



COURSES

WINTER 2023–24



Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group (STOG) has run grafting courses for over ten years; these had to stop during COVID-19, but we are now reviving them.

The courses taught “whip and tongue” grafting, a technique suited to fruit trees and all forms of trees, modern commercial dwarf, traditional orchards, wall fruit, ornamentals, and modern forestry. You can use this technique almost any time of year, but grafting during winter dormancy produces the best results for fruit trees.



Left: A field of budded apples.

Right: Budding workshop at Girton College.

Since 2020, we have added a new course on “budding”, grafting a single bud onto a rootstock. This process is principally used for bulk in-field production of fruit and ornamental cultivars by large-scale nurseries. It is generally used during the growing season, in our case, in late summer. We run at least one budding course every year in late summer. (STOG also runs courses outside the county for other organizations.)



Left: A whip and tongue graft before wrapping.
Right: A whip and tongue graft at a year old.



Budding course at Girton College Cambridge



STOG First grafting kit 2003



Grafting at Thornham Hall, origin of apple “Lady Henniker”



Budding with potted rootstocks at 2 Fields 2022



Grafting course at Cambridge Botanic Garden, about 2016



Grafting course at Foxburrow Farm, Suffolk Wildlife Trust 2013

STOG Courses Winter, 2023/24

STOG's grafting courses are often run in conjunction with organizations with an interest in fruit trees and on their premises so that their members, staff, and volunteers may attend the course, joining our members. Paul Read, chair of STOG, and Celia Stone run these courses.

Grafting

- **Sun, 25 Feb 2024**, Grafting Course, 10am–4pm, at Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney, Ditchingham, Norfolk. This site was once a convent and now has over 90 fruit trees planted in the 20th century scattered across the site.
- **Sat, 2 Mar 2024**, 10am–4pm, at 2 Fields Community Farm, Debenham, Suffolk, in conjunction with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and their native tree species and fruit tree nursery.
- **Sat, 9 Mar 2024**, 10am–4pm at the Food Museum, Stowmarket. A few years ago the Food Museum planted a traditional orchard in their extensive grounds with assistance from STOG.

There are usually 16 students for each course, which are free to attend. You will graft 3-6 trees during the course. We provide rootstock and a wide variety of scion material, or you can bring your own scions.

You can leave the tree(s) you graft with us to grow on for donation to a community orchard. Or you can take your finished tree(s) home for a small fee for the rootstock, usually about £3 each.

For full course information or to book, email Paul Read at paul@home-farm.myzen.co.uk.

Waldringfield, Newbourne & Hemley Scattered Orchard's Courses

This orchard group promotes traditional orchards and has run courses for several years. They have two half-day courses in winter 2024, which are run by Mariah Ballam, co-ordinator of WN&HSO.

Grafting

- **Sat 27 Jan 10am–1pm**. Apple and Pear Grafting for Beginners, at Waldringfield Village Hall. £50, including 3 rootstocks. Details from Mariah Ballam.
- **Sat 27 Jan 1pm–4pm**. Apple and Pear Grafting for Improvers and Experienced Grafters, at Newbourne Village Hall, Suffolk. Rootstocks are £7 each and a wide range of scions are provided.



Pruning

- **Sat 13 Jan 2024** 9:30am–3:30pm Learn to Prune Apple and Pear Trees at Newbourne Village Hall, Suffolk. £50.00

Ben Lambert, a professional orchardist from Essex, runs this course. You must bring your own tools, and wear warm clothing.

For full course information or to book, email Mariah Ballam at greenskills.suffolk@gmail.com or call 0770985979.

Paul Read