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From: Peter Cloke  
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Orchard Working Group

Date: 8 September 2020

**Pynes Community Orchard - Progress Report**

- 1 Work throughout the high summer has focused on watering during some longish periods without rain - we are grateful to all those who pitched in to help - removing an intrusive bramble patch on the edge of the putative social area, cutting perimeter and transverse paths and removing ragwort and dead timber.
- 2 Stuart Brooking has agreed to cut the grass now that the prime seeding season is ending. During the summer the long grass and vegetation have helped bees and butterflies to flourish.
- 3 Most of the new trees are surviving well and many are bearing some fruit - so good to see. A few will need ongoing TLC as a result of damage by Muntjac deer and other predators, but we are on the case.
- 4 The apple crop is not as heavy as last year but will need to be harvested over the next month or so. The difficulties with the commercial apple market mean that Andy Bragg does not wish to take the crop so there are probably three options that the Working Group will consider:
  - (i) Leave the crop on the ground for migrating birds in the winter
  - (ii) Advertising the crop for sale via Orchard Link
  - (iii) Inviting the Community to collect and take home the apples, making a donation to Orchard purchase funds
- 5 Of these options (i) was what actually happened after disappointing responses via Orchard Link. (iii) is attractive but the Working Group will need to finesse the arrangements needed to make this work in the context of the latest COVID 19 guidance on social distancing and the Church Commissioners' stipulation on no public access. I am confident this can be achieved and could become a community curtain raiser on the potential of this wonderful project, prior to our funding push.
- 6 On the legals - special thanks to David Howe for his exemplary work – we are nearly there.

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