**Jubilee Orchard – 2016 summary and 2017 plans**

I hope many of you visited and enjoyed our Jubilee Orchard last year.

All the new trees we planted have survived and seem to be doing well.

The trees we moved to the Jinnie Trail also seem to have survived the trauma.

The daffodil bulbs flowered in the spring. I am aware some of you have planted more bulbs, such as snowdrops, which we should see this spring.

The membrane and mulch around each tree is working and has inhibited weed growth.

The sweet peas and raspberries along the fence mostly survived, the sweet peas flowered for months although the raspberries struggled.

The rhubarbs have all developed and should be established enough to crop this year.

The gooseberry, jostaberry, red currant and black currant bushes all survived and we had a crop of gooseberries -well enough for one fool (pun intended!). I suggest we plant more soft fruit bushes this year.

The mint, chives, parsley and rosemary have also grown well. I suggest we develop the herb garden idea in more beds this year.

Several of the bird boxes were inhabited by great tits but two were raided by a squirrel or magpie. We need to replace these this year with bird boxes with metal hole protectors.

There was a reasonable crop of pears and apples on most of these trees

A few cherries appeared, but then disappeared very quickly. I ate two; the birds had the rest I think.

The remaining Pershore Plum trees showed no fruit and look a bit sorry for themselves.

The donated hawthorn whips were planted in the gaps in the hedge, and the hedge seems to be filling out slowly. PC contractor John Deacon, as well as helping on work days, gives the hedge an annual trim.

The grass cutting has been moved to the PC contractor Phil Gould, who has done several cuts, and this seems to be inhibiting the curse of the nettles and docks.

**Targets for 2017. - Can you help?**

Help to create at least two more beds for herbs and soft fruit bushes (see 2017 map)

Donate bird boxes with metal hole protection.

Donate a bat box

Donate herbs (seeds or plants)

Donate gooseberry, red, black currant bushes

Consider best use of the bank side

Share other ideas and best practice.

Volunteers and donations are welcome via Mike Robson or any other Parish Councillor.

Maps (latest Jan 2017) and further information can be found in the ‘(other local) Amenities’ section of the village website.