



## News release

# COVENTRY PEACE ORCHARD – COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY 18 NOVEMBER

### Community Planting Day on Saturday 18 November, 10.am to 3 pm

The dream of Coventry D-Day veteran, 94 year old Dennis Davison, has finally come to fruition. For many years he has wanted to see an apple orchard planted in Coventry as a legacy to the apple orchards of Normandy where he and many others fought for peace in 1944 as part of the D-Day Campaign.

The charity he founded in 2010, Normandy Day UK, has secured funding from the people's Postcode Lottery and Big Lottery for a Peace orchard on a site in Coundon Hall Park.

The day will be run by the Council's Park Rangers, who will provide tools and training on how to plant and look after the trees. The session is suitable for people of any age. Park in the car park next to the changing rooms off Tamworth Road before the Junction with Long Lane and follow the signs to the site.

As well as planting an apple orchard for future generations, students at Cardinal Newman and Coundon Court schools will create an on-line information resource. This will tell the stories of local people like Dennis who fought in the Normandy Campaign, show how to manage an apple orchard, create an apple cook book and explain Coventry's role as the city of Peace and Reconciliation. The information will be available on site via smart phone using web links.

Dennis, who was last year awarded the Legion D'Honneur by the French government for his contribution to Normandy Campaign and the British Empire Medal, said,

“For me, the Peace Orchard is not a memorial. It's a way of preserving the legacy of D-Day, learning how to build peace and how to live together sustainably. The Orchard will not only be a beautiful and peaceful place - it will also pass on important skills and provide food for future generations long after I've gone.”

Charity Trustee and Whoberley Ward Councillor Bally Singh said, “This is a long term project. The most important thing is to establish a group of people with the knowledge and commitment to manage the orchard, prune the trees at the right time and store and distribute the fruit.”



**Further information:** [www.normandy-day.co.uk](http://www.normandy-day.co.uk), [contact@normandy-day.co.uk](mailto:contact@normandy-day.co.uk), Andy Duncan at AJD Regeneration 07939 105706

The Peace Orchard project is a partnership between peace education charity Normandy Day UK, Coventry City Council and Cardinal Newman and Coundon Court secondary schools.

The site is located just off Tamworth Road near the junction with Long Lane. Other planting and activity days are being held for schools.

The project is funded by Postcode Local Trust, Big Lottery, the Tree Council and the Woodland Trust. Specialist advice and support is being provided to the Normandy Day UK charity by:

- AJD Regeneration, who are acting as project managers
- The Apple Man, an apple grower who runs an apple tree nursery in Oswestry
- Specialist peace education specialists Balbir Sohal Associates



**Dennis Davison**, Legion D'Honor, BEM,  
Chair & Founder, Normandy Day UK charity