

BISHOPTHORPE IN BLOSSOM

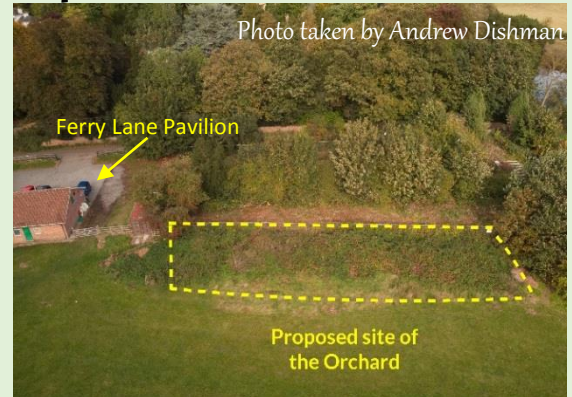
Orchard Project goes ahead!

November 2018

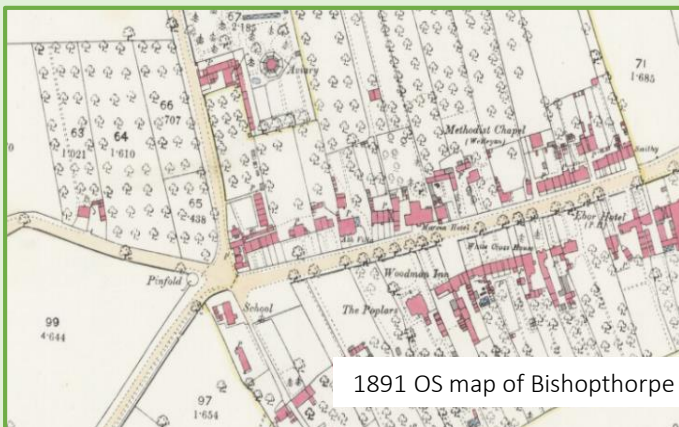
Bishopthorpe Parish Council has secured Heritage Lottery funding, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players. The project is being run by local volunteers and we need your help to make it happen!

A community orchard for Bishopthorpe

A derelict piece of land on the edge of the Ferry Lane playing field will be transformed into a community orchard. Now full of weeds and rubbish, it will become a place for everyone to enjoy. About ten trees will be planted in autumn 2019. Later on, more trees grafted from old trees in the village will be added. Bishopthorpe Playgroup is enthusiastic about having an orchard on their doorstep which they can help to plant and use for Forest Schools.



Our rich orchard heritage



Did you know that Bishopthorpe was once a village of orchards and market gardens, supplying York and beyond? Most have been built on, but fortunately many old fruit trees survive. There is still a beautiful display of blossom in the spring and a bountiful harvest in the autumn. The project will research the history of Bishopthorpe's orchards and people's memories of them, and capture this information in a booklet.

We are a group of local volunteers helping the Parish Council to run this project: Morwenna Christian, Helen Bickley, Jenny Lever, Angela De Muynck, Diana Forrester, Liz Brown and Parish Councillor Carole Green. We have the support and involvement of Bishopthorpe Playgroup, Brunswick Organic Nursery, Bishopthorpe Local History Group, White Rose Football Club and the Scouts.

How to contact us:

Email bishorchard@yahoo.com, phone Morwenna Christian on 07563 798408 or talk to any of the project team. You can also register your interest at Bishopthorpe Library, and we will be in touch.

Funding raised by
The National Lottery
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Ask the experts

Tony Chalcraft and Jane Thurlow, York fruit tree specialists, are the project's expert advisers. They will be providing advice on the new orchard and the care of fruit trees, and running training events. They are also helping identify some of the apple and pear varieties found in the village.

Make your own apple juice!

The annual village apple pressing event is always a great success. At next year's event we will have our own village apple press which can be loaned out to groups for their own juice making.

How you can get involved

Talk to us - if you are lucky enough to own an old fruit tree, we would love to know about it!

Memories - do you remember any of the old orchards and market gardens, or have any photographs? Is there anything about fruit trees in your house deeds? If you have any information, we would love to know.

Practical work – can you help in the new orchard or with fruit tree surveys? Can you help to research the history of orchards in the village?

Learn - come to training events and learn how to maintain your old fruit trees for future generations to enjoy.

Did you know...?

Wherever five fruit trees are within 25 metres of each other, they are classed as an orchard.

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Fruit tree surveys

We are contributing to the national orchard survey by documenting the trees and looking for signs of the rare Noble Chafer beetle which only lives on dead wood in old fruit trees. Surveys started this autumn and we have already looked at over 30 trees!



Dates for the diary

Monday 26 November 2018, Vernon House

8pm: Doors open at 7.30pm.

'Meet the experts' - Talk by Tony Chalcraft and Jane Thurlow. Learn more about the project, hear from the experts about the care of fruit trees, and sample different varieties of apples to help choose what to plant in the new orchard.

Saturday 12 January 2019 2pm – 4pm TBC

Saturday 16 February 2019 2pm – 4pm TBC

Practical fruit tree pruning events in the village, run by the experts. Booking required on 07563 798408 (Weather dependant.)

Saturday 26 January 2019 2pm – 4pm

Rubbish removal and litter picking on the new orchard site.

More information about these events will appear on Bishopthorpe.net, Bishopthorpe Community Facebook page and posters in the village.