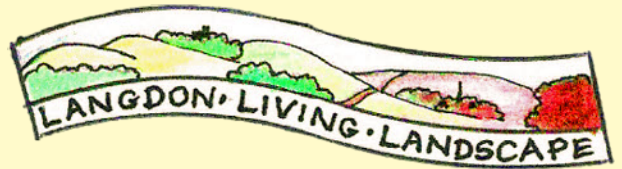


A Community Orchard for Dry Street ?



What is a Community Orchard ?

An orchard is a collection of fruit and, sometimes, nut trees often planted among grass full of wild flowers. Just as traditional orchards were often the centre of village life and a cornerstone of the rural economy, community orchards are excellent places for people to come together to plant and cultivate local and unusual varieties of fruit trees and to use as the focal point for community activities

A similar orchard to the one already established last winter at Holy Trinity Church (Lee Chapel North - visible from Laindon Link) could be set up here at Dry Street.

It would occupy a piece of land owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT), where already a few older fruit trees already exist.

The proposed location is close to the junction of Dry Street and One Tree Hill, known previously as "Schemers' Corner". To the right of the picture is Brook Cottage and the entrance to the Bridleway. On the left you can clearly see the picket fence which bordered "Providence Cottage".



The plan would be to nurture those old trees, and clear sufficient ground for the planting of new trees, thereby ensuring long-term continuity.

One aim would be to maximise biodiversity – which would mean the use of some traditional Essex and East of England apple varieties, thus helping to prevent their extinction. Similarly, a place for local wildlife would be secured.

However, it can only happen if a team of volunteers is set up to get things going, and thereafter maintain the site. The Essex Wildlife Trust would retain ownership of the site, and it would operate under the auspices of the Langdon Living Landscape.



The Holy Trinity orchard was planted in March 2013 by a substantial team of volunteers, brought together by Father Dominic Howarth. The Langdon Living Landscape was involved, helping to secure a supply of trees with the help of the Essex Biodiversity Project, which funded the purchase of stock from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project.

Some precious, delicious and little-known apple varieties, which evolved here in eastern England, have thus been assured a renewed lease of life, amid a community project which has brought a lot of people together in an impressive long-term cause. Other fruit trees have been planted as well (so far, half a dozen pear trees).

Such a project in Dry Street would help reinforce the special identity of this unique corner of Basildon Borough. We all know there are pressures to develop the Dry Street pastures. Establishing a focal point for the existing Dry Street community may well help demonstrate to The Powers That Be that communities should not and cannot be ridden over roughshod.

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER ?



If you think this is a good idea, and would like to be involved, please get in touch.

A local meeting of potential volunteers will then be set up, if there is sufficient interest in the project.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Orchard Project for Dry Street please ring Dr.Rod Cole on 01268 553149 or email him at rod@jencole.plus.com.

Alternatively, drop this slip into the letter boxes at either Bay Tree Cottage (Margaret & Ken Gray) or Hillcroft (Linda and Geoff Williams) in Dry Street.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____



email 

Langdon Living Landscape

Langdon Living Landscape Committee is an autonomous group set up under the auspices of the Essex Wildlife Trust to look at the whole of the Langdon ridge from Dunton through to Basildon Golf Course and beyond. It has projects already underway including reclaiming local ponds, monitoring dormouse habitat and recording diminishing species on the hills. For more information about the Langdon Living Landscape please contact the chairman, Rod Cole, on 01268 553149 or e-mail at rod@jencole.plus.com