

Burton Bradstock Apple Pressing 2018

Organised by Graham Moody, Ali Wozzley-Meek and Steve Meek

Successful and worth repeating yearly

Apples were collected mostly the day before – the biggest single load was from Bredy Farm using a team of shakers/pickers and Dave Venn's trailer. Probably a third was collected in advance by me and stored on my drive, collected in one go by Andrew Bailey.

We pressed all the apples collected and produced around 400 litres of juice, which was given away to anyone who wanted it/ could be persuaded to take it. As always, juice produced outstripped the capacity of people's containers so all Darren's new plastic beer containers were used.

Donations were £99.

Attendance was probably over 100 people, of which a significant minority were visitors to the area.

The weather was perfect – and although we had a Coleman shelter, all the work areas were in the sunshine.

Although it was a little uncertain in the preceding week to be sure how many people would be prepared to help on the day, we had enough 'bodies' to run the four stations.

The venue worked well, with good access to water and electricity from Noreen. There were issues with car parking outside the toilets blocking the field access. The toilets may be closed next year....

The equipment worked as expected – the press bought by the council was joined by another smaller one lent by Charlie Harris. The scrapper became blocked once, requiring partial disassembly to clear it. This happens when it is force fed too rapidly!

Learning points

- Earlier date in the season next year – will ensure better apple mix.
- Donations were smaller than expected and would not have covered the cost of a marquee. A more proactive collection could be used, if enough volunteers on the day.
- Weather may not be so kind next time but we can probably manage with a series of small shelters/gazebos.
- Tighter organisation of helpers required to run the stations and avoid tiredness. The washing station in particular was quite demanding.
- Portaloo required?

Steve Meek 3rd November 2018