

Town march helps celebrate 350th anniversary of Oak Apple Day

Apples at core of key historic parade

PERSISTENT drizzle couldn't dampen spirits as a 350-year-old celebration to mark the Restoration of the Monarchy was played out in Northampton town centre at the weekend.

Northampton is one of the few places in the county still to celebrate Oak Apple Day, a commemoration of the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660.

Saturday marked the 350th anniversary with a special celebration held inside and outside All Saints Church.

A parade of members of the Sealed Knot re-enactment group, the Mayor of Northampton and the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire started proceedings.

Inside All Saints a special service was then held, as the

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Rev William Davage delivered a sermon about the importance of the monarchy.

Outside, Sealed Knot members, dressed as Civil War soldiers, put on demonstration, while theatrical displays told the history of Oak Apple Day.

Jamie Seamark, of the Urban Farm Project, which organised the event, said: "We've always found that people don't know about Oak Apple Day or they think what happened before wasn't very good so we thought we would organise something a bit bigger."

He also promised more celebrations next year

"Next year it is on a Sunday and hopefully we will be doing something bigger."



■ Oak Apple Day brought colour and spectacle to a rainy Northampton town centre at the weekend

Chron pictures: MNCE-29-05-10-KC-10/8/9

