

At our September meeting, we enjoyed an informative and wide-ranging talk given by Tim Healey on the subject of Apples – Myth and Mystery of England's Favourite Fruit. Starting with Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit, we learnt about the apple in many forms – in art, history, magical tradition, their cultivation and their health benefits.

Apples originated from Kazakhstan and seeds were carried throughout Europe thousands of years ago. The Greeks, Etruscans, and Romans cultivated apples, and the Romans carried apple seeds and trees to the British Isles. Closer to home we learnt about cider-making and wassailing the orchards in Brightwell cum Sotwell. Finally, Sue Cooper was able to update us that there are plans for 2 community apple orchards in Benson, and we look forward to further news on those.

The mention of Kazakhstan as the 'home' of the apple, makes me wonder if we have all been looking for the Garden of Eden in the wrong place!

Fenella Galpin

The continuing saga of storage for 'the village's history archive'

Plans changed a little and it was suggested I should present to the Halls' Committee, rather than the full Council. The meeting was planned for the 10th and after some doubt about there being enough Councillors who could attend to make it quorate, it went ahead. There were 3 Councillors (including the Chairperson), the Parish Clerk and the Hall's Manager and Pete Eldridge was there to support me if necessary. Councillors and the Parish Clerk had all been circulated with a copy of my presentation and associated supporting letters which meant that I could stick to headline points.

After my presentation I asked for questions but there were none.

The Chairperson then stated that as there were so few councillors in attendance she did not believe they should make a recommendation to the Council but rather pass the request to the full Council meeting for consideration at the end of October. My offer to make the presentation to the full Council was accepted. So by the time you have read this the decision will have been made and, hopefully, the Archive will at last have a home.

David McGill