

Frieze Hill Community Orchard
Minutes of Steering Group meeting held 14th December 2006

Present: Mary, Margaret, Geraldine, Kate, Joyce, Caroline
Apologies: Roger, Linda, Ross

1. January planting

This will take place on Saturday 20th January, 10 am. MG providing refreshments. Announce in forthcoming newsletter and at wassail.

Mary has re-ordered replacement damsons. Plums and crab apples are on order. There will also be five 'personal' trees being planted. Suppliers are replacing the dead pear.

2. Orchard maintenance

If time and enough people on 20th, we'll cut down the brambles growing in the new hedge at the far end of the Orchard. Agreed that the couch grass around trees is a problem, especially when the weather is dry. Agreed we would use glyphosate 1m around each tree – Mary to obtain supplies.

Last year's wassail tree, a gage, is infected with coral fungus. A pear and a plum have suffered damage. Overall, the level of damage has been slight.

3. AGM 2007

Scheduled for Wednesday 28th March. Margaret to book tennis club for this date if possible.

Margaret to ask Robin & June if they can come and do their talk about apple varieties.

4. Wassail arrangements

SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY, 6PM

AGREED ALL TO BE ON SITE AT 4.30PM TO PREPARE.

Promotion

Margaret to invite new portfolio holder on the Council, local councillors, MP and Barbara. Margaret to produce newsletter/leaflet. Linda to be asked to mail to all members and produce plastic covered versions for local posters and notice board. Roger to be asked to promote to his usual contacts at local radio/TV.

Leaflet deliveries:

Joyce – Roughmoor Close, Brindle Close, Palmerston Road

Caroline – Home Cottages & terrace, Roughmoor Crescent, Tesco

Geraldine – Portland Road, French Weir Avenue & neighbouring streets, Chadni Chowk

Margaret – Elm Grove, The Avenue, Linden Grove, Birch Grove, Elms Close, Richmond Road, Granny Smiths, Library, Staplegrove Post Office, Gazette & Taunton Times, Robin & June's market stall

Linda – Staplegrove Road, Bindon Road, local posters

Refreshments

Margaret – mulled cider, juice, apples, plastic cups

Apple cakes – all to make at least one (recommended: roasting tin cake cut into squares)

Kate – cider

Agreed that this year, no one would be stuck in the tent serving refreshments. Gazebo to be organised so people can walk through and help themselves to cake. Mulled cider will need to be served but provided gas is turned off, should not be necessary to supervise during wassail ceremony.

Facilities

Ross – gazebo

Tony Trott – lights for gazebo

Mary & Linda – candle lights for path

Maurice and Tony (Mary to ask) – bonfire

Kate – rubbish bags

Entertainment

Amber (aged 6) – wassail queen

Roger – mummers & morris dancers

Margaret – word sheets for chant

Joyce (?) – see if fire throwers will turn up again

Risk assessment

Noted. Thanks to Roger for preparing. Agreed all present would act as marshals.

Maurice nominated fire manager. Kate & Mary will put buckets of water near fire site.

5. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 31st January, 7pm @ Joyce's (Note: I may have got this wrong – if so, will phone near the time – MG).