

Bradford Apple Day – A brief history.



"Apple Day celebrates the huge variety of domestic fruit we can grow in this country and the continuing importance of orchards as special places for people, nature, culture and landscape" (Common Ground)

Apple Day was developed by Common Ground, a national organisation which promotes the richness and diversity of 'Everyday' landscapes. Apple Day was developed as a popular way of widening interest in and commitment to orchards at a time when old orchards were rapidly disappearing. The apple was chosen as a symbol representing all fruit trees because it is Britain's best-known fruit. The first Apple Day was held at the old Apple Market in Covent Garden, London, on October 21st 1990. Since then, Apple Day has become popular all over the UK, with Apple Day events held in village halls, museums, colleges, gardens, and National Trust properties.

Apple Day in Bradford

The first Bradford Apple Day was held in Saltaire in October 2000, jointly organised by local environmental organisations Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES) and the Forest of Bradford (FoB). The idea behind the Day was to gauge support for the idea of developing Community Orchards in Bradford.

Bradford Apple Day has since become a popular event and is beginning to feature in people's minds as an annual festival. The Day is designed to appeal to a wide range of visitors from children and families to serious gardeners, with a mixture of delicious food, games, storytelling, art activities, competitions, apple tasting and identifying, and practical advice on buying and caring for fruit trees.

Apple Day is now organised by the Bradford Apple Group, which is a mix of people from BEES, Bradford Community Environment Project (BCEP) and people with an interest in the local environment. The Group fundraises for Apple Day and outreach events during the year, including field trips, schools workshops, training, orchard visits and blossom walks.

Apple Day itself takes a great deal of time, energy and fundraising to organise. The continued existence of Apple Day and the orchards it exists to promote depends upon the enthusiasm and hard work of a large group of volunteers. You can help by becoming involved, as part of the Apple Day Group or as a volunteer at Apple Day events.

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