

Oakington & Westwick Parish Council

Community Orchard

The Recreation Ground Community Orchard was planted by volunteers between 2012 & 14, to create an attractive resource for the village. The site itself is part of the Parish Council land designated for the expansion of the Cemetery but, as it will not be needed for some time to come, it has been made over to provide a Community Orchard.

The trees are all local heritage varieties, sourced from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project, so you may find the flavours different from your usual supermarket varieties. The EEAOP is a membership organisation, established in 2003 and based near Fakenham, Norfolk. They promote the planting of local orchard fruit varieties and the preservation of orchards in the east of England. The region's heritage includes around 270 varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry and their orchard habitat. Since the 1960s we've lost over 60% of the orchard habitat across our region, so it's important that what remains is valued and preserved.

<https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk>

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The "west" side of our orchard, adjacent to the cemetery, will be mowed regularly throughout the summer to provide shady picnic spots for family use. The new picnic tables have been donated by "Oakington & Westwick Neighbours" and the Parish Council. The "east" side, adjacent to the brook, will be allowed to grow "naturally", with minimal management by the Oakington Community Orchard Project (OCOP) Team, to encourage a wider range of wild flowers and insects.



The majority of trees on this site are apples but we have 4 cherry, 11 plum, 5 gage and 13 pear trees. Many have been planted in pairs so we have just over 50 different varieties in total. Some varieties have strong local connections. The trees carry labels which indicate the variety, its use, its flowering time and the time when the fruit should be ripe and ready for picking. As this is an asset shared by the whole community, we would ask you only to pick fruit for your own personal use. These heritage varieties do not ripen well at home and should be left on the tree until ripe, for the flavours to fully develop. To check if an apple is ripe enough to eat, give it a half turn. If it does not come off the tree, leave it a week or two more.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out, if you are interested contact us via oakcomorchards@gmail.com or the Parish Council

Plan of trees planted at the Recreation Ground showing the year of planting and when the fruit should be ripe.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
10	Czar (cooking) Plum C mid aug	Willingham Gage C late aug	Swan (cooking) Plum C early aug	Early Rivers(cook) Plum C early aug	Pine Apple Russet Apple D early sep	Discovery Apple C mid aug	Perfection Apple C mid oct	Lord Burghley Apple E late oct	Jordan's Weeping Apple D mid oct	
9	Willingham Gage C late aug	Czar (cooking) Plum C mid aug	Swan (cooking) Plum C early aug	Early Rivers(cook) Plum C early aug	Conference Pear C late sep	Conference Pear C late sep	Thoday's Quarrenden Apple C early Oct	Laxtons Delicious Plum B mid sep		
8	Marjorie's Seedling Plum C late sep	Cambridge Gage C late aug	Wallis's Wonder Plum B late sep	Wallis's Wonder Plum B late sep	Laxton's Fortune Apple C early sep	Beth Pear D early sep	Laxton's Supreme Plum B mid aug	Golden Transparent Gage C early sep		
7	Cambridge Gage C late aug	Laxton's Superb Apple D mid oct	Lord Lambourne Apple C late sep	Lord Peckover Apple A mid aug	Summer Buerre Pear C late aug	Histon Favourite Apple C late sep	Dr. Harvey Cooker D late sep			
6	Doyenne du Comice Pear D late oct	Perfection Apple C mid oct	Fairie Queen Apple C mid sep	Lord Peckover Apple A mid aug	Summer Buerre Pear C late aug	Yarlington Mill Cider Apple Nov			Wild Flower	
5	Doyenne du Comice Pear D late oct	Cottenham Seedling Cooker E mid oct	Jolly Miller Cooker C late sep	Lady Hollendale Apple B mid aug	Broxwood Foxwhelp Cider Apple Mid Sep			Merchant Cherry C mid jun		
4	Bramley Seedling Cooker C late oct	Striped Beefing Cooker C early oct	Alington Pippin Apple C late Oct	Robin Pear C late aug			Strawberry Heart Cherry C mid jul	Green Harvey Apple D late Oct		
3	Unknown Pear	Lady Henniker Apple D/T late oct	Lady Hollendale Apple B mid aug			Turkish Black Cherry E mid jul	Robin Pear C late aug	Improved Fertility Pear D mid Sep		
2					Summer Sun Cherry C mid jul	Johnny Mount Pear C mid oct	Laxton's Superb Apple D mid oct	Suffolk Thorn Pear Oct		
1	Picnic Table			Pam's Delight Apple C mid oct	Bolingbroke Beauty Apple C mid sep	Sleeping Beauty Cooker C mid oct	D'arcy Spice Apple D late oct	Rosy Blenheim Apple D early oct		
	Blue Planted February 2012	Green Planted end 2012/2013	Red Planted December 2014	Purple Planted February 2019	Brown Planted February 2023	Black Planted February 2024	Cooker = Cooking Apple			
		North								



Fruit Tree Fact Sheet – Recreation Ground.

Dessert Gage – Willingham <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/willingham-gage/> Thought to have arisen from a Green Gage in Willingham in the early 1800's it was selected in the late 1900's by the RHS for its good cropping and excellent fruit quality.

Dessert Gage - Cambridge <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/cambridge-gage/> First recorded in Histon in 1927 and, although it probably came from a Green Gage, it is larger and better cropping.

Culinary Apple - Jolly Miller <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/jolly-miller/> First recorded in 1883 in the Cottenham area, where it was very popular and probably named after the public house in the village

Dessert Plum - Wallis' Wonder <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/walliss-wonder/> A fairly recent variety developed in 1960 by Simpsons' Nursery, Fordham, Cambridgeshire exclusively for Mr Wallis's orchard in Bluntisham, Huntingdonshire.

Dessert Apple – Lord Peckover <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/lord-peckover/> From the Peckover House Gardens in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, first recorded in 1926.

Culinary Apple – Dr Harvey <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/dr-harvey/> This variety was first recorded in Essex in 1629 and is thought to be named after Dr Gabriel Harvey who was educated at Cambridge University. A somewhat controversial figure, he was elected to Master of Trinity Hall in 1585, only to have the offer withdrawn almost immediately. He eventually retired to Saffron Waldon, Cambridgeshire, the place of his birth, where he died in 1631.

Culinary Apple – Cottenham Seedling <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/cottenham-seedling/> Raised by Robert Norman of Cottenham in 1923 and once very popular around Cambridge.

Dessert Apple – D'Arcy Spice <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/darcy-spice/> Found in 1785 in the grounds of the Hall at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, Essex, it develops a complex spice-like flavour when stored.

Dessert Pear - Conference <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/conference/> This well-known pear was developed by the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in 1885 and named after the Apple & Pear Conference held in London that year.

Culinary Apple – Bramley's Seedling <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=714&&fruit=apple> Raised in Nottinghamshire around 1810 it is the UK's most popular cooking apple.

Culinary Plum – Czar <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/czar/> Raised at the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire around 1871 and introduced in 1875, following a visit to England of the Emperor of Russia in 1874, hence the name.

Dessert Pear – Suffolk Thorn <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=7578&&fruit=pear> A traditional Suffolk pear, of unknown origin, characterised by its almost round apple-like appearance.

Cherry – Summer Sun <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/summer-sun-2/> A Norfolk Variety first recorded around 1900

Cherry – Merchant <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/merchant/> A Norfolk variety developed by the John Innes Institute in 1970 after moving to Norwich.

Cherry – Turkish Black <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/turkish-black/> First recorded in Hertfordshire around 1900.

Cherry – Strawberry Heart <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/strawberry-heart/> First grown in the King's Langley district close to Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire prior to 1900.

Culinary Plum – Swan <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/swan/> Raised at the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire around 1885 and introduced in 1897.

Culinary Plum – Early Rivers <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/early-rivers/> Raised at the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire around 1820 from the older French variety "Precoc de Tours". It received a RHS award in 1895.

Dessert Gage – Golden Transparent <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/golden-transparent/> Raised at the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire and introduced in 1890, receiving an RHS award in 1893.

Dessert Plum – Laxton's Delicious <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/laxtons-delicious/> Raised by Laxton's of Bedford in 1902 and introduced in 1924.

Culinary Plum – Marjorie's Seedling
<http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?varid=8214&&acc4=1977187&&fruit=plum> A Berkshire variety first introduced in 1928

Dessert Pear – Robin <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/robin/> Origin not entirely clear, but thought to be the renaming of a "lost" variety from Norwich, Norfolk

Dessert Pear – Summer Beurre <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/summer-beurre/> Raised at the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in 1863, very sweet when fully ripe.

Dessert Pear – Beth <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=7095&&fruit=pear> originating in Kent.

Dessert Pear – Doyenne du Comice <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=7251&&fruit=pear> A French variety introduced to England in 1858 by Sir Thomas Dyke Acland while he was a Trustee of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Dessert Apple – Discovery <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/discovery/> Originating in Essex where it was raised by Mr. Dummer of Langham in 1949, but not formally named until 1962.

Dessert Apple – Lady Hollendale <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/lady-hollendale/> Thought to have originated somewhere in the Fens and was popular at the Wisbech fruit markets in the 1920-30s. The origin of the name Hollendale is unclear too, there were just a few families with that name living in Derbyshire in 1891.

Dessert Apple – Pine Apple Russet <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/pine-apple-russet/> A particularly old variety, popular across East Anglia in the 1980s, originating in Norfolk sometime in the 1700s.

Dessert Apple – Laxton's Fortune <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/laxtons-fortune/> Raised by Laxton's of Bedford in 1904 and introduced in 1931; it was a cross between Wealthy and Cox's Orange Pippin.

Dessert Apple – Fairie Queen <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/fairie-queen/> A recent variety believed to have been raised by Richard Staward in 1937 while he was Head Gardener at Ware Park Gardens in Hertfordshire.

Cider Apple – Broxwood Foxwelp <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=800&&fruit=apple> Foxwelp is one of the oldest known cider apple varieties, the Broxwood variant was introduced by H. P. Bulmer & Co Ltd., in the 1920s.

Dual-use Apple – Bolingbroke Beauty <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/bolingbroke-beauty/> Sold commercially from Eden Farm Nursery in the 1980s. It arose on a farm at Old Bolingbroke, Spilsby, Lincolnshire around 1910.

Dessert Apple – Lord Lambourne <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/lord-lambourne/> Raised by Laxton's of Bedford in 1907 and introduced in 1923. Lord Lambourne was Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood and President of the Royal Horticultural Society from 1893 to 1922. The tree was probably named to celebrate his retirement from the RHS.

Culinary Apple – Striped Beefing <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/striped-beefing/> Named by Mr Crowe of Lakenham, Norfolk in 1794 after he found it growing in his garden.

Dessert Apple – Rosy Blenheim <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/rosy-blenheim/> An Essex variety raised by Mr Thorington of Hornchurch in 1925.

Dessert Apple - Laxton's Superb <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/laxtons-superb/> Raised by Laxton's of Bedford in 1897 and introduced in 1922; it was a cross between Wyken Pippin and Cox's Orange Pippin.

Dessert Apple – Perfection <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/perfection/> Raised by Seabrook & Sons of Boreham, Essex for Eric Wallis of Bluntisham, Huntingdonshire another Cox's Orange Pippin cross.

Dessert Apple – Pam's Delight <http://www.pamsdelight.co.uk/> A variety with its own website! The tree was first grown in Luton, Bedfordshire by Alfred Hull and named after his daughter. Despite being listed and a limited number grown by the Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, it never achieved commercial success.

Dessert Pear – Johnny Mount <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/johnny-mount-pear/> although grown around Colchester, Essex before 1900, its exact origin is unknown.

Culinary Apple – Sleeping Beauty <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/sleeping-beauty/> a Lincolnshire variety grown for the Boston markets around 1850.

Dessert Apple – Jordan's Weeping <http://www.englishinparticular.info/orchards/o-norfolk-f.html> Found growing in the Norfolk Broads around 1940.

Dessert Pear – Gansel's Bergamot <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/gansels-bergamot/> Raised in 1768 by Lieutenant General Ganse at Donneland Hall (Donyland Park) near Colchester, Essex, possibly from a French Bergamot variety.

Dual-use Apple – Lady Henniker <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/lady-henniker/> Raised around 1850 at the Henniker family home – Thornham Magna Hall near Eye, Suffolk. It was awarded an RHS First Class certificate in 1875 and became a popular garden variety.

Dessert Apple – Lord Burghley <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/lord-burghley/> Found in Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire and first fruited by a Peterborough nurseryman in 1834; it won a RHS award in 1865 and became a popular gardener's choice.

Cider Apple - Yarlington Mill <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=6962&&fruit=apple> Originating in the village of Yarlington, North Cadbury, Somerset.

Dessert Apple - Histon Favourite <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/histon-favourite/> another very local variety developed by John Chivers of Histon in 1850.

Dual-use Apple – Allington Pippin <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/allington-pippin/> Raised by Thomas Laxton at Stamford around 1884 and until 1894 it was originally called 'South Lincoln Beauty'. Introduced under its new name in 1896. It is the result of crossing the varieties King of the Pippins and Cox's Orange Pippin.

Dessert Apple – Thoday's Quarrenden <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/thodays-quarrenden/>
Discovered growing at Willingham in 1949 by nurseryman Ralph Thoday. It is probably a seedling of the UK dessert variety Devonshire Quarrenden.

Dual-use Apple – Green Harvey <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/green-harvey/> A long-keeping green-skinned variety first recorded in 1813. The sample in the National Fruit Collection was received from Cambridgeshire in 1930.

Dessert Pear – Improved Fertility <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/product/improved-fertility/> Found at Seabrook's Nursery, Boreham, in 1934. A russeted sport of the pear Fertility, which was raised in 1875 by Rivers' Nursery in Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

Wildflowers recorded in the orchard in 2023

Birdseye Speedwell
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Bristly Ox-tongue
Buttercup
Common Knapweed
Common Knotgrass
Common Mallow
Common Selfheal
Cow Parsley
Creeping Thistle
Daisy
Dandelion
Dock
Field Bindweed
Goose grass
Ground Ivy
Hedge Mustard
Hogweed
Kidney Vetch
Lady's Bedstraw
Lords & Ladies
Nipplewort
Red Clover
Ribbed Plantain
Smooth Hawksbeard
Sow Thistle
Spanish Bluebell
Speedwell
Star of Bethlehem
Stinging Nettle
Thistle
White Campion
White Clover
White Dead Nettle
Wild Marjoram
Willow herb
Yarrow
Yellow Rattle

Insects in 2023: included Hover Flies, Ladybirds and Butterflies – Meadow Brown, Small White, Speckled Wood, and Tortoise Shell along with wasps, flies, Bumble Bees and daytime moths – Herald and

