

An Introduction to Forest Gardening

Wednesday 26th May, 7:30pm

(Zoom session opens from 7pm)

Forest gardening is about designing and planting a self-maintaining edible eco-system. It can be as small as a single tree with under layer of perennials and a mid-layer of climbers – to a multiple large-scale planting. It can work well as a form of low maintenance garden farming that once established will keep on giving you a harvest year after year.

This introduction will look at the principles of forest gardening, learning from how natural environments grow. It will briefly touch upon the background and history of polyculture silviculture. It will introduce permaculture as a design approach and look at some of the suitable candidates and species for forest gardening in the UK.

Thomas Erskine is a hands-on Forest Practitioner. He is the founder and director of Craft Wood – a woodland social enterprise for people with additional needs. He is experienced working both at the small scale – he has a very small forest garden he has planted and maintains at home - and at the larger scale – he has worked in a historic walled garden in Alfreton park – and now manages a 12hectare woodland – which incorporates some of the principles of the forest gardening approach. He specialises in outdoor activities which are both therapeutic and productive.

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