

REPORT FROM THE IDE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT GROUP FOR IPC MEETING ON 19 JULY 2023

The Ide Community Orchard Management Group has met twice since the last Parish Council Meeting: once informally to reflect and pay tribute to Peter Cloke, and the second time in the Orchard on June 18th.

At the latter meeting it was agreed that Mark Thomas and Julian Perrett would become co-chairs, each serving for six months and Phil Willcock will continue to be Treasurer/Finance Officer.

We are in the process of drawing up a Management Strategy to work out how to best look after the cutting of the grass. It was cut in early June and may be cut again later in the year. James Romain (JR) will flail the paths (this will have happened before the PC meeting) which will clear them of cut grass.

On Saturday July 15th JR and some of the Group are planning to level the ground beneath the benches. We'll hold a working party the following weekend to get other villagers involved in spreading chippings beneath the tables and possibly give the tables a bit of protection with some Garden Furniture Oil. The Orchard will have been closed to visitors on the 15th to allow the digger to move around the Orchard safely.

On June 21st a low key Solstice event was held with around 30 people coming up to the Orchard to see the sun rise. It was a lovely occasion, which we may repeat next year. Lily Ballard sang and Frazer Kerslake played guitar to add to a memorable morning.

An Ide Apple Day is planned for Saturday October 21st.

Finally , the loss of Peter Cloke has been a big blow to the Orchard Management Group but we are determined to build on his hard work and enthusiasm with practical improvements and community engagement.

MT/ 07/23

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