

Dear all,

It's been a while since we were last in touch - the orchard is looking beautiful with the apples now blossoming, the birds busy building their nests and the first swallows swooping low over the long grass.

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH GROUP AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

Our Duke of Edinburgh group has been busy over the winter months and we now have a pond which we planted up last weekend. We're really excited to see the wildlife it will attract. The group also established a pollinator patch and planted native bulbs using our WECA Community Pollinator funding, and planted a mini woodland near the pond in memory of Peter Jeffery, a long term employee of the Duchy, who established a permanent water source on the orchard last August, which will enable us to water the trees and top up the pond. Peter tragically lost his life in October while rescuing a woman from the sea and we would like to install a bench near the copse/pond in his memory. If anyone feels able to contribute towards that, please do let us know.









## EVENTS

We are delighted that Tjaye has agreed to once again perform at our summer event on the afternoon of **Saturday 6th July** - please put the date in your diary. We are holding the event jointly with Grow for Life, an inspiring local charity that manages the walled garden and orchard in Newton St Loe. If you or a member of your group has mobility issues, please let us know and we will do our best to help you attend the event, e.g. there is parking on the orchard for 2-3 cars for events or people can be dropped off.

Another date for your diary is the Apple Day curry and quiz night on **Friday 18th October**. We sold out really quickly last year, so please put the date in your diary and we'll let you know when the tickets are on sale.

## SUMMER VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Lastly, these are the dates of our fortnightly friendly and relaxed working parties this summer. Please do consider popping along to help with tasks or just to say hello.

Wed 1st May 6-730pm Leader: Mat  
Thurs 23rd May 6-30-8pm Leader: Katharine  
Thurs 6th June 6-30-8pm Leader: Shay  
Thurs 20th June 6-30-8pm Leader: Owen  
Thurs 4th July 6-30-8pm Leader: Katharine  
Thurs 18th July 6-30-8pm Leader: Owen  
Thurs 1st August 6-730pm Leader: Mat  
Thurs 15th August 6-30-8pm Leader: Shay.

If anyone would like to join the orchard WhatsApp group for more frequent communications, please let us know.

We are grateful to everyone who continues to support the orchard in any way they can - please see our website ([corstonorchard.co.uk](http://corstonorchard.co.uk)) for details of all our sponsors.

Hope to see you on the orchard soon,

Katharine  
Secretary, Corston Community Orchard