

Orchard Trees at Sudbury Meadow

All the trees below are maintained by volunteers, led by Friends of Sudbury Meadow. Each variety ripens at a different time, so picking will be supervised by the 'Friends' to ensure that the fruit is picked at the best time and to prevent damage to the trees. A proportion of the fruit from sponsored trees will be offered to the sponsors if they can be contacted, otherwise the fruit will be distributed amongst the 'Friends' and volunteers or sold to raise funds to help maintain Sudbury Meadow. Windfalls can be gathered by anyone at their own risk.

(The number after each variety name relates to our Orchard Plan on display in the site notice board.)

Merton Marvel - 1 Planted 17/11/01.

Dessert cherry. Sweet. Raised in Cambs. Use - late.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Marc Owen.

Egremont Russet - 2 Planted 08/03/01

Dessert apple. Exact history unknown but first recorded in Somerset in 1872. Greenish yellow skin ripening to golden yellow covered with ochre russet. Very sweet but nutty flavour. Crisp but quite dry flesh. Pick late Sept., early Oct. Ready for use Oct - Dec.

Laxton's Fortune - 3 Planted 2004

Dessert apple. Raised by Laxton Brothers, Bedford, in 1904, from a Cox's Orange Pippin x Wealthy. Sweet of medium size, pale green with bright red, broken stripes. Distinctive rounded ribs at apex. Pick early Sept. Use Sept - Oct.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme in memory of the parents of Kimberley Smith.

Early Transparent Gage - 4 Planted 30/01/09

Dessert gage. Rootstock St. Julien A. Sweet. Medium yellow. Raised in Sawbridgeworth in 1866, introduced in 1873. One parent is Transparent gage, other unknown. Fruit is small, with golden yellow flesh and very sweet and rich flavour. Pick and eat early - mid August. Self fertile. We were advised to try this variety as it is known to pollinate Cambridge Gage, which Blue Tit, it transpires, doesn't. See information from EEAOP.

Sponsored by Mr & Mrs Rutherford for their grandchildren.

Merton Premier - 5 Planted 17/11/01

Dessert cherry. Sweet. Raised in Cambs. Use - Early - Mid.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Samuel Hancock.

Cambridge Gage - 6 Planted 17/11/01

Dessert or jam. First trialled in 1927 by Chivers & Son, Histon, Cambs. Originally from a Greengage seedling in the Cambridge area. Crops heavily. Green skin with heavy bloom. Yellow flesh with rich flavour. Ready to eat in mid August.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Robert Owen.

Early Victoria - 7 Planted 08/03/01.

Cooking apple. Cross between Lord Grosvenor and Keswick Codlin. Raised by William Lynn of Emneth, Cambridgeshire in 1899. Green fruit, conical and ribbed. Pick in Aug. Ready for use Aug - Sept. Tends to crop biennially.

Lady Lambourne - 8 Planted 08/03/01.

Dessert apple. Sport of Lord Lambourne, raised in 1945 by Laxton Brothers. Deeper red but otherwise very similar to parent. Ready for use Sept - Nov.

Beurre Bedford - 9 Planted 17/11/01

Dessert pear. Raised by Laxton Brothers, Bedford in 1902 from a cross between Marie Louise and Durondeau. Introduced in 1921. A large, sweet and slightly aromatic fruit, with a coarse, juicy flesh. Pick Mid - late Sept. Use in Oct.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Katherine Angell. .

Blue Tit - 10, 11 Planted 17/11/01

Dessert or culinary plum. Cross between Czar and Greengage. Raised by Laxton Brothers of Bedford, and introduced in 1938. Blue-black bloomy skin. Use - mid August.

10 - Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Jamie Lynn.

11 - Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Francesca Smith.

Laxton's Fortune - 12 Planted 08/03/01

See 3 above.

Lord Lambourne - 13 Planted 08/03/01.

Dessert apple. Cross between James Grieve and Worcester Pearmain. Raised in Bedford by Laxton Brothers, 1907. Received the RHS Award of Merit in 1923.

Medium sized, flat-round fruit. Bright red flush and stripes over a greenish yellow skin. Creamy white, crisp, juicy flesh which is sweet but with balanced acidity. Good for juicing. Ready for use Sept - Dec. Keeps fairly well.

Concorde - 14 Planted 01/11/02

Dessert pear. Raised in 1977 by East Malling Research Station. Cross between Doyenne du Comice and Conference. Fairly large fruit, with a pale green skin, turning pale yellow. Pale yellow, juicy flesh is sweetly flavoured.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Thomas Angell.

Tydeman's Late Orange - 15 Planted 01/03/02

Dessert apple. Raised in 1930

by East Malling Research Station, from cross between Laxton's Superb and Cox's Orange Pippin. Introduced in 1949. Greenish yellow skin with purplish red flush and stripes. Crisp, juicy flesh. Sharper flavour than Cox. Pick mid-Oct. Best kept before using. Use Dec - Apr.

Laxton's Superb - 16 Planted 17/11/01

Dessert apple. Cross between Wyken Pippin and Cox's Orange Pippin. Raised in 1897 by Laxton Brothers, Bedford. Introduced in 1927. Sweet and juicy with greenish yellow skin and purplish red flush/stripes. Popular garden variety. Tendency to be biennial. Pick early - mid October. Use Nov - Jan

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Alix Girdlestone.

Bramley's Seedling - 17 Planted 17/11/01.

Cooking apple. Originally raised in Southwell, Notts 1809 - 1813, but not introduced until 1865. Irregular, large, flat-round fruit. Green to yellowish, some reddish flushes and stripes. Use November - March.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for Abigail Silverthorne.

18 - Lady Hollendale - 18 Planted

Dessert apple. Exact origins are not clear, but it was being grown in the 1920s and 30s for the Wisbech fruit markets, so definitely East Anglia and probably Cambridgeshire. The fruit is flushed red, sharp, crisp and juicy, but with a tough skin. Pick mid Aug. Use mid-late Aug.

Sponsored by Lloyd Walker in memory of Eileen Walker.

Lynn's Pippin - 19 Planted 05/03/05.

Dessert apple. Raised by William Lynn of Emneth in Cambs in 1942. Cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and Ellison's Orange. Medium sized fruit, flushed, with an aromatic flavour. Spur-bearing and upright in habit. Pick mid Sept. Use Sept - Oct.

Sponsored by St Neots Celebration Tree Scheme for the grandchildren of Mr & Mrs Rutherford.

Ballard Beauty - 20 Planted 30/01/09

Dessert apple. Rootstock MM106. Raised in Bedford by A. Norman in 1946. One parent known to be Cox's Orange Pippin. Medium to large apple, flushed red. Slightly acidic. Pick in October. Use October to December.

Sponsored by Mr & Mrs Dickinson, in memory of Vera.

Thoday's Quarrenden - 21 planted 30/01/09

Dessert apple. Rootstock MM106. Found at Reedground Farm in Willingham by R.E. Thoday (see below) in 1949. Parentage not really known but probably includes Devon Quarrenden. Small apple, flushed red with tender, creamy-white flesh. Sweet. Pick mid October. Use November to February.

Sponsored by FoSM, in memory of member, David Bakewell, who died unexpectedly in January 2009.

The name 'Quarrenden' may well derive from the French town of Carentan in Normandy, and is a 'generic' name now adopted for many dark red skinned, early season eating apples with a resemblance to the well known Devon apple, Devonshire Quarrenden.

The name 'Quarendouns' was first mentioned in an Old English poem about plant names, written in around 1450, and the actual word 'Quarrenden' was first recorded in 1676. Ralph Thoday of Willingham was a famous plant breeder and fruit grower whose nursery once boasted vast Edwardian glass houses covering tens of acres. The Willingham village web site has an interesting bit of history about his business.

New Rock Pippin - 22 planted 30/01/09

Dessert apple. Rootstock MM106. Raised at Barnwell, Cambridge by W. Pleasance. First exhibited in 1821. Parentage unknown. Medium sized, flushed dark brown. Sweet. Pick mid October. Use January to March and even up to May!

Sponsored by Del & Alison Pearson for Joshua Loughnane.