



The apple trees in the Walled Garden were so laden with apples that they leant over creating a curtain. As the apples were picked they slowly lifted back into place.

## Shenley Park October 2022 Newsletter

Once a private Estate known as Porters Park, then a site of a Mental Hospital, Shenley Park is now a unique self-funded Park for all. The Park is steeped in history and hosts an Orchard, Meadow, Woodland walks, Historic buildings and an amazing 2 acre landscaped Walled Garden with an Amphitheatre. The Park is open all year round and is free to use as are the car parks. Events are held throughout the year; it is a perfect base for walks and has a Tea Room that is open daily from 8am.

## Walled Garden

Sat and Sun the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Oct is the last weekend opening of the Walled Garden until next Easter.

It will be open weekdays 12-4pm (unless extreme weather).

At weekends a member of staff will be available to take card payments at the Walled Garden Produce stall. Throughout the year this stall sells apple juice, plants and seasonal fruit when available.

Chilli plants are now on sale!

We have 20 or so varieties of chilli and peppers ready - come and visit the stall in the Walled Garden.



## Whats happening in the Park

### Apples

We are making our way through the orchard harvesting apples when they are ready. Each variety ripe at different times (early, mid and late season). All of the apples are earlier this year however, unsurprising given the heatwave and drought.

We held two family apple picking days and thank you to the large numbers of people that came to help. Everyone enjoyed two sunny afternoons and collectively generated 80 very large overflowing crates of apples, around 250kg. These have since been either sold through the Walled Garden produce stall or turned into juice.

Also helping us have been Oaklands college students who have also picked an amazing amount of 50 crates to date with more to go.

Our staff have also been picking every day and we estimate so far around 600 crates have been picked.

So to those that think we do not do anything with our apples - we certainly do.

We cannot collect bruised apples or those with holes made by wildlife so these are left on the floor for nature. The public are welcome to collect these and windfalls off the floor. Otherwise apples are available to buy in the Walled Garden or on Apple Day!

## Apple Day

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> October 12-4pm in the Walled Garden

Many unusual varieties of apple to try and buy

Apple juice

Cakes

Produce stalls

Refreshments

Childrens activities

Apple juicing demonstrations

Entry £1 per person (under 3s free)

We do have additional car parking (weather conditions providing).

However can we ask local residents to consider walking to us on Apple Day please?



If you would like to have a stall on Apple Day please contact us [shenleypark@gmail.com](mailto:shenleypark@gmail.com)

Must include an apple or environmental theme.

We were so happy to be able to invite Shenley Primary School down to taste many different apples from the orchard and to have a go at juicing using the hobby press. Every class from nursery to reception walked down to the Walled Garden. It was great to see the children enjoying the park and the apples. Thank you to all of the staff for making it happen.



We have also had a visit from Radlett Rainbows and Brownies who have built bird boxes from templates cut out by Derek here in Shenley Park. These boxes shall be put up in the park over winter.

They also had a go at making apple juice the professional way in our juice room followed by a bat walk.

Thank you to them for all their hard work.

## Events

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> October - Apple Day

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - Wassailing

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Website	<a href="http://www.shenleypark.co.uk">www.shenleypark.co.uk</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:info@shenleypark.co.uk">info@shenleypark.co.uk</a>
Facebook	@ShenleyPark
Instagram	#shenleyparkandwalledgarden
Phone	01923 852629

## Tennis Courts

The tennis court situation is ongoing, the subsidence in the corners of the area is very costly to fix. We are hoping to install at least one court back into Shenley Park and are awaiting news of a funding application, as of this month we are still awaiting news.

We will keep you updated here in our newsletters and on our website.

