

7 October 2007

## **Celebrate National Apple Day at Newbury Farmers' Market**

Crunch your way into the best of this year's bumper apple harvest on National Apple Day – Sunday 21 October – at Newbury Farmers' Market.

The Farmers' Market will now be held twice a month, on the first and third Sunday, in the Market Place from 9am to 1pm, due to popular demand.

Antony Worrall-Thompson, patron of Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative, will launch the new market and sample the delights of Berkshire's best local produce on the 20 – 30 stalls.

Newbury food writer Debbie Hearn from the Big Little Fruit Campaign will demonstrate several delicious ways of cooking and serving apples to make the most of this year's superb harvest.

A gorgeous array of local apples, including cooking and eating varieties, will be on sale at the Cross Lanes Fruit Farm stall.

Gill Franklin of Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham is a regular stall-holder at Newbury FM. "This year has been really good for apples because they've had enough rain to be crisp and juicy, and enough warmth in September to ripen well. The autumn frosts will bring on the later varieties."

Gill's orchard – one of the last traditional orchards in the Thames Valley – includes dozens of varieties of apples and pears, so that customers can enjoy different flavours throughout the season.

Regular customers at Newbury Farmers' Market have been asking for a second market for several months. Now they will be able to buy the Sunday roast from one of the four excellent meat producers, and all the vegetables including winter roots, leeks and pumpkins from other stalls.

Among the producers expected at the market on Sunday 21 October will be Christmas Farm from Enborne, Give Me Cake from Reading, Evans and Paget from Stark House Farm in Headley, Crumbles from Mapledurham, Challow Hill Meat from Wantage, Ogg Valley Organic vegetables from Marlborough, and Paget's vegetables from Devizes.

Graham Hunt, Chief Executive of Newbury Town Council welcomes the second market: "The council is really pleased that Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative is running a second Farmers' Market in Newbury. It shows their confidence in Newbury's vitality and will increase footfall in the town, which is great for everyone. The Town Council continues to support the Farmers' Market however it can. Newbury is a market town with a long market tradition and is keen to retain that label."

Ends

**Photos of apples at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm available  
from [wendy.tobitt@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.tobitt@btinternet.com)**

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### **Notes to Editors**

**Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative** (TVFMC) supports local farmers, small producers and market organisers in the three counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. TVFMC is a not-for-profit organisation and is affiliated to FARMA, which accredits Farmers' Markets to ensure quality standards are maintained. The Thames Valley has an abundance of natural resources available for farmers and producers. Award winning meats, cheeses and preserves can be bought at markets. Since the first farmers' market in 1999 it has grown to 15 towns across the Thames Valley. More information is available at the TVFMC website [www.tvfm.org.uk](http://www.tvfm.org.uk).

### **Big Little Fruit Campaign and West Berkshire's apple heritage**

Debbie Hearn celebrates the culinary fruits that were big in our history, but now take only a little space in our diets. Many are wild fruits such as bullace and medlars.

<http://www.biglittlefruit.co.uk/>

#### **West Berkshire's apple heritage:**

Welford Park near Newbury was the nursery that raised two notable apple varieties **Charles Ross**, a dual-purpose apple named after its breeder who was head gardener at Welford Park and bred several other apples, and **Winston**, a firm and aromatic eating apple bred by William Pope in 1920.

The Miller family in Speen raised **Miller's Seedling**, an early variety in 1848. A new variety of this apple is called Red Miller's Seedling.