

## Fruits of Red Rose Forest

### Seasonal Celebrations 2

These are traditional activities which take place at certain times of the year. They could be used as a basis of a celebration event or as small activities that add value to another event. There is much more information available on the internet or in specialist books. Common Ground has also got lots of information on celebrations and apple activities. (Also see other activity card – Seasonal Celebrations 1)

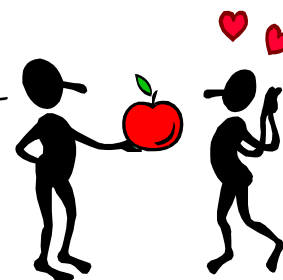
#### Spring



There are many celebrations tied up around May Day with the Green Man, May pole / Morris dancing, and mumming plays. Much of this has to do with fertility and bringing in the Summer, with all its harvest and bounty. There is also the opportunity to use your orchard to celebrate the blossom and the ending of the winter dormancy period.

The traditional time of planting Apple trees was May Eve (30<sup>th</sup> April). They were planted with a small piece of coal amongst the roots and 'good libations' of Cider watered them in. This would ensure a good crop of fruit.

There are also many love charms and spells which are associated with Apples, (see activity card – Folklore - Love Charms and Spells) – these could be used around Valentines Day or as part of the Springtime celebrations.



#### Summer

Traditionally if Apples were 'Christened' by the rains on St, Swithins day (15<sup>th</sup> July) they would get big and grow quicker.

Lammas, or Harvest time, at the end of August was a time when the apples were traditionally collected from the apple trees.



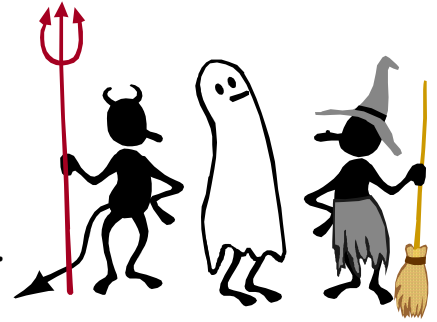
Much cider was drunk and great celebrations were to be had. It was custom to leave the last apple on the tree for the 'wise old apple tree man' – the fruit man who ensured good future harvests. It was believed that the apple tree man was the personification of the apple tree spirit.

## Autumn

### Halloween or All Hallows Eve

As apples were associated with goodness, purity and love, they were especially important at Halloween, when the divide between good and evil was said to be at its thinnest.

The presence of apples ensured that only good spirits prevailed between this and the 'otherworld'. This may be why so many activities traditionally associated with Halloween feature apples. Even today, we still bob for apples in tubs of water, or try to catch apples hung on strings with our teeth – this may have come about from people stringing apples up outside their house to ward off evil spirits – and children taking bites out of them when passing!



In Ireland Halloween was also known as 'Snap Apple night'. In St. Ives in the 1881 it was recorded that it was bad luck if children went to bed without an apple to hide beneath the pillow.

### Apple Day – 21st October

Held on October the 21st every year, this is an annual celebration of apples, orchards and local distinctiveness. Initiated by Common Ground in 1990 it has since been celebrated each year by people organising hundreds of local events. More information can be found at [www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk)



#### Ideas Spot!



- Why not..... 🍏 Hold a Halloween event in your Orchard and try Apple bobbing in tubs of water or on strings hung from the trees 🍏 Have an Apple Day celebration 🍏 Hold a Harvesting event with celebratory Apple foods and juice 🍏 Try Maypole dancing in your Orchard and welcome in the Green Man 🍏 Organise a Blossom walk through the site to see the trees at their prettiest

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