

## **Annual report for Sustainable Cupar Fruit and Blossom group**

**April 2015-March 2016**

### **Cupar community Orchard**

In March 2015 we applied for funding from the North East Fife Local community planning budget. Awarded £3400. New benches were installed in the community orchard and signage will be erected at the walk before end 2016.



£400 of FAB funds raised through the sale of tomato plants will be used to plant more spring bulbs in the orchard in autumn 2016. Group members removed Himalayan balsam from along the walk in May 2015, we worked with the council re new benches and the group has a future project with Fife's Buzzing in May 2016 when a perennial meadow will be planted in the community orchard.

A pruning workshop was held in January 2016 and all trees in the orchard were pruned. Several volunteers worked with Monimail Tower community this winter to assist with their pruning. Snowdrops were donated by Monimail and planted in the Cupar community orchard.



### **National Orchard Survey**

Seven volunteers from the FAB group worked on the National Orchard survey this year, guided by facilitator Rob Brodie. This work will continue this year.

## **Fruit planting**

This year Bryan Rollo and Norma Alari have worked with Letham primary school to plant fruit trees and soft fruit. Also Sarah Davidson and Norma Alari planted two fruit trees at Kilmaron school. Fruit trees planted by FAB in the care homes have been pruned and attended to as well.

In September 2015 a care worker from Stratheden spoke at one of the FAB meetings – he wanted to create a “natural therapeutic environment” for young people who attend Playfield house. As part of this project ten locally grown fruit trees will be planted at Stratheden in May 2016 by FAB members.

## **Elmwood soft fruit cage**

Repairs to the cage and the path have been done this year by John Anderson, Debbie Payjack, Rob Brodie and Anna Kinross. New gooseberry plants were planted and all the fruit attended to and pruned.

## **Poetry workshop**

In November 2015 Lindsay McGregor, a local poet, volunteered to lead a workshop to enable us to find words/pictures to be etched on the new benches. This was done and the benches were installed in time for the FAB wassail in January. The wassail was a success with local fiddler Emma Chapman from Monimail entertaining us.



The fruit harvest in 2015 was good and presently (April 2016) the blossom is just about to break and FAB looks forward to a fruitful summer 2016.

