



Reviving The Lost Orchards Of Forres

Reviving the Lost Orchards of Forres: A Growing Success

The Reviving the Lost Orchards of Forres project continues to gain momentum, bringing new life to the town's forgotten fruit-growing heritage. This inspiring initiative aims to uncover the history behind the old orchards of Forres, rediscover lost varieties, and nurture their revival for the benefit of the community.

Green-Fingered Guardians at Work

Keep an eye out for the dynamic duo of Steve and Steve from Green Fingers of Forres Community Gardens as they tend to neglected fruit trees around town. Their dedication to preserving and rejuvenating Forres' orchard legacy is evident in their care and commitment. Feel free to chat with them about their work—they're always eager to share how they protect and nurture these historic trees while uncovering the stories behind them.

Welcoming a New Perspective

The project is thrilled to have local wellbeing photographer Kim Grant onboard. Kim's unique perspective on nature, combined with her passion for conservation, promises to guide the project to new heights. Be sure to check out her YouTube channel for captivating insights into her work, which we hope will inspire others to forge deeper connections with nature.

A Surprising Discovery

At the start of the project, we dared to dream of finding a handful of the original Forres fruit trees. Imagine our astonishment when that number quickly surpassed 36—and the discoveries keep coming, thanks to the contributions of the community! Many of these older fruit trees are nestled in private gardens, remnants



of the orchards that once graced the land before houses were built. If you're fortunate enough to have one of these heritage trees in your garden, we'd love to hear from you. Our team can assist with pruning, identification, and even grafting to preserve these varieties for future generations.

The Work Continues - And You Can Help

We've only explored a fraction of Forres, so there's still much more to discover! Your stories, memories, and information about local fruit trees are invaluable to this project. As we move into the next phase, our focus shifts to pruning, feeding, and removing diseased or dead wood, as well as collecting scions (cuttings) to clone original trees. With the unseasonably early budding caused by unusual weather patterns, now is the time to act before the sap starts to rise.

Get Hands-On: Free Pruning Workshops

Want to get involved? Join us for one of our free pruning workshops:

Dates: 1st February and 8th February

Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Sustainable Planet Projects, Auchernack, High Street, Forres, IV36 1DX (Opposite the Spar Post Office)

Advance booking is required: Contact us for Group sessions: Under 18s, or those with special needs, please ensure appropriate supervision.

Join the Team

If this project sparks your interest, why not become a part of our team? We'll provide the training and skills you need to make a meaningful contribution. Contact us at roof@sustainableplanetprojects.com, visit our Facebook pages (Sustainable Planet Projects and Green Fingers of Forres Community Gardens), or leave a message at 01309 679816.

Expanding the Orchard Walk

Looking ahead, we're excited to extend our Orchard Walk. Grafted heritage trees will be planted throughout the town in accessible spaces, creating a distributed orchard for everyone to enjoy when Forres and its trees are in full bloom. If you have a space for one of our trees or know of a great location, please let us know. Together, we can create a lasting legacy that benefits the entire community.

Let's bring the orchards of Forres back to life—one tree, one story, and one community effort at a time!

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>.

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