

**RHSO (Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard)**

**Meeting 4/12/2023 7.30pm**

**23 Rowney Gardens, Sawbridgeworth**

**Present:** Ruth and Eric Buckmaster, Adrienne Richardson, Colin Gill, Hazel Mead, Elizabeth Waugh, Nickie Hancock

Apologies: Robinne, Steve R, Geoff, Lanier

Purpose of Meeting: Update and Wassail Planning

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion/ decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Ruth welcomed everyone & we received apologies from Robinne, Lanier, Steve R and Geoff	
<b>Wassail</b>	We discussed the plan for Wassail and relevant actions were contained in the plan template	
<b>Maintenance update</b>	<p>Adrienne gave a comprehensive report covering July to December 2023 covering the plum pruning course outcome and plan to start restorative pruning next July.</p> <p>She explained about the good plum crop and the outcome as plum jam for sales and home consumption, she is in the process of analysing the pears to see which are good eaters/ cookers etc</p> <p>Grass has been cut over the whole site in mid September.</p> <p>She reported on the large ant hills and nests</p> <p>In November more membranes were removed</p> <p>It was recommended that we should not plant new apples in an old apple grid but other species would be fine</p> <p>In December apple pruning was started</p> <p>Barrie, Rob and Adrienne cut paths through the orchard regularly</p> <p>Finally, Adrienne reminded us all that we experienced a record amount of 'scrumping.</p> <p>Apple crop – Laxtons abundant, no coxes and few bramleys, plum yield good and pears prolific</p> <p>Elizabeth spoke of the Memorial book that is in the archives which may show trees that have been donated – she will explore</p> <p>After discussion we agreed that we need to record which trees have been heavily pruned so that we do not over prune</p> <p>We thanked Adrienne for all her work</p>	<b>Elizabeth</b>
<b>Finance Update</b>	<p>Hazel updated us on the accounts saying they were very healthy</p> <p>Matthew at Full of Beans is continuing to sell our juice</p>	<b>Hazel</b>

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion/ decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>We agreed to continue to sell the juice at £3 a bottle</p> <p>We agreed that hazel should claim for ink used</p> <p>We thanked Hazel for all her work</p>	
<b>Update on Trees</b>	<p>Colin explained that he had ordered the plum trees</p> <p>We had a discussion on the planting area and what could be prepared ahead of time. No dig gardening was discussed and Colin will talk to Geoff re how it might work at the orchard</p>	<b>Geoff &amp; Colin</b>
<b>AOB</b>	<p>We had a brief discussion on the <b>300 year celebration</b> and Elizabeth talked about parallel exhibitions. It was felt that a sub group should be formed after everyone had an opportunity to discuss – the initial meeting for that discussion was agreed for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024</p> <p><b>First Aid</b> – It was agreed that Adrienne should purchase 3 extra large jackets and 3 bum bags</p>	<p><b>All to hold date</b></p> <p><b>Adrienne</b></p>
	Next meeting Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January for 300 year celebration planning	