



In partnership with



## Community Orchard Planting Proposal

**Yeo Valley Lions Club**

*Serving the communities of Yatton,  
Claverham, Wrington, Congresbury,  
Cleeve, Langford and parts of Churchill*

# Proposal Overview Review

1. The Yeo Valley Lions (hereafter referred to as the Lions), working in partnership with YACWAG, would like to plant a Community Orchard in the open piece of land at the West End of Hangstones.
2. The Lions will provide the funding to procure the required fruit trees and all necessary tree supports and other materials.
3. The Lions and YACWAG will work in tandem with the parish council to manage the planning and tree planting activities to create the Community Orchard.
4. The term Community Orchard is used in this context as a collection of native fruit trees that we would envisage being underplanted with wild flowers.
5. All the tree planting will be of established UK native trees and we will utilise and cultivate local and unusual varieties of fruit trees where feasible.
6. The planning will include the creation of a local volunteer group to provide ongoing care and maintenance. Any new arrangements to be agreed with the Parish Council

# Planting Plan



- 1 Damson
- 2 Plum
- 3 Apple
- 4 Cherry
- 5 Pear
- 6 Gage
- 7 Apple
- 8 Plum
- 9 Gage



# Tree Planting Variety Overview

1. DAMSON TREE – 'Shropshire Prune' *Prunus insititia* is a hardy English variety of damson, also referred to as the Damson Prune. It is an old variety, first recorded in the 17th century. Shropshire Prune has a compact habit, with attractive damsons that make delicious jam. Self Fertile. Damsons are more tolerant of wet soils than their close relations plums, and harder. (Pollinator Group D)
2. PLUM TREE – 'Denbigh Plum' is a truly ancient fruit. Some say it was grown by Carmelite monks in the town as early as the 13th century! It's the only surviving native Welsh plum, and a real beauty. It's good for eating and cooking, and the trees are healthy and self fertile. Once nearly lost, the "Vale of Clwyd Denbigh Plum" has been awarded European Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status. (Also planted at No.8) (Pollinator Group D)
3. APPLE TREE – 'Pomeroy of Somerset' - famous for their flavour. They're very old apples; thought they might have been Norman, which makes sense of the French name ("king's apple"). Pomeroy of Somerset has attractive large apples, and makes for a handsome tree. It's unusual in these parts for not being a cider apple. (Pollinator Group C)
4. CHERRY TREE – 'White Heart' *Prunus avium* is a very old cherry, but hard to come by these days. We're not sure why; its heart-shaped pale fruit have good flavour and it makes a vigorous, healthy tree with good canker resistance. Late fruiting. Self-fertile. Like all cherry trees, its pretty (white) blossom in spring attracts a range of pollinators including bees.
5. PEAR TREE - 'Williams Bon Chrétien' - often just called 'Williams', known as the King of Pears. Large golden yellow fruits (sometimes flushed red) are extremely sweet and juicy. Heavy cropping for use in September. First introduced in 1770 to UK. Self Fertile. Recommended by the RHS to be an excellent attractant and nectar source for bees and other beneficial insects. Should also assist in encouraging bats as it attracts to moths and other night-flying insects which bats love to eat!
6. GAGE TREE – 'Green Gage' - an irregular cropper, but its gages are delicious eaten straight off the tree. An ancient variety, thought to have arrived in Britain in 1724, when it was imported from Paris by a young Catholic priest, John Gage. Like their close and botanically indistinguishable relations, plums, gages have lovely blossom which attracts a range of pollinators in spring, including bees, although they can be self fertile. (Also planted at No. 9) (Pollinator Group D)
7. APPLE TREE – 'Sunset' is an apple tree of compact and tidy habit with the added attraction of very colourful blossom (some say it compares with Cherry). Firm and juicy, Sunset has a delicious flavour, is a regular cropper, and is resistant to frost. (Pollinator Group C)

# Other Considerations

1. Optimum time for planting bare root fruit trees is believed to be January to March so this will need to be factored into the planning timescales.
2. The planning scheme has in the main looked at 'self fertile' tree varieties. A variety that is 'self-fertile' does not need a pollinator. For varieties not labelled as 'self-fertile', then we will require a partner which has to be a different variety of the same fruit species (e.g. the two apple varieties in the planting scheme). Two trees of the same variety will not pollinate each other. There is a possibility that in the urban environment that there will be compatible trees in neighbours gardens and hedgerows.
3. We will need to stake the young fruit trees, attached at the top of the stake by good quality ties, making sure that there is room for growth. The stakes will be fairly sturdy and will not exceed 4ft in height.
4. It is important that the planting area is kept free of grass to allow the tree not have to compete for moisture in the first year and that the tree is not allowed to dry out. Making sure that this does not happen will be one of the roles of the Local Volunteer Group.
5. Consideration needs to be given to fencing off the area during the first year.
6. The main benefits:
  - By absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> trees help combat climate change
  - Improve health and wellbeing
  - Encourage wildlife
  - Provide a local facility for the local area
  - Provide fresh fruit to the local people



# Where we would like to plant in Hangstones



Picture to the right shows that the proposed space backs on the residential gardens of the houses on Stowey Road so any planting scheme would enhance the area.

Picture to the left shows the skate park in the distance – the target area currently not utilised. The proposed Community Orchard would provide an attractive local asset from an underused space.



# Thank you



*Our Global Causes*

