



# The Hundred Parishes

## An introductory article about AUTUMN FRUITS

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One pleasurable autumn task is the harvesting of ripened fruits from trees in your own garden. For most of us, our cooking apple will be a Bramley's Seedling and the dessert apple an Essex-bred Discovery or a Cox's Orange Pippin.

Originating from central Asia, apples are incredibly varied with at least 2,000 named varieties! There are 150 named varieties in the gardens at Audley End. Shown on the left are Cox's Orange Pippins, growing at Audley End.

In the 19th century the skilled horticulturalists at the Rivers Nursery at Sawbridgeworth bred and propagated many varieties of fruit trees, including the prolific Czar plum and Conference pear, both of which are still available today.

The Conference pear, shown on the right, features in Great Chesterford's 21st-century community orchard, pictured below.



For commercial reasons, the range available from modern plant nurseries is limited to a few easy-to-grow varieties. However, hidden away in forgotten corners of long-established gardens within the Hundred Parishes there will be specimens of heritage varieties of orchard trees.

If you have a flavoursome, but unidentified, variety, then the team at the East of England Apples and Orchards Project would be delighted to hear from you. Further information on <https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk> (telephone 01328 838403 or email: [info@applesandorchards.org.uk](mailto:info@applesandorchards.org.uk) )

There is something special about growing a unique or local variety, so if you wish to plant heritage fruit trees specific to your own county, this organisation's catalogue lists a surprising number of varieties for Essex, Hertfordshire or Cambridgeshire apples and pears, as well as local plums, cherries and gages. This wide selection provides an opportunity to continue a long tradition of choosing something rather special to enjoy eating in future years.

The Whats On page at [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) often displays local apple events, for example at Rivers Orchard in Sawbridgeworth, pictured below, and at The Gardens of Easton Lodge.



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Any comments or suggestions for improvement may be submitted by using the Feedback form on the website. The website has many short articles on various aspects of The Hundred Parishes, as well as introductions to individual parishes and to a number of local celebrities, and an extensive What's On section. More than a hundred walk route descriptions can be freely downloaded, with each of the hundred parishes featuring in at least one walk.