

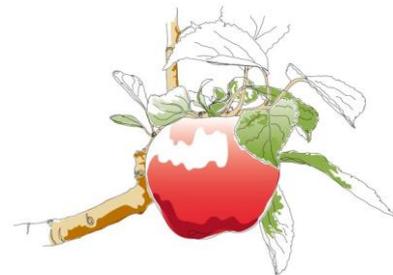


Orchard news

With the last of the Ashmeads Kernels kicking around in the bottom of the fridge, confused cherries coming into blossom, and ordinarily fellowless snowdrops having to share their January sun with unseasonable daffodils, we thought now would be a good time to update you with our recent orchard projects.

New orchard website

Our new website is up and running with information about orchard wildlife as well as practical guides to management including grafting and pruning. These free resources will contain downloadable versions, and video tutorials will follow soon. Please [visit the website](#) for more information.



We are incorporating the website for the Orchard Network into our own, though it will retain its distinctiveness and continue to serve the whole orcharding community. It will have details about events such as Apple Days, courses, lists of community orchards, fruit swaps, orchard services and much

more. We'll add anything that you would like to promote too, just get in touch.



[Grants - over 1000 trees already pledged with up to 1000 more still available](#)

Old trees with deadwood and rot-holes provide amazing habitat in any orchard, but only planting new trees secures this habitat for the next hundred years. In autumn we launched an initiative to help restore orchards through 'gapping up' planting by sending out free grafting kits and funding purchased pre-grafted trees. This has been a great success with 1200 trees already promised.

If you have a traditional orchard, or a even a single surviving tree in a site that was historically an orchard, then you can [apply here](#).

[Scion swap](#)

If you are keen to give grafting a go, (which is a lot easier than it sounds!), then you'll need scionwood. Come along on 28th February to the 8th National Springtime Swap Scionwood in Buckingham, hosted by the Mid-Shires Orchard Group, where you will be able to swap or buy from a huge range of varieties of apple, plum, cherry and pear. These can be grafted onto rootstocks on the day, or be taken home for grafting yourself.



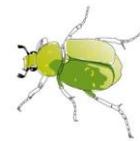
If you cannot make it on the day please contact us for a list of varieties that will be available. We can post material to you for a small charge. For more information please see the [Orchard Network events page](#).



Coming soon...

FruitFinder

With thousands of fruit varieties in the UK, it can be hard to know where to start if you are looking for a new tree or planting an orchard. There are many fruit varieties which have historical associations with particular places. Some have been bred or discovered in an area and are named after a place or person. We are in the process of creating a database that will provide information about where varieties were raised or discovered as well as other information like culinary use. There will be a distribution map showing the areas where they are currently growing so you can find varieties that may perform well in your area. Where available, it will provide links of where you will be able to buy trees of these varieties, or obtain graftwood so that you can graft your own.



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