

Cornwall Orchard Network Gathering Sunday 17 May 2026 – NOTES

Attendees: Charlotte Barry (Camel CSA), Joseph Taylor, River Anderson (Pemboa Cut Flower Farm & orchard), Dan McKelvey (Loveland, New County Hall Community Orchard & Tregurra Community Orchard), Graham Chaplin (Gorran Orchard), Emily Lindholm (Roseland orchards), Bob Allan (St Just-in-Penwith orchard), Shirley Williams (nr Newquay), Melissa Ralph (Cormac Ltd & Helston Downsland charity), Sarah Lane (Godolphin Hill Orchard), Elizabeth Hemphill (Bosavern Community Farm & supporting various orchards), Elise Langley (St Ives Community Orchard), Rupert Manley (St Ives Community Orchard & St Ives orchard) Sophie, Charles Hulbert-Powell (Walnut orchard, Lostwithiel), Colin Hawke (St Newlyn East), Nick Waitz & Rosie Grainger (Ladock orchard & Treverbyn Community Trust), Shelly Ann & Rebecca Ryder (St Day Community Orchard & Woodland), Daphne & Peter Rolling (St Veep Orchard), Pauline Penna (Trenoweth Community Orchard, Redruth), Jana Gaborava (orchard near Lanner), Alan Green (St Agnes Orchard), Lee Dodge, Dion Swann (Potager & Gillyflower Farm), Tess Dickinson (Gillyflower Farm), Michelle Lawson (Resilient Orchards Cornwall & Redruth Orchard Project), Sally Pyner (Kehelland Trust), Meike Weiser (Forest for Cornwall), Andrew Ormerod (Lostwithiel), Megan Middleton, Sophie.

Apologies: Tom Kemp & Jenny Waddling (Mylor Community Orchard and Working Woodlands Cornwall), Katharine Lewis & Jules Lewis (Helston Community Orchard & Helston Climate Action Network), Christian Lightfoot & Nicola Willis, Simon (Mylor Community Orchard), Judy Allies (Tregurra Community Orchard, Truro)

Network updates

Charlotte Barry stressed the importance and benefits of sharing news and updates from different orchard sites across Cornwall, helping to build up a broader picture for us all. This also allows us to link up with those closest to us to form smaller networks to support one another regarding equipment, resources, people power and knowledge.

Charlotte / Camel CSA Co-founder of Camel Community Supported Agriculture near Wadebridge (2008) growing vegetables and fruit for its members. The CSA has planted 50 fruit trees in one of the fields, facing NW Challenge to ensure fertility of fruit trees at roots is high, versus low fertility in flower meadow area surrounding them. Use grass mowings, after resting for a few days, piled up around the base of the trees to rot down. Damage from deer this year and dealing with rabbits a continued challenge. Received Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding for new wire netting as previous tree guards were destroyed by storms. Holds annual apple day and wassail.
<https://camel-csa.org.uk/>

Joe / Gweek Orchard - Has turned a one acre field into an orchard, now has 50-60 trees and is keen to grow more climate-resilient trees on site as a tree nursery to supply to Cornwall residents.

River / Pemboa Orchard (Helston cut flower farm) - Three-year-old orchard bringing the flower farm and meadow together. Keen to expand on educational work on site, bringing children to the orchard site while the trees are young so they can grow and learn alongside the trees.
<https://www.pemboafowers.com/>

Dan / Loveland, Penryn; Truro New County Hall Orchard & Tregurra Community Orchard - Volunteer at Loveland which has 30 apple trees on one acre, within a 7-8 acre site consisting of a market garden, meadow and community garden and home to Falmouth Food Coop. Held their first apple day last year which was a real success and a great turn out of 40-50 people, also held a

popular wassail in January. Also volunteers at Truro New County Hall Orchard and Tregurra Orchard. <https://falmouthfood.coop/loveland>

Graham / St Goran Parish orchard - nr St Austell, 50 trees including apple, pears, damsons & quince. 20 yrs old orchard focusing on high quality dessert apples for selling locally, has learnt lots of lessons & mistakes (happy to share with others so they don't make same mistakes) on varieties, pruning etc. Undergrazed by sheep. Supplies high quality apples to Cornish Food Hall, Truro. Also supports a 3 yr old community orchard.

Emily / Roseland A gardener based and working on the Roseland, looks after various orchards in that area. Planted nuts last winter but have been affected by windy weather.

Bob / St Just-in-Penwith Has three-year-old orchard on e one acre - apples, pears & nut trees but wind is an issue and has planted lots of shelter belts to deal with this. Has links to local school and is excited to be part of the network.

Shirley/Nr Newquay - looking to plant up two acres of land, still exploring options.

Melissa / Cormac Ltd, Helston Community Orchard & Helston Downsland - Works for Cormac managing the Making Space for Nature Project which has included planting orchards in community parks. She is keen to support and be part of the orchard renaissance and to develop and share skills amongst the team. There is a focus on bringing in meadows into public green spaces. Involved in a Tree Council/DEFRA funded project with Cornwall Council and Resilient Orchards Cornwall to plant new community orchards this winter e.g. at St Just. Also planted forest garden style hedges in Hayle and Falmouth last year. Melissa is a volunteer on the Helston Downs project, new land owned by the community, developing plans and keen to use permaculture methods. <https://www.cormacltd.co.uk/project-case-studies/making-space-for-nature/>
<https://www.helstondownsland.org.uk/>

Sarah/Godolphin Hill orchard - This is about five yrs old and had an amazing crop last year. Bought trees from nursery with leader already removed but wants to grow central leader trees. Deer have been an issue. Favourite tree is a vigorous M25 'Tincombe seedling' a late apple and would like to graft it on and plant more. Sally has done a few grafts and will visit Sarah's orchard in summer for budding material. Sarah is also very passionate about storing apples until the end of March. Also supported an orchard at Tremenhere Sculpture Park. Learnt from a student of Hugh Ermine, famous for his 'own root' tree experiments so went on to plant many, although didn't know what varieties they were. Beauty of Bath on its own roots has done well, although the squirrels take the early apples.

Elizabeth / Bosavern Community Farm orchard - Volunteers at Bosavern Community Farm support the orchard and it has been wonderful to develop regular sessions with a group of local people all motivating and supporting each other. <https://www.bosaverncommunityfarm.org.uk/trees/>

Elise & Rupert / St Ives Community Orchard & Penbeagle Nature Reserve - 30 acres in all, four acres of orchard, forest garden style, with open access so you can visit at any time. Fortunate to get funds for a fantastic building to support community events and workshops. There are 200 fruit trees including many apples, fig tree, kiwi, grapes, nut trees. They are growing five apple trees from seed to see if they can grow a nice new variety, alongside a small vegetable garden and new

polytunnel. They've also recently taken on opportunities to plant up other green spaces around town. <https://www.stivesorchard.co.uk/>

Rupert / St Ives orchard – has his own orchard at home with 30 fruit trees including apple, quince and pear on a west-facing site 500ft up which takes full front of the gales. He has also planted lots of native tree species to provide shelter and sees it as an experiment to grow a productive orchard in those harsh conditions. Wondering if there are other small tree nurseries that are seeking to earn plant healthy certification for selling native seed-grown trees which is an onerous and prohibitive system for many. Maybe if a few groups want this they could work together to reduce costs. If you are interested in linking up please get in touch with Rupert on garden4nature@gmail.com - Possibly useful info is that Kehelland Trust now do 'Ready to Plant' which has similar biosecurity measures but costs are passed on to the customer at 20% of the value of the order for apple trees or native trees – this saves on annual fees but demands the same biosecurity. Anna at Kehelland has done this many times and I'm sure would be willing to share knowledge.

Sophie/ Bude & Bolghen Tree Nursery – has potential land in Bude and wishes to plant an orchard there. Worked at Bolghen Tree Nursery and also going to study at Eden.
<https://bolghentreenursery.co.uk/>

Charles Hulbert-Powell / Lostwithiel – Had a successful walnut grove in Sussex and produced oil. Now based in Lostwithiel. Grows walnut trees in Cornwall. Has written a book -
<https://www.treesource.co.uk/the-walnut-tree~4813>

Colin Hawke / St Newlyn East – Worked for Cornwall County Cornwall as a forester and coordinated the Cornwall Orchard Project in the 1990s when many new orchards were planted across Cornwall as the beginning of an orchard renaissance. Still very passionate about orchards and still getting drawn in to support and offer advice on orchards many years later.

Nick & Rosie / Ladock & Treverbyn Community Trust - Live on the edge of the Clays district. Growing on family land which has an orchard from the 1990s (the time of the Cornwall Orchard Project). Also involved in community gardening and a new orchard at Treverbyn but vandalism has set them back. Nick sees lots of potential in the clays area for planting orchards.
<https://thehall.org.uk/>

Shelley & Rebecca / St Day Community Orchard - Planted four years ago with a community woodland in the adjacent field in the centre of the village. It is very accessible, right next to the school and trying to engage them as much as possible. Lots of dog walkers use the space. They held their second Blossail which was a huge success, 200 people attended, funded by Cornwall Community Foundation and Cornish Lithium. Installed some much-used and much-loved benches thanks to Tim Price who involved local people in creating them out of reclaimed wood. He can help others do this. [United Downs Environment Group | St Day Community Orchard](#)

Daphne & Alan / St Veep Orchard Farmers with a vision to plant more than 200 apple, pear and plum trees on a large scale to replace a deteriorating orchard with support from Forest for Cornwall. Deer from Bocconoc estate have been a challenges, so need lots of good protection. They're really passionate about Cornish orchard heritage and conserving and sharing this alongside this network.

Pauline / Trenoweth Community Orchard, Redruth - Volunteers at Trenoweth Community Orchard planted three years ago. It has been really enjoyable to help care for the trees, while learning with support from Resilient Orchards Cornwall and Forest for Cornwall.
<https://www.resilientorchards.org.uk/redruth-orchard-project/>

Jana / nr Lanner orchard - Nearly 50 trees - apples, mulberry, pears, plums, quince planted in a forest garden style mixed with a traditional approach. Grafted many of the trees themselves and prune them every year. Now want to plant a small nut orchard to include walnuts, heartnut and a wish for hickory nuts. Sweet chestnuts might be a challenge to harvest so think walnuts might be better.

Alan / St Agnes orchard - bought land at Rosemundy which had an older orchard on it. They wish to graft one variety which is dying out, and generally help to sustain the orchard and replant as the trees have been dying out over the past 30-40 years..

Lee Dodge / SE Cornwall Located in a valley planted one acre of mixed orchard 44 trees. Forest for Cornwall funded, sweet chestnuts included. Linking in with Cotehele for knowledge on grafting and local varieties.

Dion Swan / Potager & Gillyflower Farm – Has worked at the Potager, Constantine for the past five years and had funding from Forest for Cornwall to plant a new orchard there.
<https://www.potagergarden.org/> <https://www.gillyflowerfarm.com/orchards>

Tess / Gillyflower Farm - Orchard near Lostwithiel planted in 2019 has 4000 trees mostly apples on M25 vigorous rootstocks, traditional orchard style, with large spacing. Gage orchard is not doing well but the rest is, including the mulberries. Last year was their first good crop and lots went for cider use as they don't yet have the capacity yet to sell on. Lots of heritage varieties, trees are guarded from deer and rabbits. <https://www.gillyflowerfarm.com/orchards>

Michelle / Resilient Orchards Cornwall & Redruth Orchard Project - Received lottery funding for Redruth Orchard Project and volunteer groups planted around 10 new trees particularly focused on pollination partners to support existing trees and trees with different cropping and flowering times to support orchard wildlife. Examples include Cornelian cherry and elderflower plus more forest garden beds. Increased take up of our private orchard services this year and are working to expand on this next year. Cornwall Community Foundation/Cornish Lithium funding included working with a primary school to graft apple trees. Changed to a large membership CIC.
<https://www.resilientorchards.org.uk/>

Sally / Kehelland Trust
<https://www.kehellandtrust.org.uk/visituss>

Meike / Forest for Cornwall & [Caradon Orchard Group](#), if you are a member you can hire their juicing/pressing equipment.
[Forest for Cornwall - Cornwall Council](#) Funding and advice for orchard creation/planting, orchard pruning workshops

References and further information:

*Farming in Protected Landscapes <https://cornwall-landscape.org/project/farming-in-protected->

[landscapes/](#)

Cornwall Red Squirrel Project -how to manage the grey squirrel population
<https://redsquirrelsouthwest.org.uk/cornwall-squirrel-project-csp/>

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Save the date: either Sat 8 May or Sun 9 May