



a year in the orchard 2011

2011 marks 200 years since the publication of *Pomona Herefordiensis*. To mark this occasion a year of events is being organised in the County to celebrate 'Herefordshire's Year in the Orchard'.

Written by Thomas Andrew Knight, *Pomona Herefordiensis* is one of the first known Pomonas describing 30 varieties of apple and pear with full colour illustrations. More commonly known as the Herefordshire Pomona, this magnificent book is both work of art and scientific document.

Born in Herefordshire in 1759, Thomas Andrew Knight was one of the leading students of horticulture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, his work was acknowledged by the great scientists and plantmen of his day including Charles Darwin and Sir Joseph Banks. Most famous for his work with fruit trees, the influence of his scientific study is still in evidence today.

Throughout 2011 a wide range of activities and events will be arranged to celebrate the wonders of the orchard. The year's events will begin in January when many orchards will be filled with

the sound of music and merry making as many go a wassailing.

Traditionally held on twelfth night, January 6th, Wassailing encourages the trees to 'Be in good health' for the coming year. As the year progresses and the orchards spring to life, there will be walks, blossom festivals and family picnics to enjoy.

As the fruit ripens and the first crops are picked there will be many opportunities to sample the delights of the orchard starting with cherries in July, plums in August, damsons and the first apples and pears in September and with the main harvest in the autumn come apple fairs and cider festivals.

Details of events will be featured on www.ciderroute.co.uk or for more information contact Visit Herefordshire on 01432 260621.

