

The (Great Wishford) Oak Apple Processional

Presented to the Oak Apple Club, Great Wishford, Wiltshire, UK
on 29th May 1981 - Oak Apple Day.

© Dave Brown - May 1981 ref:048

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff includes a first and second ending bracket. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff contains a triplet of eighth notes. The fifth staff concludes with a final double bar line. Chords are indicated below the notes, and triplets are marked with a '3' over the notes.

On May 29th each year the Great Wishford villagers reassert their ancient rights (1603) to collect wood from Grovely Wood - close to their village.

In 1651, after the Battle of Worcester, Charles II famously hid in an oak tree and, after the restoration of the monarchy, 29th May was declared a holiday.

Oak Apple Day was abolished in 1859, but the celebrations were revived in the latter part of the 19th century.

In these modern times the Oak Apple Day has included gathering of branches in the woods at dawn (sometimes with musicians waking up the vilagers); A visit to the loacl pub (the Royal Oak); with breakfast! ; dancing at Salisbury Cathedral where the traditional cries of, "Grovely, Grovely, Grovely and all Grovely" can be heard.

I camped in Great Wishford at the end of May 1981 with the Folk Camp Holiday organisation. We took part in the Oak Apple Day precession through the village. We created a dance and I wrote this tune for the occasion.

We presented copy of dance and tune to the Oak Apple Club in Great Wishford, but these hves long since been lost to posterity. Here, at least is the tune.