



Marcher Apple Network

Charity No: 1095 151

Company No: 378730

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2009 - 10

CONTENTS

The Marcher Apple Network

Memorandum of Association

Trustees and Officers

Chairman's Report

Summary of main achievements

Links with other groups and
associations

Publicity

Newsletter 2010

Publications. Books and CDs

Future developments

Looking to 2011

MAN orchard activities,
winter 2011

Herefordshire Year in the
Orchard and the bicentenary of
the publication of Thomas
Andrew Knight's '*Pomona
Herefordiensis*'

Grant funding

Summary Accounts and
Balance Sheet

THE MARCHER APPLE NETWORK

Marcher Apple Network (MAN) was founded in December 1993 when a group of eight enthusiasts first met with the idea of forming a society for reviving old varieties of apples and pears. One major aim was to attract other people—and funding—in an endeavour to awaken the general public to what was probably the last opportunity to rescue from extinction the British apple and pear heritage which has evolved and been nurtured and prized by our forebears for centuries. Over the past 100 years many fruit varieties have been allowed to disappear, especially in the later 20th century, through the development of large-scale marketing of apples from overseas and the rise of supermarket purchasing power and fruit specification. Thus greater choice for the consumer and varietal diversity has been largely lost, together with the opportunity of experiencing the unsurpassed flavour of much of our traditional fruit

Since 1993 MAN has grown to about 270 members, achieving charitable status in 2002. The Network is highly regarded nationally and internationally for its expertise, published works and endeavours to further the survival of our apple heritage.

Chairman's Report

Once a year, in our Autumn Newsletter (see Vol 2, No 4), I try to give a summary of some of the events we have engaged in and some of the developments that involve the MAN committee, the wider membership and the local community. These 'Notes' are an informal way of reviewing our work over a year and highlighting particular issues. It is thought now that a more formal 'Annual Report' would be useful in addition to the Newsletter. Established members may well be familiar with some of the details herein but newer members, or those unfamiliar with our origins and work, might welcome some further background details. Also, and increasingly, there is a need to provide outside agencies with more formal details. An Annual Report, supplemented by the Newsletter, would also be a useful addition to our publicity efforts.

This trial Annual Report was prepared for the AGM in December 2010 and we hope it will develop over time. I would welcome members' views and suggestions.

Peter Austerfield

chairman@marcherapple.net

Memorandum of Association

[Company Limited by Guarantee and Not Having a Share Capital under the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989].

Extract

The objects for which the Association is established are to further the education of the public by the promotion of research, identification and to conserve by any recognized means, old varieties of Apples and Pears found growing in the Marches Area of England and Wales and elsewhere, and to make collected information available to individuals or organizations by displays, demonstrations, talks or any other communication system.

The Association shall have the following powers:

To request aid from persons or organizations to assist planting orchards or for any purpose for the benefit of the Association.

To purchase, hire or otherwise acquire real or personal property. To sell, let, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Association.

To undertake and execute any charitable trusts which may lawfully be undertaken by the Association. To borrow or raise money on such terms and on such security as may be thought fit

To invest the moneys of the Association not immediately required for its purposes in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit subject to conditions (if any) and consents.

To establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any charitable associations or institutions and to subscribe money for charitable purposes.

[In addition]

The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in the Memorandum of Association.....no portion shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members of the Association and no member of the

Main achievements

● Welsh Marches Pomona

This book, the fourth publication by MAN, and four years in the making, was the result of a collaboration between Mike Porter (author) and Margaret Gill (artist), supported by a small sub-committee from the MAN committee. It has been very well received, nationally and internationally, and is on sale in a number of bookshops including RHS Wisley. It was also displayed at the Hay Festival in May, 2010. The book can be ordered from the MAN website. Very favourable reviews have appeared in The Garden (RHS), The Hereford Times, Shropshire Star, Western Mail, Cambria and a review will appear in the forthcoming volume of The Transactions of the Radnorshire Society.. Copies of the book have been lodged at the Copyright libraries in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The coming to fruition of this work was made possible by the generosity of our Patrons, Sponsors and Subscribers who contributed substantially to the cost of printing and design. We are extremely grateful to them.

● Apple Events

The Marcher Apple Network committee and others participated in 12 apple events, mainly in the autumn, and at least half of these included identification sessions. Demand for identification is sometimes so great that queues form and fruit that cannot be identified in a reasonable time is taken away for further study. A small group of identifiers is kept busy at weekly meetings, usually into December. This is a much valued but demanding service but occasionally some interesting fruits are found which are grafted, if possible, then planted to be available for future research. This is in line with one of MAN's key objectives. Our efforts have been greatly assisted by the computer-based identification tool devised by Dr John Savidge, a MAN member and identifier, which is used at each meeting. The work though highlights the need for more identifiers; over the autumn and winter months some 540 apples were identified.

● Orchard Maintenance and Planting

The Marcher Apple Network has five 'museum' orchards, one of which, The Paramor Orchard, it owns outright. Each year, during the winter months, a schedule of orchard work is drawn up and undertaken by Committee members and volunteers. The main planting work was at the Paramor Orchard and in 2010 some 40 varieties were planted to add to the stock of trees, which include the 31 varieties in the Welsh Marches Pomona. Some 34 varieties are to be planted in 2011. Much of the work at the Paramor Orchard is supported by Environment Wales (see below).

● Members' and Public Benefits

Each year Man organises events for members and others interested in work relevant to our orchards and apple growing.

A two-day pruning and grafting course at New Forest Farm above Hay and Wyeview, Glasbury was held in March under the watchful and expert eye of Cormac Griffith. Even those with little or no experience of grafting were able to take away on day one a 'mini' tree in a pot for them to nourish. At least three are known to be thriving! It is hoped that this kind of event will be repeated at some future date.

A summer pruning event was organised in July through member Paul Evans and tutored by Nick Dunn, Managing Director of Frank P. Matthews. Again, this was a highly successful and informative event.

● Biodiversity Studies at Paramor

Work is ongoing into the study of animal and plant life at the Paramor Orchard. To date, there have been plant, fungi, moth and bird surveys. There is an interest in conducting a butterfly survey. We also hope to involve the local primary school in a survey of invertebrates in the orchard.

Council of Management or Governing Body shall be appointed to any office paid by salary or fees.

Nothing herein shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Association.....to any member of its Council of Management or Governing Body of out of pocket expenses.

Trustees and Officers

The Trustees of MAN (who are also its Directors and members of the Company in Company Law) are responsible for presenting reports and financial statements to members and others according to recommended practice for such organizations.

The Trustees (ex-officio members of the committee) are:

Peter Austerfield, Chairman
Ray Boddington, Life Vice-President
Tom Froggatt, Company Secretary
and Hon. Treasurer
Mike Porter, Chief Technical Officer

Committee Members are:

Richard Cheshire, Cider Group
Convenor;
Diggory Kempton, Membership
Secretary;
Celia Kirby, Newsletter Editor;
Sheila Leitch, Network Coordinator
and Librarian;
Sylvia O'Brien, Project Officer;
Chris Porter, Archivist;
Richard Wheeler, Webmaster and
Vice-Chairman;

Secretary: Marie Ward.

Links with other groups and associations

● National Orchard Forum

The National Orchard Forum represents some 30 groups across the country involved in orchard development and related activities. As an umbrella organisation, its small team of officers have done a magnificent job in keeping groups informed of local and national developments together with up to date information on fruit growing research around the world. It has been so successful at what it does that the considerable workload of the officers needed to be addressed. Changes will occur in 2011. The UK Traditional Orchards' Habitat Action Plan (UKHAP), a partnership of organisations, has offered to absorb NOF and become a portal for Orchard Groups through its Orchard Network website.

The Marcher Apple Network has been a member of NOF since its beginning and has benefited from its activities and contributed to its work.

● National Fruit Collections at Brogdale

The apple collection at Brogdale has some 2500 varieties and is a major source of information and research on fruit growing. There is mutual co-operation between MAN and the National Collection in terms of sourcing graftwood and discussions on authentication of varieties.

● Web-based links

Many contacts are made through the MAN website, designed and maintained by our webmaster, Richard Wheeler. The MAN website has links to many other groups and this facilitates contacts.

● Transition Town groups

We have been assisted in some of our orchard work by the Hay-on-Wye Transition Town Group (at our Tredomen orchard) and hope to involve the Ledbury group in our Donnington orchard next year. These offers of help are greatly appreciated.

The Hay group have assisted in general maintenance, pruning and fruit picking at Tredomen and have held a successful juicing meeting for their members.

● Private orchards and Trusts

We are asked to survey orchards by landowners or Trusts which have orchards on their property. We try to accommodate such requests within our region as some of these orchards can be of considerable age and interest.

The Marcher Apple Network will in some instances charge a fee for such work to include travel. On other occasions where distances are a problem fruit is sent by post for identification with an agreed charge made.

● Contacts with individual members

Through a questionnaire designed by Richard Cheshire we have been able to compile a list of members willing to help in some of our activities. We have, perhaps, not been as active as we could have been in contacting some members but will try to draw in help more effectively in future.

Publications. Books and CDs

Newsletter 2010

Each year, about August, MAN produces a Newsletter for members containing details of activities and knowledgeable articles related to apples and pears. Copies can be ordered from the website. Contents 2010 include:

- Launching Welsh Marches Pomona.
- Notes from the chairman.
- News of MAN orchards.
- MY favourite apple.
- Orchard gleanings – The Local Apple Register.
- Snippets from the shows.
- Forgotten Characteristics.
- Found in the orchard.
- Bits and pieces.
- Letters to the editor.
- Recent orchard training courses.
- Cider and perry pear group.

Apples of the Welsh Marches

This publication lists the old varieties of apples cultivated in the traditional orchards of the West Midlands and neighbouring parts of Wales. Seventy-nine varieties are listed, with a brief account of each one, together with 20 beautiful colour photographs.

The Herefordshire Pomona CD

MAN has republished the 77 colour plates and associated 432 variety descriptions from the Herefordshire Pomona.

Vintage Fruit CD

MAN has also published a CD containing descriptions of cider apples and perry pears known in Herefordshire as 'Vintage Fruit', taken from hard to obtain books.

Welsh Marches Pomona

Many varieties grown in the Welsh Marches are poorly described in pomological literature, indeed, some have no description at all. Welsh Marches Pomona is a vital aid to identifying these apples.

All publications are available from the website:

www.marcherapple.net

Publicity

● Newsletter

This colourful and informative magazine is one of our main ways of keeping in touch with the membership. Spare copies are available at apple events together with leaflets giving membership details.

● News Sheet

This Spring publication is designed to keep members up to date in mid-year.

● Display Boards

Three new, colourful and easy to erect displays were purchased in 2009. These are a great improvement on the previous boards and get the idea of MAN's work across more effectively.

● Coming Apple Events

Each year before the autumn season MAN publishes a list of apple and apple related events which is sent to members and is available at shows and on the website.

Future Developments

● Forward Planning

These occasional meetings are designed to review MAN's work and formulate a Strategic Plan over a medium term. The next meeting is on the 14th December 2010. As with any organisation we need to consider how we are to do things in the future, what we do best, what changes to make and how we encourage others to succeed us in future years.

Any comments and suggestions on future developments would be welcome.

Looking to 2011

● MAN orchard activities, winter 2011

A planting day has been scheduled for Saturday 29th January, 10.30 am at the Paramor Orchard, Cwmdru. Reserve day, Sunday 30th January. We hope to repeat the enjoyable and well attended planting day held earlier in 2010. Orchard Maintenance at Tredomen. This has been scheduled for 26th February 2011 at 10.30 am. Reserve day, Sunday 27th February.

● Herefordshire Year in the Orchard and the bicentenary of the publication of Thomas Andrew Knight's 'Pomona Herefordiensis'

Herefordshire intends to designate 2011 as the 'Year in the Orchard' and various events are being planned throughout the year. These will involve, among others, Herefordshire Council, The Hereford Orchard Topic Group, Hereford Museum, Flavours of Herefordshire, Cider Museum, The Royal Horticultural Society.

The Marcher Apple Network has, through its Chairman, indicated supporting the HYO within the constraints of our capabilities and has put forward the idea of a one day conference on Thomas Andrew Knight and subsequent developments in plant breeding to be held at a suitable venue with invited speakers. A number of meetings is to be held to move things forward. It is interesting to note that Thomas Andrew Knight was President of the Royal Horticultural Society and the present holder of this office is Elizabeth Banks of Hergest Croft who was elected this year. She will be the second Herefordian to hold the post in 200 years.

Details are unlikely to be finalised until sometime in 2011 and some of the proposed events may not materialise.

Grant Funding

Through the hard work of our Project Officer, Sylvia O'Brien, with support from the committee, MAN has been successful in obtaining a second grant from Environment Wales and some £7000 has been allocated to developments, mainly at the Paramor Orchard. The grant will be spent on a wide range of activities, including:

- Planting specially grafted apple trees
- Purchase of safety tripod ladders for pruning and harvesting fruit
- Moveable electric fencing
- Post and wire fencing with field gates.
- Materials for bat box construction with Cwmdu school pupils
- Biodiversity surveys
- Re-hedging eastern boundary
- Drainage
- Orchard sign
- Purchase of large-screen laptop computer for educational use, identification and a new data base
- Volunteer expenses

The Marcher Apple Network is extremely grateful to Environment Wales for its support of our work in Wales.

Summary of Accounts and Balance Sheet to 31st July, 2010

Expenditure		Income	
Events	30.73	Annual Subscriptions	1216
Library & Equip.	1256.99	Apple Identification	749
Mileage	73.05	Bank Interest (gross)	174.26
Misc Payments	1366.21	Donations	111.37
Newsletters	566.69	Grants	
Orchard Maint.	889.96	Life Members	400
Orchard equip.	306.40	Misc. Receipts	1547.36
Postage	558.44	Pomona Project	1197.77
Purchase/Sale Books		Purchase/sale books	1268.93
Purchase/Sale Trees	283.50	Purchase/Sale Trees	
Stat/ Copying	317.99	Speaker Fees	105
Telephone	67	Paramor Grant	7306
Paramor Orchard	4067.74		
Web Site	52.87	Surplus for Year	4238.12
	14075.69		14075.69

Balance Sheet as at 31st July 2010

Liabilities		Assets	
Unused Paramor Grant	7306	Publications at cost	8144
Accumulated Fund	64396.11	CDs and Cards	4924
		Orchard Equip.	1200
		Exhibition Materials	940
		Planting Materials	125
		Computers	400
		Lib & Ref Books/Equip.	2300
		Stationery	30
		Land & Improvements	36000
		Bank Balances	17639.11
	71702.11		71702.11