

Welcome to  
**CHURCHDOWN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY  
ORCHARD**  
at Churchdown Park

of mostly Gloucestershire varieties of apple, perry pear and plum, some very rare.  
Bottom left of the park (between the allotments and nature reserve).

**Churchdown Parish Council & Tewkesbury Borough Council initiative**



Young Perry Pears at Churchdown Community Orchard  
(Photo by Ann Smith)

The orchard has been planted over several years, starting in December 2003.

Funding: Churchdown Parish Council & Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucestershire Orchard Trust, Severn Trent Water (Community Recovery Fund) and the Tree Council.

Planted by Tree Wardens Ann Smith, Sheila Nicholls (sadly deceased), Stuart Smith and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Maintained organically as a wildlife habitat.

Habitat features include log pile, some areas of long grass. Rides are mown throughout the growing season, with some areas mown only several times a year, to benefit wildflowers. Berried shrubs encourage birds (wild rose, cotoneaster & pyracantha). Some bramble is left for wildlife.

#### Fruit Harvest

Fruit is already used in a variety of ways, but the public are very welcome to come in and pick, taste and use. Juice and perry is made each year and some fruit has been given to a church charity at a

harvest festival. Local schoolchildren pick apples for juicing. Please contact the Parish Council Office on G. 713528 for more information. We hope to open the orchard on a number of occasions throughout the year or anytime if anyone would like a specific visit, especially around National Apple Day (21 October).

Traditional orchards of heritage varieties are becoming increasingly rare and the Parish Council is delighted to have created this Community Orchard, which has now been logged on national databases by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species and Gloucestershire Orchard Trust.

**Please take care as the ground is uneven. Enjoy the blossom and fruit!**

## Perry Pears

**Moorcroft Perry Pear** (synonym Malvern Hills & Stinking Bishop) County fruit researcher and cheesemaker Charles Martell uses his perry to make Stinking Bishop cheese, famous in Wallace & Gromit!

**Blakeney Red Perry Pear** – for perry, stewing, jam and dyeing soldiers' khaki uniforms.

**Jenkins Red Perry Pear** – rare.

## Plums



Photos by Walcot Organic Nursery

**Pershore Yellow Egg Plum** (left image) – culinary. Good disease resistance. Self-fertile.

**Blaisdon Red Plum** (right image) – excellent for jam (historic significance), culinary, wine & liqueur-making. Good resistance to silver leaf disease. Self-fertile.

## Apples



Photo by Alan Watson

**Royal Turk** – M25 rootstock. Early ripening, green cooking apple from Churchdown.

**Taynton Codlin** (synonym Cow apple) – M25 rootstock. General purpose apple, good in mincemeat. Seedling grew out of a cowpat! Before 1954.

**Ashmeads Kernel** – MM106 rootstock. Good keeping dessert apple from Gloucester, 1700. For detailed history on this famous apple, contact Ann Smith for a copy of archivist Christine Leighton's article.

**Severn Bank** – MM106 rootstock. General purpose apple, 1884.

**Corse Hill** – M25 rootstock. General purpose apple, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Lakes Kernel** – M25 rootstock. Dessert apple from Ashleworth, near the River Severn. 1905.

**Gloucester Royal** – M25 rootstock. Dessert & cider apple, 1930.

**Gloucester Underleaf** – M25 rootstock. General purpose apple, 1883.

**Hunts Duke of Gloucester** – M25 rootstock. Dessert apple, 1820.

**Tewkesbury Baron** – M25 rootstock. General purpose apple, 1883.

**Lemon Pippin of Gloucestershire** (not to be confused with Lemon Pippin) – M25 rootstock.

New plantings (2010/11): dessert apples Puckrupp Pippin and Rheads Reinette  
Also ancient apple *Malus Kirghisorum* from Kazakhstan, where apples originated from, as researched by Professor Barrie Juniper.

## Miscellaneous

**Mulberry (black)** – slow growing tree. The fruit is edible, but doesn't keep. Good with icecream or for jam-making!

Most of these local heritage varieties of perry pears, apples and plums are available to purchase on M25 (large rootstocks) and MM106 (semi-dwarfing rootstocks) from:

Rob Watkins of Lodge Farm Trees (Rockhampton, nr Berkeley) [www.lodgefarmtrees.co.uk](http://www.lodgefarmtrees.co.uk) 01454 260310

Dave Kaspar 01452 813602 (Brookthorpe, nr Gloucester) [www.dayscottage.co.uk](http://www.dayscottage.co.uk)

Rob and Dave's trees are available bare-rooted, lifted Nov-March. Order early!

Rare Gloucestershire plums from Walcot Organic Nursery (Persnore).

**More information on the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust website** [glosorchards.org](http://glosorchards.org)

For photographs and extensive information on the above varieties, you can purchase Charles Martell's pomonas through [glosorchards.org](http://glosorchards.org)

There are **two orchard centres** in the county, both near Gloucester; one in Brookthorpe (home to museum orchard of most of the Gloucestershire varieties of apple & Days Cottage Apple Juice business, run by Dave Kaspar & Helen Brent-Smith). The other is the National Perry Pear Centre at Hartpury Heritage Trust, run by Jim Chapman.

Both offer training and courses.

Brookthorpe: [www.dayscottage.co.uk](http://www.dayscottage.co.uk)

Hartpury: <http://www.nationalperrypearcentre.org.uk/>

Finally, please don't be too tidy in your orchard and keep standing deadwood and log piles for wildlife, including the rare Noble Chafer beetle. There are up to 1800 species of plants and animals in old unsprayed orchards with deadwood.