

## Climate Emergency & Environment Working Group update December 2024

### Wellness and Sustainability Weekend Event:

For those unable to attend the Wellness and Sustainability Weekend Event on October 19th & 20th in partnership with Derry Hill and Studley Committee you missed something special. It was a smorgasbord of relaxing taster treats, interesting debates and speakers as well as a variety of stalls packed full of information on how to save energy and help the environment. The footfall was 106 not including all the exhibitors and we were disappointed considering all the pleasurable delights and learning opportunities on offer - but we did plant a large number of bulbs including snowdrops, 4 varieties of crocus, mixed varieties of daffodils, muscari and tulip bulbs - across the parish, some in Derry Hill and Studley and some in Calstone with the support of Doug Price. We look forward to the burst of colour peeping through the grass verges heralding the start of spring next year.

We propose that the event is now held bi-annually and for only one day. There could also be a larger presence of stalls selling eco gifts and possibly be held slightly later in the year to attract a higher footfall.

### Derry Hill & Studley Community Orchard:

As you may remember we were successful in our application to Wiltshire Council for a Coronation Living Heritage Grant of £2222.96 to purchase and plant 10 apple trees and 3 plum trees of different varieties.

We have to date signed up 20 volunteers to help with the project mainly from the 'Wellness & Sustainability' Event we put on in partnership with Derry Hill & Studley Committee.

The workshop on Establishing a Healthy Orchard and Orchards in the Wiltshire Landscape has been planned with the planting of the trees on Saturday 7th December and we are providing some soup & baguettes to keep everyone warm and are very much looking forward to getting the trees in the ground and establishing our own community orchard and to the various events that will follow.

However, we are likely to go slightly over budget due to the additional costs of delivery of trees to get them here on time for planting and forgetting to add hiring of hall costs so cordially ask full council to agree a further £250 budget to complete this part of the project.

We have also discovered since ordering the trees that the nursery is now supplying tree tags <https://www.ashridgetrees.co.uk/p/gardening-gifts/tree-name-tag> which we feel would enhance the orchard and allow people to understand more about the species of trees we have ordered which include cider making varieties, eating and dessert apples as well as local varieties.

Finally, we are planning a **Wassail Night on Sunday 5th January**. This again will be in partnership with Derry Hill & Studley Committee.

What is wassailing? The purpose is to encourage the spirits into ensuring a good harvest the following season. It takes place on the twelfth night after Christmas and involves a visit to a nearby orchard for singing, dancing, drinking and general merrymaking.

### Approximate timings and plan for the day:

2pm assembly at Church, create crowns for children with materials purchased from the scrap store and provide refreshments of tea, coffee and cake

2:30pm - Christmas tree lights are officially turned off with singing of 'O Christmas Tree'

2:45pm - Chippenham Morris Men perform Shooting Dance and lead procession to Community Orchard in Studley Gardens.

3:00pm - Peter Prater as Master of Ceremonies to explain Wassail tradition to attendees.

3:15pm - members of the public to then sing wassail song, put toast on tree(s), sprinkle cider round trees, bash saucepans and then final wassail song and dancing.

3:45pm - Everyone has a drink of 'Lamb's Wool' (wassail traditional drink) or spiced apple juice.

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4:00 / 4:30pm - Finish.

People will be encouraged to bring: Funny hat to decorate, saucepan and wooden spoon, mug and piece of toast.

Derry Hill & Studley Committee are providing tables, gazebo and infrastructure needed at Orchard plus Lamb's Wool drink.

Richard Aylen is to coordinate Chippenham Morris Men who are waving their regular fee for a hearty Lamb's Wool drink!

CWPC to provide scrap store materials to make crowns with families and cakes, teas, coffees & spiced apple juice at the Church & Orchard.

We need support from FC for people to support people crossing the road and people at Church and Community Orchard to meet and greet. We believe a budget of £100 should be sufficient for this event.

It is believed this community orchard and related activities can be good for CWPC councillors to meet with the local residents and establish a strong community minded and fun presence in times to come.

Recommendation; that the Council resolve to agree the increase in budget and approve the Wassail Night Event and attached budget on Sunday 5th January 2025. Volunteers for the event to contact Sue Deedigan. Thank you.

Total budget required £350.

Any monies not spent could be kept on account for future events at the Community Orchard project.

Cllr Sue Deedigan