

**TIDNOR WOOD**  
**ORCHARD TRUST**



**CERTIFICATE**  
**OF AUTHENTICITY**

This certificate authenticates print number

639

of the original painting "**TIDNOR WOOD ORCHARD**" signed and numbered by the artist Eric Bottomley and as specifically commissioned by the Tidnor Wood Orchard Trust

Henry May, Chairman  
April 2006

I set up the **TIDNOR WOOD ORCHARD TRUST** in August 2002, having failed to persuade some existing organisations to accept a donation to "save a cider apple orchard or two".

My desire was to "put something back" before I made my permanent departure. This has evolved into what is now a national collection of UK cider apple trees which will number over 400 different varieties as half standard trees in 26 acres of orchards hard by Hereford City with beautiful views across the River Lugg. And that is just for starters.

My love affair with cider started as a young man and such is Fate I was posted to Hereford as an Excise Officer in 1977 with a commission to, amongst other things, collect CIDER DUTY and regularly visit all the big cider makers. After four years I needed to move on and a few years later I resigned from Customs & Excise to do other things with my life. That included living on a narrowboat for many years and they say when the canal water gets into your blood it never leaves. If that were said of HEREFORD it would certainly be true.

So many varieties of cider apple have been lost forever because nobody thought to save them on ground ring-fenced into perpetuity. Our trees have wonderful names; Porter's Perfection, Sops in Wine, Ten Commandments, Falstaff, Pig's Snout, Sweet Coppin, Cap of Liberty etc. At Tidnor they are all growing in splendid diversity. And we are not just backward looking; there is a newcomer on the block called TIDNOR STAR.

But Tidnor is much more than just cider apples. We are preserving 26 acres of orchard in an orchard county whose trees are being grubbed out by the handful. Our land is now managed under an organic regime and every year we see the flora and fauna multiplying with commendable speed – including the nettles, brambles and docks.

As a boyhood ex-train spotter, I am a natural admirer of Eric Bottomley's railway pictures particularly and keep saying that I would happily swap the original painting of Tidnor Wood Orchard for one of those. Perhaps this collection of cider apple varieties is just an extension of collecting engine numbers. Nevertheless I sincerely hope that this print gives you hours of pleasure.

For the price of a couple of indigestible "all day breakfasts" you could have individual or family membership of the **TIDNOR WOOD ORCHARD TRUST** for a whole year. Your £15 membership would go straight into the soil. For just £50 you could sponsor a tree for the life of that tree – 100 years perhaps – whether or not you kept up your subscriptions. Our trees only ever have one sponsor unless you decide otherwise. What a marvellous gift would that make? And we do bespoke; ask us what you want. If you would like to see more of Eric's work, we can help with that too..

May your cider ever be sweet

HENRY MAY

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