLEFEST 23**

What a day! Apples were identified apples by Steve Oram from PTES (People's Trust for Endangered Species) and apple juice was hand pressed by visitors, with children particularly enjoying the hand scratting and press turning; the Longest Peel competition was popular with adults and children alike; the Apple Play by local group, Shakespeare Mummers, and live music from Boe Jigge were wonderful additions to the day; and orchard apple juice, honey plus homemade tea, cakes and other delicious treats were devoured. It may have been a soggy Saturday but a lot of fun was had celebrating Apple Day 2023. Apart from visitors from Campden and surrounds, a family on holiday from the USA, who regularly celebrate Apple Fest in their local orchard, were particularly happy to join in. Many thanks to all the Orchardeers who put in hours of work alongside the staff and volunteers at neighbouring Campden Home Nursing at Jecca's House to deliver this year's Campden APPLE FEST collaboration. A huge "thank you" to everyone who joined us to celebrate Apple Day and support two local community charities.

### **PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS**

The **Neighbourhood Development Plan** process continues. The Working Party has secured a grant for further professional help and we urge everyone to complete the Parking Survey which was hand delivered to homes and properties at the end of October. The deadline for returning these questionnaires is 20 November. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk.

**Himalayan Balsam** is growing on the banks of the Cam. 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. The plant is specifically mentioned in the Cotswold National Landscape Management Plan 2023-5. We have been advised by Mark Connelly from CNL that: "*Landowners do not have to remove listed plants growing wild from their land. However, they must not intentionally grow, cultivate or allow to reproduce wild listed plants. ... 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.

Volunteers from the Cotswold Wardens and the Campden Society have removed all the visible plants from the banks of the Cam that are accessible by public footpaths. Julie, the Deputy Town Clerk, has informed local landowners and, at the time of writing, our volunteers are working with one landowner to organise a hand pulling party. If you spot any more of this Balsam growing, or would like to join a weeding session, please let the us or the Town Council know.

### **WOLDS END ORCHARD**

**PRUNING** This winter we will continue to prune the veteran and ancient fruit trees to help with their long-term health. Older trees drop limbs for a variety of reasons, including the

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

weight of fruit during the autumn, and when they have large amounts of ivy in their branches, which act like a 'sail' during high winds, straining the branches. A recent casualty was the Wassail Tree (#40) which lost two branches, partially due to a weak point where some disease had entered a branch. Our Campden Rotary-funded specialist saws were essential for Orchardeer work on this tree, and on others across the site this winter. In addition, a Winter Pruning Workshop will be run early in the New Year by Martin Hayes, the Apple Man from Gloucestershire Orchard Trust. If you're interested to come along and learn about pruning established fruit trees, please get in touch for more information.

**HARVEST PRODUCE TRIALS** About 25 dozen bottles of apple juice was made from this year's harvest. We had fewer, smaller apples this year compared to the bumper crop last year; and it has been interesting to see the impact of this on the resulting juice. Some Orchardees are keen to trial making apple cider vinegar - and a small batch cider - so we are going to give that a try. Watch out for further updates as this interesting new project progresses!

**WORK PARTIES** There are lots of jobs to get done this autumn - new young tree guards; hedge maintenance; and winter pruning. There are jobs to fit every level of activity, knowledge and enthusiasm. **Work party dates are 11 and 25 November; 9 December from 10 -12 noon – please add to your diaries and consider coming along!** The Orchard's future and health depends on volunteer support.

Sadly, due the pressure of other commitments, **Chris Leese** has had to resign from the Orchard Sub-Committee. We are most grateful for Chris's very considerable contribution to the Sub-Committees work and are delighted that Chris will continue joining our work parties. We are very pleased to welcome **Owen O'Connell** as a new member of the Sub-Committee. If you have any questions or would like information about the Orchard please drop us a line at [fweo2020@gmail.com](mailto:fweo2020@gmail.com).

Our next **Art Open Session** will be **10 - 4pm on FRIDAY 17 November**. Bring your own art materials. There's no expectation to show anyone your work. Do feel free to just roll up, even if it's just for a wander and to enjoy the orchard. As always, everyone is welcome.

Looking forward to meeting up with more volunteers this Autumn at one of the upcoming work parties!

Julianne, Geoff, Susie, Mike, John, Geoffrey, Steven and Owen.

With our best wishes

Elizabeth Devas  
Chair

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