

**The Tree Council Branching Out Fund**

**Grants for UK tree planting projects across the community**

**Template Press Release**

**HEADLINE**

**Penney’s Community Woodland** is supporting biodiversity and developing green spaces by **planting eight heritage fruit trees**, thanks to funding from The Tree Council’s Branching Out Fund.

Branching Out provides grants ranging from £250 to £2,500 in value to community groups, schools, small registered charities, and Tree Warden Networks seeking to establish trees, hedgerows, and orchards throughout the winter planting season.

This year, **Penney’s Community Woodland** successfully secured grant support through the Branching Out Fund and will be **planting eight heritage fruit trees in a new piece of woodland donated to the charity by the trustees of Duncan Penneys estate.**

We are excited to have recently added this small piece of land to the main woodland in the Back Crook between Drum and Crook of Devon. It is hoped to form a small community 0rchard here with 4 apple, 2 pear and 2 plum trees all Scottish Heritage varieties with future plans for a bench and small flower bed. When the trees are established the local community will be invited to pick the fruit and enjoy the view over to the Ochils.

Now in its 18th year, Branching Out has supported hundreds of projects in communities throughout England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, delivering new habitats for wildlife, and a green living legacy for residents and visitors to enjoy, from Cornwall to Carmarthenshire, and Fife to Fermanagh.

The focus is on planting a variety of tree species, bare root, with cardboard or bioplastic protection. Comprehensive advice around the types of trees to plant and the tree protection needed is provided by The Tree Council as part of the application process.

The Tree Council Grants Officer, Geraldine Creaven said: “Branching Out presents a fantastic opportunity for schools and community groups large and small to get their spades in the ground and start establishing life-enhancing and biodiversity boosting trees, hedgerows, and orchards in their neighbourhoods. “We’re so thrilled for all our successful applicants, especially **Penney’s Community Woodland**

**The eight Fruit Trees will be planted during National Tree Week on a plot of land on Fossoway School Road near the turning to the Scout Camp on 29 November 2024 at 11 am.**

**To find out more about The Tree Council’s Branching Out Fund, please visit https://treecouncil.org.uk/grants-and-guidance/our-grants/branching-out-fund/**

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**About *The Tree Council***

The Tree Council is a national charity (number 279000) and membership organisation which brings everyone together with a shared mission to care for trees and our planet’s future. We inspire and empower organisations, government, communities and individuals with the knowledge and tools to create positive, lasting change at a national and local level. We are helped in our work by thousands of volunteer Tree Wardens and a growing force of Young Tree Champions. For more information about The Tree Council, please visit www.treecouncil.org.uk.