

Lagoon View Community Orchard Association

Chair's Report 2022

In the early months of 2022 we pruned the trees and kept things tidy, but activity was low with no events. We ordered three new fruit trees, another pear, a medlar and a quince. A black Mulberry was donated and these were all planted. They have all survived a very dry summer, with a bit of extra watering and have made strong growth. As the cool dry spring increased daylight hours, everything sprang back to life. After a wet May we were fortunate to have dry sunny weather for our wassail event. The Borderline Morris dancers made a great show of processing into the orchard, singing and dancing to drive away 'Jack Frost' and encouraging the trees to fruit abundantly. Lots of small children were initially alarmed but then completely enthralled by the noise and lavish costumes. A great turn out from the neighbouring streets.

With increasing concern over the safety of the giant Poplar tree, we engaged a tree surveyor to assess it. Quite large branches had fallen in times of gales, big enough to cause injury or worse. Reluctantly we felt the trustees had no alternative but to follow advice and have the tree removed. This was controversial but our insurance would have been void in case of accidents, when the advice was so clear.

Following a generous donation, we planned to construct a piece of play equipment for small children. Not wanting to duplicate the new playground on Tarka Ridge, we opted for a play house, where imaginative play could develop. The house was named The Short House, in memory of John Short. Planning took place and we consulted with local council officers over any safety considerations. Given the green light, James Reed kindly offered to order materials and construct the house. It was completed in early autumn and has proved highly popular. Our grandchildren saw it as a beehive from

which they fed us imaginary honey. The playhouse was mainly funded by a generous resident, assisted by a grant from the Gibbons Trust, a local charity. In the event we were overfunded and asked the Trust if we could use some of the money to upgrade the mower. This was agreed and we are soon to take delivery of a more capable machine.

The wild flower garden regenerated, though all sorts of vigorous growth appeared, unplanned and unidentified. There was an abundance of flowers for the butterflies. The patch will need digging and seeding for 2023. The fruit crop was mainly abundant, though the pears were small, due to the prolonged drought. As we moved into autumn, the grand BBQ event had to be cancelled when the rains poured.

As Remembrance Day approached, a fantastic display of knitted poppies was placed over the arch, fences and trees. So much work and much appreciated.

Sadly, one of the excellent mosaics fell apart due to weathering and is due to be replaced in due course. Thanks to the talented team who painstakingly create these wonderful tableaux.

At the year-end we are still concerned over our long-term tenure on the land, which has still to be resolved. The Parish Council has been supportive, designating it as a 'Site of Special Community Interest' in the draft Local Plan.

Thanks are due to our many supporters and to committee members who work behind the scenes to keep everything progressing. We do have a few vacancies on the committee now, so we hope to have new volunteers for 2023.

Pete Thorn

Chair

General Account - Last updated - 31.12.22

Date	Item	Donor/Recipient	Type	IN	OUT	Ref	Balance
01.01.22	Balance from 2021						£809.36
21/1/22	RHS Affiliation		BACS		£35.00		£774.36
7/2/22	Donation for wood	Peter Thorn	BACS	£200.00			£974.36
14/2/22	Payment for felling of Poplar	The Tree People	BACS		£780.00		£194.36
17/2/22	Donation for wood	Mike Warriner	BACS	£200.00			£394.36
16/3/22	Annual Public Liability Insurance		BACS		£75.00		£319.36
31/3/22	Give As You Live Donation		BACS	£47.98			£367.34
8/4/22	Petrol for Mower	Peter Thorn	BACS		£23.85		£343.49
25/4/22	Borderline Morris (Blossom Day event)		BACS		£80.00		£263.49
26/4/22	Gibbons Trust Grant for Play Equipment		BACS	£1,500.00			£1,763.49
4/5/22	Donations from Blossom Day		CASH	£147.70			£1,911.19
4/5/22	Donation	Mr & Mrs Wantling	CASH	£30.00			£1,941.19
28/7/22	Donation for children play equipment	Silver Short	CHQ	£1,000.00			£2,941.19
10/8/22	Payment for wood for childrens play equipment	Little Silver Wood	BACS		£1,132.50		£1,808.69
23/9/22	Donation	Mr & Mrs Wantling	CASH	£14.00			£1,822.69
23/9/22	Donation	Marion Hurley	CASH	£10.00			£1,832.69
19/12/22	Lawnmower	J Hayes Group Ltd	BACS		£849.00		£983.69
		TOTALS		£3,149.68	£2,975.35		£983.69