

JULY
10**FRUITFUL SCOTLAND***Scottish Orchards Special*

FREE

**Scottish Orchards**[WWW.SCOTTISHORCHARDS.COM](http://www.scottishorchards.com)

FRUIT FOR THOUGHT

Welcome to the newsletter celebrating the resurgence of fruit growing and the interest in Scottish varieties old and new.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCOTTISH ORCHARDS**Milestones****How we got here****mists of time**

Wild apples taken from Kazakstan along trade routes.

1100AD

Monks plant early orchards near church yards across Scotlan

2005 - present**Children's Orchard, Glasgow**

Develops network of fruit tree plantings, initially in Glasgow but now across Scotland.

2007 -08

SNH fund study to look at roll out of Children's Orchard Scotland wide. One conclusion is that a network - Scottish Orchards - is needed to pull together information and knowhow and to support people.

Jan 2009

Scottish Orchards is convened and constituted. Website - www.scottishorchards.com established.

May 2010

First Scottish Orchards Gathering in Glasgow - with delegates from across Scotland sharing ideas and networking. This continued with a discussion of how to develop Scottish Orchards - and a new committee agreed.

GROW YOUR OWN FRUITFUL SCOTLAND!**SCOTTISH ORCHARDS GATHERING 22nd May 2010**

The First Scottish Orchards Gathering took place in St Mungo's Museum, in Glasgow. This is close to Glasgow Cathedral and was chosen as this is one of the sites of the earliest orchard planting in Scotland around 1100AD by monks.

**The Scottish Orchards**

Gathering - brought together people from all across Scotland to discuss and celebrate all the interesting and fruitful work being done. People came together from across Scotland, including Torridon, East Lothian, Fife, Oban, Glasgow, Neilston and we heard from around 15 speakers. Topics ranged from

Fruitful Schools, planting a teaching orchard at Elmwood College, the history of orchards in urban areas, fruit growing and it's role in urban regeneration, and the Central Scotland Green Network and its role in encouraging grow your own food.



Scottish Orchards - an afternoon session looked at the development of Scottish Orchards - which was constituted in 2009 - and which exists to support all aspects of fruit growing, across Scotland. A number of people have agreed to serve on the new committee.

Please Join Scottish Orchards - and help us grow @

www.scottishorchards.com

Next Steps - where and how we develop Scottish Orchards from here.

The idea of Scottish Orchards is that it's very down to earth, and open to ordinary (and often extraordinary) people. It's meant for individuals to join rather than be a forum of groups, or representatives of government quangos and agencies. It's about helping people get their hands dirty and do practical fun things, to create a Fruitful Scotland. Involving children and families is a great way to ensure this remains grounded.



What's next... ?

We think it will thrive if it's useful to people - as a source of information - and as a "fellowship" where people can share ideas with people who have a common interest.

We'd like to run a series of local Scottish Orchard networking events across Scotland in the autumn/ winter - to allow people to find out how to get involved. We'd like these to have a wide geographic spread and be fun and quite informal. If you'd like to help host one near you, then let us know.



Scottish Orchards will succeed if it helps people to grow their own fruit, builds on skills, and creates a market for Scottish fruit.

We are aware of lots of great local growing initiatives and hope that we will be able to provide useful support and help them develop.



Scottish Orchards is run by voluntary enthusiasts - who want to learn from each other and help each other to plant, pick, and harvest their own. If you'd like to get involved please contact John Hancox, chair, 0778 606 3918

John.d.hancox@btinternet.com



The best time to plant an apple tree is twenty years ago. The next best time is now...

THE AIMS OF SCOTTISH ORCHARDS

To promote all aspects of planting and maintaining new and established orchards in Scotland

To maintain and develop the knowledge and skills used in planting, propagation etc. by sharing knowledge and research

To help preserve the heritage of Scotland's orchards by establishing a national mapping database of orchards and fruit varieties

To encourage sustainability and biodiversity and improve the local and wider environment

To create local networks and markets for fruit

To promote healthy eating and access to locally grown food at affordable prices

To promote the planting of fruit trees as part of community development and educational projects

To provide local opportunities for volunteering and community involvement

To encourage the integration of orchards into the design and planning of the urban and rural environments

We wish to make orchards and fruit growing fully available and inclusive to all regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, social circumstance, or due to health or mobility factors.