



ST THELO'S DAY

2026 PARTICIPATION PACK



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ST TEILO'S DAY

February 9th

Apples are more than just the tasty treats in our orchards; they are mystical wonders steeped in tales and myths. From the Garden of Eden's sacred stories to the epic sagas of Greek and Norse legends, and weaving through folklore, film and art, to the perfect pentagram in an apple's heart.

Myths also abound around St Teilo, said to have been born in Penally, Pembrokeshire, and a friend (or cousin) of St David. According to medieval manuscripts*, they travelled together with Saint Padarn to Jerusalem for ordination. Sometime after their return, the plague strikes, and St Teilo escapes to Brittany to stay with another friend, Saint Sansom.

The manuscripts also tell of, in Brittany, St Teilo and a holy spring and that he, pertinent to orchards, 'planted a large grove for a fruit-bearing orchard, more or less three miles in length', with St Sansom. Landeleau in Brittany (similar to our Welsh prefix Llan - church or enclosure -, 'Lan' means 'place dedicated to a saint') names 'Saint-Theleau' (St Teilo) as the founder of the parish, like Llandelio Fawr in Llandeilo.

So this February 9th, celebrate St Teilo and his grove planting - plant a tree, have a work day, prepare those trees and your own groves for the bountiful harvest to come in autumn.

From all the team at SF&G



• [Vita Sancti Teliaui \(Liber Landavensis & Vespasian A. xiv\).](#)

Social Farms & Gardens is a UK wide charity with more than 3,000 members, supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together.

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Ffermydd a Gerddi
Cymdeithasol 

YOUR ST TEILO'S DAY EVENT

**This is a great day to plant in
your orchard or simply
celebrate myth and folklore.**

You know your site and community best, so the type of event you run is up to you. Here are some questions that could help your group decide what yours could look like.

1. How to you want to celebrate St Teilo?

- Bringing new people to your orchard?
- Planting new trees?
- Volunteer work day to prune?
- Storytelling in the orchard?

2. Planning the basics

- Start and finish times for the event and any workshops?
- Who is on your event team?
- Will you invite any partner groups to be there?
- How will you promote your event?



PLANNING YOUR DAY

Planning an event can be a daunting task, but good preparation makes all the difference to ensuring that things go smoothly on the big day.

We know there's a lot to think about, so we've summarised some of the key areas below. Our [member Facebook group](#) is also a great place to get advice.

1. Marketing your Event

- Plan who you want to invite and how you might reach them
- What do they need to know?
- Use our poster and social media [templates](#).
- Use our [template](#) press release to send to your local media contacts. Don't forget local radio stations too!
- Be clear about what people can expect on the day.

2. Managing Risk

- Use our template risk assessment (in [English](#), in [Welsh](#)) to identify and plan for risk management on the day.
- Check your [insurance](#) before the event to ensure that it is covered by your policy.
- What about the weather? Have a contingency plan ready in the event of bad weather and decide how you will manage numbers in any enclosed spaces.



3. Generating Income

- If you are asking for donations on the day, make sure any containers are clearly labelled and secure.
- If you're going to be taking card payments or online donations, make sure you have registered with a provider well in advance.
- Plant and produce sales are a great way to generate some extra funds. Check out a guide to selling produce [here](#), and think about how you will take payment.
- If you're cash only make sure this is clear in all your marketing so people know to bring it!

4. Site Preparation

- Have a big tidy up! Work as a team and get your space looking spick and span, with any spaces to be used prepped and set up the day before wherever possible.
- Think about what signage you might need, and get this made up in advance. Hand painted signs can look lovely and colourful, but keep them simple and clear so everyone can understand them.
- Tell the story of your group with photos and press clippings displayed on a board.
- Do you need any extra bins and recycling points?



ACTIVITIES

Lots of you will have run events before and have a clear idea of the kinds of activities you'd like to host, but if you're new to community orchard events, or if you'd just like a some more ideas, here are a few suggestions.

1. Activities & Games

- Orchard Skills: offer pruning sessions or grafting workshops or information on planting, connecting to St Teilo's patronage.
- Longest peel contest: a ruthlessly competitive event!
- Counting games: guess how many apples/branches/secateurs are in the jar to win a prize.

2. Education & Culture

- St Teilo & apples: share stories and myths of St Teilo and apples.
- Explore apples in mythology: Genesis, Hercules, Snow White, William Tell, Jonny Appleseed.
- Invite other growers to sell produce and share their stories.

3. Food & Drink

- Apple Bake-Off! Community challenge for best apple pie, crumble or cake (and the story behind it)
- Apple Juice tasting: sample local varieties.
- Preserves: Apple Cider Vinegar, Apple Juice, dehydrated apple slices to taste



4. Community focus

- Recruit volunteers: have plenty of information about your orchard and the tasks that need doing year round about site.
- Donation drive: ask for different varieties of apples as entrance fees to be used in activities.

For more information on the activities named above, see our resource sheet in [Cymraeg](#) and [English](#).



PHOTOGRAPHY

Taking good quality photos at your event is a great way to capture the day, and also gives you a brilliant visual resource to use when talking about your work and promoting future events.

Photographs of identifiable people are classed as sensitive personal data under GDPR guidelines and so need to have consent before they can be stored or used by your organisation. Follow the guidance below to ensure your photos can legally be used.

Use Posters and Stickers

If you're going to take any photos make sure you put up our event photography [poster](#) in prominent and visible locations, and also let people know verbally that photography is taking place. A pack of plain stickers will allow you to clearly identify anyone who doesn't want their photo taken.

Ask Permission

Ask people before you take a photo of them. If language barriers or another situation means you aren't sure if they or their consenting adult is happy, don't take the photo.

Store and Share Securely

Store photos in a secure location, alongside a copy of the poster that was displayed. If you send any of your photos to us, use our photo consent form to confirm that they were taken in accordance with this guidance.



AFTER THE EVENT

Events can feel like they happen in a whirlwind of activity and leave your head spinning! Here's a checklist of things to do once your St Teilo's event is finished.

- Get together as a team for a debrief. What went well? What might you do differently next time?
- Make sure that any money you have raised is counted and banked as soon as possible.
- If you have any great photos from the day then we'd love to see them and add them to our library. Send them to marketing@farmgarden.org.uk along with the photo consent form.
- Use all these hashtags #StTeilosDay #DyddGŵylSantTeilo #CommunityOrchards #PerllannauCymunedol and tag us (our social media below) and lets make a St Teilo's fuss!
- And finally, relax! Congratulate yourself on a fantastic day and take a well-earned break. We hope to see you again next year.



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