



WALDRINGFIELD GARDENERS

Here in Waldringfield, we have an active and friendly group of gardeners.

The group was originally set up by Betsy Reid, Vicky Marsh & Mariah Skellorn in 2008 as

'Waldringfield Allotment and Leisure Gardening Association' - W.A.L.G.A

An allotment space has not been found yet but funds accrued through our many village events over the years have been saved in the hope that one might be found in time.



We hold 4 main events every year.

**OPEN GARDENS
THE PRODUCE SHOW
THE PUMPKIN PARADE
WREATH MAKING**

We are actively beautifying the village starting with transforming the triangle outside the school and a verge on Cliff Road in conjunction with the verges group.

As a group, we visit magnificent local gardens every year for inspiration and social connection.

We also meet up 'ad hoc' in each others gardens to chat and learn tips & tricks for a successful planting plan. There is a lot that grows here happily and a lot that does not, therefore knowing the soil type, understanding the genus of your plants and the best aspect for them - is vital.

It is also wonderful to have plants and seeds gifted to you with support on how to grow from others.

If you live here and would like your garden to be beautiful, pollinator freindly, scented for night creatures, cultivated for wildlife, successful composting and generally thriving and you would like to engage and have fun socially -then do join our group.

subs are £5 per year



EVENTS

OPEN GARDENS

Every year in May - June we organise Open Gardens to benefit the Saint Elizabeth Hospice. We usually have 7/8 gardens open on the day. Cream teas are served and local Morris Dancers entertain.

Traditionally the village has a show of scarecrows and hedge poems.

It's all hands on deck with helpers making the whole day run smoothly from ticket sales to making scones, setting up to serving teas and so much more! And of course those beautiful local gardens are open for us all to enjoy.

THE PRODUCE SHOW

In summer between Late July - September we organise The Produce Show at the Village Hall. There are many many classes to enter, something for everyone! From prize potatoes to prize peas, crochet toys to photography, poems to paintings, Jam to Jumpers. Everything 'made' is on show and it is a wonderful event to see what the people from this village can grow and create.

Mixed boxes of produce are auctioned at the end.

THE PUMPKIN PARADE

At the time of All Hallows, Halloween - a parade of families & friends leave the Village Hall at dusk, in a procession heading through the fields towards the gorgeous river Deben where the children light their beeswax candles and set sail their home made vegetable boats.

Then, as the light fades, a ghostly story ensues.

WREATH MAKING

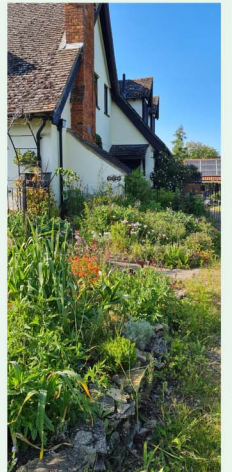
Every winter a wreath making event is held at the village hall, a great way to make a beautiful home made wreath to celebrate the yuletide celebrations and to get together socially.

TRIANGLE & VERGES

In 2024 we started to add to and manage the triangle in front of the Village Hall and school. It's a tricky spot, very sandy, windy and dry! Through careful weeding of plants, additions of some purchased and some gifts, we have started to make the triangle and verges a true expression of what is happy to grow here bringing joy to us who take part and to the residents of Waldringfield.

SCATTERED ORCHARD COMPOSTING / APPLE PRESS

OPEN GARDENS



THE PRODUCE SHOW



THE PUMPKIN PARADE



TRIANGLE





Waldringfield, Newbourne & Hemley Scattered Orchard

The scattered Orchard project started in 2012. We didn't have land for a community orchard so the trees were planted on publicly accessible land including the church yards, the village hall, playground and verges across Waldringfield, Hemley and Newbourne. 60 trees were planted as part of the Queens Jubilee and now there are about 90.

The most recent addition is a Seville Orange tree.

We are indebted to Paul Read of the Suffolk Traditional Orchard group for help & advice <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/orchards>

Since this initiative the concept of a Scattered Orchard has been emulated by the AONB and Transition Woodbridge: <https://transitionwoodbridge.org.uk/>

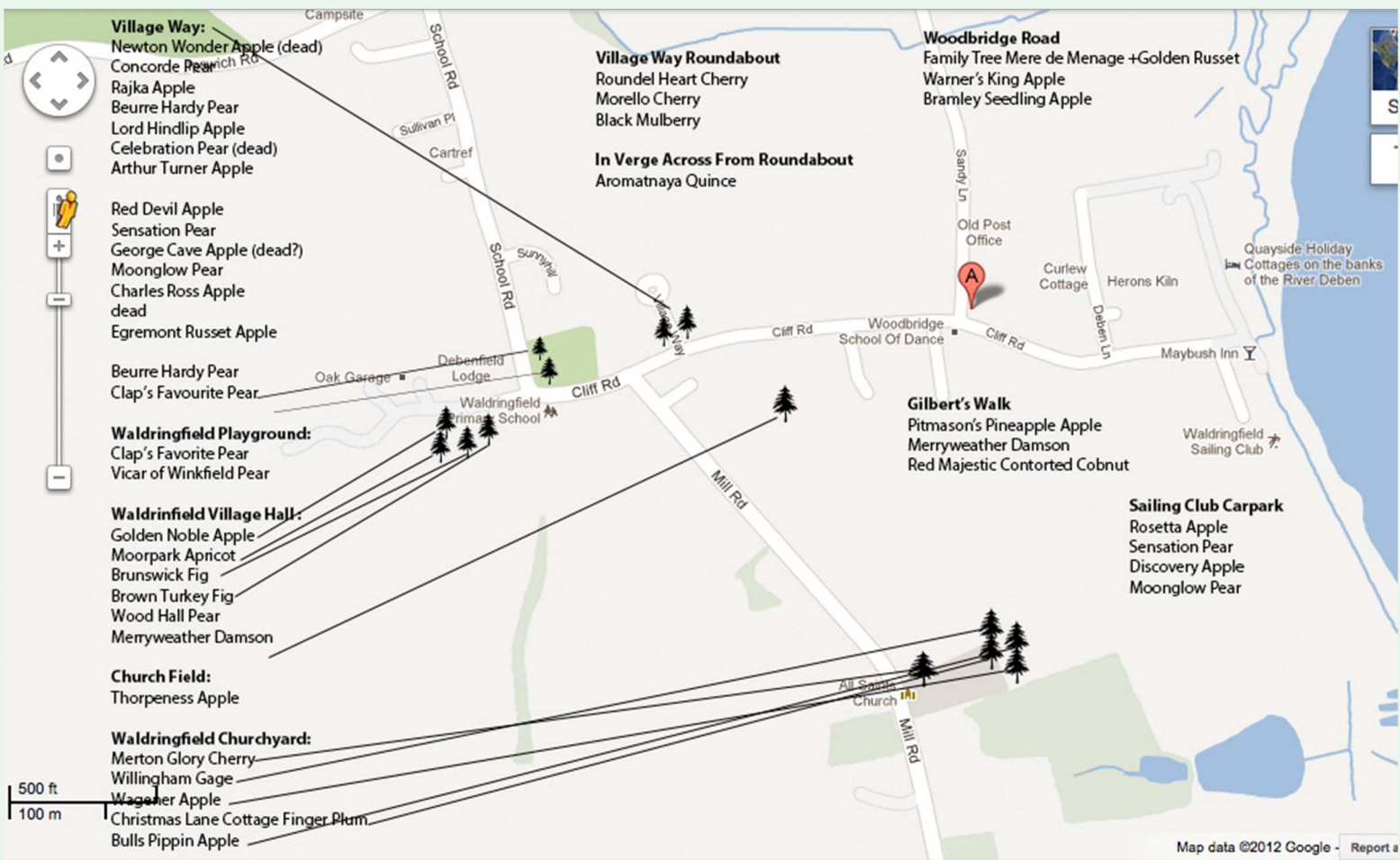
ANNUAL PRUNING & GRAFTING WORKSHOPS

are run locally by Green Skills Suffolk

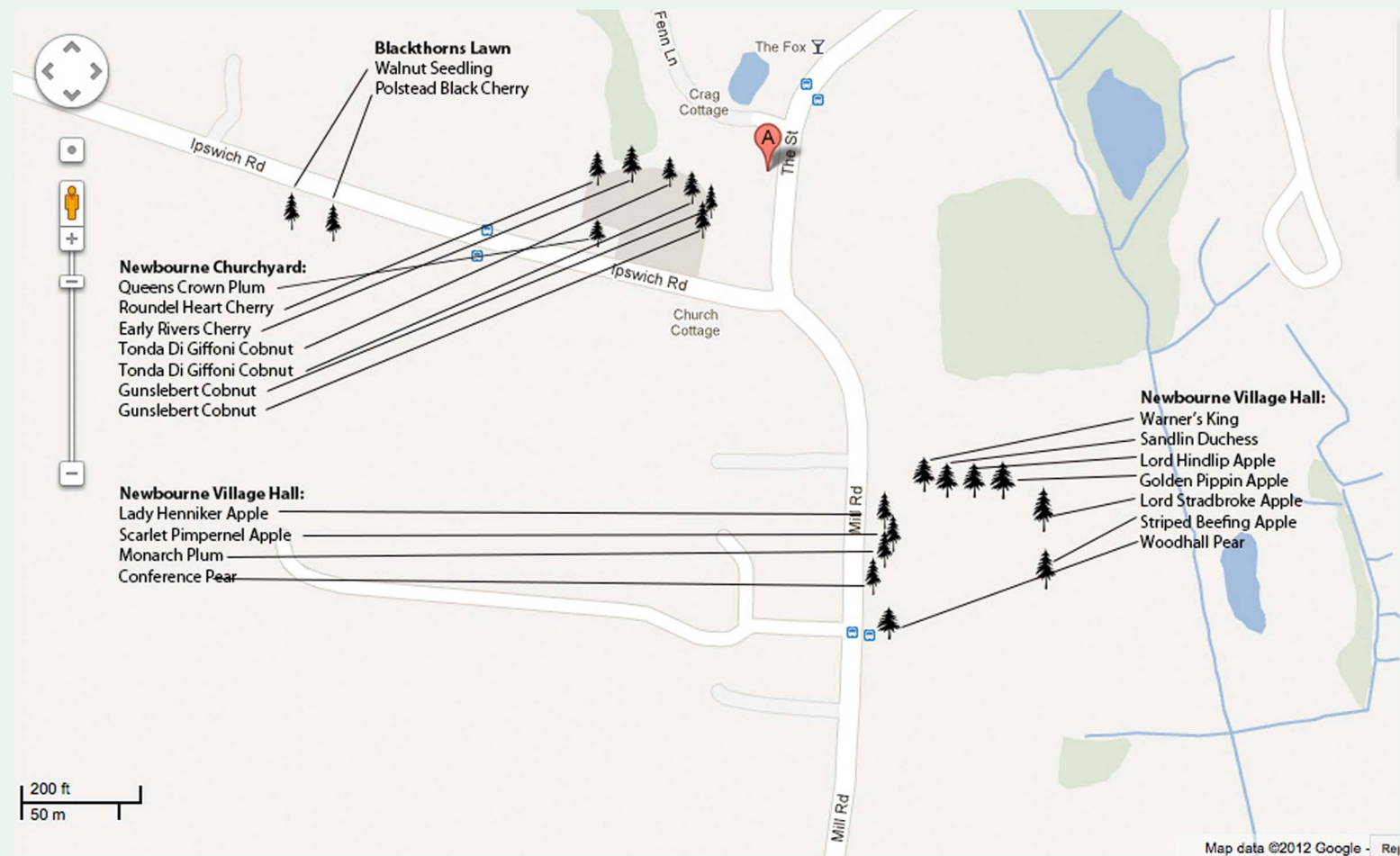
https://www.instagram.com/green_skills_suffolk/



WALDRINGFIELD SCATTERED ORCHARD



NEWBOURNE



COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

The Big Lottery Fund and the Green Print Forum supported

Waldringfield community composting in 2012 - subsidised hotbins (link) - wormerys (link) and Bokashi bins (link) were provided to interested householders.

Monitoring proved more difficult than we or the funders had anticipated.

Continuing support for home composting is the real gold standard for dealing with green waste has continued to to be provided by our local

master composters who give talks at the WG AGM and can provide home advice.

Betsy Reid has been awarded 'Composting Queen of Suffolk' & Suffolk Green Hero Award -

we are so lucky have her skills available to us to learn

and to help make our gardens and world prosper.

Learn about her efforts here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJjgP50jR1M>



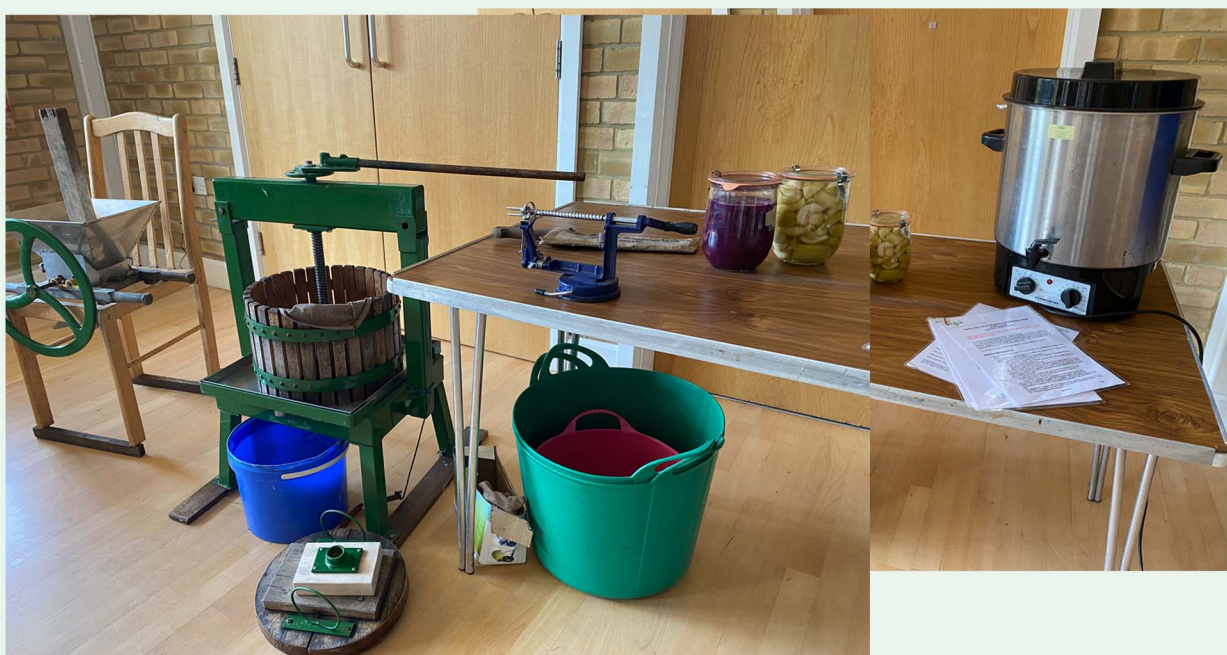
APPLE PRESS

This equipment was bought by WALGA (Waldringfield Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association) in August 2010 with a grant from the Suffolk Foundation. We hope its use will encourage the retention or revival of traditional skills that will almost certainly be relevant again as fossil fuels become more problematic and as food supplies are re-localised.

The equipment is available for borrowing by community groups (e.g. school, WI, allotment or small-holding association etc) through
<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/communitygroups>

We want to encourage multiple use for all this stuff rather than have it sit in a store for most of its life - thereby reducing consumption (and thus landfill and resource depletion) and encouraging community co-operation. Individuals may also borrow it on the same terms. Paid-up WALGA members may borrow it free of further charge. Please contact us for more information via the WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FBaYn9W6Y7hCPIE9L7gGGs> .

*Waldringfield Gardeners do not insure the equipment - use is at your own risk.



BEE KEEPING

Betsy and other locals keep bees too so there is always plenty of healthy honey in Waldringfield and another reason that planting for pollinators is so important.

Plants that bees love can be found here:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators>



TREE WARDENS



Tree Wardens - what do they do?

The Tree Council began the tree warden scheme in 1990. They have established a tree warden network in many parts of Britain. They organise meetings and activities, and arrange for the dissemination of information through the network of volunteers.

Christine Kay was appointed in 1995 by the Parish Council; more recently new tree wardens Betsy Reid and Mariah Ballam have been appointed by the Suffolk Tree Warden Network.

Christine's tree warden activities overlap with other groups in the village and are summarised as follows:

Tree warden activities in Waldringfield:

Advising the Parish Council on planning applications affecting trees including those with Tree Preservation Orders

Advising on and taking part in tree and hedge care and maintenance on publicly owned sites - the playing field, verges, Church Field and occasionally the school.

Advising residents on problems relating to trees on their land.

These may require referring to the East Suffolk Tree Officer.

Many tree wardens are involved with countryside planting schemes for hedges and trees and other projects involving habitat creation such as pond creation and road verge management.

In Waldringfield Christine is involved in the village verge project (Wildlife Group), playing field management and the Scattered Orchard Project (WALGA).

Her other main activity in the last 2-3 years has been the Suffolk Tree Wardens nursery project where trees, mostly native, are grown from seed to be used in the countryside, hedging and through settlements.

The network of tree wardens are able to distribute our home grown trees throughout Suffolk.

HEDGE HEROES

Every now and then the hedge team get together with the Tree Wardens and replace lost hedging in and around the village. Dead hedging has also been done in a couple of ares to help with biodiversity and wild habitats.



GREEN VEINING

The wild-life corridors concept is not new - but making it actual in towns and cities is fairly recent. Felixtowe had done this with notable success and its Community Nature Reserve idea is being followed nationally, internationally - and locally in Ipswich and Woodbridge with their Wildlife Corridors

Waldringfield has already done some of this with the Village Verges project.

GW is promoting this within gardens in Waldringfield too - approaching people in person and hoping they will then talk to those near to them and widen engagement person to person - Dr Adrian Cooper who started the Felixtowe one says this is the best way - neighbour to neighbour, friend to friend.

So what is the ask? Commit just three square yards of your garden (minimum!) to be managed with wildlife in mind.

For many who have big gardens this is easy and probably already happening - a hedge with an 'untidy', un-interfered with bottom, a lawn that is not mowed until May or even June or even as late as September, hedges cut so that berries remain for the birds etc.

For those with very small gardens it's perhaps less easy - but pots and window boxes with flowers that extend the nectar and pollen season qualify, a compost bin houses a multitude of creatures, even the smallest bit of water..... helps.

Initially all that will happen is that your house plot goes on a 'Green Veining' map and we ask to confidentially keep your contact details, so that if and when there are further developments we can contact you to see how it is going.

Why? The Climate and Biodiversity Crises are interlinked – this is one way of tackling the latter, which is a sort of grassroots aspect of the Local Nature Recovery strategies that Councils are committed to producing as well as of the UN Global Biodiversity Framework's 30:30 target – 30% of land managed for wildlife by 2030.

Having a little bit that is managed not specifically to look beautiful or tidy, but explicitly to function well as part of the food chain can help us all to know better how the biosphere is or should be working. Britain is among the 12 bottom nations for intactness of nature, so this is vital work. Most important of all - are over-the-fence conversations. So that these oases can connect with each other, forming corridors or at least stepping stones.

Waldringfield is one of five parishes working locally to evolve a strategy to do this in the land between settlements and across parish boundaries - filling in the detail for the at present outline Council strategy.

And in association: Treezilla

This is an app being promoted by the Tree Council and locally by your three Tree Wardens, where you can record trees, your own and any others you can get to. You measure and photograph them and get in return information about the good they do - carbon sequestered, rainfall diverted etc. Recording our trees might help us all to value them more - it's not just tree planting that is important but loving and looking after the ones that have already put decades into growing. Please take part! The Parish Council says priority should be given to trees of 'high amenity value' - trees in the second two thirds of their lives that are accessible or visible from public space.

Contact: Betsy Reid, Greener Waldringfield betsyr@talk21.com
Christine Fisher Kay: Tree Warden and Waldringfield Wildlife Group Village Verges project
Updated August 2024

Do let us know your interest by contacting Betsy or Christine above or join the whatsapp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FBaYn9W6Y7hCPIE9L7gGGs>

