

October 2017

Welcome to our monthly bulletin. We aim to bring you the latest news from our 3-year Heritage Lottery funded project in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.



Michael Clark, Volunteer Warden of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife trust's Tewin Orchard, leading a guided walk around the orchard at the Hertfordshire launch.

Orchards East gets going in Hertfordshire!

September 09th saw the launch of Orchards East in Hertfordshire, with almost forty people enjoying a morning of talks followed by a guided tour of Herts and Middlesex Willdlife Trust's orchard at Tewin.

The presentations covered everything from 'what is an orchard?' to 'Pick and click; mapping historic orchards', as well as explaining more about the project and how to get involved.

After a quick lunch and some delicious tastings including apple juice from Tewin and Tring orchards' (both were delicious!) everyone

was treated to a guided tour of Tewin Orchard led by Michael Clark, Volunteer Warden, author and apple expert.

Even a heavy downpour of rain, just as everyone set off for the orchard, didn't dampen the enthusiasm and the day ended with lots of people signing up to volunteer and get involved in local parish orchard surveys and historic research.

Thanks go to all the speakers and helpers on the day and we now look forward to the upcoming county launches in Norfolk and Bedfordshire in November and Cambridgeshire and Essex in the New Year.



Tewin Orchard is also a Nature Reserve with a wide variety of wildlife, including badgers, bats and a number of bee species. Planted over 70 years ago by William Stenning Hopkyns, no chemical pesticides have been used for the last 40 years. The orchard has over 100 varieties of apples, pears and plums including Laxton's Fortune, Newton Wonder, and the extremely rare Hitchin Pippin.

Join us for the Orchard East launches in Norfolk and Bedfordshire!

4th November 10 am - 3 pm *Norfolk launch at the Green Britain Centre, Swaffham PE37 7HT*11th November 10 am - 3 pm *Bedfordshire launch at the Fairfield Park Community Hall,*Fairfield, Hitchin SG5 4GY

Each day will feature a morning of exciting presentations, followed by a tour of the nearby orchard.

These are free events - everyone is very welcome! Come along and find out more about the project and how to get involved.

Please book by emailing Gen Broad at g.broad@uea.ac.uk

Download the Norfolk launch programme

Download the Bedfordshire launch programme

We've been busy joining Apple Day events across the region. Bob Lever, Peter Laws and Anna Baldwin identified apples and pears at English Heritage's Audley End House Apple Festival in Essex on 23rd and 24th Sep, while Monica Askay gave tastings of traditional delicacies such as fruit leathers.

On the following Sunday, we were at the National Trust's Blickling Hall Apple Day in Norfolk. Although it was rather damp and windy, Monica Askay identified fruit for a number of hardy visitors.

On 8th October, Paul Read identified fruit varieties, Roger Fouracre led orchard tours and Monica gave popular tastings of fruit flavoured gins at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Foxburrow Farm near Woodbridge.

Rachel Savage (Project Manager) and Gen Broad (Survey Coordinator) joined the teams to talk to visitors about the Orchards East project at these events and at the Tewin Orchard Apple Day in Hertfordshire on 8th Oct.

Don't miss the Apple Days coming up!







Orchards East at apple day events. *Above* - Bob, Anna and Peter at Audley End House, Essex; *bottom left* a small display at Blickling Hall, Norfolk; *bottom right* Monica providing fruit leathers and fruit flavoured gin at Audley End House.



Apple Day Events

14th Oct Eye Goes Green Autumn Fair, Suffolk

14th Oct Burwash Manor, Barton, Cambs

15th Oct SWT Redgrave & Lopham Fen Suffolk

15th Oct Gressenhall Apple Day, Norfolk

15th Oct Bromham Mill Apple Day, Beds





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