



**ORCHARDS EAST**  
RECORDING CONSERVING CREATING

## **Bedfordshire Launch Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**10 am – 3.00pm**

**Fairfield Community Hall, Fairfield, Hitchin, SG5 4GY  
and Fairfield Orchards**

**Orchards East** is an exciting new environmental and history project covering six counties in the east of England – Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Landscape Group in the School of History at the University of East Anglia (UEA) is undertaking a three year project to research, conserve and promote the region's orchards, their legacy and their future. It builds on work by partner organisations including the Bedfordshire and Luton Orchards Group, the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group (STOG) and the East of England Apples and Orchards Project (EEAOP).

A collaborative project working with existing county orchard groups, other interested organisations and orchard owners, Orchards East hopes to stimulate interest and engage a wide range of new volunteers in all things orchard. Amongst other things the project aims to:

- Survey and record the history of orchards across the region;
- Identify surviving sites and record new orchards;
- Research the history of fruit growing in the region;
- Undertake surveys of the biodiversity and wildlife of orchards;
- Help restore important old orchards and create new community orchards;
- Simply celebrate and enjoy orchards, past, present and future!



Fairfield Park Orchards, apple days and orchard restoration.

The launch of **Orchards East** in Bedfordshire will involve a morning of short presentations to explain more about the project and how to get involved as well as an introduction to Bedfordshire and Luton Orchards Group. Presentations will include:

**'Orchards; what they are, where they come from, what Orchards East hopes to achieve' – Paul Read, Chair, Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group**

**'Introduction to Bedfordshire and Luton Orchards Group  
- Steve Halton, Chair BLOG**

**'Mapping Historic Orchards'  
- Jackie Ulyett, Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording & Monitoring Centre**

**'Orchards East's activities and how to get involved'  
– Rachel Savage, Orchards East Project Manager**

**'Historical orchard research, a short introduction'  
– Tom Williamson, Professor of Landscape History, UEA**

**'An introduction to Fairfield Orchards'  
– Penny Daffarn, Parish Councillor and Orchard Volunteer**

This will be followed in the afternoon by an opportunity to visit the historic Fairfield orchards, with Penny and others on hand to answer any questions about the orchards' history and their ongoing restoration.

Over lunch (please bring your own) there will be an opportunity to talk, look at stands and displays and hopefully taste something fruity! Tea, coffee and juice provided.

This is a **FREE** event but booking is required.

If you would like to find out more about the project or come along to the launch, please book a place by contacting:

**gen@orchardseast.org.uk**

or visit [www.orchardseast.org.uk](http://www.orchardseast.org.uk)

