



Friends of Midsummer Common Newsletter

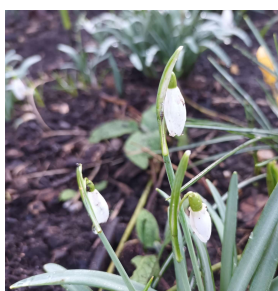
Spring 2024



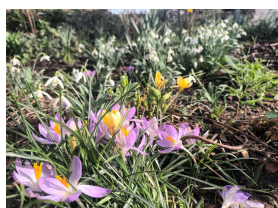
Update from our Committee Chair

Events on the Common this Year Include:

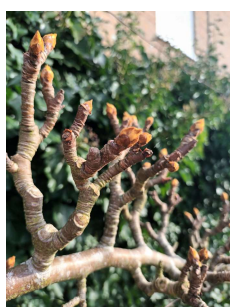
"Pop Up" Fun Park	Apr-22	-	May-06
Strawberry Fair 2024	Jun-01	-	Jun-01
Midsummer Fair & Market 2024	Jun-19	-	Jun-23



*Snowdrops at the
Newmarket Road
entrance of the orchard*



*Crocuses at the
Newmarket Rd entrance*



*Buds on our espaliered
pears*

The year got off to a muddy start after the Half Marathon – a combination of heavy rain and foot traffic has certainly left its mark. The grass, however, appears to be recovering well, just in time for the cows to return. We continue to engage with event organisers and the council to try and make all events as un-disruptive and enjoyable for local residents as possible.

We are currently consulting on a potential new community garden. The walled area next to Midsummer House restaurant has historically been used as a storage area by the council, and for impounding cattle. The area would be eminently suitable as a traditional kitchen walled garden given its walls and orientation.



If you are interested in this project, or have views you'd like to contribute, please email Orchard_Manager@protonmail.com

News from the Orchard

The first of our trees to blossom are the apricots, and they really went for it this year! The mild weather means that many invertebrates were already active, so hopefully they'll have done their duty as pollinators and we'll have a bumper apricot crop.



Our new bee bank

The pomegranates planted last year appear to have weathered the winter well, so we will be planting up the rest of our new hedge this year. Other new planting should hopefully include a grape vine, herbs, and soft fruits – these to be in our new raised beds, pictured left. They are a little brutalist, so we will be painting them green and hopefully they will look lovely when planted up.



Our new planters

The installation of the planters was funded by £13,000 of section 106 money which was allocated in 2021. Three years later, the improvements have now been delivered – our new shed has arrived, so we can now order new tools knowing we'll have somewhere safe to store them! We also have a new bench, more rain water collection, improvements to our paths and a new bee bank.

Thanks to Councillors Tim Bick and Katie Porrer for their help in getting this delivered – it's great to finally get results.



Plentiful apricot blossom

Finally, big thanks to everyone who came along to our annual Wassail in January – it was even better attended than ever and a delight to see so many new faces. Our next big event in the orchard will be our scything day in late summer, so we look forward to seeing you all then!

Volunteer!

Volunteering sessions in the orchard: every **Sunday from 10:00–11:30 am**.
Contact Kit Holland: Orchard_Manager@protonmail.com, or just turn up!

We also desperately need **help with communications and our website** – do let us know if you would be interested in helping us run our twitter and update our website.

Join!

Members receive our newsletter via email and are immediately informed of new developments on the Common. <https://midsummercommon.org.uk/join/>

or by email to fomcsecretary@gmail.com



Wassailers