

Growing Orchard Communities

COMMUNITY ORCHARD TOOLKIT



Folklore and Customs quiz

Fun quiz to help share some apple and orchard folklore facts! We have included some explanations to help you along, but also see the folklore and cures resources sheet in the toolkit. Points are marked in green and answers in red

Winter

1. The kissing bough was traditionally used to decorate your house before Christmas trees were introduced. With what was it decorated? And what dates would you have it up in your house?
Red apples and candles, garland of greenery and mistletoe 4 points
Christmas to 12th night = 2 points
2. The sun shining through the apple trees on Christmas morning is a sure sign of: **1 point**
 - a) A warm and wet year, with blighted crop
 - b) A good crop and prosperous year for orchard owner**
 - c) True love for the orchard owner this year
3. What is the traditional shout raised at a wassail? **1 point**
 - a) Huzzah**
 - b) Hurray
 - c) Pip pip!
4. At your wassail, you should put a piece of cider soaked toast in the tree – who is this for?
1 point
The robins

Spring

5. Frankin was a brewer from Exeter who is said to have sold his soul to the Devil to ensure good beer sales and stop cider being produced. What did the Devil do to stop the apple trees producing? **1 point**
He caused a frost on May 17-19 May to kill the blossom

Frankum's Night

Frankum's night is May 19th and the story behind it is this.

Frankin was a brewer from Exeter who once fetched a big bulk buy of barley for making beer. The devil, ever watchful for wicked opportunity, knew that Frankin would want to make a good profit from his beer so the devil paid him a visit.

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This is the deal that was offered and this is the bargain that was struck. The devil told Frankin that he would blight all the apple trees in Devon with a nasty frost so there'd be no cider that year and everyone would buy Frankin's beer.

Frankin agreed in principle but offered one condition to the devil - that he should only strike on three days in May, the 18th, 19th, 20th. If a wicked frost comes to your orchard on these days and blights your apple trees, you know who to blame.

Not all fingers are pointed at Frankin the Brewer. Some people blame St Dunstan, who also made beer and who's saint's day is May 19th.

6. Which mythical character represents spring and fertility **1 point**

The Green Man

7. With what would you water your apple trees with in Guernsey to make them taste sweet **1 point**

Urine!

Summer

8. Apple Christening day, is a day when apple trees are hoped to be blessed with a shower of rain. And you should never eat your apples before this day, which Saint's day is this **1 point**

- A) **St Swithins day**
- B) St Catherines day
- C) St Dunstans day

Till St Swithins day be past, the apples be not fit to taste

9. Which South Devon village has held an apple pie fair in summer since 1888, when a massive apple pie is hauled though the village by a donkey followed by an Apple Pie princess. **1 point**

Marldon

9. Why did nearly all Devon farms have an orchard **2 points**

To brew cider to pay part of the workers' wages, and all on Sundays

Autumn

10. What date is Apple day? And when did this tradition begin. **2 points**

October 21st and 1990, introduced by Common Ground

11. What is a Griggle and who were the Grigglers. **1 each. Bonus 2 points**, who was definitely not a grigglers!

Small apple, village boys, not chimmneysweeps

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Griggling (Herefordshire)

... "But after the orchard is cleared, the village (not chimneysweepers) climbing boys collect in a posse, and with poles and bags, go into the orchard to commence griggling. The small apples are called griggles. These, the farmers leave pretty abundantly on the trees, with the understanding that the urchins will have mercy on the boughs, which left entirely bare, would suffer. Suspended like monkeys, the best climbers are the ring-leaders: and less boys pick up and point out where an apple still remains. After the trees are cleared, a loud huzza crowns the exertion: and though a little bickering as to the quality and quantity ensues, they separate with their portion, blaming or praising the owner, proportionate to their success.

12. If a girl sleeps with an apple under her pillow on Halloween, what will happen to her? 1 point

- a) Maggots in her hair
- b) She will be kept safe from the witches
- c) She will dream of travel
- d) She will dream of her true love

13. Clementing, souling and cattening all involved village children knocking on the houses, reciting a rhyme to receive an apple or coins in November. What is the modern-day equivalent known as? 1 point

Trick or treat

Clementing – St Clements day 23rd Nov, Cattening St Catherine's day, 25th Nov, Souling – 2nd Nov. The children would knock on the door and recite a rhyme such as this one...

*Clemeny clemeny god be wi'yer
Christmas comes but once a ye-ar
When it comes it will soon be gone
Give me an apple and I'll be gone*

Cures

14. How might you use an apple to cure chilblains 1 point

Thread a rotten apple onto the infected toes to cool and relieve itching and burning

15. To cure which part of the body would you apply a poultice of mouldy rotten apples 1 point

Obstinate eye sty

16. To cure which human ailment would you cut an apple in half, rub the affected area then bury it. As it rots, the ailment will disappear. 1 point

Warts