**Nick Bradley From: Peter Cloke**

**Chair Ide Parish Council Chair Ide Community**

**Orchard Management Group**

 **Date: 7July 2022**

**Ide Community Orchard - Progress Report**

1. We were very busy in May and early June preparing for the Official opening of the Orchard on Jubilee Sunday June 5th. Perimeter and transverse paths were cut and the Orchard’s grass too. Gate installation and the fencing of the trees were completed and the picnic benches installed.
2. The opening was a memorable occasion and will stay in the hearts of the many villagers who were there. The event has been well reported in the Ide Times so I will not dwell on it here. Special credit goes to Mark Thomas who came up with the choreography of the day and ran the event superbly.
3. The Orchard has become very popular. It’s been wonderful to hear from individuals who hadn’t realised it was there, and for others who are enjoying walking their dogs or going for an evening sundowner with a few friends.
4. Rose’s provision of a seat in Alan Saunders’ memory, which we have installed near the trees she is sponsoring at the top of the Orchard, has brought pleasure to many people.
5. Councillors will have seen the new TOR for the Management Group which recognise that there are different things we need to do now the Orchard is ours. The membership of the group will be adapted to take account of our new responsibilities. Most members will continue apart from Trevor Gardner who has been a key strategic player with us over the last six years and whose advice, style and wisdom we shall miss.
6. One of the key issues for the group is to secure an income to cover the Orchard’s running costs for the year of which the key elements are grass cutting; hedge trimming etc and we will be discussing this at our next meeting.
7. The Orchard looks stunning at the moment with swathes of mature grasses and the established tress fruiting up well. The crop looks promising for our juicing and wassailing in the autumn.

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