

## Ide Community Orchard Report for Ide Parish Council.

It's been an emotional rollercoaster in the Orchard. Thanks to the practical and technological support of Clare and Jack Frost, we installed a nestbox with a camera onto a tree. Within a few days blue tits had moved in. They proceeded to make a nest and then eggs were laid. The news and pictures were shared with the village via the Ide Facebook page and the Ide Parish Council website.

Sadly, a fortnight after their first appearance, the blue tits disappeared. They've not been since the 25th April. We will leave the nest as it is on the off chance another bird will make it a home. We'll look to clear it out in the autumn.

We had a working party on April 14th. We got loads done - fixing the shed roof, deadheading the daffodils, cutting the grass around the tables and varnishing the tables. It was a really productive morning - thanks in no small way to James Romain and his practical expertise.

Brownen Tyrell has made a new sign for the entrance which we'll install on the weekend May 11th - along with two other signs - one to point users of the car park at the top towards the Orchard, the other to go on a post near the roundabout outside 'The Poachers'.

Work on getting a Kissing Gate and Information Boards has been slowed by the need to gather additional quotes. However, Mark and James met last month to plan the boards. We hope to have the Kissing Gate in place soon too.

The blossom looks magnificent and we've had some lovely comments about how uplifting it has been. We'll have a Blossom Brunch on May 19th which will be a time for people to come up and enjoy the orchard's beauty - with a bit of coffee and cake. We're also having a talk from the RSPB about birds of the Orchard. Proceeds from the morning will be shared with Ide Community Orchard and the RSPB.

Our next Management Group meeting will be May 9th. Any news from this can be added verbally at the Parish Council meeting.

END