

Colwall Orchard Group: Safe Way of Working: SWOW02 - Bonfires

Prepared by: Andy Ball 27 May 2020

Review: Monthly thereafter (or in the event of Government Guidance being amended)

Reviewed by: C Blake 25 July 2022

Next review: by 30 April 2023

Introduction

Bonfires can be a convenient and efficient way of getting rid of rubbish, however COG is now moving away from the use of bonfires wherever possible for environmental reasons.. A bonfire also forms part of the annual Wassail celebrations at Colwall Village Garden

Bonfires should only be burnt by Lead Volunteers.

Please do not have a bonfire if it is really windy, as flying embers could set the Apple Packing Shed on fire (check the weather forecast!).

General guidance

- Do not burn any of the following items
 - o Aerosols
 - o Foam-filled furniture
 - o Items containing polystyrene
 - o Old furniture
 - o Painted or treated wood
 - o Plastics
 - o Tins of paint
 - o Tyres
- Do not use any type of flammable or combustible liquid at any time.
- Run a bucket of water to keep handy in case of an accident.
- There are fire extinguishers at Colwall Village Garden in the following positions
 - o In the timber allotment tool shed – inside door to right

- o In the Apple Packing Shed storage area – inside double doors to the left
- o In the Orchard Room – inside rear pedestrian entrance door to the right
- The 'Health Safety and Welfare' kit (in a plastic box on the shelves in the shed) includes a burns kit, first aid kit and a fire blanket – ensure you know where to find this in case of emergency.
- Please supervise your children near the bonfire.

Starting the fire

- If the bonfire has been prepared previously check for hibernating or nesting wildlife and sleeping pets. Piles of garden waste are often used as a refuge for animals.
- To get a fire started, put a crumpled piece of paper, cotton wool smeared in vaseline or a store-bought fire starter in the bonfire, and cover with small sticks — the smaller, the better.
- Do not use methylated spirit, or any other flammable liquid, to get the fire started.
- As the fire begins to burn, add larger and larger sticks until you're finally able to add a log or two.
- Feed the fire as necessary, taking care not to let it get too big.
- Make sure that the bonfire is stable and will not collapse outwards or sideways.

Tamping down the fire

- Towards the end of your bonfire, allow the wood to burn away to ash.
- Do not leave the fire site with a fire still burning.
- Once the ashes have died down, spread them out around the surface of the bonfire with a rake to cool.
- Ensure that you have cleared all the wood and any rubbish around the bonfire to avoid trip hazards, mess and the possibility of anything outside the bonfire area catching fire.

Clearing up

- Please return later in the evening or the next day to check that everything is clear for the next event.
- Remove the bulk of the ashes and especially any nails or metal fragments.
- Be careful handling partially burned wood - the wood may still be smouldering and cause a burn.
- Damp the ashes down first if they are still hot. Put the ashes in the metal bin provided (not on the compost heaps or around the site, as smouldering ashes could ignite any dry combustible material).

- Return the water in the water bucket to the tank.

In case of emergency - calling emergency services

- The Apple Packing Shed is on Old Church Road, Colwall at WR13 6HB.
- The grid reference is SO 747 426.
- If you do not have a mobile phone, or cannot get reception, the nearest public phone is at Colwall Stone.