

Cherry Day 2008

Pictures courtesy of Kent Messenger Group



Julie Barrett, Tom English,
Anne Dawes, Bob Baxter



Sittingbourne Wind
Ensemble warms up

Sorrow at loss of Orchard Project team member.

It is with great sadness that we have to record the untimely death of John Disney. He died in hospital on August 7th, after an operation.

John joined the Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council early in 2004. He was immediately attracted to the Community Cherry Orchard idea, just as the project was taking off. John quickly became a leading member of the management team, the Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard Project Group. His training in biological science allowed him to talk easily with experts about orchard habitat surveying. His experience with finance management made him the key player when it came to using the project grant funding to acquire appropriate equipment and facilities for the Orchard. And of, course, his skill with generators, barbecues etc. was clearly evident at the Blossom Day, Cherry Day and Halloween gatherings that became, in great part due to his enthusiasm and hard work, the popular annual events they are today. Contact with Fulston Manor School, through his wife Marlene, resulted in a set of attractive interpretation boards illustrated by the art students. His enthusiasm for cherry history attracted the interest of past participants in the industry, and he built up a sizeable collection of photographs that he intended to include in a book.

As well as being a prime mover in other Parish Council projects, John was elected to both the Borough Council and Teynham Parish Council, where he exerted considerable influence in a very short time. But he always gave his unstinting support to the Community Orchard. He will be very greatly missed, and it will need considerable resolve to keep up the momentum he played so great a part in generating.

Bob Baxter.
August 2008.

