

Ringmer Community Orchard



June 2010

The Ringmer Community Orchard, at.

The trees looked beautiful in early May, almost all were in blossom at the same time. The newly planted Ashmead's Kernel had a really vivid pink blossom. When I looked round in late May I saw the Merton Gem and Valor were covered in tiny plums and Beurre Hardy and Concorde pears looked set for a first good harvest.

On a cold and windy day in early May we had a group of students from Ringmer Community College. The students looked around the site, asked lots of questions and made notes on pollination, wildlife and the orchard management as part of their studies. They will be visiting the site later in the year.

Wildflower Border

We prepared a further five metre strip of wildflower border using a brush cutter to cut back the grass, sowing onto the soil and then laying a strip of protective mesh on top of the sown seed to protect it from the rabbits. For anyone who has dug clay soil this was far easier than lifting the turf and working the clay soil to a fine tilth but we will have to watch to see it allows the wildflower seeds to compete with the vigorous grasses. I had some saved toadflax and bladder campion seed from my garden which we added in to the mix.



Dates for diary:

Plum Tree Pruning : June 17th 4-6pm plum tree pruning

Fruit picking: September 9th 4-6pm; September 23rd 10-am-12pm; September 30th 2.30- 4.30pm

Adopt a Tree Scheme

We would like to get your comments about starting an 'Adopt a Tree Scheme' for the Orchard to help keep the Orchard financially viable. This would give people a link to a particular tree to look after and a share of the harvest from all the fruit trees. Membership would need to be limited while the harvest is still fairly small but it won't be long before we have an awful lot of fruit to distribute. The soil is so good for growing the trees that we could also set up a tree nursery and apprenticeship scheme. Please contact me with your comments: Katharine Finnigan, Common Cause, 20 North Street, Lewes, BN7 2PE; tel: 01273 4790900;07887828249; Katharine@commoncause.org.uk.

Ringmer Community Orchard, Broyle Place Farm, Laughton Road. An organic fruit orchard set up and led by the people of Ringmer for use by the local community.