



We are incredibly grateful to all those who have supported the Orchard by dedicating a plaque for a tree. Your generous support has helped to pay for the outdoor classroom - a valuable asset in allowing people to sit, relax and enjoy the Orchard, as well as provide shelter for workshops, classes and events which are held up there.

Over the year it has become apparent that people are wishing to remember their loved ones by placing flowers and other ornaments into the trees and at the base of the post. It has also been the case where cremated remains have been scattered around the base of trees. However, some materials are non-biodegradable and are sometimes being left for a very long time. Also, we have had human cremated remains scattered around the base of trees, and plants planted at their base. It needs to be said that the orchard is an orchard and not a memorial garden or a graveyard. As a "Friends of" group run by local volunteers, we do not have the waste disposal facilities to remove material which cannot be composted on site, and as the land is owned by Mansfield District Council (MDC), we have to abide by their regulations regarding the scattering of human ashes.

Whilst we understand that this is a delicate issue we do have to make the following rules regarding material left by the dedication plaques:

1. No cut flowers or memorial items of any kind, plastic or real may be left at the base of trees or posts.
2. No plants may be planted at the base of the trees as this takes away nutrients from the trees, and we will be applying weedkiller at various times in the year to suppress weed growth and facilitate healthy trees.
3. No human ashes are to be scattered in the grounds of the Orchard as MDC advise that 'disposal of cremated remains in water courses or on public land (without [MDC] consent) may be an offence... You are not permitted to carry out this function yourself.' Human ashes have a negative effect on the health of young trees, and we have already seen the damage this can cause to them from ash scattering at their bases.
4. Dedication plaques may be removed from posts by the group for any who persistently breach these rules.
5. Trees, plaques and posts remain the property of The Friends of Pleasley Community Orchard. None should be removed, and we will consider it an act of vandalism if they are.

In order to help everyone enjoy the Orchard, including those who have dedicated plaques, we have planted daffodil bulbs at the base of each of the posts so there is an annual floral display in memory of those who have dedication plaques.

We hold an annual memorial gathering in the Orchard around the evening of 2nd November (All Souls Day), where we light candles placing them either in the branches of the trees or at the base of the plaque posts. Why not pop this into the diary and come along to join with others as we remember those who brought light into our lives, and we bring light into the darkness?

We hope you understand our need to put such rules in place and we do again thank you for your support for the work of this wonderful community space.

The Friends of Pleasley Community Orchard

June 2019