

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 MORE INFORMATION:

www.bigapple.org.uk

EMAIL - secretary@bigapple.org.uk

FIND - 'The Big Apple' on Facebook
or tweet us @TheBigAppleHfd

For programme information, phone Mrs. Jackie Denman on (01531) 670544. Our website includes details of accommodation in the area.



Scan for quick access to our website.

2018 Programme

Harvestime



in and around
Much Marcle



Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th October 2018

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



CIDER - APPLES - PERRY - ORCHARDS - PRODUCERS -



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 thirtieth 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 2018

Join us in celebrating English apples and cider in the 30th 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. But you can also visit several different events and venues. 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 many of our venues are in walking distance of each other, and cycling is also a great way to get about. Distances are indicated on our map. 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.



Look out for your Big Apple favourites in this app which pulls together the rich history of cider production in Herefordshire since 1945 with films, archive footage, photography, oral histories and an up-to-date guide to all the ciders being made in the county today.



INFORMATION

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





Special events Saturday 13th October

From 10.30am Leominster Morris at Westons (10.30am), Hellens (11.30am), Gregg's Pit (12.30pm), Lyne Down Organics (2pm)

11am to 5pm Annual Honey Show Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association. Haywain Barn, Hellens* (Venue 6)

12 noon and 2.30pm Our edible hedges. Guided tours of young fruit and nut groves and edible hedges which re-establish our field pattern. Avenue Cottage (Venue 2)

2.30pm Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project. Karen Humphries reflects on the achievements of this HLF-funded project to restore and celebrate traditional orchards in the Three Counties. Stowford Press Meeting Room, Westons Cider (Venue 3)

3.30pm High altitude cider tasting Pop-up tutored tasting with a view, with Ciderologist Gabe Cook. Avenue Cottage (Venue 2)

4pm A Fruit Farming Year – Nature and Nurture. Insights from Castle Fruit Farm into their sustainable approach to managing a busy commercial fruit farm. Based on a series of photographs tracing activity in the orchards throughout 2017, taken by Pat Strauss in association with Ledbury Food Group. Stowford Press Meeting Room, Westons Cider (Venue 3)

5pm Vertical tasting A very special and rare opportunity to join the maker and the Ciderologist in tasting three vintages of a Gregg's Pit in-bottle fermented 'champagne' perry. 15 tickets on sale at bar from 11am, 1st come, 1st served. £6.00. Gregg's Pit (Venue 8)



Special events Sunday 14th October

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.

10 for 10.30am Friends of the Dymock Poets. Walk with poetry, prose and conversation as we explore the village and orchards, including historic Awnells Farm and Gregg's Pit (cider and refreshments available). 10am Introduction to the Dymock Poets over coffee, setting off on walk at 10.30am. Return tractor ride available. Pay on day for refreshments. Accompanied children and poems welcome. Donations invited. Meet Orchard Tea Room, Westons Cider (Venue 3)

From 11am 'Uke Can't Be Serious' will pop up with their ukuleles at Awnells (11am), Gregg's Pit (12.30pm), Lyne Down Organics (2pm) and Hellens (4pm)

11am High altitude cider tasting Pop-up tutored tasting with a view, with Ciderologist Gabe Cook. Lyne Down Organics (Venue 1)

12 noon Local food and farming in the Second World War - a talk by local author and international economist, Jean Ila Currie, based on research for her newly released book 'Three Centuries of East Herefordshire Farms and Families'. Haywain Barn, Hellens* (Venue 6)

12 noon and 2.30pm Our edible hedges – details as Saturday, Avenue Cottage (Venue 2)




3pm Ciderology Internationally renowned cider expert Gabe Cook presents his new book containing "anything and everything you have ever needed to know about cider." Gabe will share his passion for all things cider (and perry!) which began right here on his "home turf". Haywain Barn, Hellens* (Venue 6).




4.30pm Perry Pears: Walk, Talk & Taste Guided walk with James Marsden to learn about specific vintage fruit varieties and taste the finished products made from those varieties in 2017. Gregg's Pit (Venue 8).




*Admission charge to Hellens site applies



HARVESTIME VENUES Open Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th October

1 Lyne Down Organics (GR648314) (HR8 2NT)   
 10am - 6pm
 Visit our traditional organic orchard. Watch the pressing or take the opportunity for a hands on experience to 'pick and press' cider apples. Meet our Ryeland 'Teddy Bear' sheep and donkeys. Tastings and sales of apple juice, cider, perry, honey and homemade jams. Refreshments available.
Special exhibition: 'Common Bond 2' - a collection of portraits of nearby cider- and perry-makers, seen through the eyes of their friend and mentor, the late Jean Nowell. For many years, Jean was celebrated for the cider and perry she made at Lyne Down

2 Avenue Cottage (GR649321) (HR8 2NU)   
 11am - 5pm
 Cottage perry-making, fruit pressing, single variety perry for sale. An abundance of fruit and nut trees and hedges of edible berries in our replanted orchards. Bring a picnic to our meadow overlooking the panoramic view to the Malvern Hills and beyond. Apple refreshments in aid of 1st Much Marcle Guides.

3 Westons Cider (GR648331) (HR8 2NQ)   
 10am - 5pm
 Guided tours (£10.00/£4) 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 3.30pm. Play park (10am-4pm). Orchard tearoom serving apple teas and other apple delights.
 Display of entries and voting for "people's choice" awards for children's poetry and art competition, organised jointly with Three Counties Autumn Show.



4 Much Marcle Memorial Hall (GR658330)   
 10.30am - 5pm
 Apple teas, soups and filled rolls being served, plus produce stall and display of 25 years of MADS (Much Marcle Amateur Dramatic Society).

5 St Bartholomew's Church (GR657327) 
 10.30am - 5pm
 Church open for visitors on both days. However, the PCC regret that the tower will not be open this year

6 Hellens (GR661333) (HR8 2LY)   
 11am - 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; extra charge if retained for investigation) - please provide at least 3 typical, fairly ripe, examples of each variety. **Apple market** selling less usual varieties. Sales of apple juice, cider and perry, pork baps, apple trees (Saturday); Tools for Self Reliance Cymru.

7 Awnells Farm (GR658319) (HR8 2NW)   
 11am - 5pm
 Guided walks through the traditional orchards. Meet the traditional Hereford cattle. Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Display of vintage farm tools and collection of working stationary engines, including working corn mill. Spinning demonstrations. Donations welcome.

8 Gregg's Pit (GR662323) (HR8 2NL)  
 10.30am - 6pm
 Craft 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. Ploughman's lunches by Truffles Delicatessen. No dogs please.

Key  Well behaved dogs on leads welcome.  Accessible toilet.
 Toilet facilities.  No dogs please.



Other apple & cider related venues:

Much Marcle Stores 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 5pm.
The Nest, Little Verzons HR8 2PZ
 Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Sun 10am to 4pm

Lunches and suppers

Many of 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
Slip Tavern	01531 660246
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 **not Sunday evening