



Clyde Valley Orchard Group

Newsletter

June 2008

Years Highlights

- Training workshops
- Resource library created



- More than 50 new fruit trees planted
- Glasgow children visit a local orchard
- Beehives installed



- New members
- Tools purchased
- 400 m. hedging planted
- CVOG page on new website
- Funding for this years programme



Planting new wildlife hedging

Review of the Year

Welcome to the first of the Clyde Valley Orchard Groups Quarterly Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to bring you up to date with all the activities both past and planned, and to showcase some of the events that have taken place over the period, with the aim of enthusing others.

May saw the first AGM of the group being held in the Village Hall at Kirkfieldbank. Turnout of members was rather disappointing although we did see a fair number of new faces - a number of whom are now joining the group.

The Report from the Chair outlined some of the achievements that the group had made, these included various training sessions on pruning and planting, new hedging planted in 3 member's orchards and around 50 new fruit trees planted by members under the guidance of John Butterworth.

During the year we have also set up a library with some excellent reference books, purchased some tools, and secured group insurance to allow us to carry out further training in member's orchards. Overall, this has been a busy year that has laid the foundations for the group to develop over the coming years.

Membership 2008

Renewal of Orchard Group membership is due each May (at the AGM). At our last meeting we agreed that this will remain at £15 per individual and £20 for family membership. Anyone who paid for membership after January 2008 will be exempt from renewal until May 2009.

Your support is crucial for the continuation of this group. Please return completed membership forms to Duncan Arthur (Secretary) at the address on the form.

Membership of the group allows you to take part in all the planned events, covers you for insurance at these events, and provides access to the Orchard Groups Library and tools.

Committee News

Membership of the Committee is reviewed each year. This year, Rose Clarkson, who intended to stand as Chair for only one year, resigned at the AGM, although she will remain on the Committee to provide help and advice with events were possible. This means that the position of Chair is now open and we would welcome new members onto the Committee, either for this post or to help with events or other actions.

Tom Paterson will remain as Treasurer and Duncan Arthur as Secretary. Maureen Smith has kindly offered to manage the library. We need someone to produce a quarterly Newsletter. Any offers of help would be very welcome!

Events 2008/9

- **AGM** – Meeting at the Kirkfieldbank Community Hall. **Thurs. 8th May** (7 – 9 pm)
- **Orchard Management** – How to deal with pest & disease, weeds, etc. (Tower of Hallbar orchard) John Butterworth. **Sat. 12th July** (2 - 4.30pm)
- **Pruning plum trees** – How to improve the condition of your old trees (members orchard) Jeremy Gilchrist **Sat. 19th July** (2 – 4.30 pm)
- **Visit - Beekeeping. Sat. 2nd August** (2 – 4.30pm). Afternoon at Ian & Anne Sinclair's place looking at bees, hives, beekeeping equipment and produce (honey for sale). Also attending will be Brian Pool, a bee farmer (SAC) giving additional support & info. Tea, coffee and chat.
- **Visit – John Butterworth's organic fruit tree nursery**, Cumnock, Ayrshire. A tour around his organic fruit tree nursery & orchard and a fruit tree grafting workshop. For those in the group that are interested, there is the opportunity to graft onto one of his rootstocks, from your own material, or his varieties. **Sat. 16th August** (1.30 – 5.30 pm) Car share.
- **Club Night** – quarterly meeting at the Crown Tavern **Tues. 12th Aug** (7 – 9 pm)
- **Early evening orchard BBQ** (any volunteers?)
- **Orchard Systems.** Jeremy Gilchrist **Sat 13th Sept** (2 – 4.30 pm). An on-site discussion of opportunities for complimentary crops and ways of making better use of the whole orchard area – based in Jeremy's orchard and woodland.
- **Starting an Orchard** (based at a new community orchard site, Auchenheth). John Butterworth **Sat. 4th Oct.** (2 – 4.30 pm). This is a new site to be planted as a community orchard with work due to start this winter. We will look at possible fruit varieties, site and people consideration, as well as the basics in fruit tree planting.
- **Clyde Valley Fruit Day** – A large public event. **October**, date/venue to be arranged (more information to come)
- **Club Night** – quarterly meeting at the Crown Tavern, Lanark **Tues. 4th Nov** (7 – 9pm)
- **Apple trees – pruning old trees & planting new ones.** John Butterworth **31st Jan. 09** (members orchard)
- **Club Night** – quarterly meeting at the Crown Tavern, Lanark. **Tues. 10th Feb** (7 – 9pm)

IMPORTANT – Places are limited so please let us know in advance if you intend to come along. Contact Duncan Arthur, the Clyde Valley Orchard Group Secretary.

Please note that all practical events are available to members of the Clyde Valley Orchard Group and are free of charge. Any non-members interested in attending training sessions are very welcome but would need to join on the day (for insurance purposes) or you could come along to the Club Nights to see if they are interested before joining.

Apple Juicing Equipment!

Members have decided to go ahead and apply for funding to purchase apple juicing equipment (a press & juicer). If the bid is successful, the equipment will be housed at Tom Paterson's place until other arrangements are agreed. We intend to hold group juicing days, a demonstration at the public Fruit Day event in the autumn, and discuss management of the equipment and techniques of juicing and storing apples.

Clyde Valley Orchard Website

<http://www.clydevalleyorchards.co.uk>

The site is now finished. It provides a large amount of information and advice on orchard management and enterprise. **Please contribute** - especially to the orchard group page, which includes useful information such as updates on events, a list of library books, and a downloadable membership form.

The Clyde Valley Orchard Group gratefully acknowledges financial support from:

Scottish Natural Heritage, the SLRP LEADER+ Programme, and Central Scotland Forest Trust

