

## Notes from the Orchard volunteers meeting - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### In attendance:

Mike Robson, Angie Evans, Tom Martin, Emma Kay, Sandy Aitken, Jason Wyatt, Jane Bucknall.

There was a pruning workshop in March 2015, and the trees were all pruned. It was noted then that the species of all the fruit trees could not be verified. The fruit collected this year raised certain doubts, especially the 'Victoria plums'

Mike has been grass cutting and strimming back the weeds for this year, but that is not sustainable year on year.

Discussions took place regarding the best covering for the area around the base of the trees:

- Membrane
- Soil
- Manure (possibly from Blue Cross) **ACTION:** Jane to contact
- Bark chips

A list of jobs was agreed for the next 6 months and /or for a volunteer day in March:

1. Clear, protect and feed the area around the base of the trees
2. Clear an area along the fence at the bottom end of the orchard, to be a raspberry bed
3. Develop the compost areas
4. Acquire bird and bat boxes, and put up before spring
5. Hedge cut Nov by contractor

Dates for next meeting and working day(s) will be agreed ahead of the next Rollestonian Publication. The working day to be planned for March, avoiding clash with other activities.

In the future the vision for the orchard is wildflower areas, soft fruit bushes, some nettle beds on the bank, develop the hedge with saplings, suppress weeds, bird boxes, bulbs, recipes in the Rollestonian / Starbucks at harvest times for the use of the fruit.

The group will meet again in early March ahead of the first volunteer's day.