

Caradon Orchard Group (COG)

JOIN US!

Application Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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Land line:

Mobile:

Email:

Please include a cheque for £ 7 (per person, per annum) or £ 12 (annual joint membership) made out to:

CARADON ORCHARD GROUP

and send to the membership secretary of COG:

Barbara Wolstenholme,
Blackcoombe Farm,
Henwood,
Liskeard, PL14 5QN

Thank-you

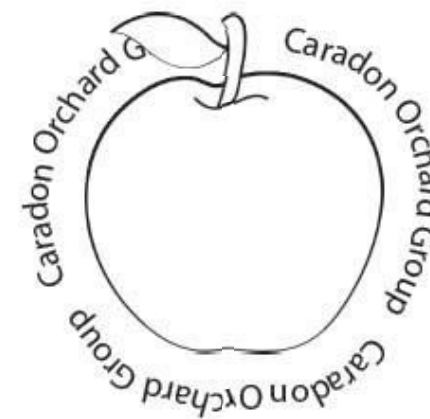
Orchards in the Caradon area

Orchards were once an integral part of our agricultural landscape and formed an important seasonal food source in the days before fruit was readily available in greengrocers and supermarkets.

- Caradon Orchard Group (COG) members are planting proven local and traditional varieties of apples and ensuring that those surviving old orchards continue to thrive or are rejuvenated to be brought back into useful production and as an important habitat for wildlife.
- COG's members will be able to use its mobile apple press and bottling equipment.
- COG promotes the importance of local orchards in our community by establishing links with schools and other local groups.
- COG organises apple events and training (such as tree pruning and fruit processing).

Join COG to improve our environment while growing local produce and reviving local fruit varieties.

CARADON ORCHARD GROUP (COG)



supported by the

**Caradon Hill Area Heritage
Project Caradon's orchard
heritage**

Old maps clearly show that orchards formed an important part of the Caradon Hill landscape, despite not being a major fruit growing area. An orchard could be found on every farm and smallholding without exception. Few of these now remain to the detriment of both the local



landscape and culture. Without traditional orchards we have also lost important local fruit varieties, the skills of fruit growing and the tastes and flavours of the Caradon area.

Traditional orchards also form diverse habitats for a wide range of wildlife, and their loss impacts on many bird, mammal and insect species. In Cornwall they are a priority habitat under the county Biodiversity Action Plan.

About Caradon Orchard Group (COG)

Community projects elsewhere have shown how local people can come together to restore old orchards and plant new ones and to celebrate our fruit growing traditions and culture. The Caradon Orchard Group (COG) has been learning from other successful orchard projects in Cornwall and Devon how to revive a vibrant fruit growing culture around Caradon Hill. COG was formed in 2012 with the aims of:

- Properly managing and rejuvenating our existing fruit orchards into useful production.
- Encouraging new orchards to be planted
- Providing a mobile apple press and bottling equipment for members to use our produce well.
- Preserving older and local fruit varieties.
- Training local people in fruit growing, processing and cooking skills
- Celebrating local fruit as part of our Cornish culture.

COG's members

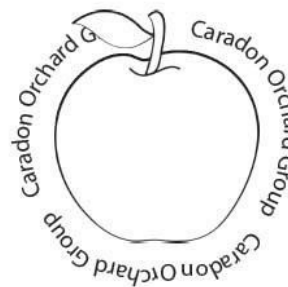
The present membership has a wide range of backgrounds, with relevant practical expertise in fruit growing and running a group. Members range from those with just a few fruit trees to some who have planted orchards of up to 100 trees. Some have old and neglected orchards and are keen to get them back into healthy production while others are in the early stages of planting up a field with new trees. Our membership is currently drawn from

around Caradon Hill, notably Henwood, Rilla Mill, Pensilva, Golberdon, Crow's Nest and Darite, but we welcome anyone in Cornwall.

Members' apple processing equipment

COG was successful in securing lottery funding, with the support of the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP), to buy a mobile apple press (and trailer) and other juicing equipment along with a steriliser. This enables COG members to produce fruit juice or cider from their orchards. For many, this is the first opportunity to benefit from their own orchards. The equipment is raising the skill level of local fruit growers and is introducing a whole community to the taste of local fruit. What could be more satisfying than drinking the apple juice and cider from your own trees all year round?

By creating new uses for old orchards, COG's members will be encouraged to restore neglected trees, plant traditional varieties and to establish new orchards.



COG's future plans

- To build on continuing links with local community groups. We take our portable pressing equipment into the community, for instance to schools, so that children can experience for themselves the process of turning apples into fruit juice and learn about local orchards as an important resource.
- To explore establishing community orchards around the area.

- To develop skills and expertise with a programme of training days, skills exchanges and linking into local educational projects.
- Research traditional orchards in the district to identify relict and local varieties of fruit trees for propagation.
- To host "Apple Days" and wassailing events so everyone can celebrate our local orchards, fruit, cider, juice and pies.
- To encourage people to become members, even if they don't have an orchard, so that they can participate in the group's activities.
- To raising money from COG events for local community charities.

