

Jubilee Garden planting information

The first phase of planting for the Jubilee Garden concentrated on fruit trees and natural hedging plants. Future plans include a wildflower planting area.

The fruit trees were chosen to provide a long flowering and fruiting period to attract pollinators and help other wildlife, as well as providing free fruit for residents. The varieties chosen are mainly heritage varieties to increase biodiversity and help pollinators.

The Jubilee Garden celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and so two ornamental cherry trees were planted in her honour. The Parish Council also chose some fruit trees whose names have royal connections as well as some modern and heritage varieties chosen from a long flowering and fruiting season to support wildlife. Most trees are on dwarf or small rootstock or easy maintenance and so would be good for gardens.

Here are more details about the varieties of fruit trees chosen:

Apple trees:

Crab Apple Royalty: Not only does this have a “royal” name but as a crab apple this is good for wildlife. Its flowers are large and pink/red in colour. During the summer it has colourful dark purple leaves and these turn bright red in the summer. Birds, animals and people can enjoy the small red /purple fruits in the autumn. As well as feeding wildlife the fruits make good crab apple jelly!

Christmas Pippin: This is quite a modern variety of eating apple, with the original plant being found growing along a roadside. It might have grown from a cross between an existing tree and the pips from a discarded apple core. It has an excellent flavour and is crisp and juicy with a long season for fruits between October through to January. This has a Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit and is also recognised as pollinator friendly.

Katy: This is another modern variety of eating apple, and is a cross between a Worcester Permain and a James Grieve apple. It has very pretty flowers in spring. The fruits are ready in early October and are good for eating or juicing. This variety is recognised as pollinator friendly Royal Horticultural Society.

Peasgood Nonsuch: This is a Victorian variety of cooking apple which comes originally from Lincolnshire where it was bred by Mrs Peasgood. It is heavy cropping and fruits late in the season from mid-September through to December. Its many flowers in spring mean it is recognised as pollinator friendly by the Royal Horticultural Society and it has their Award of Garden Merit. Definitely an apple to have with custard!

Tydemans Early Eater: This variety of eating apple was bred in Kent in 1929. The Royal Horticultural Society recognises the variety as pollinator friendly, It fruits early from late August into September and apples are very juicy and tasty too.

Edible Cherry:

Cornelian cherry: This is a hedging plant and has a long season of interest and so is good for wildlife. The interest starts in February with small yellow flowers which attract early pollinators. Leaves turn red/purple in the autumn and area accompanied by bright red edible cherries which are good for eating and cooking as well as a food source for wildlife.

Nuts:

Sweet Almond Princess: Another “royal” name, this is a new variety which is recommended as pollinator friendly by the Royal Horticultural Society. It has attractive pink/white flowers in spring and a good crop of edible nuts in September.

Hazel: This is an attractive hedging plant with edible fruit in the autumn which follows long yellow catkins in spring. Its leaves turn orange and gold in autumn so the whole plant is attractive for a long season. It provides both pollen, food and shelter for birds, insects and small mammals.

Pear:

Beth: Another name with a “royal” link, this small Pear tree attract pollinators with flowers during the has very sweet blood red fruit and a heavy crop of small but very juicy fruits. It has an award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society and would be a good tree for a garden due to its compact growth.

Doyenne de Comice. This Victorian eating variety is recognised as pollinator friendly by the Royal Horticultural Society and it has their Award of Garden Merit. Fruits are very juicy with a good flavour and are ripe from October into November.

Petite Poire: This a new dwarf variety and fruits appeal to children (of all ages!) as they are sweet, bright yellow and bite sized. They can be eaten as dessert pears or poached. It fruits in September and is recognised as pollinator friendly by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Plum:

Lizzie: Another “royal” name, this Japanese tree flowers early in the season to attract early pollinators and has very sweet red fruits which appeal to children.

Marjorie’s Seedling: This variety is recognised as pollinator friendly by the Royal Horticultural Society due to its flowers. Its sweet fruits are purple and can be cooked or eaten raw.

Opal: This has a Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit and is also recognised as pollinator friendly. The fruits are similar to a Victoria Plum but some say it has more flavour. It is early fruiting for a plum, with fruits being ready in early August

Hedging: Discussions are ongoing with the CPRE to obtain some native hedging plants.