

## mapping england's orchards

Welcome to the autumn newsletter from the orchard project.

We have recruited lots of new volunteers recently through adverts placed on the internet and we now have over 200 people out surveying orchards in their local areas.

Apple Day is upon us again and details of local events can be found on the Common Ground website <http://www.commonground.org.uk/appleday/a-events.html>.



There are still thousands of orchards to survey so your help is still needed!

Many thanks and best wishes for a happy apple day

Anita Burrough

### new addition to the orchard team

We have recently appointed former PTES volunteer Steve Oram as our Orchard Mapping Officer. Since completing the aerial photography analysis, he has begun collating the orchard data we have been given from other groups and organisations and is digitising orchard boundaries in 4 counties.



Steve has also left the comfort of the office in Battersea and has been out surveying orchards in his home county of Kent. He was part of the team who discovered the noble chafer in Kent in September.

### natural england news

Natural England have just produced a series of highly informative Technical Information Notes (TINs) on orchard management. As well as Agri-environment scheme advisors and those people entering such schemes, the TINs are also aimed at anyone else involved or interested in orchards and their management. Also available is an illustrated guide on orchard management, which is designed to give a basic introduction to the kinds of features that are important within a traditional orchard, and how they should be managed.

This guide and the TINs should be available shortly to download for free from the Natural England website <http://naturalengland.twoten.com/NaturalEnglandShop/>

### another exciting discovery!



Following our discovery of noble chafer in the Weston's cider orchards, an even more exciting discovery was made in September which, this time, was in Kent. The orchard project team, were carrying out some surveys in Kent and in the last orchard of the day discovered the characteristic droppings of the noble chafer larvae in several old plum trees. This is a fantastic discovery as the beetle hasn't been seen in Kent for over 60 years.



These discoveries are highlighting the success of this project and we are always keen to recruit more volunteers to help with the survey work or to hear from people who own an orchard. If you would like further details of the traditional orchard survey or the noble chafer beetle, please contact Anita by e mailing [anita@ptes.org](mailto:anita@ptes.org) or calling 020 7498 4533.

### traditional orchard habitat action plan

At the end of August Traditional Orchards were finally declared a UK Priority Habitat by DEFRA. I was invited to attend the press launch which was attended by Joan Ruddock - the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State who's responsibilities include biodiversity, climate change, and recycling.

Several counties including Herefordshire, Kent and Worcestershire already have local habitat action plans for old or traditional orchards and the key partner organisations are already working towards conserving and raising awareness of orchards in their local area.

### volunteer participation

Since the last newsletter we have been inundated with survey forms from orchards across the 8 counties. We are really pleased with the time and effort the volunteers have invested.

Special thanks must go to our star volunteers Richard Sutton (who has surveyed over 70 orchards in Cumbria) and Colin Willers (who has spent the last few months scouring aerial photographs for traditional orchards in Cumbria).

If you are taking part in the survey please can you send your completed survey forms as soon as possible as we are keen to get your results entered onto our database and to assign additional sites to you all.

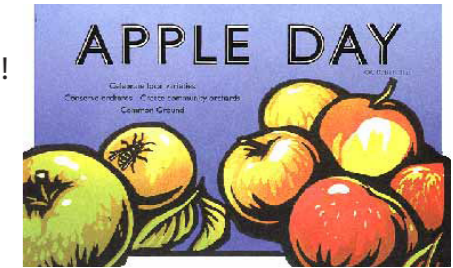
**If you have been unable to complete the survey or no longer want to participate then please let me know so that I can assign your sites to other volunteers.**



The PTES Traditional Orchard Survey will provide an excellent set of baseline of data upon which the Action Plan can be based.

### happy apple day!

Apple day is upon us again! Common Ground initiated Apple Day on October 21 1990 as a way to celebrate local distinctiveness. Since then Apple Day has been celebrated nationwide with imaginative events taking place around this time. Celebrate apple day yourself by attending a local event or by making the recipe below!



#### Sauteed Apples with Cider Brandy (Serves 6 as a garnish)

- 1 1/2 dessert apples – choose a variety which will hold its shape, has a slightly sharp flavour and a well coloured skin. (Try Blenheim Orange, Lord Lambourne, Spartan or Cox)
- 12g (1/2 oz ) butter
- 1tblsp Cider Brandy (for non-alcoholic option use a good quality medium dry apple juice, eg. Cox)

Prepare the apples immediately before cooking. Cut the unpeeled apples into quarters, remove the core and then slice each quarter into 3 equal segments. Melt the butter in a heavy-based frying pan. Add the apple slices and cook, turning occasionally, until golden brown and tender, but not too soft. Place the apples on individual plates or a serving dish as a garnish to pork, ham, feathered game etc. Pour the Cider Brandy (or apple juice) into the pan to deglaze it. Allow to bubble very briefly while you scrape the bottom of the pan to thicken it slightly. Pour over the apple slices.

To turn this into a pudding: increase the quantities, allowing 1 apple per person and multiplying the other ingredients by 4. Add a little soft dark sugar to taste with the liquid of your choice when you deglaze the pan. Serve with good vanilla ice cream or Greek yoghurt.

### What's Next...

Training day to take place at Mullerton Farm near Cullompton, Devon on November 10th.

We will be appointing a new office volunteer to help enter all of the data that we have received from both orchard owners and volunteers

We will continue to digitise the data that has been received so far.