

Botanic Garden Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Old Leicestershire Apples planted at the Attenborough Arboretum **1**

Director's message **2**

Reflections on the Opening of the Attenborough Arboretum, 23 April 1997 **2-3**

Moth recording at the University of Leicester Botanic Garden in 2016 **4-5**

Friends of the Garden pages

Notes from the Chair **6**

Reciprocal mailings **6**

Committee members 2017-18 **6**

Volunteering opportunities **6**

Garden visits 2017 **7**

Dates for your diary **8**

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'Belvoir Seedling' (photo Mel Wilson)



'Martin's Custard'



'Barnack Orange'

Old Leicestershire apples planted at the Attenborough Arboretum

Last month, seven old apple varieties were planted at the Attenborough Arboretum, representing about half of the total collection to be delivered this year or early next.

The trees are being purchased with the aid of funding from the Friends of the Garden. This initial batch comprises the following cultivars: Annie Elizabeth, Barnack Orange, Belvoir Seedling, Langton Nonesuch, Leicester-Burton Pippin, Martin's Custard and Marriage Maker. All have been propagated by Nigel and Alison Deacon of the Leicestershire Heritage Apples Project, who were even kind enough to come along and help us plant them.

This addition to our collection of native trees at the Arboretum happily coincides not only with the 20th anniversary of its opening but also with a major initiative to get the labelling and interpretation of the site upgraded. Coloured labels together with interpretation panels will help explain the different phases of colonisation of the British Isles by our native trees. Included in this drive to improve the visitor experience is a proposal to install a key-pad gate so that Friends can visit at weekends when it is otherwise closed.



Clockwise from left: Langton, Packington, Prince Charles, Marriage Maker, Leicester-Burton Pippin