

Doynton Community Orchard

Newsletter, Summer 2025



This year we have been pleased that people have been giving us their ideas to help us all enjoy time in the community orchard at Summers Field. We've received suggestions such as; hosting children's activities and 'messy play', a dawn chorus event, displaying photos of the orchard throughout the year. Please keep sharing your ideas with the committee so that we can include them in our future plans.

It's been a good season for the fruit trees and we have shared the harvest from the plum tree in the church porch. It looks like we'll have a good apple harvest and we hope to make apple juice available to you from October.

We've held regular work parties in the field to prune the trees and maintain the space. In April, we fitted a kestrel box, with thanks to Barbara Kent for organising it, and we located signs at the gates to ask dog owners to clean up after their dogs. In May, we built new compost bays and cut back thorn bushes. In August, we planted foxgloves and strimmed around the trees and benches.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising and social events. We started the year with a wassail to bring together the community and toast the trees for a healthy year. We also held a lesson in pruning fruit trees on a cold and damp day in January. We had warm weather for the Cream Tea in the orchard in April when we had tea, scones and a great atmosphere. Thanks to those who enjoyed the teas at the Old Rectory open gardens in June which also raised funds for the orchard.



Our next event is an **Autumn Supper and Barn Dance on Saturday 11 October** in the Village Hall from 6.30pm, with food, a bar, live music and dancing. It was a very popular event last year and people told us they really enjoyed it. Tickets will be available in September, adults £15 and children £7.50 - look out for 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 orchard. We need to raise over £1,000 each year to cover leases to the council, insurance and maintenance costs. Please make a donation using the form enclosed. Thank you!

Ron Ritchie, Chair of FOSF Committee

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