

Metford Road Community Orchard



What is the Community Orchard?

The community orchard at Redland Green offers people the chance to join a group growing apples, pears, plums, nuts and soft fruit. Everyone pays a membership fee, and offers at least 16 hours of work on the orchard. The group runs the orchard collectively, under the guidance of a professional gardener. There are about twelve active members at present.

What are the pluses in belonging?

- ❖ Regular outdoor exercise in a beautiful, quiet spot
- ❖ Meeting people who share an interest in environmental issues
- ❖ Learning new skills, like grafting

❖ Sharing the fresh, organic fruit

What is the Orchard like?

The orchard occupies five former allotments. It is a long, sloping, sunny site, going down to a stream. There are ten apple trees, three pears and five or six plums, There's also a medlar, a small mulberry, raspberries, blackberries, currants and a herb patch. There are hazel and cobnuts in the hedgerows. On a sunny day, the orchard has plenty of butterflies and grasshoppers and it's always hopping with frogs! There are various uncovered water troughs seething with life.

What happens on a 'Working Day'?

Regular 'Working days' are held - generally on the 3rd Sunday of the month. There will be a number of tasks according to the season. You can join in the general tasks - propping up branches, wheel-barrowing silt, planting comfrey, cutting back undergrowth and mulching the trees, harvesting the fruit - or maybe take on a project of your own.

You can come for as many or as few hours in the day as suits you. You can bring your own lunch and share tea round the group kettle. Stout gloves and your own secateurs are always useful, though all tools are provided. The site has its own compost loo.

Children at the Orchard

Children are welcome at the Orchard, but they need a responsible adult watching over them and aware of their safety.

How you can join

Please contact Janet Brewer (janbrewercbc@yahoo.co.uk) or Karen Shergold (karen.shergold@virgin.net) to arrange a visit to the Orchard.

The annual fees are £12 per person, £22 per couple (with a reduction if you join later in the year). Membership becomes renewable in October each year.

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