

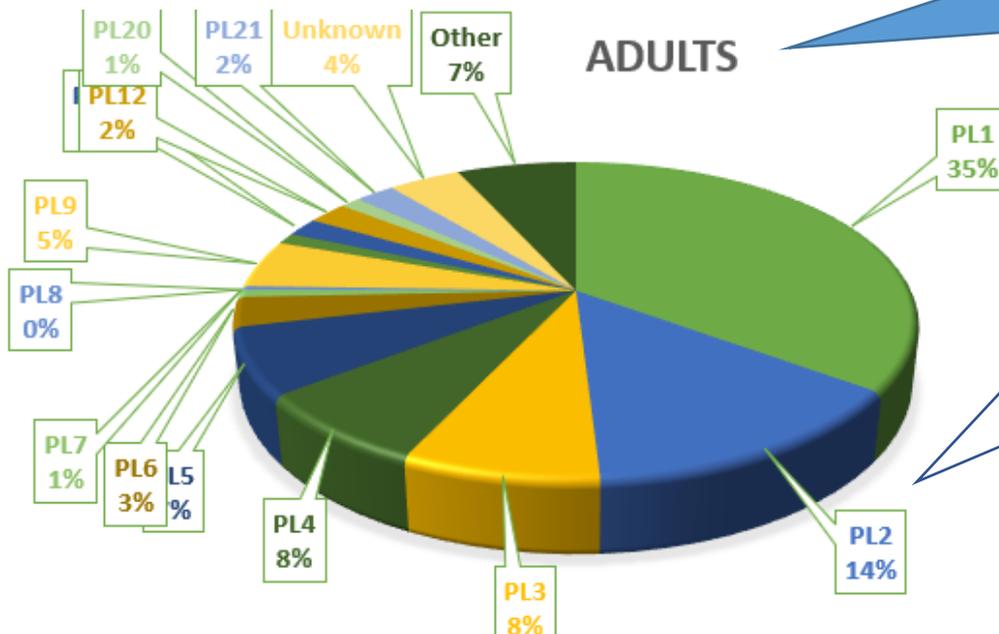


## All Ways Apples Festival 2018

The ninth annual **All Ways Apples Festival** took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018. **Devonport Guildhall** overflowed once again with fruit, creativity and learning opportunities. **Education, healthy lifestyles** and **well-being** were key aspects of the event. Much **informal learning** took place, with **networking** and sampling wonderful **local food** being key features of the day.

More than **400 people** of all ages and backgrounds came together, shared skills and had fun. It was interesting that 49% of the visitors came from the local post code areas of PL1 and PL2, showing that **local people** really support the Festival.

### Post codes of visitors



This is real community! So many networks and links. I am so glad this happens and that I found it!

I thought the festival was a fantastic mix of community and food which was engaging enough for people to stay all day.

The **2018 festival** provided yet more evidence of how All Ways Apples brings together a valuable **network** of organisations, groups and individuals to celebrate and benefit from the **autumn abundance**. Indeed, the network continues to **inspire, motivate** and **educate** people throughout the year.

**Special thanks** go to **Devonport Guildhall, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH)** and **LiveWest Housing Association** who all provided amazing support in so many different ways. **Hayley Kemp (PCH)** and **Justine Cheffers (LiveWest)** helped to design the festival through the regular pre-event planning meetings involving other partners and volunteers. Hayley and Justine also ran the popular bag decorating activities during the festival itself. This year, Justine also organised a large and lively **LiveWest team** to staff the welcome desk and help in running with the Smoothie bike activity. Additional **PCH staff** also actively supported the event.

In addition to the main event, **All Ways Apples Festival 2018** was involved in some extra 'fringe' apple events across the city in the weeks leading up to the 24<sup>th</sup> October. These included:

- All Ways Apples supporting **Devonport Time Bank** and **LiveWest** with a chutney making workshop at **St Theresa's** sheltered accommodation. The chutney was very popular with residents and at the festival.
- Harvesting events, gathering **medlars** in **Stonehouse** and **apples** from the grounds of the **Goschen Centre**.
- Food Plymouth and All Ways Apples hosting an interactive stand at the **Stonehouse Street Party**, with apples and preserves to taste.
- Supporting **Grow Stonehouse's** apple pressing event at Stonehall Flats community orchard - this was very successful with the juice being pasteurised the following week at Union Corner (having been frozen to keep it fresh).
- An **All Ways Apples Music Fundraiser** which took place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Devonport. The performers were fantastic – **Anairda, Michael Q Klein, Brian Ibbotson & Dmitry Babichev, Doug & Amy – The Liaisons**, along with stunning poetry from **Marigold Penlee**.

Then on **24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**, the **All Ways Apples Festival main event** took place - Celebrating local food, creating skill sharing opportunities, providing information and featuring more live music!

## Food at the heart of the festival

All Ways Apples is a **Food Plymouth** project working closely with the Thrive Plymouth health inequalities programme. In October 2018 **Thrive Plymouth** launched their **Year 5** health and well-being focus featuring 'people connecting through food'. [www.plymouth.gov.uk/publichealth/thriveplymouth/peopleconnectingthroughfood](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/publichealth/thriveplymouth/peopleconnectingthroughfood)  
The All Ways Apples festival was thus an ideal start to the year!

- At the event **Food Plymouth** had a wonderful stand staffed by volunteers Jade Ward and Esin Forster with Food Plymouth's coordinator Zoe Nile. Jade and Esin were kept very busy on the **Local Food Bring and Buy table** with delicious home-made cakes, jams, chutney, juice, apples, crab apples, quinces and medlars.
- Arriving at the festival, visitors found piles of apples on the steps of the Devonport Guildhall waiting to be pressed, with the **apple mill and press** being a hive of action. Visitors got involved in all the various stages of the preparation and making of the juice. This included tasting it afterwards! **Plymouth City Council's Poole Farm** city farm project supported the festival with the apple pressing equipment which is kept at the farm. The pressing was facilitated by **Dave Curno** from the Friends of Ham Woods community group, **Joe Bestwick** from Poole Farm and **David Walker** from Noss Mayo community orchard.
- The **Smoothie Bike** activity was run by the **LiveWest** housing association team with lots of people busy cycling to make drinks to share. They used fresh apple juice from the press along with quantities of fruit kindly donated by **Tamar View Fruiterers** [www.tamarviewfruiterers.co.uk](http://www.tamarviewfruiterers.co.uk).



- **Grow Stonehouse's** stand showed the amazing plants growing in the community growing spaces and a bulb planting activity. In addition, Grow Stonehouse also kindly donated an apple tree and pots with bulbs as raffle prizes.
- **Orchard Link's Charles Staniland** and **Sue Hallam** provided a lovely display of local and heritage apple varieties from South Devon.



- **CATERed** came to the festival for the first time and had a wonderful display along with activities for visitors which included making fantastic creatures out of apples.
- **Food is Fun CIC** with Chef Dez Turland got very creative on the food demonstrations with apple & pumpkin soup, apple chutney, pork and apple sausage rolls, apple cake

and apple muffins.

I love that everyone was sharing their local experience and I even learnt how to make an apple swan! Lovely all round, thanks for organising it"

- **Vix Hill-Ryder** harvested knowledge which is in danger of being lost, interviewing many of our talented elders as part of the Family Foraging Kitchen's '**Grandparents' Secrets'** project .
- **Fran Mainland's** tasty homemade jams made from fruit harvested in Ham Woods was at the Festival again this year, along with a stand featuring woodwork and other crafts from other members of the **Friends of Ham Woods** community group.
- The food stalls included **Apple Natural** with tasty dried apple products, **Westcountry Produce** with fresh pies and egg products and vegetables and fruit from **Riverford**.
- Volunteers enjoyed delicious soup made by Michal from **Corner Soup** at Union Corner.
- Devonport Guildhall's **Column Bakery** provided an amazing array of apple themed freshly baked food.
- This year All Ways Apples enjoyed an extra cultural dimension with tasty hot **Kurdish** food and a taste of Africa through Simret's delicious **Eritrean** fayre.

"It is so lovely to be a part of something so community orientated and to share food from our culture" – Baz from the Kurdish food stand

## Learning and creativity - the key ingredients

- It was wonderful to have apple experts supporting the festival including the **Orchard Link** stall and a new tree nursery from Dartington called the **Mother Tree** selling beautiful and informative cards and calendars about orchards, apples and nut growing through the year.
- **Devonport Library** once again provided a creative activity alongside a lovely book display and also helped with the storytelling. More storytelling was provided by **Lily Urbanska** plus **Shelly Little** from **Snapdragons**, an exciting new Steiner based parent and children project starting up in Victoria Park.
- **Livewell Southwest** provided some excellent interactive activities for assessing our health and wellbeing.
- **Plymouth Tree Partnership** with their information stand and pip planting activities
- **Plymouth Community Homes** and **DCH** kept children busy with the decorating cotton bags activity.



Some 70 bags were completed on the day.

- **Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership** visited the event to show their on-going support.

**Live music** was an additional bonus again this year. The **Queens Dock Ukulele Players**, **Music Zone** and their highly engaging Makey-Makey activities involving making music from apples and **Charles Staniland's** accordion playing all brought extra colour and interest to the event.

# Communities shining through

**Local community groups** were well represented at All Ways Apples again this year, including **Glad Rags, Time Bank, Friends of Ham Woods, Grow Stonehouse, Snapdragons, Forage Plymouth, Plymouth Tree Partnership** and **Devonport Roots**. The participating community and voluntary groups reported many **benefits** from being part of the festival, especially around networking, engaging with the public and with each other.

Dozens of people **volunteered**, helping to run activities and supporting the festival in many other ways again this year.

**Rachel Davies** ran the raffle with help from **Sue Jacobs** and **Sally Walker**. The wonderful array of **raffle prizes** included donations from stall holders including **Grow Stonehouse, Riverford, The Mother Tree, Justine Cheffers** and the local **Cooperative** store.

**Barbara Hampson, Ann Bate** and many other **Time Bank** volunteers made a significant contribution in the lead-up to the event and during the day. Local community growers from **Mount Wise Towers** and **Devonport Square** had displays featuring their work to date and their future plans, along with tasty apple and pumpkin muffins from **Susan Drury**.

The **Feedback Tree** reflected the warmth and affection shown by visitors to the festival. The comments highlighted the value of the relaxed atmosphere where the local residents mix and mingle with other communities, with people of all ages, ethnicities and income levels from across the city and beyond.



It was more than awesome. It was exuberant. So many people. So many apples.

## Preparations for 2019's tenth annual All Ways Apples Festival are now underway



For more information about how to support and get involved with this year's festival and fringe please contact Tess Wilmot on 07531 506 481 or email [digfordevonport@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:digfordevonport@hotmail.co.uk) Twitter [@All\\_Ways\\_Apples](https://twitter.com/All_Ways_Apples) All Ways Apples' Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/All-Ways-Apples-Festival](https://www.facebook.com/pages/All-Ways-Apples-Festival) **Food Plymouth** [www.foodplymouth.org](http://www.foodplymouth.org)

