



Heritage Orchard

One of the projects we have been working on over the past few months is our new **Heritage Orchard**, planted in the area between the Spinney entrance gate and the car park.



Last autumn we spent several weekends clearing and chipping the elder bushes, brambles, etc. A new wooden fence was erected around the orchard and a native hedgerow planted alongside it.

We then planted 16 traditional local varieties of fruit trees, selected from the Heritage Fruit Trees catalogue provided by the East of England Apples and Orchards Project.





There are lots of rabbits, deer and other wildlife at The Spinney, which like to have a nibble at the bark and leaves of young trees (and sometimes this can kill the trees) so we put a metal guard around each tree to protect it.

Each tree has a label with its name and a brief description.



These are the trees we have planted:

Apples: Lord Burghley; Herring’s Pippin; Barnack Beauty; Schoolmaster; Peasgood Nonsuch; Allington Pippin; Isaac Newton’s Tree; Brown’s Seedling

Pears: Laxton’s Early Market; Princess; Laxton’s Foremost

Plums/Gages: Ingall’s Grimoldby Green Gage; Lindsey Gage; Princess

Cherries: Early Rivers; Strawberry Heart



The ground between the trees has been seeded with a mixture of grasses, clovers, vetches and trefoils. We hope that the flowers will attract pollinators and beneficial predatory insects.



Lincolnshire's orchards

Many of Lincolnshire's orchard fruits owe their development to two men: Thomas Laxton and William Ingall.

Thomas Laxton started breeding apples at his nursery in Stamford in the mid-nineteenth century, introducing varieties such as 'Allington Pippin' and 'Peasgood Nonsuch' which both became very popular. 'Schoolmaster' is thought to have arisen from the seed of a Canadian apple found growing in the garden of Stamford Old Grammar School in the 1850s. Laxton later moved his nursery to Bedfordshire where he and his sons bred numerous commercially successful types of fruit.

William Ingall was an orchard owner and nurseryman at Grimoldby near Louth. At the turn of the twentieth century he introduced a number of apples and other fruit, most of which he named after himself.



The traditional orchards of Lincolnshire were situated mainly on the edge of the Fens in the south, around Boston and Spalding, and on land reclaimed from the sea, particularly east of Louth. Many of these orchards have been cleared away within the last forty years.

We are proud to preserve our heritage and the work of Laxton, Ingall and other local fruit tree breeders by planting some of their orchard fruit varieties at The Spinney.

