



Press release

Date: 12 January 2017

Join the annual Wassail to bless the trees at Swaefas Swale Community Orchard, Swaffham

Family Action's ESCAPE Project and Wissey Valley Arts, with support from the Norfolk Community Foundation, have come together to organise the annual Wassail at the Swaefas Swale Community Orchard, Swaffham. This centuries old traditional ceremony blesses the apple trees to help produce a good crop and ensure a bountiful harvest in the forthcoming season. Wassailers will meet at the ESCAPE Community Allotments, run by Family Action, on Tumbler Hill for mulled apple juice followed by the ceremony which will commence with the crowning of the Wassail King or Queen. Then, accompanied by flaming torches, everyone will join a noisy procession to Swaefas Swale Orchard where the fire will be lit and traditional wassail verse and ritual will complete the ceremony. Weather permitting, there will be music around the fire afterwards.

Refreshments (hot soup and a bar serving alcoholic beverages including local cider from the Norfolk Cider Company, soft drinks and hot drinks) will then be offered at the nearby Community Centre where the Wassail will be celebrated with a ceilidh. Music will be provided by local band Hodmedod and Derek Paice will lead the dance.

Where: Tumbler Hill Allotments/Orford Road Playing Field, then Community Centre, Campinglands for the Ceilidh

When: Saturday, 14th January 2017

Time: 4.30pm for the Wassail 6.30pm for hot soup/refreshments 7.30 pm for the Ceilidh

Tickets for Ceilidh: Adults - £6, Children aged 16 and under - £3, Family ticket £12

Parking: Tumblers Hill Allotments, Orford Road, Campinglands

Please bring torches, pots/pans, drums and things to hit them with. Musical instruments also welcome at the Wassail. Don't forget your wellies/boots and dancing shoes!

Monies raised will be shared between Family Action and Wissey Valley Arts to help them support members of their local communities.

Contact John 0136652106 or Katy Fullilove 07884311604 katy.fullilove@family-action.org.uk for further information.

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For further information and interviews please contact:

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Notes to Editors:-

About Family Action

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people.

We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training.

Registered Charity Number: 264 713

Website: www.family-action.org.uk

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