

MARCLE RIDGE COUNTRY

Another good reason to come to the Big Apple is simply to enjoy this wonderful stretch of countryside. Woodlands, soft fruit fields, hopyards and grazing pastures mix with the orchards to create a lovely farming patchwork. The slopes of the Marcle Ridge offer splendid views across to the Malvern Hills to the east, while Woolhope in the west lies within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

...HEREFORDSHIRE AT ITS BEST

There is no better way to explore our deeply rural county than through its food and drink, and apples and cider are at its heart.

Herefordshire has more orchards than any other county and is the source of over half the UK's cider production.

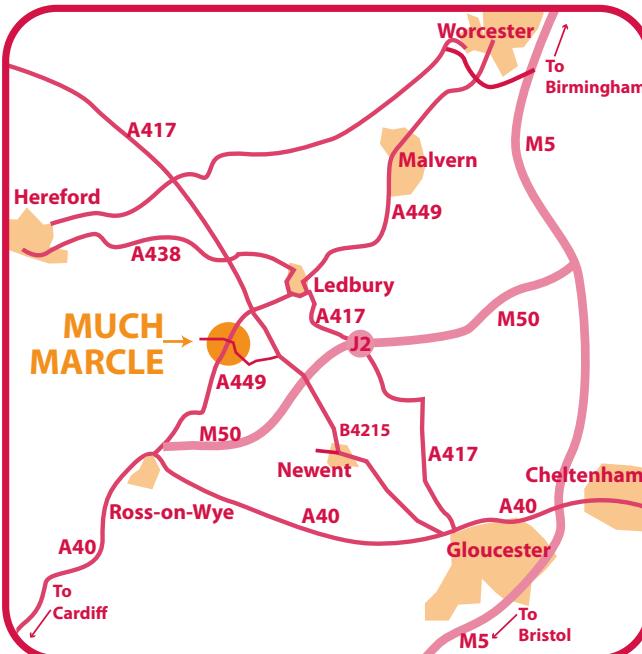
For us the Marcle Ridge and the Big Apple are what Herefordshire is all about. Over the last 25 years, the number of craft food and drink producers of all kinds has truly blossomed in our local communities, providing a special experience for our visitors that is integral to the enjoyment of our rural heritage and landscape



Visit
Herefordshire

HOW TO FIND US

Much Marcle lies 5 miles from Ledbury on the A449 road to Ross-on-Wye, beyond the point where it crosses the road from Leominster to Newent at the Preston Cross roundabout. We are just 15 minutes from the M50 motorway, 2½ hours from London and 1½ hours from South Wales and the West Midlands.



**FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT THE BIG APPLE**
www.bigapple.org.uk
twitter: @thebigapplehfd

Please see our accommodation web page for details of places to stay in the area.



25TH ANNIVERSARY!



A harvesttime celebration of English apples and cider in the Herefordshire parishes of the Marcle Ridge

HARVESTTIME

11th & 12th October 2014



Enjoy this collection of rural events to enable you to share with us in our tradition of apple growing and cidermaking.

**MUCH MARCLE
with
AYLTON
LITTLE MARCLE
MUNSLEY . PIXLEY
PUTLEY . WOOLHOPE**
www.bigapple.org.uk



For an afternoon, a day or a full weekend – the Big Apple is a special opportunity to enjoy the autumn countryside in the Herefordshire parishes on the Marcle Ridge. The local orchards are famous for their cider fruit and their excellent eating apples. In our twenty-sixth year, the award-winning communities of these tiny parishes have put together a collection of small rural events based in and around Much Marcle, to enable you to share with us in our tradition of apple growing and cidermaking.

WELCOME TO THE BIG APPLE 2014

PICK AND MIX

Join us in celebrating English apples and cider on the 25th anniversary of the Big Apple - a real opportunity to enjoy the autumn countryside in this corner of Herefordshire in and around Much Marcle.

SHARE OUR TRADITION OF APPLE GROWING AND CIDERMAKING

We have put together for you a collection of small rural events where you can enjoy our local orchards, famous for their cider fruit and excellent eating apples.

In this unique event, we will be opening our farms and orchards, cider mills and barns for you to visit. Eight special venues in all, each one of them

different but all with one thing in common – apples!



Your programme is entirely flexible – you can choose where and when to go for an afternoon, a day or a full weekend. You can simply come for a walk or to buy some apples. Or you can fit in several different events. The map and programme inside will help you to plan your visit.

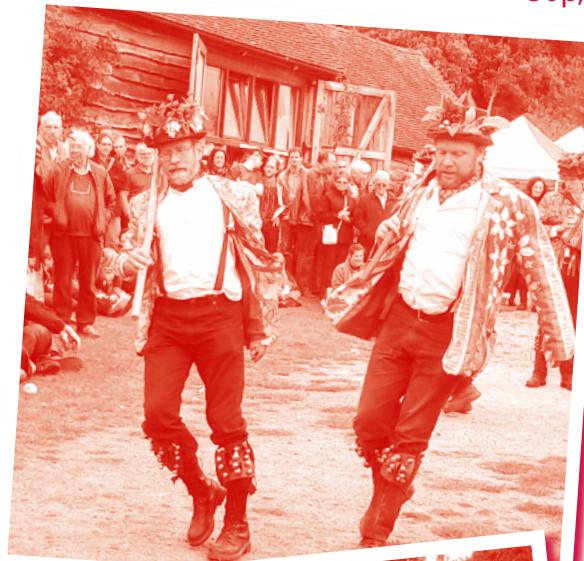
COME AND EXPLORE

Of course you can use your car to get around. But you may like to know that many of our venues are in walking distance of each other, and cycling is also a great way to get about. A tractor and trailer service, kindly provided by Westons Cider, will be running all weekend carrying visitors between six of our venues. See map for route and stops. The service is free but donations will be welcome.



EXPERIENCE THE BIG APPLE - ALL OF IT!

Look out for our special Big Apple Trail card. For just 50p, purchase a card from any venue when you arrive. At each venue you visit, you can collect a stamp for taking part in a simple activity. Collect 4 or more stamps from different venues during the weekend and you can enter a prize draw to spend a day with one of our cidermakers.



INFORMATION



If you want to know anything about what is going on during the weekend, then look out for information at each venue.



HARVESTIME VENUES Open Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October



Woodredding Farm (GR640298)

10.30am - 5pm.

Hands on experience pressing cider fruit or perry pears using 18th century press. Waymarked orchard walk. Sausage baps and Welsh cakes. Cider and perry sales.



Avenue Cottage (GR649321) (HR8 2NU)

10am - 5pm

Cottage perrymaking, an abundance of traditional fruit and nut trees, and fruiting hedges of edible berries. Watch the family pressing all weekend. BBQ brunches and lunches by Noggin Farm. Perry and pork sales.



Westons Cider (GR648331) (HR8 2NQ)

10am - 5pm

Guided tours (£8.00/£4) 11am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm. Play park (10-4). See Westons' own Polled Hereford cattle. Bottle Museum tearoom. Big Apple Weekend offers on cider and perry sales.



Much Marcle Memorial Hall (GR658330)

10am - 5pm

Refreshments available all day. Morning coffee, ploughman's lunches. Apple teas – delicious! Produce stall.



St Bartholomew's Church (GR657327)

11am - 5pm

NB Church will be closed for a wedding at 3pm on Saturday – re-opening 4.15pm approx.
Harvest church open, including Kyre Chapel. See recently conserved Blanche Mortimer tomb and dress. Produce and plant sale. Tours of the bell tower (children must be accompanied by an adult). Donations welcome.



Hellens (GR661333) (HR8 2LY)

11am to 5pm

Entry to Hellens site £2.00 (children free).

A Feast of Apples – displays of apples, cider fruit and perry pears; tastings of dessert and culinary fruit; apple identification by Marcher Apple Network (£2 a variety on the day where possible; otherwise collected and retained for investigation). Apple painting by RHS Silver-gilt medallist Helen Campbell. Sales of apple juice, cider, trees, pork; Tools for Self Reliance. **Apple market** selling less usual varieties. Traditional **pressing** of perry pears. **Tours** of the house (£7, concessions) at 1, 2 and 3pm.



Awnells Farm (GR658319)(HR8 2NW)

11am - 5pm

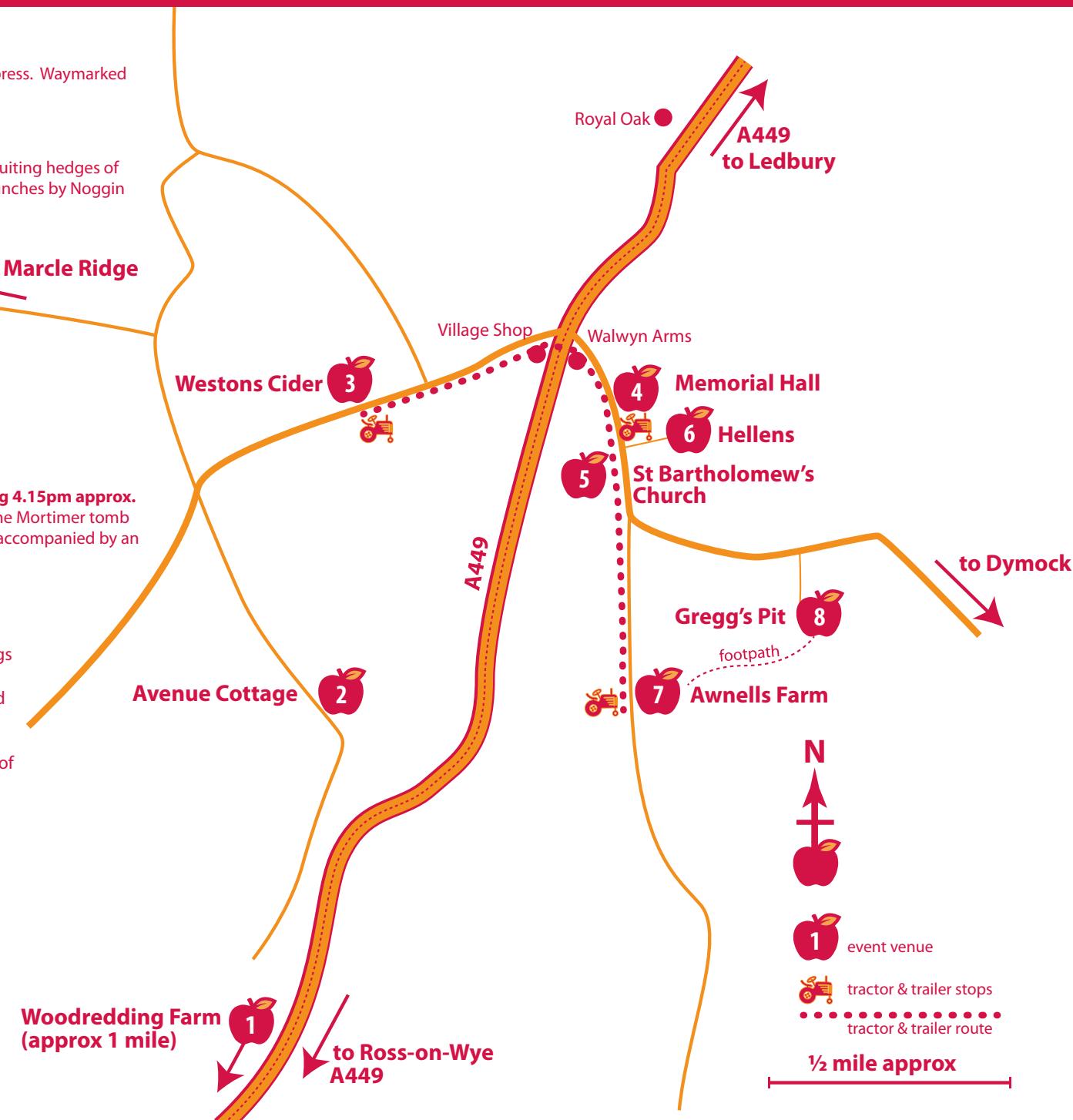
Guided walks through the orchards. Meet the traditional Hereford cattle. Rare Breeds Survival Trust and RSPB. Lend a hand with banner making to celebrate Big Apple (children to be accompanied). Donations welcome.



Gregg's Pit (GR662323) (HR8 2NL)

10.30am - 6pm

Open day – celebrating 20 years of artisan cider/perry-making in a traditional orchard. Ploughman's lunches by Truffles Delicatessen. Cider and perry sales. No dogs in orchard please.



Other apple & cider related venues:

Reddingend Fruit Farm. Regretfully, John and Janet Chapman have decided to retire from fruit growing and would like to thank the many customers who have supported them over the past 42 years.

Much Marcle Village Shop HR8 2LX

Sat 7.30am to 6pm, Sun 8.45am to 12.30pm

Pork and Two Veg Farm Shop, Woolhope HR1 4QL

Sat only, 10am to 6pm

The Nest, Little Verzons HR8 2PZ

Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Sun 10.30am to 4pm

Three Counties Cider Shop Lebury, HR8 1BN

Sat only, 10am to 6pm

Lunches and suppers:

Our local pubs and restaurants will be serving dishes using apple and cider recipes.

Booking advisable.

In Much Marcle:

Royal Oak 01531 660300

Scrumpy House* 01531 660626

Walwyn Arms 01531 660601

Nearby:

Butchers Arms 01432 860281

Crown Inn 01432 860468

Trumpet Inn 01531 670277

The Nest (daytime only) 01531 670816

Trumpet Corner (daytime only) 01531 670082

*not open Sunday evening

Special events Saturday 11th October

9am Bus walk to Big Apple. Meet Hereford Group of Ramblers Association at Hereford Country Bus Station to catch Bus 454 at 9.05 to Woolhope. Guided walk over Marcle Ridge to Much Marcle with time to enjoy events before walking to Pool End, returning by Bus 476 to Hereford (arrive 17.40). Moderate 8.5 miles, one long uphill. BYO picnic or enjoy Big Apple catering. Please ring Mary to check bus times (01432 357766).

11am to 5pm Community art celebrating Herefordshire's apple names. Jeanette McCulloch will be on hand to help create a splash of orchard colours for tomorrow's poetry reading from your simple textile hangings. Pick your favourite apple name and create your own design. All materials provided. Hellens (Venue 6)

11am and 2.30pm Our edible hedges Guided tours of newly planted fruit and nut groves and edible hedges. Avenue Cottage, Much Marcle (Venue 2)

11.30am, 2pm and 4pm Planting and maintaining fruit trees Guided tour/talk based on Hellens' own fruit tree collection with practical advice from Tom Adams. 'Tom the Apple Man' will be on hand to answer queries throughout the day. Hellens (Venue 6)

From 11.30am Leominster Morris at Westons (11.30am), Gregg's Pit (12.30pm), Hellens (3pm).

Special events Sunday 12th October

9.30am Ridge and woodland walk with a touch of perry. 7 miles. No dogs please. Walk via Ridge Hill, Oldbury Camp and Yatton Wood to see the perrymaking at Woodredding Farm and Avenue Cottage before returning to Westons. Meet Westons Car Park GR 647332. (Venue 3)

10 for 10.30am Big Apple Bike Ride. Market House, Ledbury at 10am, leave 10.30. Follow quiet country lanes, visiting cider producers and orchards. BYO picnic or enjoy Big Apple catering. Explore Big Apple, returning pm to Ledbury. Accompanied children welcome. Information 01531 635432.

11am and 2.30pm Our edible hedges – details as Saturday (Venue 2)

11.30am Taste the History - the Story of Cider at Woodredding. A talk by Brian Robbins at Woodredding Farm (Venue 1)

2.30pm The Poetry Orchard Paul Henry, Herefordshire Poet in Residence, will share his online Poetry Orchard. Launched with his own poem 'Windfalls'; The Poetry Orchard has been growing all year. Each poem takes its title from a named Herefordshire apple variety, and the poems are diverse and full of flavour. Joined by some of the contributors, Paul will lead this event among the trees at Hellens (indoors if wet). With Ledbury Poetry Festival. At Hellens (Venue 6)