



## Shenley Park

Newsletter November and December 2024

APPLE DAY this year was very wet and windy. We have been blessed the past few years with good weather but not this year. We still had 769 people over the age of 3 come along and enjoy the 52 varieties of apple, apple juices and childrens activities. Thank you to all who helped us with the day, especial thanks to Shenley rainbows and Radlett brownies and guides with their leaders they donated cakes and ran the tea tent plus donated all their funds to the park.

### Tennis

Our courts have been open for 5 months and we have had 369 bookings in this time. We are really pleased that people are enjoying and using them. Please note that this first year we are not permitting private coaching or group lessons on the courts. We shall review the usage over the year and decide on what slots may be made available for coaching purposes next year.

Book a court easily online via [Tennis - Shenley Park](#)



The fence has been moved in to enclose the 2 courts, it was not possible to fix the third court subsidence. This area will be dug up and replaced with grass and trees next autumn time.

Our next event is Wassailing on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025, starting at 5pm meet in the main car park. Join us afterwards for warmed spiced apple juice and Wassail cake. It is useful if you can let us know if you can join us please shenleypark@gmail.com

## WASSAILING

**Stanley Lord Orchard, Shenley Park.**

**Sat 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 5pm**

Meet in the main car park.

**Wassailing!** An ancient practice of blessing Apple Orchards to ensure that there is a plentiful crop of wonderful apples the following year.

**How?** We lead a procession, torch lit, into the Orchard where upon we gather around a tree. We hold a short ceremony; hang pieces of toast from the branches of the tree and pour apple juice around the base of the tree as a present to the tree! We then make lots of noise with drums, bells and anything else musical that people bring along to scare away any evil spirits! A special Wassail song is sung, some fireworks are let off and we then retire to the Tea room garden, cups of mulled apple juice and Wassail cake.

Please come and join us - and bring something to make a noise with - a musical instrument or even a saucepan and a spoon! A torch or lantern is also useful. We ask for a donation from people (suggestion of £2).

Please let us know if you would like to come and join us.

Please note that if you are thinking of bringing your dog that there is a short firework display, there are sparklers and a lot of noise.

The event lasts around 1 hour.

## Wildlife in the park

Our latest visitor in the park is a young badger that has been seen scampering down by the compost heap.

The primroses in the Walled Garden are confused by the weather and are flowering already.

Over the autumn/winter period we will be cutting all of the grass areas and cutting the hedges.

The orchard and surrounding trees are all due to receive their annual prune.



If there is a particular area that is problematic please do contact us directly on [shenleypark@gmail.com](mailto:shenleypark@gmail.com).

## Dates for your diaries

Orchard Tea Room closed Christmas Eve until 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Main car park and play area closed Christmas Day

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Wassailing