

Lagoon View Community Orchard Association

Chair's Report 2023

The last year was one of consolidation, with a new three-year lease being agreed with Pearce Construction. We live in hope that the long-term uncertainty about our tenure of the orchard can be resolved by the end of this period.

The new mower was a big improvement, able to cope with longer wet grass. Volunteers strimmed the edges and we were able to keep up appearances. A good blossom led on to abundant crops, particularly apples. The fitting of grease bands on the trunks prevented insect infestation and when crops were picked, there were fewer bugs in residence in the fruit.

During the summer, we hosted a community BBQ and it was good to see so many families with young children. Two committee members submitted entries to the Instow Harvest festival Show and won prizes. As we moved into autumn, we got out the apple press and had an energetic morning producing fresh apple juice. We lit the BBQ at the same time so a pleasant lunch was enjoyed in calm sunny weather. As Remembrance Sunday came round, knitted poppies were strung in trees and over the arch to create another impressive display. In the absence of a Yelland Village Hall, the Orchard does present and focus for village community activity.

At the end of the year, our secretary organised a visit from RHS Rosemoor. The two arborists gave us a great deal of help and knowledge about how best to prune our trees. This is taking place during the winter when the trees are dormant.

Thanks are due to the dedicated team of volunteers who work to maintain and develop our cherished green space.

General Account - Last updated - 31.12.23

Date	Item	Donor/Recipient	Type	IN	OUT	Ref	Balance
01.01.23	Balance from 2022						£983.69
04.01.23	Annual Public Liability Insurance		BACS		£75.00		£908.69
10.02.23	RHS Annual Renewal		BACS		£45.00		£863.69
24.02.23	Return of unused funds to The Gibbons Trust		BACS		£518.50		£345.19
17.03.23	Sale of the old mower		CASH	£130.00			£475.19
31.03.23	Donation from Give As You Live		BACS	£15.72			£490.91
09.05.23	Petrol for mower	Peter Thorn	BACS		£23.85		£467.06
11.07.23	Stationary	John Wilson	BACS		£14.20		£452.86
19.07.23	Funds raised from Summer BBQ		CASH	£140.19			£593.05
23.10.23	Lease Notorisation	John Wilson	BACS		£5.00		£588.05
23.10.23	Apple Pressing equipment	Peter Thorn	BACS		£19.99		£568.06
27.10.23	Funds raised from Apple Pressing/BBQ		CASH	£142.00			£710.06
31.10.23	Donation from Give As You Live		BACS	£15.59			£725.65
06.12.23	Wildflower Seeds	John Wilson	BACS		£16.25		£709.40
11.12.23	RHS Annual Renewal		BACS		£45.00		£664.40
		TOTALS		£443.50	£762.79		£664.40