



The past 12 months have been all about growth at the Bridport Community Orchard. On our sites at St Mary's Field off South Street and Jubilee Green off Park Street:

- Growing trees are producing ever more abundant crops
- Growing a wide range of vegetables on the starter allotment plots
- Growing numbers of volunteers attending the work sessions in the orchard and allotments – regularly 20+ throughout the winter months
- Growing levels of attendance at the Wassailing (I hope you all saw us on Spotlight SW) and Apple Day celebrations
- Growing numbers of people using the orchards to relax in
- Growing numbers of groups wanting to hold and participate in events in the orchard
- A growing volume of apple juice being produced
- Our bees have grown into substantial colonies
- And our nest boxes all provided safe havens for the chicks to grow and fledge.

As the Orchards have grown, so too has the need to purchase more appropriate equipment to carry out the routine maintenance and management. During 2016, we have had to purchase:

- A tree ladder in order to safely prune and harvest the apples
- A mower to maintain the tree circles and the paths through the wild flower meadow
- A second set of apple juicing equipment

As a result, we now have a storage issue to resolve and it is hoped that during this year we will be able to gather together sufficient funds to construct a larger shed adjacent to the bee enclosure.

On behalf of the BCOG, I would like to thank the Town Council for their ongoing support, particularly on Apple Day and with the grass cutting. Finally, I would like to thank you for the financial support provided this year, without which we would not have been able to upgrade our juicing and apple tree maintenance equipment.