

For Annual Parish Meeting 2012 Progress report from WALGA



We have a dedicated committee which has arranged a varied programme including talks by our own members and by visiting speakers, flower arranging workshops and an annual Open Gardens and Produce Show which are now fixtures in the village calendar. We are also the holders of the Community Fruit Preserving Equipment (grant funded apple press and all the bits) which gives us a wider remit. All these have enabled us to build up a tidy sum in the bank towards setting up allotments when we get a site.

This year WALGA has taken on the co-ordination of the Scattered Orchard project, arising out of the considerable interest provoked by Paul Read of the Suffolk Traditional Orchards group in October last year. Restoring large long lived fruit trees to the landscape of which they have for so long, until the last fifty years, been a part is an exciting cultural, horticultural and conservation project. Working across the three villages of Waldringfield, Newbourne and Hemley has enabled us to gain the support of the SWT Networking Nature initiative: this has already delivered Forest Schools workshops to the primary school and swift monitoring training to the Wildlife Group. We are one of the ten clusters of villages that they are working with. We are especially glad that the Scattered Orchard has been accepted as a Jubilee project for the village.

Another project in gestation is Community Composting: two members of WALGA recently went to a seminar run by the Community Composting Network. We are working on a scheme which focuses on minimising waste at source - a draft of which can be found on the table – please comment – better still please volunteer!

These proactive successes are prompting us to review how urgent actively trying to get an allotment site is. We recognise that people's situations change (which is part of the beauty of allotments – that you can so easily give them up when they cease being relevant to you!) and that the village demographic changes too. We would appreciate it very much if you could fill in one of the post cards if you want an allotment – or email it to Jean Potter, the Parish Clerk – either if this is your first time doing so, or if you filled one in some time ago: we'd like to know whether you are still keen! We will be publishing our programme for next year shortly and hope to see some new faces in the new year.

Betsy Reid
Chairman WALGA,
April 2012