

Apple Fest at New Hall Farm, Horseman's Green

New Hall Farm, Horseman's Green hosted the Community Group's very first Apple Fest on Saturday afternoon. Visitors to the event were treated to activities based around celebrating autumn and the apple harvest. A major attraction was Richard McBride with his apple crushing machine. Locals had been previously informed to bring their own supply of apples for crushing. The machine was kept busy all afternoon producing 'local apple juice' for the delighted clients. A local resident and former baker, demonstrated how to prepare two apple desserts: an Apple Charlotte and a Belgian Apple Flan. The audience were then treated to the delights which had been cooked earlier. Children (and adults) were kept entertained by several apple based games – feeding the donkey with windfall apples; apple skittles and how long a peel can you produce from an apple without it breaking!

The autumn season was celebrated with the creation of a Community Tree, "Many Hands Make Art Work". People were encouraged to produce a hand print or an apple print using autumn colours which once dry were attached to the tree. The completed tree will be displayed in the local Community Hall. The autumn theme was continued with a baking competition involving the creation of a Victorian Sponge decorated in an autumn theme.

The Community Group runs several Activity or Interest Groups, and one such group, the Gardening Club contributed to the success of the afternoon by holding a tombola stall with prizes being a variety of house and garden plants all grown and donated by club members.

Several stalls were available for people to browse. Among these was the Homegrown and Handmade section of New Hall Farm itself. This consisted of a selection of in-house meats and artefacts along with home grown potatoes and pumpkins.

Whilst the afternoon remained dry for the event, a chill wind did blow, but refreshments of homemade Leek and Potato soup, (potatoes grown on New Hall Farm) and Hot Dogs helped to keep the cold at bay. Horseman's Green residents donated a selection of homemade cakes to accompany tea and coffee.

The Horseman's Green Community Group would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the Apple Fest afternoon and in particular to Karen and Gareth Dimelow of New Hall Farm who hosted the event. Monies raised will go towards maintaining and renovating the Community Hall. If you were unlucky enough to miss this event watch for Apple Fest again next year. You can follow the vibrant Horseman's Green community on our Facebook page or check the website: horsemansgreencommunity.co.uk