

BECKLEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8TH APRIL 2019

- 1. THE ORCHARD IS NOW FULLY PLANTED AND OUR PRIME AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF THE TREES ARE NUTURED AND PROTECTED .**

- 2. TO THIS AIM OUR MONTHLY WORKING PARTIES HAVE FOCUSED ON WEEDING AROUND THE TREES AND REPLACING THE ORGINAL GUARDS TO ENABLE US TO HAVE EASIER ACCESS.**

- 3. WE CONTINUE TO MOW THE GRASS, BUT WE ARE CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WILD FLOWERS ARE PROTECTED. I MUST STATE THAT WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO JOHN OVENS WHO HAS SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND USED HIS OWN MACHINERY TO KEEP THE GRASS DOWN. MANY THANKS JOHN.**

- 4. OUR BEES HAVE ENDURED A CHALLENGING YEAR WITH BAD WEATHER WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAS MEANT VERY LITTLE HONEY (THEY NEED IT THEMSELVES TO FEED DURING THE WINTER) AND WE WERE UNABLE TO DISTRIBUTE 'FREE' HONEY TO MEMBERS.**

- 5. IF YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT THE ORCHARD YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAGNIFICENT 'ORCHARD PLANS' WHICH HAVE BEEN PRODUCED AND FRAMED. THESE WORKS OF ART HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY JOHN FISHER AND JULIE ROSS TO WHOM WE OFFER OUR SINCERE THANKS.**

- 6. THANKS ALSO TO JOHN FISHER, OUR INHOUSE CARPENTER/JOINER, FOR ALSO MAKING TABLES AND OTHER FIXTURES FOR THE SHELTER**

WHICH HAS BEEN RECENTLY FRESHLY CREOSOTED BY A NUMBER OF THE TRUSTEES.

- 7. A NUMBER OF BIRD BOXES AND ONE OWL BOX HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AND WE ARE WAITING HOPEFULLY FOR OUR FIRST RESIDENTS.**
- 8. A WASSAIL WAS HELD IN JANUARY WHEN MEMBERS GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL DURING WHICH A GROUP WALKED THE ORCHARD BANGING SAUCEPAN LIDS TO SCARE OFF ANY EVIL SPIRITS WHICH MAY WISH TO ATTACK OUR TREES. THANKS BE TO ALL WHOM ATTENDED.**
- 9. WE HAVE BOOKED A SPACE TO ATTEND THIS YEARS OTMOOR CHALLENGE ON THE 8TH JUNE IN ORDER THAT WE CAN PUBLICISE OUR ORCHARD. WE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOU THERE.**
- 10. A NUMBER OF VILLAGERS HAVE TOLD ME THAT ONE OF THE JOYS IS TO VISIT THE ORCHARD WHERE IT IS QUIET AND TO SIT AND ENJOY THEIR SURROUNDINGS. IN THESE TROUBLESOME TIMES PERHAPS MORE OF US MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FACILITY?**
- 11. MAY I EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US SINCE THE ORCHARD'S INCEPTION. IT HAS BEEN, ON OCCASION, HARD WORK BUT WORTH WHILE.**
- 12. FINALLY A BIG THANK YOU TO AIMEE FOR MAKING THIS VENUE AVAILABLE ON 'HER NIGHT OFF!.**

**COLIN DAY
CHAIRMAN
8TH APRIL 2019**