



Lowick Community Orchard



A special space of 1¾ acres of heritage fruit trees, to be cared for and harvested by local people

Lowick Community Orchard is a young orchard at Hunting Hall Farm in North Northumberland. In April 2011, 52 local people of all ages worked together to begin planting 120 fruit trees. Some wonderful old fruit varieties with interesting histories have been included, and each tree has been sponsored by a member of the public.

Paths wind between the young trees and a belvedere provides the perfect space to sit and enjoy the wonderful view to the sea.

The orchard is open to everyone. Please come along and explore!



Planting the orchard hedge

The Orchard

Tom and Karen Burn of Hunting Hall farm worked with their local community to create an orchard for Lowick village.

Tall grasses mixed with wildflowers have been sown between the trees. In the spring you may find snowdrops in the grass and later there are oxeye daisy, knapweed and birdsfoot trefoil in flower. A fruiting hedge was planted along one side of the orchard which is a lovely site for birds, bees and butterflies.

The orchard is managed very carefully as part of an organic certification scheme, so no chemicals or artificial fertilisers are used to help the trees grow.

A simple orchard quiz for all ages and an easier children's task can be found on the Hunting Hall website: www.huntinghall.co.uk

The answers can be found on signs around the site.

Our Orchard Trees

There are all sorts of fruits in the orchard: apples (culinary, dessert and cider), crab apples, pears, plums, damsons, greengage, and medlar. We've carefully selected older, more unusual varieties of fruit trees, that will grow this far north in Northumberland.

Some of these heritage fruit trees have interesting histories. Here are a few of the trees you can see in the orchard:



The Doddington Apple Tree

In the old orchard of Doddington Farm an unknown variety of apple tree has been found. Cuttings from these trees have been grafted onto MM111 rootstock and planted in our orchard.

Bloody Ploughman No. 62

Type: **Dessert Apple**
Pollination Group: B - self sterile
Root Stock: M106

This apple variety was first recorded in 1883 in Carse of Gowrie in Scotland. It is said to have received its name from a ploughman who was caught stealing apples on the Megginch estate and was shot by the gamekeeper. His wife received the bag of apples and threw them on the compost heap, where a seedling then grew and was given its name. The fruit is very red and heavily ribbed, sweet, crisp and juicy.



Planting Map

Area	Fruit	Rootstock
	Apple	M25
	Crab Apple	Malus sylvestris
	Doddington Apple	MM111
	Memorial Trees	
	Pears	Seedling Pear
	Pear	Quince
	Apples	M106
	Plum	St Julien A
	Plum	Myrobalan B & Breampton
	Damson, Greengage and Medlar	Myrobalan B & Seedling pear

Isaac Newton's Tree No. 73

Type: **Culinary Apple**
 Pollination Group: C - self sterile
 Root stock: M106
 Pick: October
 Use: November—January



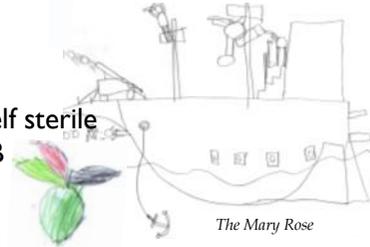
This is believed to be a descendant of the tree that inspired Isaac Newton in 1665 when the 'notion of gravitation came to mind' after watching an apple fall.

Cuttings were taken from the tree in Isaac Newton's garden in Lincolnshire. The apple is the extremely rare variety 'Flower of Kent' which was first mentioned in the fifteenth century.



Greengage No. 96

Type: **Desert**
 Pollination Group: B - self sterile
 Root stock: Myrobalan B
 Pick: August
 Use: August



The Mary Rose

The greengage is the oldest plum or gage still in cultivation. This variety originated in Armenia and came to England via Italy. Some stones, thought to be Greengage stones, were recovered on the Mary Rose which sank in 1545. The round green fruits are tender and absolutely delicious.

Medlar No. 97

Type: **Dual Purpose**
 Root stock: Seedling Pear
 Pick: November
 Use: November—December



This is an unusual, but decorative, fruiting tree which produces a mass of large white flowers in May, followed by flattish fruits almost 5 cm across. These should be picked in late October or early November. If the fruit is eaten raw, it should be 'bled' for 2 - 3 weeks, by which time the fruit is deeper brown in colour and the flesh softer. Alternatively, the fruit can be made into a pink jelly with a very distinctive flavour.

The orchard is owned by Tom and Karen Burn of Hunting Hall Farm. We hope that you will enjoy exploring more walks around the farm, but please keep dogs on a lead and follow the country code.

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We're grateful for the support of
 Natural England

Lowick in Bloom
 Frontier Agriculture

The Rotary Club of Till and Glendale
 HospiceCare North Northumberland
 R. V. Roger Ltd.

Artwork by Lowick C. of E. First School



Hunt House No. 5

Type: **Dessert Apple**
 Pollination Group: B - self sterile
 Pick: October
 Use: October - December



This old variety of desert apple has a very important history. It is named after Hunthouse in Goathland, North Yorkshire and was grown in the Whitby area. It is said to have been taken to sea by Captain Cook's men as a source of vitamins to keep away scurvy.

Jargonelle No. 45

Type: **Dessert Pear**
 Pollination Group: C - self sterile (Triploid)
 Root Stock: Seedling Pear
 Pick: August
 Use: August



Jargonelle is one of the oldest of all pear varieties - it has been suggested that this is the pear written about by the Roman historian, Pliny. The first reference in England was by John Parkinson in 1629. For many years this was regarded as the best of the early pears, and few of the newer varieties which are more popular today can rival it for taste. It has attractive fruits with yellow-white tender