

Community Orchards for Central Warwickshire

Would you like a community orchard in your village?

We are currently developing a business plan and full application to the Central Warwickshire Villages LEADER programme and we are looking for villages or parishes who would like us to help them establish an orchard for their community.

There are many good reasons to establish a community orchard. A community orchard can potentially leave a lasting legacy for your village or parish and provide a meeting place for community members many years into the future. Establishing and sharing produce from orchards can provide many opportunities for community members to undertake a range of activities together from caring for trees through to harvesting and processing produce.

What will we do?

We are planning to establish at least 10 orchards in the area over the next two years and our expertise and funding will help you to:

- 1) Plan and design an orchard using our expertise to help you define the type of orchard you would like including the types and varieties of fruit. Our funding will pay to prepare the orchard and buy the trees.
- 2) Make a management plan for the orchard. Our funding will include money for training for orchard care and practice (planting, pruning, maintenance) and to buy equipment to start you off
- 3) Establishment a community around the orchard. Our funding will pay to help you start running social events and establish your group.

The project will also aim to draw out Warwickshire related themes. For instance we will look for fruit varieties like the Warwickshire drooper that would have been expected to be grown in the area and we will look for Warwickshire fruit recipes which can be promoted as part of the social theme. We would hope to develop ties with local tree nurseries to supply relevant planting material and for other services like fencing or hedging. We will seek to have a general open day for orchard groups to meet and swap ideas.

Who are we?

The core group are a partnership of like minded organisations who have had previous relevant experience in delivering similar community projects including South Warwickshire Local Food CIC, Canalside Community Food CSA, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, and Garden Organic

Contact us?

If you are interested in establishing an orchard in your community and want help to do it please get in touch and contact **Gareth** on email at g_davies@talk21.com or by phone on **01926 883161**.

Alternatively for more general details of the LEADER programme and how this project fits in please contact Jen at jroskilly@gardenorganic.org.uk or 024 7630 8219