

## Looking for historic apple trees

I am looking for old-looking fruit trees around the village, to take cuttings and propagate for a potential community orchard and would be grateful to hear if you know of any. They may not necessarily be tall, but the trunk may be wide and perhaps hollow and the bark will be weathered.

There is a nation-wide campaign to reverse the disappearance of traditional English orchards. A shared orchard in Whitchurch could be a focus and project for the community and a new piece of local heritage and could be made using varieties of apple and pear from surviving old trees around the village. Local varieties of apple and pear have been disappearing for a long time in favour of more common commercial varieties, but trees can survive for 200 years and remaining old specimens from the local area are likely to carry forgotten old types which may have



even been local to the area, or otherwise may now have been forgotten elsewhere. Propagating cuttings from these trees could give Whitchurch its own unique collection of apple and pear varieties. It would be quite straightforward if a location were approved - I can graft and propagate the trees and have so far found nine old specimens in the two orchards near where I live.

The Polish church site has been discussed as a possible location, which has room for a small number of trees **Please do let me know if you have any ideas and mention it to anybody you think may be interested.** If you know of any old-looking fruit trees around the village, my email address is [alastairdunstan5@gmail.com](mailto:alastairdunstan5@gmail.com)

Alastair Dunstan  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2021