



Steyning Community Orchard Winter Newsletter. Feb 2026

Welcome to our latest Newsletter

- Report of our Wassail on 17th Jan
- Brand new event for April "Blossail"
 - Seed Swap
- Reminder to take a look at our new website

Report on the Steyning Community Orchard Wassail.
Sat 17th Jan with Mythago Morris.

The good people of Steyning, and beyond, came in their droves to support our annual Wassail. We estimated there were 300 people there, our biggest turn out yet.

We started at the Cricket club, where Mythago warmed up themselves, and the crowd, with the start of the Wassail story with music dance and song. We then processed over to the Orchard, where we had prepared the Wassail tree with lights and decorations. There the Wassail story continued

with much music, singing and noise.

Lots of children joined in enthusiastically. Toast dipped in the Wassail cup was hung on the trees as an offering and hope of a good crop next year.

This was our 9th Wassail with the Mythago morris side. This is now a real tradition for Steyning that we are really proud of.

This was Mythago's Facebook report of the Wassail.

18 January at 13:54 ?

Well that was a good 'un wasn't it . Thank you to all 300 of you who turned out for our apple howling and threw yourselves wholeheartedly into it all. It was fabulous to see all ages there and we had a blast. The orchard looked very magical with all the fairy lights and the mistletoe tied to the tree and for that we have to thank the Steyning Community Orchard who worked so hard to set it up and gave us free rein to run it in our own Mythago style. Until next year.....Wassail



**Following on from the last item, we have an exciting
new event to tell you about.**

Please put the date in your diaries. More details will

follow later.

Sunday 19th April 1-4 pm
Family Picnic and Blossail.

**Community Orchard, Memorial Playing Field ,
Steyping.**

Mythago Morris will visit us again on Sunday 19th April for what they are calling a 'Bee Wassail'. (or 'Blossail' for short!). It will be the first time they will have performed this in public, so we are very honoured. Unlike our Wassail it will be held during the daytime, when the orchard trees will be in full blossom, and combine 2 old Sussex traditions of a Spring Wassail and the Wassailing of honeybees.

Let Mythago explain...

In Sussex it was once customary to wassail the orchards in spring. This spring wassail was still being observed as late as the mid-1900's. At this time of year, the trees are in their blossoming season, for which reason we are calling the event a 'blossail'.

Unlike the winter apple howling, which seeks to wake the dormant trees, the blossail marries the tradition of wassailing with the themes underpinning English maying customs. It seeks to honour the active

flowering phase of the trees (the blossom) and the arrival of pollinators (the bees). It also celebrates the interdependent relationship between pollinators and the blossom, the 'child' of their union being the fruit of the tree. For this reason, the blossail acts as a "Great Wedding" of nature, ensuring fertility and abundance for the coming year.

The importance of bees was once honoured in the uniquely Sussex custom of wassailing honey bees, which is remembered in a verse of the 'Sussex Sugar Wassail', which was collected by the Rev. John Broadwood in the 1840's. In the mid 20th Century the vicar of Amberley also documented a 'wassail chant' used for this Twelfth Night rite, which is thought to partly date from the medieval period.

Seed Swap

Our friends at Greening Steyning, Bramber and Beeding are holding a Seed Swap at the Repair Cafe on Saturday 14th Feb. An ideal chance to grab some seeds ready for the sowing season. Full details on the poster below.

SEED SWAP

AT THE REPAIR CAFE
BEEDING & BRAMBER VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 14TH FEB 2-4 PM



COME AND GET SOME SEEDS!
BRING YOUR SPARE SEEDS TO SWAP
OR JUST 50p TO DONATE

GREENING
STEYNING · BRAMBER · BEEDING

New Website

We are delighted to have updated and relaunched our website. It now contains a wealth of information about our orchards and the fruit trees we grow in them.

Do take a look:

<https://www.steyningcommunityorchard.org/>

So far, we have planted over 140 trees in our 6 Orchards, with 97 different fruit varieties including 63 Apple, 9 Plum and 8 Pear varieties. Plus unusual fruits such as Quince, Medlar and Bullace.

The website has full details of all of them.

The next Newsletter will be published in Spring 2026

Any comments, suggestions, feedback, please email us by clicking on the 'envelope' logo below.



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