

Wood Norton Community Orchard

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2016
Village Hall Committee Room
5.30pm

Minutes

Attendance: Mel Dagless, Marshall Guarnieri, Dave Kingsnorth, Tim Lidstone-Scott, Jenny & Paul Marchant, Carol Robson

Welcome

PM began by announcing the sad news of the death, earlier in the day, of Anne Sheridan

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Sheridan. Apologies were also received from Clive Haywood

Minutes of AGM held on 15th May 2015

These were read, but had already been approved and signed

Appointment of committee members for the coming year

MS is happy to remain as Chair; PM will be vice-chair; JM secretary and CR Treasurer

Chair's annual statement

The trees - all have survived another year, some in better shape than others, and various working parties have tended them, weeding, pruning, staking and renewing the protective netting. We are most grateful to Dennis Nudd for kindly donating a water tank last summer when lack of water became a cause of concern, and we are further indebted to him for the donation of 40 sturdy stakes to provide permanent support for the trees. We have also been given a new tree, native to Scotland rather than East Anglia, but presumably therefore equally hardy: a Bloody Ploughman, which features bright red flesh! Thanks also go to Peter Bell for kindly filling, and re-filling, our water tank.

The wildflower meadow has been more of a struggle, despite Carol's many attempts at sowing seed as well as plug plants - and it would seem that the most likely enemy is the rabbit. Nevertheless we have acquired new seed, together with some donated by Ian Dive, and we hope to plant more in the course of the spring.

The grass cutting has been carried out by strimmer around the trees themselves by members of the committee, by Doug Walker who has mown some of the longer areas, and by Hugh Kennedy who has regularly kept the paths mown. We are most grateful to Hugh and Doug for their assistance.

Our annual picnic was held on July 18th and the weather was perfect for it. We had around 50 picnickers and supplemented the fund-raising with a raffle, which considerably boosted our takings for the day.

Our first apple juicing day took place on October 3rd. It was preceded by a considerable amount of preparation and experimentation into how many apples were needed, how long the process would take and how to store what resulted. The juice itself was delicious and the event generated considerable interest with 73 visitors, not all from our village. Marshall and Dave had collected a mountain of village apples, far more than it turned out we needed, although the act of collecting them perhaps helped to publicise it. We also launched our 'Friends of the Orchard' scheme on the day, and had 17 trees adopted. Once again, we have to thank Dennis Nudd, who volunteered the loan of his sister's apple juicer to go with the crusher which we purchased.

Last month we distributed the Friends' Welcome packs, featuring a certificate of ownership, a photograph of the tree in question together with a brief history of it, a history of the orchard to date - and an invitation to the Blossom Party, our latest initiative.

During the course of the year, we were donated a beautiful banner by Dennis Nudd to help to promote the orchard, which featured a professionally designed logo which we have adopted for use in our labels and other documents.

We have just placed an order for another Kedel bench like those already there, to be placed at a half-way

point along Ryor's Lane, and for which we have to thank Miffi Leedham whose most generous gift this will be.

Finally, thanks go to Marshall and Alex for their continuing interest in and support for the orchard, and perhaps we should also congratulate ourselves as a committee for the work we have put in. For the first time this year, our loans have all been repaid and the finances are looking healthy. The future looks - like the apples we hope to harvest - rosy!

Financial summary

CR In the past year we have raised the following sums:

picnic	£256
juicing day	£486.70 (including £170 for 'Friends')
bingo	£150
craft fair	£46, less expenses

Major expenses were: £119 apple crusher
 £175 (appx) netting and tree ties
 £200 repayment of loan

We have a balance of £443.89 currently, but must pay insurance and TCV membership imminently - circa £269

Commitment to Equality and Diversity

This was signed for the coming year

Open discussion about the Orchard and future plans, including Bee Report from Clive Haywood

In Clive's absence, the meeting was closed and the committee meeting commenced.