Abundance Malvern report for the 2018 AGM

2017 was a bumper year of fruit for most people. We visited more gardens and did not visit the Three Counties showground.

Picking: We picked on a total of 11 days (2016, 14), in 17 gardens (2016, 9), with around 18 volunteers (2016, 25).

Distributing: As in 2016, we distributed apples, as we picked, to volunteers, through Freegle to individuals (~5), and also 2 crates went to Tudor Grange School, Worcester for year 10 chutney making. Neighbours and friends had lots and between them donated £42.80 to MCF (Abundance). We gave weekly deliveries from September to the end of February to Zest for Life (mainly cooking apples) and Malvern Food Bank (mainly eating apples additionally from one of the group going gleaning).

Juicing: in two batches we juiced 216 (18 boxes) + 164 (14 boxes) = total of 370 bottles (32 boxes) at Clive's fruit farm. This amount was based on pre-orders from volunteers, members and those who have had it in previous years.

Volunteers and owners: The article of September 2017 in the Malvern Gazette led to offers from new owners. And also to a new family of volunteers. The website generated another new volunteer.

We held a social on Sunday 19th November (6pm at Maggie Jo's) which was very enjoyable. We provided Abundance juice and some wine; people brought nibbles and snacks to share and some drinks too.

Equipment: we did not need to use the picking ladder, so we did not have to hire a pick up van. All the other equipment was well used and makes the task much easier. There were funds available in the budget so we have purchased, additional crates, 2 additional picking bags and 2 additional picking heads. These will have screw adjustments added so that they can be used on any of our poles.