



Steyning Community Orchard

Newsletter. Sept 2021

...In this Newsletter...

Apple Juicing in the Orchard. Sun 26th Sept.

Farmer's Market on Sat 2nd Oct

Juicing at the Festival - report

Fascinating Fungi

Thinking of planting a new fruit tree?

Take a look at our website

Future events

**Family Apple Juicing in the Orchard
On Sunday 26th September 11am-4pm**

At the Steyning Community Orchard on the Memorial Playing Field (Cricket Field).

We'll have both sets of our apple juicing kit there, so we can process lots of apples.

Bring your washed apples and bottles and (for a small donation) we'll help you juice them into delicious apple juice. If you need extra bottles, we have 500ml PET bottles at 50p ea.

Not got any apples? If the children help us press ours, we'll 'pay' them in apple juice!.

(NOTE. This is not our usual Apple Day. We are just juicing apples, so no refreshments or music etc. Sorry!)



We'll be at the
Steyping Farmers Market on Sat 2nd October. 9am-1pm

We'll be selling our own freshly pressed bottled Apple Juice, and Greetings Cards featuring 5 of the Sussex apples growing in the Community Orchard. We sold out of both of these at the last farmer's market we attended, so don't be late!

Apple Juicing at Steyping Festival

We took part in Steyning Festival's Community Day in early September. Despite our fears that the apple season was so late that nobody would have any apples, we were kept busy all day. Great to see so many families, who now know what fresh apple juice tastes like, and how it is made. Everyone loves it!



Fascinating Fungi Fun at the Family Festival

OK a few contrived alliterations, but it was fun at the festival and

fungi are fascinating.

Richard Fortey (pictured here) was a speaker at the Steyning Festival talking about his life as a palaeontologist, natural historian, writer and television presenter, but among his many skills he is also a fungi expert. Malcolm Donaldson (a long-time friend and fellow mycologist) and he were doing fungi identifications on the Sunday of the festival.

With the help of several glasses of beer, identifications were made as follows.

- In Richard's right hand is a bit of the fungus (main picture) on the logs in our Downland Orchard on the Steyning Downland Scheme. It is a bracket fungus known as Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*).
- In his left hand, looking like a piece of dead bark, is another bracket fungus called *Ischnoderma*. This one was from an old apple tree in our main Orchard on the the Memorial Playing Field.





Fancy a Fruit Tree?

Late Autumn through to early Spring is the perfect time to plan a fruit tree. If the growing tree is in a pot, then best to plant it in the ground before December when the soil is not waterlogged or too cold, but if ordered from a fruit tree nursery they are mostly delivered as bare rooted trees in the dormant season, so these are planted in late November to late March

We mostly order our new trees from a specialist fruit tree nursery in Kent. They only sell bare rooted trees. In our experience these establish quicker than pot-grown trees.

If you've been thinking about getting a tree, but not sure what to get or where to get it from - we can help.

Go to this website <https://www.keepers-nursery.co.uk/> and see if anything takes your fancy. Then email us on steyningorchard@gmail.com with the details, including variety, age of tree and rootstock, and we'll do the rest. You just pay us the price shown on their website. We'll deliver free to you if you are within a few miles of Steyning.

As a guide, 1yr maiden trees will take 2 yrs to give you fruit, and will require some formative pruning in the first year, but are cheaper.

2 yr old trees will be quicker to fruit, have been pruned by the nursery, but are more expensive.

Apple Rootstocks. MM106 or M26 are the usual semi-dwarfing garden size trees. M27 and M9 are dwarfing rootstocks and are ideal for step-over or patio pot-grown trees

'Summer' in the Orchard

A cold Spring with with frosty nights right up to mid May, gales in early and late May, a spell of hot weather followed by rain, a mainly dull August and finally late summer heat in September has, not surprisingly, confused our fruit trees. Those trees that did manage to avoid the late frosts and find insects to pollinate their fruit were then subjected to aphid attacks and leaf blights, followed by much of the cherry plum and plum crop rotting on the branch. But the later apple and pear crops did better with the warmer

September weather rapidly ripening the fruit that remained. So we had a reasonable crop in the end.



Community Orchard Website

We've recently refreshed and updated our Orchard webpage. It describes all our Orchards and has up to date lists and descriptions of all the fruit trees we have planted. Do take a look.

[Click here to go to our WebSite](#)



Events for 2021/22

- **Sunday 26th September.** Juicing session in the Community Orchard. 11am-4pm
 - **Saturday 2nd October.** We will have a stall at Steyning Farmer's Market
 - **Saturday 22nd January 2022** Our annual Wassail ceremony in the Orchard then the Cricket Club.. More on that next time.
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The next Newsletter is due to be published in November 2021

Any comments, suggestions, feedback, please email us on :-

steyningorchard@gmail.com



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