

Village Apple Day Saturday 8th October 2pm

The Apple Day is being organised by Wittenham Warriors & hosted by Sylva Foundation at The Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road.

Why have an Apple Day?

Community Apple Days have become very popular over the past few years, they range from very low key events where you just take along your fruit for juicing or more involved events where there are refreshments, entertainment & fundraising as well as juicing. The people of LW love an excuse to socialise, Apple Day is a lovely way to do just that! It can involve the whole family from picking to drinking.

Another good reason to have an Apple Day is to use up the apples that would otherwise go to waste & if you have enough apples, enjoy the juice through to the next year.

Who are Wittenham Warriors?

WW is an informal, ever-changing gaggle of villagers who first came together in 2005 with the sole aim of 'Putting the FUN in fundraising'. Over the last eleven years we have raised over £50,000 for various local and far flung good causes.

Fundraising events have include:

3 Day Cycle from Long Wittenham to Paris
Lulworth Cove to The Plough Cycle Ride
Dragon Boat racing
Safari Suppers
Village Bonfire Nights
Themed Dinner Dances
International Day
Party in the Paddock
Pamper Evenings
Cinema Evenings
Girls Just wanna have FUN

you name it we've done it! and now we can add Apple Day!!!!!!

Groups who have benefitted from our efforts:

Long Wittenham Primary School
Long Wittenham Pre School
St.Mary's Church
LW Youth Club
Clifton Hampden & Burcot Scouts
LW Village Hall
Northmoor Trust (Earth Trust)
Footsteps Foundation
Oxford Young Dementia
Everyman Prostate Cancer
Breast Cancer Charities
Alzheimer Society
M.S Therapy Centre
Oxford Diabetic Centre

Thames Valley Air Ambulance
Future Hope orphanage (in India)
Abingdon Rotary Club charities

We have also contributed to the upgraded cycle path between Didcot & LW, village tree & bulb planting & Village Swapshop. Plus of course the purchase of the Apple Press & equipment.

Who are Sylva?

The Sylva Foundation is an environmental charity working across Britain caring for forests to ensure they thrive for people and for nature. It is based at the Wood Centre here in Long Wittenham. In addition to working with foresters, woodland owners and outdoor educators across Britain, it is transforming the derelict College Farm site to create the **Sylva Wood Centre**: an exciting new hub for small businesses and craftspeople who design, innovate or make with British **wood** – and those who want to learn the skills to do so. Go to www.sylva.org.uk for more information

How did the village come by an Apple Press?

Each year the Warriors have set aside funds for local future projects. Last year it was suggested that we invest in an apple press & pasteurising equipment. We felt this could provide a useful service to the village & perhaps raise more funds for future projects.

The stumbling block was finding somewhere or someone to store the rather large equipment. Not surprisingly no one offered! Then a chance conversation with Gabriel Hemery, CEO of Sylva Foundation led to a discussion on their project of creating a Community orchard here in LW for the benefit of all who live here!

We told Gabriel of our plans for apple juicing and creating an annual Village Apple Day. Bingo! The two ideas were meant for each other and Sylva generously offered to store the press & equipment and offered their facilities to host Apple Day.

As a resident of LW you can become a crop shareholder in the orchard that is to be planted this Autumn. Details will be available on Apple Day but if you can't wait until then pop into the office at the Wood Centre and a member of the staff will help you. Or send an email to info@sylva.org.uk

The ladies of the village & the ladies cricket team have already entered into the spirit of the orchard by raising funds to commission a beautiful bench made of English oak. This will be placed in the Community Orchard, for all to enjoy.

Rodas Irving of Oxford Oak, who works out of the Wood Centre is the craftsman who is making the bench. Check out his craftsmanship at www.oxfordoak.co.uk. The bench will be on show at Apple day.

October 8th will be our first Apple day and we sincerely hope it will become a popular, annual event. Come along with or without apples and join in the fun.

Feel free to contact me with any questions on the above at: richsal2000@yahoo.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you

Sally Duff on behalf of Wittenham Warriors