

The Wreningham Diamond Jubilee Community Orchard

The Wreningham Diamond Jubilee Community Orchard has been planted in a location near the village and local people are now being encouraged to get involved to help maintain it for everyone's benefit.

The Community Orchard Group first met on 20 January 2011, following a suggestion from the Parish Council's Parish Plan. The group, comprising Ian Dobson, Jill Maidment, Val Keel and Nicky Morris, worked throughout last year to find a suitable location and the Wreningham Community Orchard is now planted at High House Farm, on Wymondham Road, courtesy of the Lucchetti family.

No recoverable orchards were found within the Parish, and attention turned to finding land on which a new orchard could be established, ideally central to the village community, with easy and free access, parking, plus access to water.

The first idea was planting an orchard in the new graveyard at All Saints Church and near its car park. After initial positive feedback, the Parochial Church Council did not give permission for the plan.

The second idea was to plant the 14 trees in a small section of the village Playing Field. The Parish Council gave its approval to the plan, which was supported by the Playing Field Project and the School, only to withdraw it following some village objections to this location.

By this time the trees, Norfolk apple varieties, had already been delivered, for planting during National Tree Week, and the Orchard Group then took up a kind earlier offer to use the Lucchettis back garden. It is ideal in all respects except not being close to the village centre.

We now aim to build a good working relationship with the Lucchettis and are looking for local people to lend an occasional helping hand to maintain the orchard. Being on private land our written agreement with the Lucchettis requests prior permission is obtained before a visit.

Ring Ian if you want to get involved or to view the Wreningham Diamond Jubilee Community Orchard, on 01508 489725.