

FEB  
**16**



### Newburgh Community Orchard

**History of Newburgh:**

Newburgh was founded in 1266, but the nearby Lindores Abbey is even older. Now a ruin, it was originally built in 1191 by monks from Thiron Gardais in France, one of seven Thironian monasteries in Scotland. The monks planted orchards across Moncreiffe Hill, where Newburgh town sits today.

The fruit became famous across Scotland for its quality. The monks used the fruit either for their own consumption, to make alcohol, or to trade with the royal court in nearby Falkland. The orchards were later divided into long strip gardens or "riggs" in order that local people could use them for growing fruit, vegetables and raising animals, the abbey being given a tithe in exchange. The gardens either side of Newburgh High Street are the remains of these monastic orchards.

The abbey was closed in the 1850s by John Knox and fell into disrepair. The orchards, however, remain to this day. In 2011, a delegation from Thiron Gardais visited all the Scottish monasteries including Newburgh and left a plaque which is mounted on the abbey ruins celebrating this historic link with France.

**Newburgh Orchard Group (NOG) its aims and history:**

Until as late as the 1960s, people living along the High Street sold fruit at their door. Customers travelled annually at harvest time to buy their supply of plums, apples and pears for jam making and preserving for the winter. This tradition was almost lost until NOG was founded in 2002.

The aim of NOG is to preserve, maintain and develop Newburgh's heritage as an historic fruit growing area. This is the Community Orchard planted by NOG in 2004 as a resource to hold school lessons, and to use for demonstrations of pruning, training, and grafting fruit trees. The fruit in the Orchard can be picked by local people for their own use.

NOG activities include:

- Annual street fruit markets
- Jam making
- Pruning/Grafting Workshops
- Tree Survey
- Heritage fruit and variety preservation
- Apple pressing and juicing

Newburgh continues to attract visitors to buy and enjoy our fruit and fruit produce.

*Map of Newburgh showing the orchards (in green). Please note that all except the Community Orchard are private.*

# NEWBURGH ORCHARD GROUP

Our annual **free** *Pruning Course* Will be **16 Feb 2020 @ 1 pm** starting at the Community Orchard on before we move on to Denmylne Orchard

All interested are very welcome at our winter pruning course.