



HARTLEY WINTNEY
COMMUNITY ORCHARD
~ a brief history ~

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Hartley Wintney Community Orchard

Throughout horticultural and agricultural history there has been a place for the Orchard. It is believed that from the silk routes of China, Russia & Kazakhstan, apple trees were taken from the wild and replanted nearer settlements for domestic use as long ago as 6000 BC ~ Almaty in Kazakhstan means 'the place of apples'.

For the Greeks, cultivation and enjoyment of fruit orchards became an essential part of daily life and the Romans, who introduced apples to England from other continents, introduced grafting techniques. In Medieval times, 'flowery meads' (small meadows) and orchards played their part at a time when people felt the need to be 'enclosed' within their own territory; they were also a vital part of self sufficient, monastic life.



Surviving throughout history, orchards remained during the long, Renaissance period and continued over the landscape movement, both times of great change in horticulture. In essence, the beauty and practical use of the orchard has preserved its own existence; a food and timber source or shady place for contemplation. In the past forty years however, two thirds of the traditional orchards have disappeared.

The concept of a Community Orchard in Hartley Wintney was first mooted on May 21st 1994 following a Hampshire Wildlife Trust training day on the subject in Shedfield but it was five years before an opportunity arose to pursue the idea.

When, like many local authorities, it was seeking how to provide its community with an original, worthwhile and sustainable commemoration of the new Millennium, Hartley Wintney Parish Council chose to provide a Community Orchard to attempt to recapture some of the orchard's traditional functions. Providing a place for the community to wander and meet, to contemplate, remember loved ones and to sustain old and dying-out fruit varieties, traditional recipes and customs.

It was originally intended to plant an Orchard comprising only 25 Hampshire variety apple trees and while this could be achieved, it would be a lengthy process; the trees required were available but most would need to be grafted, thus extending project implementation by several years. It was questionable whether or not public interest in the project could be maintained for this period.



The Parish Council was fortunately able to access the services of Peter Collett and the late Peter Maunder - both respected and experienced pomologists - to prepare a design and planting regime for the Orchard and it was on the basis of their advice that the project concept changed to one where the objective was to provide a display of England's native fruits: from some of the oldest domestic varieties to the more developed, modern varieties.

The Orchard was designed in three elements. The first, comprising sixty three trees - fifty nine varieties of nine species - provides a living history of cultivated fruit in this country from the Roman Invasion (Sweet Chestnut) to the Modern Day (Meridian - selected by the Marden Fruit Society as the apple of the Millennium); the second contains apple trees from twenty countries while the third area, immediately adjoining the entrance to the site, contains eleven varieties of hazel: all are maintained using non chemical feeding and where practical pest and weeds control regimes.



The first problem faced by the project team was to find a suitable site for the Orchard and in this respect there were three primary criteria to be considered; for financial (and historic) reasons a site on Common Land was preferred; for ease of access this needed to be relatively central to the village; and it needed to be away from areas where vandalism is a recurring problem.

Hunts Common, at the east end of Hartley Wintney, has no record of accommodating an orchard but historically it was a seasonal centre for community life, being the site of an annual sheep fair which culminated in a bonfire lit with tar barrels rolled through the High Street by the village 'bonfire boys'. The site is registered Common Land and owned by Hart District Council and this provided the next hurdle.



Like many local authorities, Hart District Council uses the County's Wildlife Trust to provide advice on proposals which will affect sites such as Hunts Common; Trusts unfortunately tend not to accept that the landscape which we currently enjoy was essentially shaped by mankind and the proposal to plant an orchard on open meadow was anathema to Hampshire Wildlife Trust and although Peter Maunder's suggestion to create a living history of cultivated fruit over the past two thousand years was seen by the project team, Parish Council and parishioners as an appropriate Millennium project, this view was not shared by Hart District Council.

Fortunately, Ward District Councillors convinced Officers at Hart District Council that the project team was competent and consent was given to the original proposal. To create such an orchard would require more land and while it was prepared to allow twenty five trees to be planted on one acre, Hart District Council would not permit sixty three trees to be planted on a larger site.



The problem was resolved when, following its policy to pass non revenue generating elements of its property to parish councils, Hart District Council offered Hunts Common to the Parish Council on a long term lease, an offer it accepted. This allowed the project to proceed, albeit with a resultant increase in the Parish Council grounds maintenance expenditure.

With the design complete, the trees selected and resourced, promotion of the project became the next priority. Articles in the monthly parish magazine, 'Contact', an extensive display at the annual Village Festival in June and word of mouth ensured that by September all the initial sixty three trees had been sponsored by a wide selection of local residents and groups (see pages 6-9).

Seats, litter bins and an interpretive notice board were included in the design as well as an area where native berried fruits would develop. Local businesses, organisations and individuals responded positively to requests for support and all these items were funded (see page 10).

Planting began on 18/19th November 2000 when sponsors were invited to plant their trees in prepared plots. Following selection of the Hunts Common site, an analysis revealed that the soil required some improvement to accommodate fruit trees and over a two week period, sixty three plots containing a combination of topsoil, farmyard manure, lime, basal fertilizer and mushroom compost were prepared.



After careful consideration, the project team agreed that despite the publicity potential of the Community Orchard inaugural planting, it was essentially a local project. To emphasise this Cllr. Frank Fowler, Chairman of Hartley Wintney Parish Council, accepted an invitation to undertake the task which took place at 11am on Saturday 18th November 2000 when he planted the Hampshire apple variety, 'Howgate Wonder', and unveiled a commemorative plaque; a Hartley Wintney Millennium medallion was buried beneath the tree.

The second stage of planting, primarily of the 'international' element of the Orchard, took place on Sunday November 18th 2001. Trees planted included 'American Mother', an American apple which was planted by local Hampshire

Fire & Rescue Service Station Officer, Colin Horwood: this is dedicated to the memory of those who died in Washington and New York on September 11th that year. Hampshire varieties, (which had been grafted at the National Fruit Collection, Brogdale) became available in March 2003 and planting was completed in March 2007 when a further fourteen Hampshire and Isle of Wight varieties, supplied by Deacons Nurseries, were added to the Orchard.

The Community Orchard was originally maintained as a meadow, with the grass cut annually and the arisings collected to encourage the growth of the wild flowers native to the site and those planted by sponsors; a path was cut leading to the trees and seats. However the number of events held on the site has meant that this is no longer practical and it is now cut more regularly.



Although the Orchard was envisaged as a project primarily aimed at creating a new feature of the village to commemorate the Millennium, it was also hoped it may provide a focus for related community events and this it has proved to be.

Apple Day, (21st October), a national event initiated by Common Ground in 1990, has been recognised by the project team each year of the new Millennium and although, because of the vagaries of Autumnal weather, the event is not held at the Orchard, the foyer of the Appleton & Victoria Halls provides an excellent venue for promoting the project and the traditional values it seeks to maintain and revive.

In 2005 Apple Day coincided with the 200th anniversary of Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar and the event was expanded to provide a Food Festival promoting a wider range of traditional foods, particularly those which would have been available to mariners at Trafalgar; this event proved extremely popular and is repeated annually.



The Wassail ceremony was introduced in 2001 and continues to be held on the second Friday in January. This traditional event, where a tree is 'Wassailed' (blessed) to drive evil spirits from the Orchard and to ensure a fruitful crop, is led by the Hook Eagle Morris Men, who, with friends of the Community Orchard and others who attend, find the evening, with its barbecue and bar, a welcome post Christmas distraction.

As part of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, the Orchard was the venue for a 'Jazz Picnic & Barbecue' where a live jazz band,

barbecue, wine & cider bar were enjoyed by all; younger people participated in a circus workshop. This has also become an annual event, shared with Hartley Wintney Twinning Association which in 2006 invited visitors from France, Belgium, Poland and Germany.

Like the Apple Day event, the Jazz Picnic has expanded and now includes selected market stalls providing a range of quintessentially English products, a barbecue, bar, cream teas, at least three live bands and a circus workshop and performance, complete with its own 'little big top'.

The Orchard provided an almost perfect setting for open air theatre and in 2004 was the venue for a performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' which although ending early due to torrential rain was sufficiently popular for further productions; 'The Tempest' in 2005 and 'Romeo & Juliet' the following year.

Conducted walks around the Orchard by a local lepidopterist revealed an interesting variety of butterflies and moths on the site, the number of species increasing, as has the diversity of wild flowers, demonstrating the benefits of the grass cutting regime on the site.

The Parish Council and its project team believe that the Community Orchard represents an innovative, exciting and yet traditional form of Millennium commemoration. It will also provide a feature of interest, community focus, education, contemplation and relaxation to parishioners and visitors to the village long after many of the transient Millennium events and commemorations have been forgotten.



Varieties & Rootstocks

Where possible the origin of individual varieties has been indicated. Unfortunately, particularly with the Prunus, Pyrus, Honorary Natives and Native Nut elements of the Orchard, this is not always possible; varieties where no origin is shown are believed to be natives of the UK.

Native Nuts

10	Cosford Cob	Bethany & Jamie Brazier
6	Purple Filbert	Kay Collman
5	Ennis	Rosemarie & Tony Cooke
3	Kentish Cob	Joyce Dickson ~ in memory of John
9	Hall's Giant	Timothy Dunn
11	Gunslebert	Martin Hannah
2	Hazel	Janine & Bernard Kilroy
1	Butler's Hazel	Anne Oakes
7	Corkscrew Hazel	In memory of Brian Smith
4	Nottingham Prolific	Derek Trendell
8	Webb's Prize	Carol & Chris Webb

Apples - Malus

47	Rev. W. Wilks ~ Berkshire	Sarah Adams
21	Meridian ~ Kent	Graham Amos
29	Cutler Grieve ~ Hampshire	Peter Stobbard Anderson
67	Easter Orange ~ Hampshire	Jean & Anthony Baker
49	White Transparent ~ Russia	The Barrett Family
61	Ellison's Orange ~ Lincolnshire	Sonia & Graham Bartlett
85	Hillwell Hilada ~ Holland	Patricia Broderick
44	Sunnydale ~ Hampshire	Alison & John Callaway
51	Highview Pippin ~ Surrey	Caterpillar Montessori Nursery School
25	Deacon's Millennium ~ Hampshire	Shirley & David Charlton
56	Aromatic Russet	Peter Collett
65	Howgate Wonder ~ Isle of Wight	Community Orchard Project Team
43	RubINETTE ~ Switzerland	The Cramp Family
82	Benedin Early ~ Hampshire	Graham Deacon
46	American Mother ~ USA	Dedicated to the 11.9.01 victims
50	Dunn's Seedling ~ Australia	Gillian & Richard Dodds
12	Evening Gold ~ Hampshire	Lynda Ellis
32	Miller's Seedling ~ Hampshire	Frank Fowler
72	Bramshott Rectory ~ Hampshire	Margaret Fowler
39	Mutsu ~ Japan	Debra & Steve Frazer
34	Bramley ~ Nottingham	Friends of Malle
35	Bloody Ploughman ~ Scotland	Sharon & Jonathan Glen

37	Costard ~ Gloucester	Margaret Gorsky
13	Crimson Queening ~ Hereford	Grace Gratwick
15	Twinings Pippin	Jordan Gratwick
80	Lemon Pippin ~ Kent	Greenfields Junior School
45	Sunrise ~ Canada	Anne & Ashley Hollowes
77	Hambledon Deux Ans ~ Hampshire	Hartley Wintney Cricket Club
84	Coronation (Ed V) ~ Sussex	Hartley Wintney Preservation Society
23	White Melrose	The Hatcher Family
59	Box Apple ~ Cornwall	In memory of Phyllis & Bob Holland
41	Kidd's Orange Red ~ New Zealand	The Hooper Family
63	Kingston Black ~ Somerset	Ruth & Bill Hudson
48	Broad Eyed Pippin	James Humby
40	Lady's Finger of Offaly ~ Ireland	Alice Louise Hunt
42	Katy ~ Sweden	Liam Hunt
38	Gloster 69 ~ Germany	Olivia Hunt
22	Dunns Seedling ~ Australia	Jacob John Hurley
52	Mary's Apple ~ Hampshire	Mary & Peter James
70	Isle of Wight Russet ~ Isle of Wight	Sue Jefferson
79	Royal Snow ~ Hampshire	The Jones Family
20	Isle of Wight Pippin ~ Isle of Wight	Malini & Richard Spink
17	Elstar ~ Holland	Janet Martin
55	Lady Henniker ~ Suffolk	Amy & Bob Miles
30	Golden Glow ~ Hampshire	In memory of Val Missen
27	Deacon's Blushing Beauty ~ Hampshire	Gill Mitchell
24	Bembridge Beauty ~ Isle of Wight	Millicent Neff
66	Fearn's Pippin ~ Fulham	Gill & Ron O'Keefe
16	Violette ~ France	Doris Parmenter MBE ~ in memory of her mother
68	Morgan Sweet ~ Somerset	Philip Pedersen
53	Leathercoat Russet	Mark Phipps
74	Beauty of Hants ~ Hampshire	Sarah & Mark Porter
77	Sir John Thornycroft ~ Hampshire	Martin Prodger
83	Steyne Seedling ~ Hampshire	In memory of May & Wally Pye
26	Vickey's Delight ~ Hampshire	Elaine & Don Robertson
60	Mrs. Phillimore ~ Berkshire	Rotary Club of Hart
75	Reinette Gris du Grand Fayé ~ France	Saint Savin Twinning Association
28	Ernie's Russet ~ Hampshire	The Skellern Family
71	Dabinett ~ Somerset	Rosina & Peter Steer
18	Winter Lemon ~ Ukraine	Mary Stephens
76	Reinette Rouge Étoilée ~ Belgium	Anne Stratford
78	Baker's Delicious ~ Wales	Streetmaster Products
19	Barnack Beauty ~ Lincolnshire	Anne Struthers
33	Beauty of Kent ~ Kent	Roy Sutton
54	Broxwood Foxwhelp ~ Hereford	Heather & Michael Tierney
73	Rosemary Russet ~ Middlesex	Tommy & Tilly Treadwell
14	Caroline Hopkins ~ South Africa	Derek Trendell

36	Winter Permain ~ Kent	Derek Trendell
69	Northwood ~ Somerset	Penny & Michael Tucker
62	Yarlington Mill ~ Somerset	Pat Vaughan
58	Decio ~ Italy	Ann & Paul Vicary
81	Summer Golden Pippin ~ Hereford	Marie Walton
31	Warner's King ~ Kent	Sue & Michael Warner
64	King George ~ Hampshire	Greg Woodcock

Cherries - Prunus

87	Morello	Caroline Elick
86	Prunus avium 'Plena'	Colette Gratwick
93	Fice ~ Cornwall	Alice, Mary & Theo Hannah
94	Dun ~ Devon	Alice, Mary & Theo Hannah
88	Bradbourne Black ~ Kent	Daniel Humby
89	Waterloo	Tim & Caroline McCudden-Hughes
91	Greenstem Black ~ Devon	Bethany Morley
92	Small Black ~ Devon	Oakwood Infants School
90	Merchant	In memory of Angela Matts

Plums - Prunus

107	Farleigh Damson ~ Kent	Adrian Culver
108	Godshill Blue ~ Isle of Wight	Shelagh & Doug Dickson
100	Dittisham Ploughman ~ Devon	Sally Dunn
101	Mirabelle ~ Ukraine	Susanne Dunn
110	Pond's Seedling ~ Hampshire	Caroline Elick
97	Kea ~ Cornwall	Derek & Lynda Ellis ~ in memory of 'Ollie'
106	Angelina Burdett ~ Hampshire	Katherine Hannah
104	Warwickshire Drooper ~ Warwickshire	Mark Hazell
96	Gage Old ~ Armenia	Peter Maunder
98	Shepherds Bullace ~ U.K.	Catherine Noyelle
105	Black Bullace ~ U.K.	Clare Noyelle
103	Yellow Cherry U.K.	Kate Parish
99	Merryweather Damson ~ Nottingham	Ann & John Pern
95	Greengage ~ Armenia	Joyce & Jim Reed
109	Langley Bullace ~ U.K.	Peter Smith
102	Burrell ~ Essex	Ruth & Richard Vaughan

Pears - Pyrus

116	Gin ~ U.K.	Jean Amos
115	Gin ~ U.K.	Christine Lisa Cleater
117	Black Worcester ~ Worcester	Michael Dykes
114	Beech Hill ~ U.K.	Derek Hughes
111	Hessle ~ Yorkshire	John Revell

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|-----|------------------------|---------------|
| 112 | Jargonelle ~ France | Mark Sallis |
| 113 | Winnals Longdon ~ U.K. | Chris Stanley |

Honorary Natives ~ Roman Introductions

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 119 | Pear-shaped Quince | George Band |
| 126 | White Mulberry | Sarah & Nigel Beazley |
| 128 | Sweet Chestnut | Eliza & Roger Berry |
| 125 | Walnut | Andrew Dunn |
| 121 | Crab Apple 'Golden Hornet' | Colin Horwood |
| 118 | Quince 'Vranja' ~ Serbia | Mr & Mrs Lillywhite |
| 120 | Malus Baccata ~ Siberia | Mr & Mrs Bruce Mann |
| 127 | Crab Apple 'Golden Hornet' | Joy & John Mann |
| 123 | Black Mulberry | Janet Martin |
| 124 | Medlar | Sheila Revell |
| 122 | Medlar 'Mespilus' Nottingham | James Wright |

Native Berries

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|-------------|
| 129 | Cowberry | } | |
| | Bilberry | } | Eliza |
| | Bearberry | } | Roger |
| | Cranberry | } | Hannah |
| | Gooseberry | } | & |
| | Raspberry | } | Christopher |
| | Redcurrant | } | Berry |
| | Wild Strawberry | } | |
| | Dewberry | } | |

Rootstocks

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Apple: | M25, MM111, MM106, M26, M9 & M27 |
| Pear: | Quince A & C |
| Cherries: | Colt |
| Plums: | St Julian A, Brompton, Myrobalan & Pixy. |

Acknowledgements

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