

Barley Fields Community Orchard

The first stage of the community orchard was planted on Friday 26th November 2021 by Alton Town Council and volunteers from Alton Local Food Initiative (ALFI) and Barley Fields residents.

The Barley Fields Orchard provides a great opportunity for local residents to connect with each other, enjoy eating organic fruit grown close to home, as well as supporting wildlife. In this era of climate crisis, community orchards also contribute to increasing tree coverage, which cools the urban environment, absorbs excess rainfall and creates habitats for wildlife, increasing the town's biodiversity.

The trees are half-standard so they shouldn't get too big and are all different varieties of apples and pears, chosen to give tasty fruit from August to November to be picked and enjoyed by the community. The trees blossom will appear at different times too. The pretty pink and white flowers will burst into bloom, providing an early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators.



This multi-generational community project enables residents to get outdoors and enjoy nature whilst helping to care for and develop the Barley Fields Orchard. Regular working parties bring people together from within our community, providing an opportunity to meet neighbours and get active alongside new friends. If you would like to join please contact ALFI through their website - www.altonlocalfood.org.uk

The list below details the trees that were first planted in the Barley Fields Orchard and when they should fruit:

Williams Bon Chretien pear -August	Pinova Apple - September	Idared Apple - October
Discovery Apple -August	Merton Pride Pear- September	Howgate Wonder Apple - October
Fortune apple - September	Fiesta Apple - October	Concorde Pear - October
Meridian Apple - September	Bramley seedling cooking Apple - October	Spartan Apple - October/ November
Saturn Apple- September		

We are committed to continuing to grow the Barley Fields Community Orchard with addition of more fruit trees and locally sourced heritage varieties.

