



**SPRING 2023**

**PLEASE STICK TO THE FOOTPATHS AT ALL TIMES** –PLEASE NOTE THAT FOOTPATHS DO NOT PASS ANY HOUSES, FARM BUILDINGS OR ROADS. HAVE A LOOK AT OUR INFORMATION BOARDS AND OVERLEAF. PLEASE KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS, ANIMALS ON LEADS, POOP SCOOPED, AND LOOKING OUT FOR MACHINERY....REMEMBER THIS IS A WORK PLACE – ALBEIT A BEAUTIFUL ONE. IF YOU SEE OR HEAR A TRACTOR WORKING MAKE SURE THE DRIVER HAS SEEN YOU FROM A SAFE DISTANC.

**Charrington Fruit Farms,  
Cryals Farm, Boundary Map &  
FOOTPATHS**

**START POINT =**  ENTRY / EXIT

**FOOTPATH =** 

**CRYALS FARM BOUNDARY =** 

**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**Granny's Bench (rest area)** 

**Wildlife corridors - throughout the farm**

**B&B – bug Hotels** 

**Conservation areas are marked with:**



**Big Farmland Bird Count Observation site** 

**Wild Flower and beehive sites** 

HAVE A LOVELY WALK. OVERLEAF YOU CAN READ ABOUT WHAT WE DO HERE AND USE THE MAP TO SEE SOME OF THE WILDLIFE.

IF YOU WANT TO TRY OUR CIDER / JUICE / CRISPS YOU CAN ORDER FROM [CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM](http://CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM) AND WE DELIVER – YOU CAN GET 10% OFF BY SIGNING UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

Take a rest at  
Granny's bench...

**WE DON'T HAVE A SHOP BUT WE DO DELIVER LOCALLY FOR FREE OR YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE AND COLLECT FROM THE FARM! PLEASE ORDER ONLINE [WWW.CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM](http://WWW.CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM) OR CALL 01892722372 (OPTION 2).**

# WELCOME TO CHARRINGTON FRUIT FARMS

PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE WITH YOU ON YOUR WALK AND FEEL FREE TO  
TAKE HOME OR DOWNLOAD VIA THE QR CODE  
YOU CAN ALSO SEE THE LATEST VERSION ON OUR NEWS AND EVENTS  
PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM](http://WWW.CHARRINGTONSDRINKS.COM)



**MOUSE EAR TO PINK BUD?** A late start to bud development with the cold temperatures in March but it just means April will be a rush of activity. Our trees don't really feel the temperature of the wind at this time of year but the new leaves can get a bit buffeted. The trees really react to the gradually rising temperatures. Every warm day we get now, the buds are moving from mouse ear to pink bud and then leaf and flower.

You can see all the bud stages here: <https://www.charringtonsdrinks.co.uk/tick-tock/>

Dormant



Silver tip



Green tip



1/4" green



1/2" green



Tight cluster



Pink



Open cluster



King bloom



Full bloom



Petal fall



8 mm



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ORCHARDS?...**all the work that the tree did last June to prepare the bud for this year is now becoming visible. Leaves are emerging and flowers will

soon be being visited by our bees to help pollination and form apples. It is not just bees that do the work but the wind and a host of other flying insects that spread the pollen. If you are here at different times of the day, take a look around you for the different birds and animals that visit and thrive on the orchard life. Look out in particular for the Buzzards circling or standing on the high posts or up high on the edges of the forest sections. Rabbits are abundant as well as daily routines being visible from foxes and even deer.

### **SOME COOL FACTS ABOUT BEES...**



Next time you are foraging – think of the forager honey bee who stays loyal to a particular flower species all its life and does the waggle dance when it finds the flower to attract the others. You might see our orchards mowed in blossom time to help the bees focus on the apple blossom rather than the dandelions. Apple blossom can often be the first real food after winter for the bees and is as vital to the bees as the bees are to it. The apple blossom and warm days will help improve the strength of the bee hive.

In every hive there are frames or layers – often between 5 and 8. Every frame has a brood with a potential of at least 2000 bees. Bees work when the temperature is generally above 12 degrees...and it really is the case that the hives are made up almost entirely of girls whether they are workers or drones – and of course it is the girls that do most of the work directed and governed by the Queen bee. Bumble bees and solitary bees will work in lower temperatures and live in the ground rather than in hives. If you see our hives, watch from a safe distance as the bees bring the pollen back to the hive (please keep pets well away). The best times to watch are when the hive is quieter in the late evening and the early morning. You don't need to be close to see so keep a good distance away at all times.

**DO WE REALLY NEED THE BEES?...**We love having the bees and they do work hard...but they are not the only ones to pollinate and the wind and other insects can do as much as well. Life and pollination is always a balance of the right mix to increase the chances of pollination. We grow 7 apple varieties here – Braeburn, Gala, Zari, Cox, Russet, Cheerfull Gold TM and Bramley which all pollinate differently – some with the help of additional pollinating varieties like Golden Delicious and malus varieties (non fruit bearing) like Professor Sprenger, Evereste and Red Sentinel that are all about ensuring we have plenty of flowers available for the whole time during blossom – which you never can tell exactly when it will be. A good guess this year will be end of April / beginning of May.

**IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE GROW BUT HOW WE GROW IT:** We have the highest accreditation in the country (LEAF) for sustainable farming, supplying all the major

supermarkets with fresh apples and making our own award winning apple juice, premium sparkling ciders and apple crisps. We have won 6 Great Taste Awards and 4 Quality Food and Drink Awards, winning Best Cider, best mulled apple juice and Best Sweet Snack (apple crisps) for innovation and quality. We have also been awarded the Emsden Trophy for our contribution to the Kent Countryside, looking after everything we have here – our precious water where we are net contributors to the water table, harnessing the sun with our solar panels to power our cold stores, and looking after our trees and everything and everyone who lives on and visits the farm (including you 😊). We strive to be carbon neutral and our type of farming is generally very kind to the environment where we host and support so many more plants and species than just apples.

**REPLANTING AND REGENERATION:** As you walk across the top of the farm, you will pass both “10 Acre” on the eastern boundary and “Big Field” on the western boundary. Further down as you pass through the latch gate into Hop Garden, you will see Pond Field as well. In all, there are 5 hectares newly planted (just over 1 tenth of our farm). These are 25 year investments and they need to stay healthy, productive and commercially viable for that whole period. It’s a responsibility that we share with you as well as we need you loving, valuing, eating and drinking all the varieties we grow for that whole time too. This year the changes are stark and obvious but actually every year in an orchard’s life is equally as important. Apple orchards are very kind on the land with everything during the life of the orchard being returned to the field. If you have been watching the transformation over the past year, you will see the young trees with stacks of bud that will be too many apples for them to carry – so we need to be patient over the next 4 years to remove the crop and only let the tree grow what it can carry for this year. Trees lay down their bud for the following year in June, so it is important not to stress the tree by keeping it well fed and watered, free from disease and only carrying a crop that it is comfortable to manage.

**WISHING YOU A LOVELY WALK:** You are very welcome here. Please do keep to the footpaths and look out for all the workers (bees and humans and tractors)! The fields look lovely and open but we would be very grateful if you could keep firm control of your dogs and scoop any poop. We work all hours so you need to look out for us and machinery at any time. Please keep your distance and only pass when safe to do so. Think of it as crossing a busy road with your pet or children. If you would like to meet us or know more about the farm, our apples and our award winning single juices, ciders and crisps, please email us [hello@charringtonsdrinks.com](mailto:hello@charringtonsdrinks.com) or call Alex on 07919413104. You can also see what we’re up to on [www.facebook.com/charringtons](https://www.facebook.com/charringtons) , Twitter [@ charringtons](https://twitter.com/charringtons) , web pages [charringtonfarms.co.uk](http://charringtonfarms.co.uk) and [charringtonsdrinks.com](http://charringtonsdrinks.com) , and even our You Tube channel “Hello@ Charrington's” where you will find more information and you can buy our cider, juices and apple crisps (we don’t have a shop but we do deliver or you can order online and collect from the farm!).

Have a lovely walk! *Alex*

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BELOW**

**YOU WILL ALSO FIND LAMINATED VERSIONS AT ALL THE ENTRANCES TO THE FARM  
LOOK OUT FOR OUR FREE GUIDED WALKS WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE AND EVEN  
TASTE THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR**

**SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS:**

<https://www.charringtonsdrinks.co.uk/> (SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE)

