**Pastures New.**

Sadly, we had to say a reluctant farewell to two stalwart Orchard supporters during 2021.

**Anne Dawes** had been an enthusiast for the Orchard since the start. From 2011 she had assumed the onerous task of taking the ‘notes’ at the six-weekly meetings of the Executive Committee. This involved producing agenda and seeing that all members received copies of the notes – including any jobs they had agreed to do! As a side issue to this Anne did a grand job of collating the collection of pictures and news cuttings that had accumulated in the early years of the Orchard project’s development.

Anne, with husband Clive, for many years operated the all-important barbecue at various annual events in the Orchard. This task, happily taken on, involved procuring supplies of meat and buns, running the production of hamburgers and sausages on the day, taking the money and clearing up afterwards. Not an easy, or grease-free, job! In addition Anne and Clive would appear on the morning after events with a welcome bacon sandwich to reward the haulers-down of the marquees. We wished the pair well in their new life across the water in Essex.

**Brian Pond** first became firmly involved in 2009 by offering to serve as Honorary Treasurer to the critical Steering Committee that existed between the Orchard Committee of the parish council and the formation of the independent Orchard Group. His subsequent work in this ‘moneybags’ role included ordering marquees, tables, chairs and other equipment for the burgeoning Orchard activities. It was Brian who devised a code of coloured tape to ease the connecting-up of the marquee components, and a stencil method of identifying ownership of canvas sheets. His handy-man and carpentry skills resulted in the production of games and rustic benches for events, a replacement notice board and a custom-made box for the Orchard’s resident little owls to nest in. And many a visitor benefitted from the presence of his hand made waymarkers that were erected along the route to the Orchard on event days. In fact any problem that could be solved by carpentry and ingenuity was readily and happily tackled by Brian.

We wished Brian and Josette all happiness in their new home on the Isle of Sheppey.

The departure of Anne and Brian leave serious gaps in our team. If you feel you can help us, please get in touch with any member of the Orchard Group.

*RB 17.03.2022.*

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