

Doynton Community Orchard

Newsletter, Summer 2024

We hope you've enjoyed spending time in Summers Field community orchard and wildflower meadow over the spring and summer. The Friends of Summers Field Committee aims to keep the field as a space for nature and for people to enjoy and we continue to take steps to protect and encourage biodiversity.



Some of the things we've done over the last year:

- Built a small wildlife 'barrel' pond
- Installed hedgehog houses
- Added an owl box and a slow worm refuge
- Sowed a variety of wildflower seeds

It's been great to see an increase in the variety of wildflowers in the field as well as spotting lots of insects, butterflies, barn owls and kestrels that are good indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Next, we'll be installing information boards describing the trees, plants and wildlife that can be found in the field.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for the orchard and wildflower meadow over the past year. We've been fortunate to receive community contributions as well as donations from village events. We held a Cream Tea in July which was moved from Summers Field to the church because of inclement weather. Thank you to everyone who made the delicious scones or came along to eat them.



The committee and volunteers maintain the field and we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped this year, especially to those who regularly mow the paths for us all to enjoy. In the next couple of months we'll have work days to rake and clear cut grass, pick the apples for juicing and prune the trees. Apple juice from the orchard will be available for you to buy in the autumn.

Our next event is an **Autumn Supper and Barn Dance on Saturday 12 October** in the Village Hall from 6.30pm, with food at 7pm and dancing from 8pm. Tickets are available now, adults £15 and children £7.50 - see posters around the village and info on the village website. We hope to see you there.

Friends of Summers Field is a charitable organisation and we rely on fundraising activities and donations to maintain and nurture the community orchard. We have to raise over £1,000 each year to cover leases to the council, insurance and maintenance costs. We rely on support from all of us in the village to help secure the future of the orchard. Please complete the donation form enclosed. Thank you!

FOSF Committee