

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.

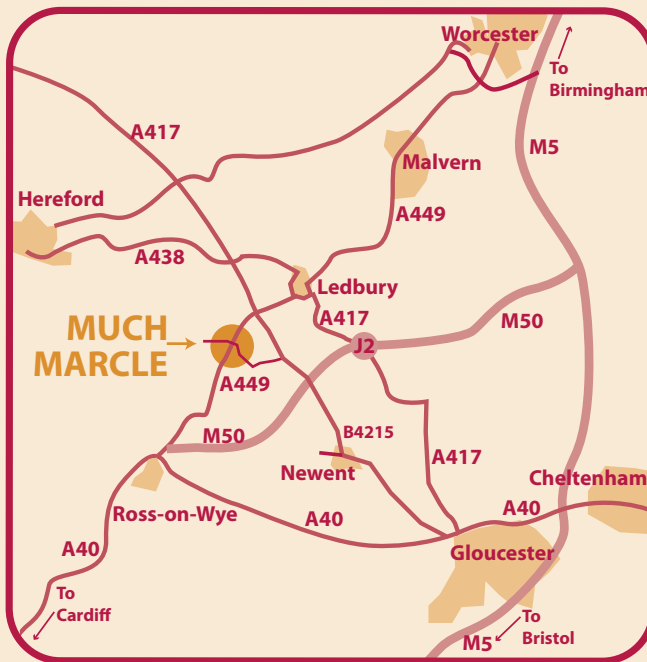
Herefordshire has more orchards than any other county and is the source of over half the UK's cider production.

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



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 1¼ 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.



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

HARVESTIME

10th & 11th October 2015



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-seventh 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 2015

Join us in celebrating English apples and cider in the 27th year 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!



PICK AND MIX

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

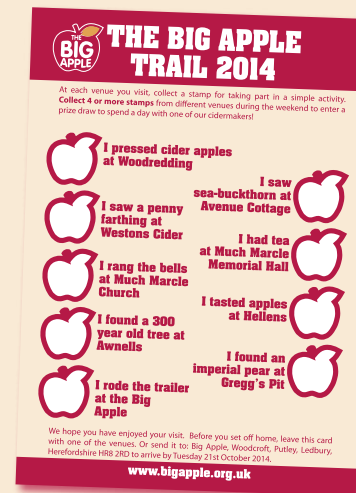
Of course you can use your car to get around. But you may like to know that many of our venues are in walking distance of each other, and cycling is also a great way to get about. A tractor and trailer service, kindly provided by Westons Cider, will be running all weekend carrying visitors between six 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 at 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 10th and Sunday 11th October



1 Woodredding Farm (GR640298)
10.30am – 5pm
Hands on experience pressing cider fruit and perry pears using our 200 year old wooden press. Enjoy tasting our cider and perry with sausage baps and Welsh cakes. Walk through the orchard to see our cider apples growing. Our cider and perry, including popular Jack's Tipple, will be on sale.

2 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. Perry sales.

3 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. Orchard tearoom serving apple teas and other apple delights. Special cider and perry offers during the Big Apple Weekend.

4 Much Marcle Memorial Hall (GR658330)
10.30am - 5pm
Refreshments available all day. Morning coffee, lunchtime soup. Apple teas – delicious! Produce stall.

5 St Bartholomew's Church (GR657327)
11am - 5pm
NB The church will be closed for a wedding at 1pm on Saturday – re-opening 2.30pm approx.
Harvest church open, including Kyrle Chapel and recently conserved Blanche Mortimer tomb. Produce sale. Tours of the bell tower (children must be accompanied by an adult). Donations welcome.

6 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 (on the day where possible; charge if retained for investigation).
Apple market selling less usual varieties. Sales of apple juice, cider, perry, pork baps; Tools for Self Reliance. Rural Media introduce their latest project, Golden Fire, on Herefordshire's cider making history since WWII. Audio extracts from the Poetry Orchard, by arrangement with Ledbury Poetry Festival. Traditional **pressing** of perry pears. **Tours** of the house (£7, concessions) at 1, 2 and 3pm.

7 Awnells Farm (GR658319) (HR8 2NW)
11am - 5pm
Guided walks through the orchards. Meet the traditional Hereford cattle. Rare Breeds Survival Trust and RSPB. Awnells Textile Group will be displaying their work and demonstrating spinning and weaving etc. Horse-drawn Travelling Cider Press. Donations welcome.

8 Gregg's Pit (GR662323) (HR8 2NL)
10.30am - 6pm
Experience artisan cider/perry-making in a traditional orchard. Meet the makers, their trees and fruit, watch the pressing, taste and buy sparkling/ draught cider and perry. No dogs please. Let your creative juices flow making a collective 'Apple & Perry Tree Print Collage' with artist/printmaker Anneliese Appleby. Suitable for all ages from 3+yrs. No experience required.

to Marcle Ridge

Westons Cider 3

Avenue Cottage 2

Woodredding Farm (approx 1 mile) 1

to Ross-on-Wye A449

Royal Oak

A449 to Ledbury

Village Shop

Walwyn Arms

Memorial Hall 4

Hellens 6

St Bartholomew's Church 5

Gregg's Pit 8

Awnells Farm 7

to Dymock



event venue



tractor & trailer stops



tractor & trailer route

1/2 mile approx



Other apple & cider related venues:

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 10am to 6pm, Sun 10am to 2pm

The Nest, Little Verzons HR8 2PZ

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

Three Counties Cider Shop, Ledbury, 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

Scrumpty House* 01531 660626

Walwyn Arms 01531 660601

Nearby:

Butchers Arms 01432 860281

Crown Inn 01432 860468

Trumpet Inn 01531 670277

The Nest* 01531 670816

Trumpet Corner* 01531 670082

*daytime only

Special events Saturday 10th October

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

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

2pm Pruning traditional orchards. Guided tour/talk based on Hellens' own fruit tree collection with practical advice from Orchard Origins (a Community Interest Company owned by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust). Hellens (Venue 6)

7pm Sweet Cider Time. Apples and cider have inspired musicians and writers for centuries. This evening of music and readings featuring vocal group **Serenata** has been inspired by *Ripest Apples*, an anthology of verse, prose and song compiled for the Big Apple by Roy Palmer, who died earlier this year. Tickets £8, to include interval drink, from Ledbury Books and Maps or phone 01531 670544. Hellens Great Barn (Venue 6)

Special events Sunday 11th October

9.30am Ripest Apples: a ridge and woodland walk with occasional readings from 'Ripest Apples', the anthology of verse, prose and song compiled for the Big Apple by Roy Palmer. Via Ridge Hill, Holling Hill, Sollers Hope and Avenue Cottage to see perry making before return to Westons. 7miles. No dogs please. Meet Westons Car Park (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 'Cidermaking from Past to Present' A talk by Brian Robbins at Woodredding Farm (Venue 1)

12.30pm The Herefordshire Cider Trade from the Medieval Period to the coming of the Railways A talk by Rebecca Roseff, Archivist of the The Cider Museum, Hereford. Hellens (Venue 6)

2pm Can birds save your piggy bank? Exploring potential natural pest control services in orchards. A talk by Charlotte Selvey, University College London PhD student. Hellens (Venue 6)

3.30pm Five Fruit-trees make an Orchard. A new film exploring orchard value by comparing seventeenth century and contemporary perspectives with the help of people with learning disabilities. Introduced by Dr David Marshall, Associate of the Bulmer Foundation, assisted by some of those involved in the Orchard Art project. Hellens (Venue 6)