

Fruit trees for Southwell

What is a community Orchard?

In 2008 Pauline Buttery, a community activist wrote that a community orchard is a collection of fruit trees growing on a modest plot and offering open and easy access to local people. We can enjoy the orchard in all seasons, watching the trees mature.

This land alongside the Riverside path is now owned by Southwell Town Council whose grounds staff help the community with a 'gentle' programme of maintenance. You could call it a partnership between Council and Community. We do not aim to create a formalised park; this is an orchard in a wildflower meadow.

Across the UK there are hundreds of Community Orchards set up by local people inspired by the organisation Common Ground. You can find informative leaflets in the Southwell Library, King Street.

Our apple trees were bought and planted in the Riverside Community Orchard in November 2008, by individuals, families and community groups. Later we added the crab apple, damsons and cherries. The fruit trees you see here are still young and vulnerable; please help us to look after them. We need sensible behaviour and a sense of responsibility so that this Community Orchard will be enjoyed for the next 100 years.

The trees are numbered as follows

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. John Downie crab apple | 2. Merryweather damson |
| 3. Merryweather damson | 4. Stella cherry |
| 5. Stella cherry | 6. James Grieve |
| 7. Ellison's Orange | 8. Cox's Orange Pippin |
| 9. Blenheim Orange | 10. Newton Wonder |
| 11. Crimson Bramley | 12. Yorkshire Greening |
| 13. Bess Pool | 14. Jupiter |
| 15. Worcester Pearmain | 16. Discovery |
| 17. Bramley | 18. Annie Elizabeth |

3 Sentinel Trees are all Bramleys

Next step

I am suggesting a range of apple trees for planting in further community orchards. These are all fairly local varieties, many of which are not common in the commercial orchards in the area. The inter fertility of the trees is not known - but details should be gained from the supplying nursery so that the blossom is fertilised to ensure that apples are grown.

Local varieties known to be available [from Marc Richmond] with dates variety first bred - all from around Southwell

<https://marcrichmond.weebly.com>

Adams Pearmain - (1826) – Late dessert apple. Handsome, rich, and nutty flavour. Highly ornamental.

Beeley Pippin - (1880 Derbys) Early eater. Dusky pink flush and russet. Rich aromatic flavour.

Bess Pool – (Chilwell, Notts) Late dual purpose, keeps until March. Flowers late so useful in frost pockets. Beautiful crimson flush, rich, crumbly flesh. Popular in Victorian times for decoration alone.

Court Pendu Plat – (17th century or earlier) Dessert apple. Claimed to have Roman origins. Known as 'wise apple' as it flowers late so misses frost – good to pair with Bess Pool. Rich fruit, pineapple like flavour. Makes a compact tree with good disease resistance.

Blenheim Orange – (c1740) Dual purpose. Highly esteemed apple, long held favourite of many. Often

described as having a addictive nutty taste. Quite sweet, crumbly texture. Good with cheese.

King of the Pippins (poss 1770's Europe – widely grown) Very versatile, can be used for eating and cooking – great for patisserie as keeps shape when cooked.

Also used for cider. Quite sweet, firm but with plenty of acidity. Upright tree - good for allotments.

Lord Lambourne (1907) – Dessert apple. Valued and reliable garden apple. Sweet juicy and crisp. September to November.

Nottingham Pippin (1815) – Dessert apple. Strong flavour of fruit, sweet, crisp, and juicy. Keeps until February.

Orleans Reinette (1776) Dual Purpose. Rich, nutty, aromatic flavour. Highly esteemed due to exceptional flavour. Keeps until January.

Ribston Pippin (1707) Parent of Cox's Orange Pippin. High vitamin C content. Intense, rich, aromatic flavour. Esteemed Victorian dessert apple. Keeps until January.

Rosemary Russett (1831) Intense, sweet, sharp flavour. Reliable. One of the best russets. Keeps until March.

Kingston Black [*not suggested for Community Orchard*] – (C19th) Highly prized cider apple makes strong single variety cider.

Rootstock

M9 – ideal for dwarf bushes, spindlbush, pyramid and cordon. Makes a tree of 6- 10 ft in height and spread, depending on the variety and soil. Quick to fruit.

M26 – Trees on this rootstock usually fruit within 3 – 4 years. Suitable for a wide variety of forms: bush, spindlbush, pyramid and cordons. Produces a tree of around 8 – 12 ft in height and spread.

MM106 - Suitable for espalliers and fans. Makes a half standard or bush tree of 12- 14 feet height and spread depending on variety, soil and location. Not suitable for wet soils.

M25 - For a standard tree of 20 - 25 ft height and spread.

Tree planting

Grafted 1 year old trees in 7 lt pots convenient to plant from September onwards. These can also be brought to Apple Day events.

Bare root trees (grown in the ground) available from December to late March.