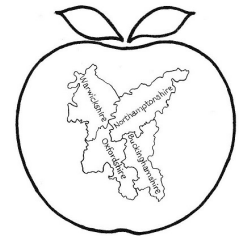


Mid Shires Orchard Group

Seasonal Social Events & 'Afternoon at the Orchard' working parties Winter & Spring 2024



The Mid Shires Orchard Group (MSOG) is pleased to present our planned seasonal social events, training courses and 'Afternoon at the Orchard' working parties for Winter and Spring 2024. Please note that dates and itineraries may be subject to change. For more details, see our Events listings on our website here: <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/midshiresorchardgroup/apple-days-events-and-training-courses-f3/> Event details are also posted on our Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/midshiresorchardgroup

JANUARY 2024

AFTERNOON AT THE ORCHARD: WOUGHTON ORCHARDS, WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN, MK6 3BD

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 20-Jan-24, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm (3 hours)
- ❖ **Venue:** Woughton Orchards, off Newport Road, Woughton on the Green, Milton Keynes, MK6 3BD
- ❖ **Activities:** Join us for our annual scionwood collection: selecting good first year wood, then labelling and bagging it ready for our Springtime Scionwood Swap on 03-Feb-24. Bring work gloves and pruning shears.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance

DONKEY LANE ORCHARD WASSAIL! DONKEY LANE COMMUNITY ORCHARD, CHINNOR, OX39 4PF

- ❖ **Date:** Sunday 21-Jan-24, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- ❖ **Venue:** Donkey Lane Community Orchard, over railway crossing at Keens Lane, Chinnor, OX39 4PF
- ❖ **Activities:** We're delighted to join 'Greening Chinnor' and the local community again, to celebrate Wassail at the 19th century Donkey Lane Community Orchard. Help us all wish good health for the venerable fruit trees, wealth for the local communities and a bountiful fruit harvest for 2024. Bring drums, whistles, musical instruments, pans and spoons or anything noisy! Make a jolly din to chase away pesky spirits, sing traditional Wassail songs and fete the decorated 'King and Queen of the Orchard' apple trees.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance

WOUGHTON WINTER WASSAIL! WOUGHTON ORCHARDS, WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN, MK6 3BD

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 27-Jan-24, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- ❖ **Venue:** Woughton Orchards, off Newport Road, Woughton on the Green, Milton Keynes, MK6 3BD
- ❖ **Activities:** Gather your family and friends and join us for our annual Winter Wassail at the Woughton Orchards. Help us wish good health for the fruit trees and orchards, wealth for the community and a bountiful fruit harvest for 2024. Bring musical instruments, pans and spoons, whistles or anything noisy! Help make a jolly din to chase away pesky spirits and process around the fruit trees, fete the decorated 'King and Queen of the Orchard' apple trees and sing traditional Wassail songs. Afterwards, take a walk with us around the orchards and learn about their history and wildlife.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance

FEBRUARY 2024

SPRINGTIME SCIONWOOD SWAP AT 'GRAFT & GROW': BUCKINGHAM, MK18 4AE

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 03-Feb-24, from 10.00am to 4:00pm (6 hours)
- ❖ **Venue:** Buckingham Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, MK18 4AE
- ❖ **Activities:** Bring your scionwood to share and swap with others, or offer or acquire for a small donation. As always, this event will feature hundreds of rare, local and heritage apple, pear, plum and cherry varieties. They can be grafted on the day (as a paid service) onto purchased rootstocks of choice, or be taken home for grafting to make new fruit trees. This is a really great way to obtain and distribute rare and unusual varieties of fruit tree for gardens, home or community orchards, fields and hedgerows.

- ❖ **Price:** FREE entry! Scionwood may be swapped for free, or acquired/provided for a small donation per piece or bundle, at the supplier's discretion. Rootstocks are at their retail prices, discounted for five or more. There is also a charge for the grafting service per tree, with a discount for five trees or more.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance

AFTERNOON AT THE ORCHARD: WOUGHTON ORCHARDS, WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN, MK6 3BD

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 17-Feb-24, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm (3 hours)
- ❖ **Venue:** Woughton Orchards, off Newport Road, Woughton on the Green, Milton Keynes, MK6 3BD
- ❖ **Activities:** Join us for our monthly working party at the Woughton Orchards. We'll do large branch work, crown raising and winter pruning. Bring work gloves, pruning shears and pruning saws if you have them.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance

TRAINING COURSE: WINTER PRUNING: ADDERBURY, OX17 3NA

- ❖ **Date:** Friday 23-Feb-24, from 10.30am to 4.00pm (including lunchtime)
- ❖ **Venue:** The Methodist Church Hall, on corner of High Street and Chapel Lane, Adderbury, OX17 3NA
- ❖ **Activities:** Join MSOG's Andy Howard for a day's training course, to learn the theory, skills and practice of Winter Pruning for fruit trees such as apple and pear. Discover the different methods and techniques used to shape fruit trees, control their size and influence their productivity. Find out when and how to apply these to suit different circumstances and different types of top fruit. Learn the difference between Winter and Summer Pruning and when and how to prune pip fruit like apples and pears and stone fruit like plums and cherries. Practice the theory on real fruit trees, to gain these skills yourself and gain the confidence to apply them in your own orchard, garden or community orchard.
- ❖ **Price:** £70 for MSOG members, £80 for non-members, who will receive free MSOG membership to 31-Mar-25. Free refreshments will be provided, but please bring your own packed lunch.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Andy at: johoward@metronet.co.uk or call him on: 07950 006813 to book your place

TRAINING COURSE: GRAFTING: ADDERBURY, OX17 3NA

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 24-Feb-24, from 10.30am to 4.00pm (including lunchtime)
- ❖ **Venue:** The Methodist Church Hall, on corner of High Street and Chapel Lane, Adderbury, OX17 3NA
- ❖ **Activities:** Join MSOG's Andy Howard to learn the theory, skills and practice of grafting fruit trees such as apple and pear. Discover the history of grafting and its importance today. Find out how to select, collect and store "scion" wood and rootstocks for grafting, the different types of fruit tree that can be used and what can be grafted onto which type. Learn about the types of rootstocks available and how they affect the tree you produce; the methods used to graft fruit trees; why a graft fails or succeeds and the aftercare required for newly grafted trees. You will also get to create and take home your very own grafted fruit tree, using scionwood collected from heritage varieties and a choice of rootstocks.
- ❖ **Price:** £70 for MSOG members, £80 for non-members, who will receive free MSOG membership to 31-Mar-25. Free refreshments will be provided, but please bring your own packed lunch.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Andy at: johoward@metronet.co.uk or call him on: 07950 006813 to book your place

MARCH 2024

AFTERNOON AT THE ORCHARD: WOUGHTON ORCHARDS, WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN, MK6 3BD

- ❖ **Date:** Saturday 16-Mar-24, from 1.00pm to 5.00pm (4 hours)
- ❖ **Venue:** Woughton Orchards, off Newport Road, Woughton on the Green, Milton Keynes, MK6 3BD
- ❖ **Activities:** Join us for our monthly working party at the Woughton Orchards. We'll continue with large branch work, crown raising and winter pruning across all the orchards and we'll bash some brambles as well. Bring work gloves, pruning shears, pruning saws, loppers and scythes if you have them.
- ❖ **Contact:** Email Claire at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com to find out more and confirm attendance



The Mid Shires Orchard Group is for all enthusiasts of orchards, apples and heritage top fruit in Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. For more information on who we are, what we do and how to join in, contact us at: MSOGChairman@yahoo.com or call Claire on 07925 277029

