

Doynton Community Orchard

Summer Newsletter

2022 has been a busy time in the village orchard and wildflower meadow after a difficult two years post-Covid. The Friends of Summer's Field committee have been delighted to see so many of the community using this beautiful space, especially during the spring and summer months. The trees are looking healthy with the promise of a great crop this year. It's amazing to think that the orchard is celebrating its tenth anniversary!

With your support, this year to date we have run two successful events raising much needed funds and providing an opportunity for friends and families to meet. These include our ever-popular cream tea event in April at which the children of the village helped construct our palatial bug house. As part of the village Jubilee celebrations, Summers Field played host to an afternoon of fun activities inspired by nature, followed by a barbecue and overnight camping. Look out for the new cherry tree and its commemorative plaque marking the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We look forward to hosting more of the village Fete in early September as well, by which time the freshly topped field will be looking resplendent!



Aside from human events on the field, the committee have also been taking measures to encourage more biodiversity through an organic approach to maintaining the orchard. It has been great to see such a variety of wildflowers growing so prolifically including white and yellow bedstraw, wild geranium and birds foot trefoil.



Look out for coming autumn events, to include a family fruit gathering in advance of pressing the 2022 fruit so we can all enjoy it over the autumn and winter months. We will also host a seasonal celebration of the apple harvest in late October. We would welcome any other ideas you have in the village for events that will bring our community together to enjoy the space which we are so lucky to have.

As well as the hard work and support from members of the committee, the orchard costs over £1000 each year in leases to the council, insurance and general maintenance and upkeep costs. This relies on support from all of us in the village through the variety of events FOSF hosts. This year we plan to invest in a battery-operated strimmer to help us maintain the paths and borders in the field and beyond – to support this we have refreshed the FOSF membership form (see overleaf) which we hope many of you will be able to offer your support to and help ensure we continue this excellent facility for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to enjoying the orchard and wildflower meadow with you soon!

FOSF Committee