

APPLE GRAFTING

Adam Clark Memorial Trust Grounds
By Vanessa Bailey

I am a regular attender at the Adam Clark Memorial Trust Grounds, and on a Wednesday in March a friend and I from Windermere School 6th Form, were initiated in the skill of grafting.

Brian Fereday from S.L.O.G showed us how to graft and what exactly grafting is. A row of twelve apple trees had already been planted last year with rootstocks M25 and M106. The rootstock determines the size and shape, which the apple trees will grow to. We wanted to graft different species of apple trees so that a variety of native apples could be produced.



First the crab apple root stock planted last year, were cut at an angle just above a bud. We then took stems from different varieties of apple and cut the bottom of them also at an angle and we cut small indents into both so that the rootstock and the variety fitted together. The gap between the rootstock and the variety was secured by wrapping cling film around and then tying it with a plastic bag to ensure that the two would join together.



The different types of variety that we used were: *James Grieve, Charles Ross, Warner's King, Allington Pippin, Beauty of Bath, Keswick Codlin, Ladies Finger of Lancaster, Discovery*

At the end we dug in another twelve rootstocks in preparation for next year.

The purpose of this work is for us to gain experience and try to establish an orchard of heritage and other trees as a conservation research exercise; and also to discover which types of apple do best on the poor soil and high elevation which exist at the grounds.

This was a new experience for me and I really enjoyed learning the skill of apple grafting and we are looking forward to seeing the trees grow.

By Vanessa Bailey
Year 12, Windermere St Anne's School

The Adam Clark Memorial Trust is a registered charity 1109831 which aims to encourage an understanding of our natural world and recognise our position as custodians through education. The trust also aims to help young people and students who have dyslexia or similar learning difficulties. The Trust would like to thank Brian Fereday for his insight, kindness and practical help with our venture. We would also like to invite anyone interested in our work to contact us. We welcome visitors. Do look at the website www.adamclarkmemorialtrust.org.uk
Email address : andy.c@stephenhow.fsnet.co.uk

Windermere School participated from the beginning when Mr. & Mrs. Clark offered the grounds as a resource for schools to receive the hands on experience of outdoor learning. Mrs Jennie Martin CAS Co-ordinator for the IB, who accompanied the girls said "This is a great opportunity for them to connect with nature and at the same time learn practical skills, whilst recognising local and global issues for example sustainable food production and conservation".