

News from West Winds in Buckden at the heart of the Yorkshire Dales

9 September 2010

Autumn apple festival focuses on the ancient, the modern and the tasty



This year's **West Winds Apple Festival** runs from Saturday 23 October to Sunday 31 October 2010, when tearoom customers will be able to taste 20 different varieties of dessert apple, many of which can't be found in the shops. We will also be providing a range of delicious main course savoury dishes, puddings and cakes made with apples.

The tearooms will be open for **West Winds Apple Festival** from 12.30pm to 6pm (except Monday and Tuesday) with apples on sale too. Why not come and visit for a free tasting followed by lunch, afternoon tea or high tea?

The apples are all coming from Yorkshire Orchards, a small, family-run orchard containing around 180 varieties. It was established in 2002 close to Wilberfoss, near York, and continues to expand. Many of the apples grown by Alec and Angela Allison at Wilberfoss have evocative or historical names that reflect the magic and depth of the world of apples away from the shelves of the supermarkets. American Mother, Scrumptious, Laxton's Superb, Irish Peach, Lord Lambourne, Devonshire Quarrendon, Belle de Boskoop, Ingrid Marie and Greensleeves are names that come from a world where quality comes before quantity and convenience of production and storage. There are actually over 2000 varieties of apple in existence, many with flavours and colours that outclass the modern 'factory' varieties such as Golden Delicious and Granny Smith.

Apples originated in the Middle East more than 4000 years ago and have probably been grown in the UK since Roman times. Specially cultivated apple varieties arrived in England via France at around the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Normans had a strong tradition of apple growing and introduced many apple varieties including Pearmain and Costard.

There was a decline in apple growing in the 13th century as a result of the Black Death, as well as repeated droughts. This was reversed by Henry VIII who instructed his fruiterer, Richard Harris, to establish the first large scale orchards at Tynham in Kent. Harris began to import apple trees from France and planted a model orchard which was used to distribute trees to other growers.

Old English was the main dessert apple in England until at least the 18th century. Today, one of the most highly regarded apple varieties in the world is the English Cox. It dates back to 1825 when Richard Cox raised the first tree in his garden in Berkshire. The apple then started to receive public acclaim after Queen Victoria's head gardener Thomas Ingram championed the variety in the 1850s.

For details of Yorkshire Orchards, visit
www.yorkshireorchards.co.uk/cgi/shop/shop.cgi?cart_id=73135-43878&page=about

And see below for details of how to win a **VIP day at West Winds Apple Festival!**

West Winds closes for late summer rest period



The time is fast approaching for what we call our **late summer rest period**, when we hang up our aprons and part company with the kitchen sink for a short, but very necessary, respite.

The tearooms and bed and breakfast will be closed from Monday 20 September to Tuesday 28 September 2010 inclusive. They will be open as normal on Wednesday 29 September 2010 at 12.30pm.

Dialect speaker rounds off reet champion fortnight



Yorkshire Dialect Fortnight at West Winds in August created a lot of interest with customers from near and far. A menu written in dialect, a factsheet on the origins of dialect and, particularly, our ‘crash course’ in speaking dialect helped to lend a real Yorkshire ambience to the tearooms, tastily reinforced by a range of traditional Yorkshire cakes, widened to include Yorkshire brack, fat rascal and Yorkshire mint pasty.

Renowned Yorkshire artist Les Packham provided a painting demonstration in the garden – in between patches of heavy rain – and Leeds-based Eric Scaife (left) recited traditional dialect poetry and prose. Eric is a member of the Yorkshire Dialect Society, dedicated to furthering knowledge of this colourful off-shoot to standard English.

We’ve tried to promote Yorkshire dialect as a living language, not just something of historical interest. And you don’t have to have been born and bred in Yorkshire to lay claim to it. If your ancestors came from Yorkshire, or if you live here now or even if you just feel an affinity for the sweeping landscapes of the Dales and Moors, then you can count yourself a Yorkshireman or Yorkshirewoman.

You can download the dialect menu and the take-home factsheet and crash course lesson from our website at
www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk/tearooms.asp You can also read the *Yorkshire Post’s* article on **West Winds Dialect Fortnight** at
www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk/attachments/YorkshirePostdialectarticle28July2010.pdf

Home Farm Trust Christmas cards go on sale in October



Regular visitors to West Winds may know that we have long been supporters of the Home Farm Trust, which provides care for people with learning disabilities and support for their carers and families. This we do largely through the sale of **Home Farm Trust Christmas cards** in the tearoom.

From the beginning of October, we hope to have an eye-catching range of cards available, so please come to visit us and stock up. And yes, Christmas is coming, and faster than you think...

For details of the Home Farm Trust, visit www.hft.org.uk

Immortal Yorkshire prose makes a charitable souvenir from West Winds



Ah'll niver forget fust day at t'pit. Me an' mi Fattther worked 72-hour shift, an' then wi walked 'ooame 43 mile thru t'snow in us bare feet, huddled inside us clothes med aht o' awd sacks. Eventually wi trudged over t'hill till wi cud see t'street lights twinklin' in us town. Fattther smiled dahn at me thru t'icicles hangin' off 'is nose. "Nearly 'ooame now, Lad," 'e said.

So began Tony Capstick, the Yorkshire broadcaster, musician and comedian, in his piece of humorous dialect writing **Capstick Comes Home**. It was recorded against the background of Dvorak's New World Symphony (the well known Hovis music) in 1981 as a riposte to the ubiquitous bread advert of the day (see picture left) and became a Top 10 hit.

Tony Capstick died in 2003 but you can enjoy his gritty tale of Yorkshire fortitude in a take-home leaflet produced by West Winds. We've illustrated his work with some thoughtfully chosen pictures, making the perfect souvenir from a tearoom that must surely be at the spiritual heart of Yorkshire.

All we ask in return is £1 in one of our charity boxes. To find out more about Tony Capstick, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Capstick

Afternoon tea weather draws to a close



The Northern England monsoon is almost upon us, so if you would like to enjoy tea and cakes on our lawn, you'd better come soon. During November and December, and on into January, February and March, it rarely stops raining in the Dales, so Sunday 31 October will be **the last day the tearooms will be open this season**. Bed and breakfast will also end for the 2010 season on the same day.

We realise this leaves our customers having to make do with Mr Kipling apple pies and supermarket flapjack for several months – and over the hardest part of the year too – but it's for the best, believe us.

Win a VIP day at West Winds Apple Festival



You can win a **VIP special visit to West Winds Apple Festival** by answering a single question about apples!

The lucky winner will be able to look forward to an apple-tastic VIP day for two at West Winds during the revered apple festival. This will start with a special guided apple tasting in the company of our own apple expert, Prof Golden Delicious, followed by apple-licious complimentary tea and apple cake, and finishing up with a farewell parcel of orchardy items to take home, including crisp fresh apples, apple and blackberry jam, and a book of yummy apple recipes. *Hats, morning coats and handbags are optional.*

To win this fabulous prize, just send us the answer to the question below, to arrive by noon on Thursday 30 September 2010.

Which of the following is NOT a variety of apple?

American Mother, Scrumptious, Belle de Boskoop, Ingrid Marie, Granny Smith, Maris Piper and Greensleeves

To enter, send your answer to lynn@westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk or to West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms, Buckden, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5JA.

Terms and conditions

1. Only one entry can be accepted per person or per e-mail or postal address.
2. Prizes will be allocated on Thursday 30 September 2010.
3. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers received by the closing time.
4. The winners will be notified by e-mail or phone on Thursday 30 September 2010.
5. The prize must be claimed in person during West Winds Apple Festival 2010 and there are no cash or other alternatives for someone who doesn't like apples.
6. The prize is for two people.
7. The winner's name will be available on application after Thursday 30 September 2010.
8. The judges' decision is final and no discussion will be entered into.
9. West Winds will bear no responsibility for stomach pains caused by eating too many apples.

West Winds



West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms

Up the lane beside the Buck Inn...

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