

Central Core Network Bulletin

Issue 5 — Summer 2003

*Promoting the revival of orchards and local
fruit varieties in Central Scotland*

Orchard Survey Edges Nearer!

Thanks to an 'Awards for All' grant from the New Opportunities Fund the Central Core Network is now set to help survey the fruit trees and orchards of Central Scotland. The information gleaned will go towards compiling our "Apple Map" and will be shared with the various biodiversity record centres throughout the area so that we can gain a better understanding of what we have.

The monies received will also allow us to purchase display boards and plan the long-awaited Information Pack. This is all very timely, especially with the overwhelming resurgence of interest now taking place across the country to safeguard our old orchards and plant new ones for community use.

Whatever your interest in orchards, please stay with us – and join in the various events different groups are planning this summer and autumn. The Central Core Network will be running more training courses too, so if you know of an orchard we could use please send us details. In the next year it would be great to run a "How to Set up a School Orchard" course, or a "Managing Your Community Orchard" workshop – if you could host something like this, just let us know.

EVENTS

*Please let us know what events you are planning
so that we can publicise them for you*

Sat 6 September

Plum Bring and Buy Fayre, Newburgh

Sat 11 October

(1) Pear & Apple Fruit Fayre, Newburgh

(2) Apple Day at Priorwood Gardens (NTS), Melrose

Sale of fruit and associated produce and timed tours of the orchard. Further details on back page

Sunday, 19 October

**The First Apple Day in the Park, Cashel
(Loch Lomondside)** - Willie Duncan will be giving
his usual expert advice on pruning and apple
cultivation. Activities for all the family

Sat 13 December

Christmas Fayre (provisional), Newburgh

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please join the Network so that we can spread the word throughout Central Scotland and link in with the many other initiatives across Britain.

In return for your support you will receive regular bulletins, advice notes, advance notice of events and the opportunity to join a variety of courses.

1 year's membership £6.50

3 years' membership £16.50 (save £3)

Send a cheque (payable to "Central Core Network") to
**Chairman & Bulletin Editor
Catherine Lloyd**

**Greenbank House, West End,
Abernethy, Perthshire. PH2 9JL
Email: cathlloyd@ukf.net**

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NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD VICTORIAN ORCHARD

Lorraine Evans of Fife Council reports:

CUPAR ORCHARD

Only a few minutes walk from the centre of Cupar and you can enter a wildlife haven full of birds, trees and wildflowers. Many years ago, around 1860, an orchard was planted to provide pears and apples for the local market. Through time and neglect the orchard declined and today only the old pear trees survive.

However moves are afoot to restore the orchard and bring new life back into the historic trees. As part of the Cupar Tree Planting Project over 40 new fruit trees have been planted to form a new orchard. Children from the local Castlehill Primary School helped to plant the trees and the wildlife hedge.

Still to be carried out is the pruning of the mature pear trees which will be a tricky balance between providing wildlife habitat in the old decaying limbs and bringing them back into fruit production.

Part of the project which was less successful was the planting of over 500 wildflower plantplugs in both the new and old orchards. This included primrose, campion and oxeye daisy. Unfortunately most of them have been out-competed by the buttercups and few of the new plants are left. With a change in management and more plantplugs planned in the future, however, this is something we will rectify in due course.

There is still much work to do on the site to help improve the access. We are working with The Royal Burgh of Cupar & District Community Council and seeking funding to upgrade the existing footpath, improve the entrances and create further wildlife habitat.

If any readers find themselves in Cupar, they would be very welcome to visit the site. A leaflet is available from



Fife Council and if any one wants further information I'd be happy to answer any queries. I can be contacted at the Planning & Building Control Service, Fife Council, County Buildings, Cupar. Tel 01334 41279.

In the meantime, a hands-on practical day in this unusual orchard is planned in the future to help the Community Council. We will be putting in more wildflower plantplugs, learning how to manage the new hedge, and—hopefully—learning how to prune and manage the old pear trees. The Central Core Network will be involved—further details will be available in the next Bulletin.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FROM THE EXPERTS

The Royal Horticultural Society sells a video on Top Fruit Growing. It gives advice on all aspects and covers apples, pears, cherries, plums and peaches. It shows you how to grow top fruit in even the smallest garden and shows you to train them successfully. Watch demonstrations of budding and grafting and receive advice on planting, feeding, water and pruning.

Although nothing beats the spontaneity of being in an orchard with someone 'in the know' as we experienced at both Monimail and Newburgh in March, the video is something good to fall back on, or as a gift for someone who cannot attend one of our pruning or orchard management events.

The video costs £12.99 + £2.30 post and packing. Payment can be by sterling cheque or credit card.

Telephone orders can be taken on: tel. 01483 212357 (or fax 01483 212447). Or you can write direct to:

RHSE Ltd (Mail Order Dept.), RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey. GU23 6QB

ORGANISING AN APPLE DAY EVENT

Apple Day (21 October) is an increasingly popular event in our calendar now being celebrated right across the UK.

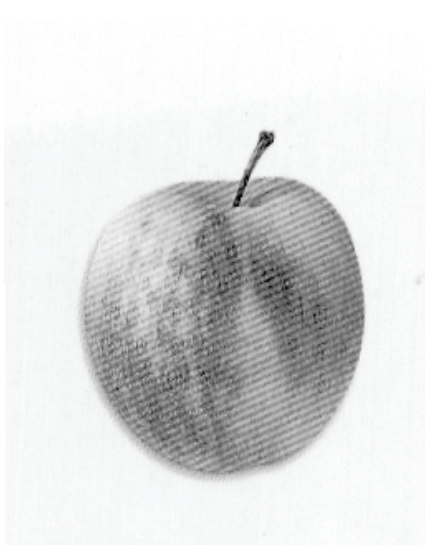
It has been embraced by many of the larger heritage and wildlife organisations such as the National Trust and National Trust for Scotland who run some excellent events at their properties in the wind down to closing for the winter. Restaurants and food companies are joining in the fun by publicising the day in their own way with all manner of fruit dishes and drinks. Good business for them; great fun for the recipients! And small organisations, schools and communities are all finding the Day (or one near it) a great focus to bring everyone together and making it fun for all ages.

How do you Organise an Apple Day?

- Get inspired! Think about the theme you want—Traditional Apple Games such as ‘the longest peel’, apple ducking, etc./ Identification of Local Fruit / Fruit Tastings, Cookery Demonstrations and Juice Making / A Wildlife Walk in an Orchard / Arts & Apple Crafts / Face Painting on a fruit theme / or a simple sale of trees or produce?
- Who do you want to attract?
- Who can help? Start planning during the summer—make a date (check it doesn’t clash with a similar event. within 20 miles); book your venue (and make wet weather plans too).
- Do you need sponsorship from a local business or supermarket?
- Are you going to offer refreshments, a raffle or some other fundraising event?
- Will you need insurance cover, or an apple expert?

Invite anyone who may like to have a display; plan posters and press releases to your local newspaper. Invite the paper’s photographer along on the day. Invite other groups who may have a similar interest—for instance the local allotment or organic growers group, history society, PTA. And don’t forget your local old people’s home—there may be a wealth of information about old varieties there!

Remember to thank your volunteers and all those who have helped. And most important of all—have fun!



A PERFECT GIFT!

FOR SALE—A limited number of beautiful hand-crafted lifesize fruits made from a variety of native woods. Choice of Pear or Apple. All profits will go to Central Core’s Training Fund to keep costs down for future workshops and courses.

To order—please send a cheque (made payable to Central Core) for £7.50 (which includes postage and packing) to the address on the front of the Bulletin. For orders of two or more deduct 50p per fruit. Make sure you give your name, address and choice of fruit when you order and please allow up to 21 days for delivery!

MEMBERS’ QUESTION TIME

‘Can you suggest some suppliers of tools?’ John Butterworth replies: Try the following -

- * Turnbuckles for tightening lightweight fencing suitable for fruit trees; (and much else!) - contact Screwfix (Tel. 0500 41 41 41) www.screwfix.com
- * Pruning saws and other specialist tools—contact Chieftain Forge (Bathgate) Tel. 01506-656017
- * Horticultural sundries e.g. mulch mats, knives etc—contact LBS Polythene (Lancs) Tel. 0870-7273616) www.lbs-horticulture.co.uk

If you can recommend any companies or particular tools, let the Network know so that we can share information!

APPLE BLOSSOM-TIME AT GARTMORE SCHOOL, STIRLING

Margaret Miller writes: “Our orchard lies at the foot of the school field and pupils often play there. Each spring, however, we make a special visit to look at the apple blossom and to record when each tree is at its best for pollination. Pupils examine the flowers and anticipate the apple harvest ahead.”

This year 10 year old Christy has written the following about the apple tree Oslin:

“When I was running down the hill to our orchard I hoped that my tree would have blossom. I expected my tree to have shining red, sparkling pink, light white colours. I also expected my tree to have blossom on it everywhere so it looks like a very flowery bush. I wanted to be proud of my tree’s blossom.

The blossom is firm and feels like smooth velvety things. When I first saw them they looked like smooth crunched-up paper. The sun was out and they were shining brightly. They looked like small cross shapes with curved edges. The leaves curl round the flowers and look really nice. When I smelled the flower it was like strong honey. The pollen stood out because the stamens were greeny-yellow against the white flowers. I look forward now to huge yummy apples!”

So do we Christy!

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Kevin O'Kane's article in the last issue on "eating the landscape" created great interest. From the fascinating ideas suggested in that article, here is the action taking place on our doorstep! Thanks again to Kevin for the Fife example, and the information about Green Spaces Day in September.

Templehall Park, Kirkcaldy

There are not many people living in the British Isles who haven't picked blackberries along a hedgerow. Picking fruit in public areas is a great experience - in many ways this is a dying tradition, but it is an extremely important part of our heritage.

The Idea

I think fruit bushes should be in public parks; they have a great educational and well as wildlife benefit. I had read of fruit trees in parks on the continent, but hadn't heard of any in Britain, and certainly none in Scotland. As the designer for a public neighbourhood park in Kirkcaldy I therefore thought I would seize the opportunity to incorporate them as a feature!

Designing in the public realm brings up a whole range of issues that don't exist in the private realm. For example very few nut-producing horse chestnuts are planted now as they are seen as a liability, but then this deprives a whole generation of children of the experience of playing conkers! Fruit such as apples could be seen as 'weapons' to smash windows. The council could be sued by a member of the public for causing stomach ache by eating an unripe fruit.

Parks and green spaces are vital to any community, and when Fife Council wanted to sell an ex-school site for a private housing scheme there was uproar in Templehall. So an action group was formed to save the green space. The community group won their battle and funding was secured for Templehall Community Park which is located at Templehall Avenue, Kirkcaldy.

The Brief

As a trained Landscape Architect it is not often you have a chance to design a park - that is the stuff of college projects. The brief was to include a children's play area and a sensory garden. The design ended up with a kick-about area and a wildlife garden. The budget was £120,000. The aim of the design was to create a diverse space in two acres, so the gardens were to be at the front of the park with the kick-about area in the middle, and the play area at the end of the park.

The fruit area in Templehall Park is between the sensory garden and the Scottish native plant area. We have included four extra heavy standard (EHST) James Grieve apples and two EHST Czar Plums, as well as 16 Gooseberry bushes, 54 Raspberries, and 38

Blackberries. Additionally, we have included plants with culinary links—Elder, Wild strawberry, Blaeberry, Bay Laurel and Fennel. In total 75 species have been included in the design, 70% of these being Scottish natives and the other 30% are supportive of wildlife.

German Trees

On a practical level, though, finding apple and plum trees proved an interesting experience as usually fruit trees are planted as maidens, i.e. as two year old trees. This size of tree would be far too easily snapped in a totally open place so we had to search for Extra Heavy Standard size trees with a 14 – 18cm trunk width which are un-snappable. John Butterworth could only provide maidens. Bulmers of Somerset, the Cider producers, could only provide standards. Luckily the nursery the contractor was using had a contact, so the trees were supplied by a German nursery in the end. Costs rose dramatically from £20 for maidens to £150 for the Extra Heavy Standards; Templehall may have the only EHSTs in Scotland!

All the fruit plants were planted in March and haven't been vandalised, although some of the other plants have. It will be interesting to see how the community react to the actual fruit in the park when the time comes.

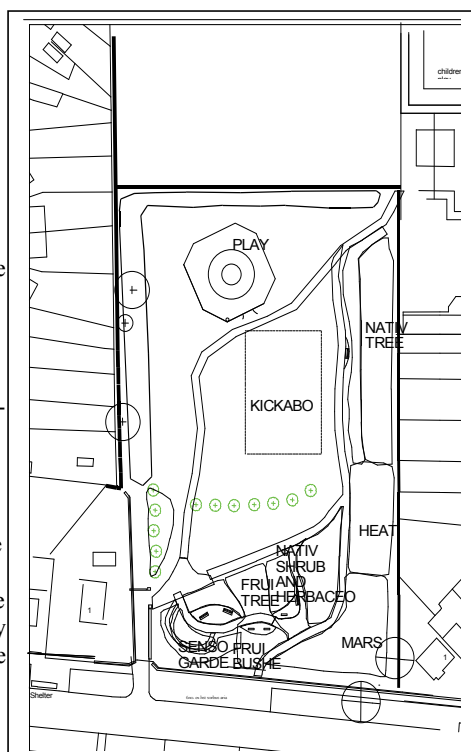
Reforestation Scotland : Green Spaces Day—20 September 2003 (Edinburgh)

Reforestation Scotland is an environmental charity founded ten years ago; it has been instrumental in the creation of Community Woods in Scotland.

A group has been set up by members to explore the importance of green spaces within urban areas. The subject encompasses all issues such as the maintenance of existing spaces, public parks, community gardens, allotments, planning issues, community involvement and urban orchards.

A day is planned to visit a variety of green spaces in Edinburgh. Although the focus will be on urban green space, topics such as how communities can improve their local parks, veteran trees and tree warden schemes will be covered. The morning will comprise of talks with the afternoon set aside for site visits.

For further information contact: Kevin O'Kane on Tel. 0131 661 9929 or E-mail : kevin.okane@smtp5.fife.gov.uk, or write to him at: 3F1, 1 Rossie Place, Edinburgh, EH7 5SF.



**Check out the Common Ground website
for information about School or
Community Orchards:
common.ground@uk.org**

*[Central Core will have it own Fact Sheets
on these subjects soon]*

Newburgh Orchard Group Enters its Second Year

Fife's Newburgh Orchard Group (NOG) is set to have as great a second year as its first was! Following its successful Autumn Fruit Fayre and Winter Fruit Fest plans are afoot for similar events in 2003.

A Welcome to John Butterworth

Following his morning's pruning workshop at Monimail this spring, John Butterworth made time to see some of the Newburgh orchards and to meet some of the NOG members. He started at Lindores Abbey ruins (where fruit growing in the area began 800 years ago) and then made his way back into the town to be shown some extremely old and precious apple and pear trees. Afterwards he joined a gathering of townspeople in the old allotment which features a group of lovely old fruit trees as its centrepiece. John demonstrated the specific needs these old trees have and gamely took questions on all manner of subjects.

John has agreed to return in the future to lead a tree care workshop and a pruning demonstration in Newburgh—something to greatly look forward to.

Spring Blossom Walk

The "Blossom Walk" was a wonderful idea but the weather scuppered it

in 2003! Joining with the Newburgh History Group, the walk started at the abbey and continued half way into town before the rain became horizontal and sent us scurrying for the shelter of the nearby café! What we saw in that first part of the walk, though, proves the idea to be a very good one to repeat in the future. The event was not a total disaster as there was some good publicity in the local paper and an opportunity to find out more about the orchard growing (and possibly jam making) tradition in Newburgh.

Future Plans

This year will hopefully see a survey being undertaken of the existing trees in Newburgh. The findings will be pre-



sented and local opinions sought at a future public meeting.

Phase 2 of the project will be the planting of community fruit trees and orchards. The first orchard will be planned and planted by the local Primary School children soon after the summer break. Other sites for fruit trees will be considered, including the planting of groups of fruit trees on council-owned land and the planting of an avenue of fruit trees through the park on either side of the pathway.

Phase 3 is just a pipe dream at present, but if all goes well it could involve local businesses in purchasing locally-grown fruit—perhaps by way of forming a marketing organisation to pick and sell the fruit; this would follow market research to see if this idea would be feasible. A commercial community orchard allowing people to gather fruit for making jams and preserves has been a successful idea elsewhere, so could well come to fruition in Newburgh—only time will tell!

Further Information

If anyone would like further details about the Group, or to buy a potted native tree or a copy of the Recipe sheets - contact Mandy Horner at The Old Draper's House, 154(b) High Street, Newburgh, Fife, KY14 6DZ. This year's events are listed on the front page.

CONTACTS

The Royal Horticultural Society's website gives free access to "The Plantfinder", together with a list of Award of Garden Merit plants. Check out further details on: www.rhs.org.uk or contact them direct at RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey. GU23 6QB. **Fruit ID Service**—ask for details before sending any examples.

Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8XZ. Tel. 01795 535462. Home of the National Fruit Collection. **Fruit ID Service**—ask for details before sending any examples.

The main supplier for Scottish varieties of apples is John Butterworth. Contact him at Butterworth's Organic Nursery, Garden Cottage, Auchinleck Estate, Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 2LR (tel. 01290 551088); web page—www.webage.co.uk/apples/

Information on School Orchards—contact either Margaret Miller at Gartmore Primary School, Gartmore, by Stirling; e-mail: maggie.miller@virgin.net, tel. 01877 382 343, or Ann Lolley (see later entry).

Interested in setting up a Community Orchard? Check out the national details by contacting Common Ground on www.commonground.org.uk. For local advice contact either Ann Lolley on annlolley@hotmail.com, or tel. 01334 657490, or Catherine Lloyd: cathlloyd@ukf.net.

Advice regarding management of orchards: in Fife and Kinross a FWAG Landwise Orchard Management Guide may be available—contact Shirley Macgowan on 01334 656546 or fife.kinross@fwag.org.uk for further details. Or throughout Scotland—contact Fife-based Patrick Bowden-Smith (tel. 01333 330541; e-mail: CBowdenSmith@aol.com). As he runs an orchard management business he will quote for any work he proposes.

Please mention "The Central Core Bulletin" when you contact anyone.

All these varieties were displayed at last year's Fruit Fayre. If you know of another variety grown in Newburgh, please let either NOG or the Central Core Network know!

Pears—Bergamot, Beurre, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Super, Black Auchan, Bristol Cross, Catillac, Crawford, Conference, Drummond, Garrison, Glasgow Yellow, Green Auchan, Japanese Pear Apple, Lindoresii, Marie Louise, Merton Pride, Packham, Wilhelm Bon Chretien, Winter Nelis, Jargonelle, Craigie.

Apples—American Mother, Bramley, Bridget, Charles Ross, Codling, Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery, Egremont Russet, Exeter Cross, Festival, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, James Grieve, Jester, Laing's Prince Albert, Laxton's Fortune, Laxton's Superb, Red Windsor, Spartan, Sunset, Worcester Pearmain, Worcester Sturon.

Wild Fruit—Bramble, Cherry Plum, Crab Apple, Camdson, Elderberry, Rowan.

MURROES COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GROUP AND THEIR ORCHARDS PART II

Fred Conacher, Angus Council writes:

The Murroes community near Dundee came together again with tree planting around an old mill dam in April this year. Mill of Brighty Dam is owned by a local Murroes farmer Jim Nicol. A right of way passes the old mill dam through the farm and out into the rolling landscape of rural Angus.

It was agreed that the dam could be dug out, cleaned and the dam sluice renovated to form a wildlife pond. To compliment the pond-works some tree planting was planned with the now ubiquitous macro orchard alongside.

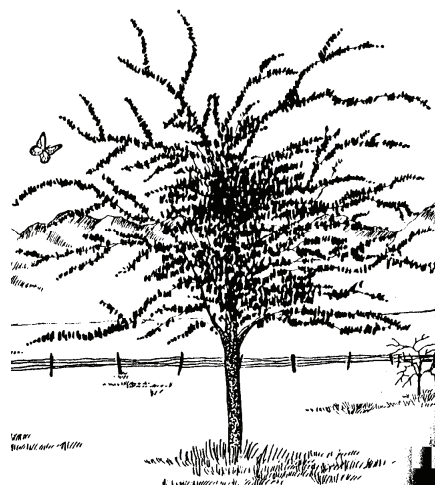
The original plan was to dig out the silted up dam pond in the winter during a frosty spell when much of the water would be frozen. But our very wet winter prevented this happening and it was not until late March before the digger arrived. Then the race was on to

hurriedly order the trees and arrange a planting date to head off the end of the planting season.

So on 19th April—which proved to be a dry spring day of bright sunshine—around 20 people gathered to plant a mix of 240 trees and shrubs in tree guards; 15 crab apples were included in the mix. I have heard it is a good idea to have some crab apple nearby fruiting apples to broaden the flowering period so attracting more pollinating bees for a longer time. Maybe someone with more experience in mature orchards could verify this?

On the pond side of things we are struggling. Filling a pond is hard if there is a hole in it! But we are persevering.

The nursery stock was cell-grown so a more robust plant has allowed us to plant later in the season. This is only half of the planting plans—we also



hope to put in some wild flowers and bulbs and we will be back this autumn with another 240 trees. We will be adding to the small wood around the pond and along the footpath—not forgetting, of course, a dozen or so fruiting apple trees.

From tiny thoughts great plans grow!

PRUNING WORKSHOP, MONIMAIL

Historic Monimail Tower, near Collessie, Fife, was the venue for our first Pruning Course in March run by fruit tree specialist John Butterworth from Ayrshire. Just at the time when it dawns on most gardeners that they should have done such tasks during the harder winter months, the uncertainties set in as to exactly what to do and another year can easily pass by with badly managed trees!

It was down to John to stop us in our tracks and give us the confidence to tackle the work ourselves! He took the group through the renovation of old trees, explaining why it was necessary and showing us how to remove diseased wood or remove crossing branches. He allowed everyone in the group to get their 'eye in' as to when a tree's centre was overcrowded, when to leave well alone - or be quite brutal. A walk round Monimail's varied orchard also gave John the opportunity to show us how to care for newly-planted trees and well-established cordons as well as the older traditional trees. A sandwich lunch rounded off the workshop and gave us the chance to chat and ask questions. The folk at Monimail were very welcoming—their home-made biscuits and choice of refreshments were much appreciated on a very cold spring day. From the feedback received it looks as though most of us gained sufficient confidence to go home and try out our new-found skills on our own trees!



This event will be one of many hopefully—and certainly proved the growing spread of membership within Central Core—those who attended came from all over Central Scotland: Edinburgh, Falkirk, Alyth, Perthshire and Fife. Can anyone offer to host a similar event next winter near Stirling or Alloa, perhaps, or north of the Tay?

Members of Central Core will receive a comprehensive 6-page Advice Note on **'How to Encourage Orchard Wildlife'** with this mailing by way of thanks for their continuing support. Advice Notes on a variety of subjects will be regularly available in the future so please remember to renew your Membership to be eligible to receive them!

NATIONAL ORCHARD FORUM

The Central Core Network is a member of the National Orchard Forum and, with other groups throughout Britain, is playing its part in raising awareness of orchards and traditional fruit.



Check out the new NOF website: www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk. Any Orchard Group is welcome to join the Forum—just contact Linda Blenkinship on tel. 0113 2828324 or e-mail her on lindablenkinship@yahoo.co.uk. Please mention “Central Core”.

Thanks to the National Orchard Forum for giving permission to distil its current newsletter articles on the Toadback Pear by Tony Gentil and on Summer Pruning by Peter Blackburne-Maze. Peter's book "Fruit—An Illustrated History" (ISBN 1902686233) is available at £45. Further details about this book, published last year, will be available in a later Bulletin.

SUMMER PRUNING TIPS

What Fruit can be Summer Pruned?

Just the trained apples and pears (cordons, espaliers, etc). Free-standing trees should only be pruned when dormant - that is when they are leafless.

Why Prune in Summer at all?

The removal of long leafy shoots will allow more light and air to reach the developing fruits. It also improves the chance of fruit in the following year by ripening the new shoots and fruit buds.

The removal of many leaves tends to mean that less transpiration takes place so more

water is available for the maturing fruits. By removing the growing

point more energy will go into the fruits. The additional

bonus is that the tenderest part of the shoot is removed which is the very part most susceptible to invasion by pests and diseases such as greenfly and mildew.

When to Prune

In Scotland it is probably best to leave summer pruning until mid-August or later. This is the time to ignore the calendar and study the tree instead. If the base of the current season's shoots have started to get woody and are about a pencil thickness, that is the time. The terminal bud will also have formed and growth will have stopped; if some shoots have not reached this stage leave them a few weeks and then look at them again. If done too early secondary growth will be produced which will be killed in the winter.

What do I do?

Only the current season's side shoots are summer pruned.

Even the current new leader growths are pruned in the winter. Those which originate directly from the main branch are cut back to three leaves beyond the cluster at the base (about 3" long). Those growing from a spur or a previously pruned shoot can be cut back to one leaf (about 1"). If all this makes sense—have a go!

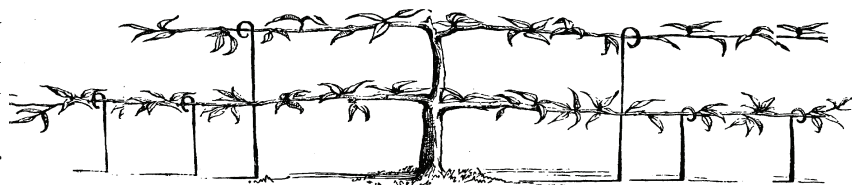
A SCOTTISH CONNECTION FOR “THE TOADBACK PEAR”

In Issue 4 of the Central Core Bulletin, mention was made of the Toadback Pear in the report on last year's Cheshire Orchard Conference. A question was posed: “did the Cistercians bring this variety—originally called the “Bergamot Bufo” - to Britain?

We may have found an answer quicker than we thought possible as Tony Gentil of TLG Orchards, Nantwich, has found another piece of the jigsaw which leads straight to Northern Scotland!

Tony sent a parcel of his Toadbacks to Brogdale. In the meantime a Tenbury Wells nurseryman stumped at having received a parcel of pears from Pluscarden Abbey near Elgin, decided to send them on to Brogdale too for identification. The two samples looked as though they were one and the same variety!

The Scottish variety was identified as Black Achan—Hogg's Fruit Manual mentions these pears but says “no trace of the fruit's origin has been found”. Brother Michael at Pluscarden Abbey had found out that ‘Auchans’ was an estate in Scotland that had a famous orchard in the 17th century. A pear by that name had been distributed from there - and sure enough the tree had originally come from France, but its name had been lost. To complete the circle, Hogg mentions the Achan pear being grown in Cheshire.



Tony is speculating the rest but wonders if, when the dust had settled from the Norman Conquest, the monasteries that followed in its wake introduced fruit from

France. Bergamot Bufo or Crapaud could be one of these ancient pears.

In Cheshire perhaps the monks translated its name from “bufo” (Latin for toad) or “crapaud” (French for the same) to “Toadback” for the locals—the fruit is a ‘lumpy russet’ type “ugly as a toad”. In Scotland its name at Auchans was lost, so it took the name of the place it was grown.

The variety has survived due to its inherent health and vigour—one of the trees that started Tony on his quest for information is known to have been growing in 1908 and at one time the tree supplied the entire village. It is still a magnificent tree in perfect condition, 40 foot tall, and last year was dripping with hundredweights of fruit.

Tony is now propagating more of these unusual pears at TLG Orchards (tel. 01270 780828); e-mail: gentil@gentil.screaming.net. If you can add to the jigsaw, please get in touch with either Tony or the Central Core

AN ORCHARD TO VISIT

PRIORWOOD GARDENS, MELROSE (Borders)

A National Trust for Scotland garden where most of the plants grown are suitable for drying. There is a specialist Dried Flower Shop on site. Visitors are welcome to stroll through the orchard which includes historic varieties of organically grown apples.

Adjacent to the impressive ruins of Melrose Abbey, Priorwood is open Mon—Saturday until 5pm (July/August: opens at 10am; from 1 September opens at 12 noon) and Sundays between 1pm and 5pm. Tel. 01896 822493 or visit www.nts.org.uk

(Celebrate Priorwood's Apple Day—Sat. 11 October)

CLYDE ORCHARDS

Scottish Natural Heritage has completed its report on the Clyde Orchards.

Further details will be available in the next Bulletin, but in the meantime if this subject is of particular interest, contact the Editor and she will put you in touch with the right person in SNH!

NETWORK INFORMATION REQUEST

Richard Benns is asking for help in finding commercially grown varieties available in the UK that are not usually available on supermarket shelves. He has attached his executive list of apple varieties. If you can help, please contact him on e-mail: richard_benns@hotmail.com. Please mention the Central Core Network.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| ALKMENE (L) | * | ADAMS PEARMAN (L) |
| BANNS (M) | * | BARNARK BEAUTY(L) |
| CARSWELL'S ORANGE (M) | | |
| CORNISH GILLIFLOWER (L) | | |
| CRISPIN (L) | * | DOWNTON PIPPIN (M) |
| EGREMONT (M) | * | ELSTAR (M) |
| FALSTAFF (L) | * | FIESTA (M) |
| GASCOYNE'S SCARLET (M) | | |
| GREENSLEEVES (M) | | |
| HOWGATE WONDER (L) * | | JONAGOLD (L) |
| KIDS ORANGE (L) | | |
| LAXTONS FORTUNE (M) | | |
| LAXTONS SUPERB (L) | | |
| MELROSE (L) | | |
| PITMARSH PINE APPLE (L) | | |
| RED DEVIL (L) | * | RED WINDSOR (M) |
| RIBSTON PIPPIN (L) | * | SATURN (L) |
| SUNSET (M) | * | SRUMPTIOUS (M) |
| SPARTAN (L) | * | SUNTAN (L) |
| WINSTON (L) | * | WILLIAM CRUMP (L) |
| WORCESTER CROSS (M) | | |

IN FUTURE ISSUES

We will look at how to go about setting up a school orchard, the funding available and how to get children of all ages (and parents) involved.

We will give more information about the many different types of community orchards there are in Central Scotland. We need more reports from Lanarkshire, Falkirk and Stirling so please share any information you can.

We will also continue to give practical advice, book reviews, and details of events and courses to attend. Please share your news about

- *a favourite orchard or an orchard to visit,*
- *a favourite recipe or products you make or obtain from the orchard*

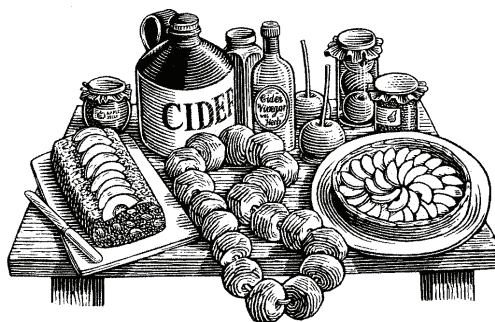
John Butterworth will answer your practical orchard queries so please continue to send them in!

A Last Thought –

Many temperate fruit cultivars could be lost because of global warming as many of them require a period of cold before the flower buds develop in the spring. The yield could fall to the point where they cease to be commercially viable. Such is the concern for this problem that DEFRA is to commission a survey to assess the impact of climate change on UK fruit production.

(from *The Garden*, April 2003)

With thanks to Lorraine Evans and Kevin O'Kane for the use of their photographs and orchard plan. Black and white illustrations by permission from Common Ground from *The Common Ground Book of Orchards*. Many thanks to all contributors, including the editor of the National Orchard Forum Newsletter.
Please keep the articles and news coming!



Nine varieties of British apple are available in our supermarkets - yet over 6,000 varieties actually exist. Help promote the sale of local fruit by asking the Manager of your shop to stock more British varieties.