

# SUFFOLK TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to announce the launch of an exciting new project – **New and Old Orchards for Suffolk**.

Suffolk Traditional Orchard Project (STOG) has already identified the orchards of some Suffolk parishes through the hard work of a team of volunteer surveyors. Now, with a generous grant of £48,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we will be able to build on those achievements during the current

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### A collaborative partnership project....

The project is led by Paul Read, chairman of STOG, supported by Project Manager Genevieve Broad (also the Biodiversity Officer at Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership,) and a strong Advisory Board. The Board members represent Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk FWAG, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Biological Records Centre and includes orchard experts Nicky Rowbottom and Jeannie Buckingham.

Paul Read, said : *“Orchards are a long established traditional ingredient of the farmed landscape throughout Britain and vary widely in form and appearance between regions and counties. In Suffolk their contribution to the landscape and culture depends upon the tall tree forms so one important component of our project is to train volunteers to propagate trees for planting in restored and new traditional orchards .”*

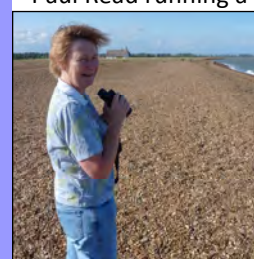
Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said: *“I’m delighted that a lottery windfall can support historic orchards across Suffolk. Although many of the county’s traditional orchards have been lost , this project will ensure that the history and traditions associated with fruit-growing are revived and conserved for future generations. Volunteers will also gain skills in surveying and mapping, planting, protecting and managing this precious natural resource.”*

GenBroad, Project Manager, added *“I very much look forward to working with the communities of Suffolk in this exciting new project. I’m keen to record the histories of Suffolk orchards and the people who have cared for them so we don’t lose that link to the past.”*



Paul Read running a workshop

Cathy Smith



Jean-Luc Solandt

Gen Broad at Orford





## New & Old Orchards for Suffolk will:

- Survey, record and map those orchards which remain from the 6,000 identified in the early 1900s. These records will be checked against the People's Trust for Endangered Species 2009 aerial survey results.
- Help and advise communities wishing to plant their own amenity orchards with traditional varieties.
- Document oral histories of orchards in Suffolk.
- Run training workshops for volunteer surveyors and to teach grafting techniques and fruit identification.
- Document the culinary history of local fruit and nut crops, including advice on selection, storage, use and cooking of traditional varieties.

This innovative project will capture both scientific and community knowledge of orchards, inspiring all of us to find out more about our past and learning how to put this knowledge to good use today.

## Why is it so important to understand and conserve our orchards?

Traditionally managed orchards are a haven for wildlife because they include a range of habitats such as grassland, scrub, dead wood, ponds and hedges. They can also open a window into our history, enabling us to see how people lived in previous generations, often using local recipes for apples, pears, nuts and cherries from the area.

By taking action today to record and conserve old orchards and their history, we can enrich our own lives in so many ways.



An 80 year old Crimson Bramley apple almost smothered by nettles and brambles.



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## EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue
Sat 11th February	Grafting Workshop	SWT Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge, IP12 1NA
Tue 21st February	Grafting Workshop	SWT Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge, IP12 1NA
Sat 25th February	Grafting Workshop	Hill Farm, Framsdén, IP14 6HA
Tue 28th February	Orchard Surveyor Workshop	SWT Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge, IP12 1NA
Sat 3rd March	Orchard Surveyor Workshop	Hill Farm, Framsdén, IP14 6HA

### All events are FREE

For further information on the grafting workshops, see flyer overleaf.

### Orchard survey progress

We are always recruiting new surveyors! Some parishes have completed their surveys, but there are plenty of parishes waiting for someone to discover their wonderful old and new orchards. If you'd like to find out about the orchards in your area and contribute to our knowledge about Suffolk's heritage, please contact us.

We also want to support and encourage all of our surveyors. If you started a survey, but got stuck or would like some help, just give us a call or email today.

We'll be finding out more about how to cook and dry medlars, culinary pears, quince, sour cherries, cherry plums, amarellés and dukes and bullace. We'll also be publishing recipes for some of these widely grown, but little appreciated fruits.

**Watch out for updates!**

### Contact us

Gen Broad (Project Manager), New and Old Orchards for Suffolk, Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group, c/o SBRC, Ipswich Museum, High St, Ipswich IP1 3QH.

Tel: 01473 264308, Mobile: 078948 85337, email: [gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk)

[www.suffolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org)

To book for the workshops contact Paul Read: Tel: 01379 870422, Mob: 078605 85422, email: [readhf@aol.com](mailto:readhf@aol.com)



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## FRUIT TREE GRAFTING WORKSHOPS

Would you like to learn to graft fruit trees? Is there a favourite tree that you would like to propagate? Perhaps there's a tasty apple in a friend's garden you would like to grow or a special plum you remember from childhood? And you can also help us by grafting trees that we will give to amenity orchards in Suffolk. The workshops are FREE.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**Workshop leader:** Paul Read. Suffolk Traditional Orchards Group

**Workshop format:**

- Discussion of traditional fruit tree propagation techniques.
- Demonstration of grafting and budding.
- Practical experience in grafting, i.e. using the cleft graft, the whip-and-tongue and the saddle graft methods.

Date	Time	Venue
Sat 11th Feb	10am– 4 pm	SWT Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge IP12 1NA
Tue 21st Feb	10am– 4 pm	SWT Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge, IP12 1NA
Sat 25th Feb	10am– 4 pm	Hill Farm, Framsdan, IP14 6HA

Booking is essential due to limited places. We will send further information about the day once bookings have been received.

Tea and coffee provided, please bring your own lunch.

Please note that there is a risk of minor cuts when learning to graft. We suggest that no one concerned about handling sharp knives should attend. The course is not suitable for children.

**To Book contact Paul Read**

Tel: 01379 870422, Mob: 078605 85422,  
email: readhf@aol.com



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