

Friends of Summers Field - Update September 2021

Cream tea: After an 18-month Covid-enforced break in activities, on Sunday September 12th and under a sunny(ish) sky, it was wonderful to spend a couple of (socially distanced) hours enjoying a delicious cream tea in Summers Field. It was great to explore the new paths which have been introduced to open up new areas of the orchard and even to sample some of the apples, mulberries and pears, which are plentiful on many of the trees!

A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed delicious home-made scones. The event raised a fantastic £255, which will be used to buy a new multi-stemmed silver birch tree for the orchard. It will take pride of place next to the green space, replacing a poorly pear tree, and will be planted later this year in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sadly, during September we have said farewell to two key members of the Friends of Summers Field committee. We warmly thank James and Bex for their huge contribution over the past few years in the roles of chairman and treasurer. You and your families are always welcome to come and enjoy the orchard!

Autumn feast evening: As we emerge from a very strange couple of years, the Friends of Summers Field are keen to line up an exciting calendar of events to appeal to all and to raise awareness of and funds for our much loved community space. We are kicking off with an Autumn Feast in the village hall starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday October 16th. It promises to be a fantastic night of music, laughter and entertainment. The event will include a fabulous ploughman's spread to fill our bellies and, to wet our whistles, Doynton apple juice and Doynton beer made with Doynton hops!

We will be joined by Jane Hulm, who some time ago took over the running of a neglected village orchard in Englishcombe. The trees were given a new lease of life and were so productive that Jane started juicing her own apples.

The weekend before the Autumn Feast we will be harvesting as many apples from Summers Field as we can and taking them across to Englishcombe to be pressed and pasteurised to produce our first harvest. Each meal will come with a glass of apple juice, and bottles will be available to buy on the night.

Tickets for the evening will be £12 for adults and £6 for under-15s. We will confirm sign-up via the Doynton WhatsApp group and at the village market – all are welcome! There will also be a well-stocked bar offering beers, wines, ciders and soft drinks. We are fortunate to have such a great facility in our village hall and will have a safe and socially distanced layout to keep us all safe and well. Dress up warmly too, as doors and windows will be kept ajar.