



# *A community orchard for Eye & Dunsden?*

## **Apple Trees by Leonard Clark**

Two apple trees grow in my garden,  
Five hundred in my head,  
Two trees confer dawn's colour on the town air  
Giving it, if only for a season,  
The appearance, though not the heart, of Eden.  
But the hundreds in my head,  
Blow triumphantly on my boyhood hill,  
Massed, orchards of them,  
Transmuting Severn's skies  
To every shade of pink,  
Taming the primroses at their feet,  
And so full of song, the hill  
Is one continuous fire of trembling sound.  
Blenheim's at peace with Cox, Beauty of Bath  
Passes the time of spring with stout James Grieve,  
Laxton's superb, Edmund's Russet is neat,  
Ribston's Pippin wears an everlasting face;  
They are huge with the promise of fruit.  
My nameless trees have no proud harvestings,  
They go like two old cripples into age,  
Their true identity is long remembrance,  
They have their blackbirds still.

*From 'Selected Poems 1940-57'*

# *What is a community orchard?*

- A plot of land growing fruit trees which is owned and managed by the community
- A sustainable environment
- A venue for annual apple days
- A focus for community activity
- A place for learning about traditional agriculture
- Fun!



# *Why a community orchard here?*

- To make the most of newly acquired land
- To build community involvement
- To create a space for us all to enjoy
- To benefit the environment



# *How could the orchard be used?*

- To hold a wassail day with Morris Men (January)
- To celebrate Apple Day (October)
- For visits by local schools and playgroup
- For nature walks
- For picnics
- For fun!



# *Where and how?*



Not to scale



# *Advice from Common Ground*

- Find somewhere that is close to the centre of the community
- Community orchards should be open/accessible at all times
- Find out if the land is adequately drained, if it is in a frost pocket, if there is shelter from the wind and if there is sunshine to ripen the fruit.
- Grow what grows best in the locality, the local varieties which are adapted to the soil and climate.
- The less you use in the way of chemicals... the more wildflowers, insects, birds and mammals you will attract.

[www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk) and [www.England-in-particular.info](http://www.England-in-particular.info)





# *What to do with the fruit?*

- Celebrate Apple Day on October 21st
- Make fruit juice, cider or perry
- Sell locally to reduce 'food miles'
- Give to those without fruit trees
- Leave some for wildlife

[www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk) and [www.english-in-particular.info](http://www.english-in-particular.info)





# *What happens at Apple Day?*

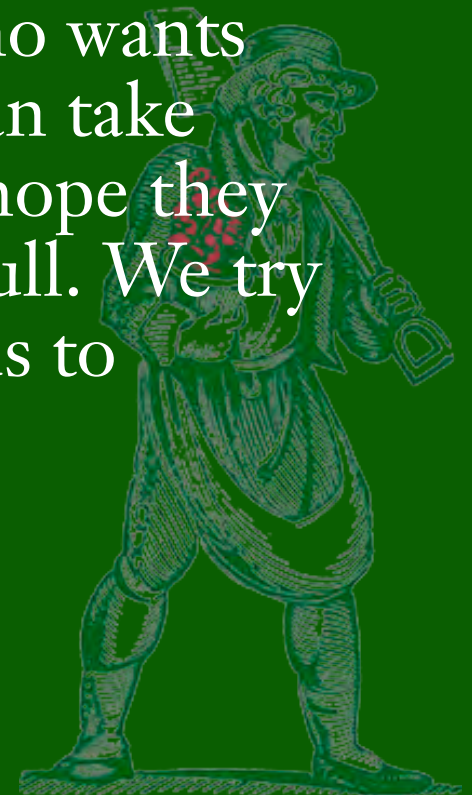
- “At an Apple Day you can sometimes see hundreds of different varieties of apples, taste some of the more unusual kinds that you cannot find in the shops, and buy some to take home.
- “There is often an apple identification service when you can bring some apples from your mystery garden trees to be identified by experts and an Apple Doctor with whom you can discuss problems.
- “There is usually lots to eat and drink from apple cakes and chutney to apple juice and cider and often cookery demonstrations with apples.
- “Sometimes there are pruning and grafting demonstrations and games such as apple bobbing and the apple and spoon race, storytelling and archery.”



# *Kemmerton orchard*

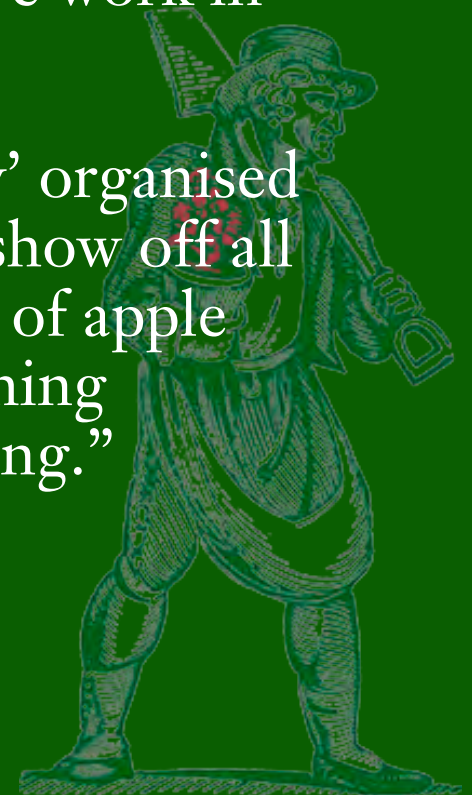
- “Daffurn’s Orchard... is open to anyone in the village to come in and walk around and have a look. There are about 50 trees in the orchard and there is a seat so people can just sit and relax. And there’s the fruit: apples, pears and plums. Anyone who wants can just pick an apple off a tree. People can take them for themselves for free, though we hope they won’t be greedy and collect carrier bags full. We try to leave apples for the butterflies and birds to forage, like the fieldfares and redwings.”

[www.bbc.co.uk/dna/actionnetwork/A6873131](http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/actionnetwork/A6873131)



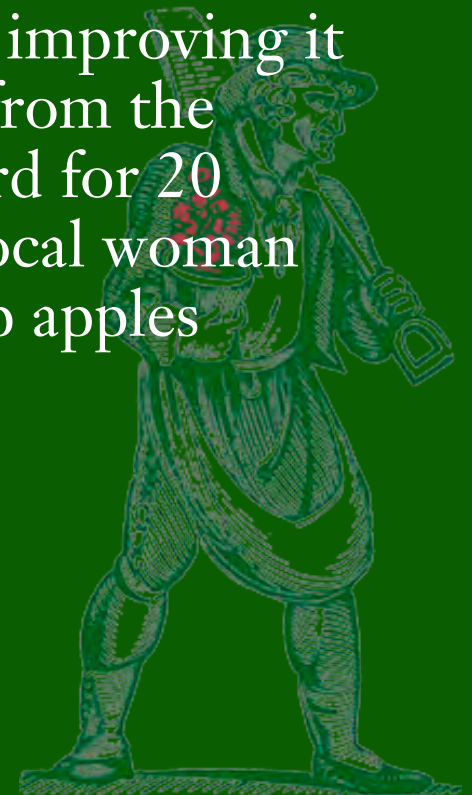
# *Kemmerton orchard*

- “We raised money for tools and equipment... and, importantly, to get someone in to train about restoring an orchard. There is a hardcore of about eight to 10 volunteers to work on the orchard throughout the year. I would love to have a group of 20 volunteers to choose from. We work in teams of about six people at a time.”
- “We’ve just had our annual ‘Kemerton apple day’ organised with the help of the local Women’s Institute, to show off all our hard work. We had a display of 103 varieties of apple grown in the village as well as recipes, wood-turning demonstrations using fruitwood and apple pressing.”



# *Kemmerton orchard*

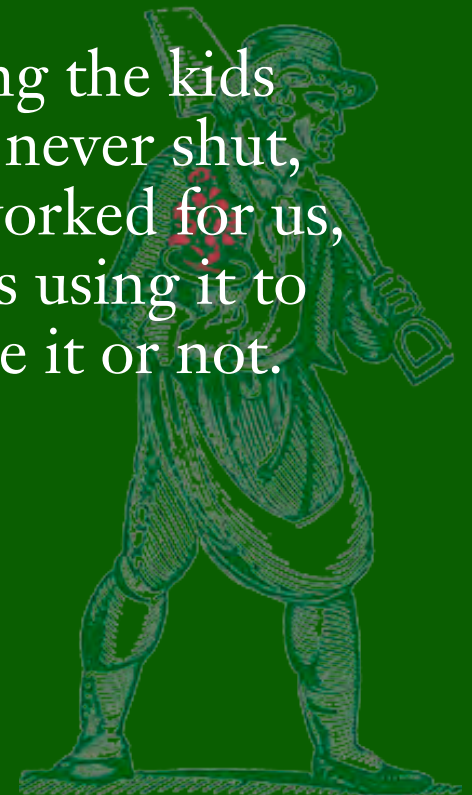
- “The orchard is appreciated by everyone in the village. The older people remember how the orchards always used to look and the younger people who have just moved to the village love having this beautiful space to enjoy.
- “It’s a part of village life now and people are still improving it with kind donations. These include a new gate, from the family of a woman who lived opposite the orchard for 20 years, and a perry tree, which was planted by a local woman in memory of her husband – who used to scrump apples from the orchard when he was a boy.”



# *Penhill orchard*

- Registered as a charity, with a constitution
- Run by a committee, including treasurer, secretary, chairman
- Members pay a small subscription
- “We had a lot of doubters, i.e. it’s not worth doing the kids will vandalise it. so we made sure the Orchard is never shut, anyone can go in there any time they like – it’s worked for us, with not much damage, more done by car drivers using it to turn around in! Badger and Deer damage believe it or not. The damage by vandals has been *MINIMAL*.”

Marilyn Beale



# *Talk by Gill Franklin*

- [www.users.waitrose.com/~crosslanes/](http://www.users.waitrose.com/~crosslanes/)

followed by:

- Questions and refreshments



# *Any questions?*

- Break for tea and coffee  
followed by:
- Discussion of practicalities



# *Grant opportunities*

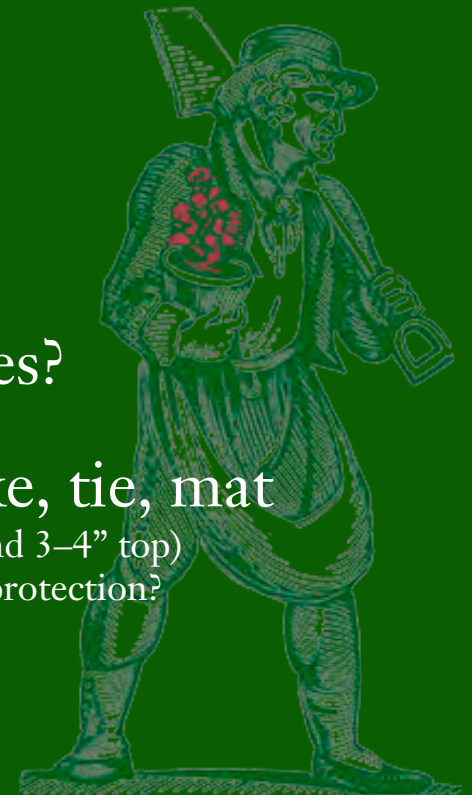
- Chilterns CB Sustainable Development Fund
- SODC Community Investment Fund
- Awards for All (lottery funds) [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)
- Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment
- DEFRA Countryside Stewardship Scheme  
capital payments for one-off work, including planting, guarding
- BTCV People's Places: (New Opportunities Fund)
- Parish Council





# *Practicalities*

- Sample cost for around 24 trees
- Need for soil analysis/improvement?
- Semi-dwarfing root stock (10–15ft)?
- Blenheim Orange, John Waterer  
£18 approximately bare rooted each (excluding discounts)
- Williams Bon Chrétien Pear, Conference, Beth?
- Marjorie's Seedling Plum, quince and cherry trees?
- Cost for .6 of an acre approx £500 including stake, tie, mat  
Standard tree stakes, treated (essential if trees under 10ft.) £2.99 each (8'6" long and 3–4" top)  
Tree tie (24" x 1" wide) 25p each    Mulch mat 55cm x 55cm 75p each    Deer protection?  
(Waterperry)



# Practicalities

- Plus native bulbs

*G. Nivalis* (common single snowdrop, flowers in March) £9.00 per 100

*G. Nivalis* Flore Pleno (common double. Ht. 7". March) £14.00 per 100

*G. Elwessii* (tall early flowering double green mark. Ht. 10") £32.00 per 100

Bluebells: *Non-scripta* (native English, ideal for wooded areas, ht. 15") £11.95 per 100

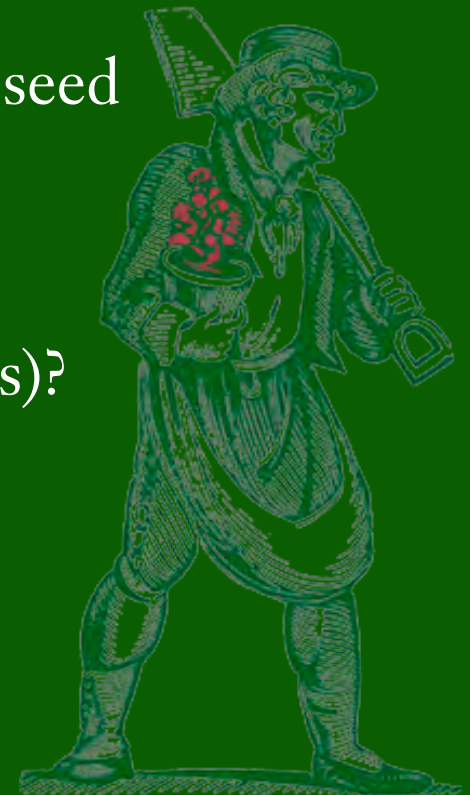
Daffodils: Yellow trumpet (traditional, flowering March) £7.00 per 50

- Underplanting with general purpose chalk grass seed  
£58 per ha from Boston Seeds

- Consider hedging with fruit trees, eg bullace

- Living willow arch (supporting fan trained apples)?

- Orchards are ideal for bee-keeping



# *Practicalities*

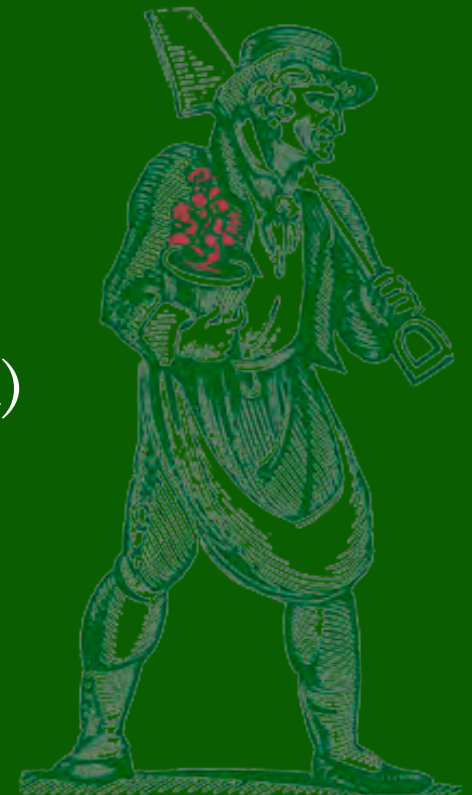
- Natural activity area for children (eg. hazel tunnel, row of tree stumps for balancing)
- Picnic benches and barbecue?
- Fencing and gates as required
- Litter bins
- Grass cutting pattern



# *Likely structure:*

## *Management Committee and Members*

- Representatives of parish council, hall, schools and nursery
- Committed volunteers ready to join working parties
- Trees sponsored by individuals
- A proper constitution
- AGM, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- Continuation of website ([orchard.blogspirit.com](http://orchard.blogspirit.com)) with email newsletter



# *Next steps...*

- Leaflets to take away
- Contact details of participants?
- Date of next meeting?
- Formation of committee?
- Drawing up of budget?
- Agreeing a timescale?



# *Thanks...*

- Gill Franklin
- Dunsden WI  
[*NB* RSPB talk in hall next Monday]

