



Marcher Apple Network

Charity No: 1095 151

Company No: 3787303

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2011 - 12

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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 280 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

This third Trustees' Report gives us the opportunity, as previously, of highlighting some of our achievements and aspirations and areas where we might improve our work. It also provides us with a vehicle, together with the Newsletter, of telling those beyond the membership something of what we do or try to do. As befits a Registered Charity and Limited Company, our financial affairs are also made available through the diligence of our Treasurer.

Although we have been involved with many events over the year, this year will be remembered as a difficult one for apples and other fruits. True, crops varied from good to very poor but if the two orchards I keep an eye on are anything to go by, cropping was down by 50%. There was a time when we wondered if we would have enough fruit for a reasonable display. Fortunately we had but I think we would have struggled to put on one of our mega-displays of over 200 varieties as we have done in the past. Hopefully 2013 will see a return to abundance.

It is appropriate in this report that I take the opportunity to thank not only our hardworking committee but others who give their time and often expertise in helping us with activities from orchard surveys to support for apple identification and assistance at our many shows. I am grateful to them all.

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

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Main achievements

These indicate some areas where we have moved forward since the last Report and also list some of our regular activities.

● Orchard management plans

While all our orchards are managed and records kept and our relatively new Paramor orchard has written development plans, it was thought that we should provide similar, detailed management plans for our other orchards. In this scheme, particular individuals would be responsible for a particular orchard plan.

To this end Mike Porter has provided a template so that detailed plans can be drawn up for each orchard. Various headings, from geographical details to planting lists and other data, botanical aspects as part of a biodiversity survey and others will eventually provide us with a comprehensive file on each orchard. This work has only just started and will continue well into 2013 and we hope will inform our future management strategies.

● Development of data bases

One aspect of the management plan is to create (or in some cases add to) a data base showing relevant information about each orchard. Committee member Ainsleigh Rice has been active in developing data bases for Tredomen and Lower Ffordd Fawr using MS Excel to record information. Gradually this work will consolidate material from Mike Porter, John Savidge and Sheila Leitch.

● Species lists

Another aspect of the management plan is to create, where feasible, a species list for each orchard. Mike Porter has already provided such a list for our Paramor orchard, recording some 112 species of plants across the plot. The list includes *Taraxacum porteri* one of 15 species of dandelion found at Paramor.

● Shropshire Orchards Inventory

Through negotiation and the good offices of John Tucker, formally of the 'Blue Remembered Hills Project', we have obtained for safe keeping an inventory of orchard records containing information collected by John between 2003 and 2007. The inventory details some 400 orchards in the Shropshire Hills AONB. While not a complete record of all the orchards in the area, estimated at some 3000, the inventory will be a useful reference base for any further study. The records will be kept by Chris Porter, our archivist, and can be consulted by arrangement by others engaged in orchard research.

● Re-establishing contact with a pear orchard

The Marcher Apple Network was involved in planting a substantial pear orchard in Herefordshire about 12 years ago. However, changes in ownership of the land resulted in losing contact. A new owner is keen to maintain a contact and Ainsleigh Rice and Sheila Leitch have been instrumental in making this link. It is hoped that once more the orchard will become a source of graftwood so that some of the varieties can be propagated elsewhere. We will also offer what help and advice we can to the new owner.

There is the possibility of establishing another pear orchard near Hay-on-Wye. We are also looking into the possibility of getting graftwood from the Holme Lacy perry pear tree which featured on the front cover and inside the Newsletter.

● Apple and related events and activities

Although there were fewer events this year, MAN was kept busy, as usual, especially in the autumn season.

Identification venues (eight working days excluding set-up days)

Black Mountains Festival, Talgarth	25-26th August
Malvern Autumn Show	29-30th September
Big Apple, Much Marcle	13-14th October
Leominster Apple Fair	27th October
Chepstow	4th November

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, Director and Trustee

Committee Members are:

Diggory Kempton, Membership Secretary
Celia Kirby, Newsletter Editor; Volunteer Co-ordinator
Sheila Leitch, Network Coordinator and Librarian
Sylvia O'Brien, Project Officer;
Tony Pain, Publicity & Recruitment Officer
Chris Porter, Archivist
Ainsley Rice, member
Richard Wheeler, Webmaster and Vice-Chairman

Marie Ward, Secretary
Tony Malpas, Cider Associate

Displays, sales and publicity involving MAN committee members (excluding set-up days)

Welsh Bee Keepers Convention	24th March
British Bee Keepers convention	21st April
Herefordshire Wildlife Trust	11th August
Trumpet Ploughing Match	4th October
Brecknock Gardening Association	9th October

● **Apple identification**

The statistics provided below by Mike Porter indicate the level of apple identification over previous autumn periods. The figures for 2012 are still being analysed.

	2011	2010	2009
Verification panel meetings	8	9	7
Events at which MAN offered identification	9	9	10
Total identification sessions	17	18	17
MAN hours involved	350	380	268
Number of varieties identified	550	545	322

Apples that cannot be identified on site are brought to our weekly identification meetings held in October and November.

● **Apple identification courses**

Sheila Leitch tutored 'An Introduction to Apple Identification' course in September 2012 which was well received and attracted some new faces. The course was aimed at those with little or no knowledge of identification but who wanted to develop their ability to identify fruit.

● **Supply of graftwood**

This service is offered to MAN members and others who wish to propagate particular varieties of apple tree. In 2012, 57 sets of graftwood were provided for members and 27 sets for producing trees for MAN orchards, a total of 84 sets.

● **Orchard maintenance and planting**

Tredomen continues to benefit from some regular maintenance by Ainsleigh Rice and his colleague Paul Graves as well as other committee members. Being our biggest orchard there is always plenty to do here from arranging mowing, chipping of prunings and attending to posts and labels. The detailed survey of fruiting levels has already been referred to and is described in some detail in the Newsletter. Also, information was collected for the data base.

Other orchards have received attention throughout the year as necessary but Donnington has been somewhat neglected of late. The chairman and John Aldridge did some pruning and basic tidying up in 2010/11 and some fruit was taken for exhibition. The previous owner kindly arranged for the grass to be cut between the rows but extra maintenance is now needed. Also there has been a change of ownership and the chairman has contacted the land agent giving a brief history of the orchard and the purpose it serves.

● **Members' and public benefits**

As mentioned in the last Report, it was regrettable that we did not provide pruning courses for members and others in 2011. This year, however, we have endeavoured to make amends by organising three training courses and a members' event at Tidnor Wood Orchards near Hereford.

- (1) Winter pruning, tutored by Paul Davis, February, at Tredomen.
 - (2) Restorative pruning of old trees, tutored by Nick Dunn, March, at Ashford Carbonel. We are grateful to our Treasurer, Tom Froggatt, for organising this event and for the use of his orchard.
 - (3) Summer pruning, tutored by Tom Adams, August, at Tredomen.
- All were well attended and well received.

Publications. Books and CDs

Apples & Pears 2012

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 for 2012 include:

The Holme Lacy Perry Pear Tree
Notes from the Chairman
The Ole Boys were right
Successful pruning day
The lost varieties of Worcestershire
Visit to Tidnor Wood Orchards, May 2012
Is this going to be a poor year for apples?
Growing apples in the Scottish Highlands
Call for volunteers for Welsh conservation survey
News of MAN orchards
Déjà vu...
My favourite apple – *Blenheim Orange*
Accounts

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

Sales of this have been so successful that we have commissioned a re-pressing of the CD.

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

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Cwmdu Community

As members will know, the Paramor orchard is situated in the village of Cwmdu. The community here, including committee member Sylvia O'Brien and her husband Robin, have been very supportive of our efforts and have joined us on a number of occasions when planting or maintaining the orchard. The Woodland Group also kindly made a wooden bench and installed it. It will, no doubt, be well used by weary workers in the future. We are organising a special winter pruning course for the community which will start at the Paramor orchard then move on to selected apple trees in private gardens.

Links with other groups and associations

Over the years we have made links with many similar groups and others related to apples, orchards, propagation and so on. Some contacts come from far afield and some are a bit dubious. However, our ever vigilant webmaster keeps a close eye on things arriving on our website.

Although it will be a long one, we are trying to compile a list of contacts so that we can put them into some kind 'pecking' order – those we need to keep in contact with, those we might want to keep in contact with and those we will keep somewhere on the side.

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.

● 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.

Looking to 2013

● Pruning our orchards

Some of our orchards now contain trees of considerable size and are getting too big for volunteers to prune, in spite of their enthusiasm. To this end we have sought help, especially for Tredomen. This winter, 2013, as an experiment, we will have professional assistance working on the orchard for up to 10 days. This essential work will need a fair amount of financial outlay and we will look at aspects of our orchards which might bring in extra revenue. In particular we need to re-visit 'fruit sales'. This year, because of poor cropping, the amount of fruit did not warrant major picking and collection work. In other years our collective orchards might provide a considerable amount of fruit and provide a useful income stream. How to manage this aspect of our orchards will be addressed in the coming year.

● The establishment of a 'Welsh Collection' of apples

We have been in discussion with Sir Andrew Large, our President, about the possibility of collaborating in establishing a 'Welsh Collection' of apples in an orchard at Cui Parc. A list of possible varieties will be considered with a view to an initial planting in 2014.

● **Twentieth birthday event(s)**

We are keen to celebrate our 20th birthday with some event or events and to provide tangible things that members might wish to purchase to commemorate this achievement. The committee will be discussing possibilities in early 2013.

● **Future courses**

We are looking at organising a grafting course and a budding course in early and mid year 2013. Details will be circulated later in the News Sheet if these courses are available.

Grant funding

Environment Wales continue to support our Paramor Orchard project for which we are very grateful. For 2011/2012 we have been awarded £1850 towards tree planting, identification work, training and outreach.

**Marcher Apple Network
Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31.7.2012**

EXPENDITURE	2011	2012	INCOME	2011	2012
Events	£71.00	£0.00	Annual subscriptions	£1,296.00	£1,271.00
Library & equipment	£20.00	£145.99	Apple ID	£1,026.00	£770.79
Mileage	£1,663.00	£1,435.75	Bank Interest Gross	£154.00	£145.96
Miscellaneous payouts	£1,472.00	£1,168.61	Donations	£186.00	£130.74
Newsletters	£620.00	£1,043.01	Life Members	£100.00	£400.00
Orchard maintenance	£566.00	£701.00	Miscellaneous receipts	£200.00	£320.47
Orchard maint. equipment	£160.00	£382.50	Pomona Project	£5,423.00	£477.31
Postage	£398.00	£776.40	Purchase/Sale of books	£1,121.00	£1,104.82
Purchase/Sale of trees		£22.50	Purchase/Sale of trees	£138.00	
Stationary/Copying	£229.00	£109.24	Speaker fees	£70.00	£130.00
Telephone	£37.00	£2.50	Events received		£4,069.82
Paramor Orchard	£7,428.00	£2,228.85	Events		£248.76
Website	£54.00	£54.00	Deficit for year	£3,001.00	
Surplus for year		£999.32			
TOTALS	£12,718.00	£9,069.67		£12,715.00	£9,069.67

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.7.2012

LIABILITIES	2011	2012	ASSETS	2011	2012
Unused Grant		£1,850.00	Publications at cost	£7,294.00	£6,396.00
Accumulated Fund	£71,081.00	£70,348.98	CDs & Cards	£4,429.00	£6,255.00
			Orchard equipment	£2,800.00	£2,850.00
			Exhibition materials	£840.00	£730.00
			Planting materials	£120.00	£70.00
			Computers	£1,900.00	£1,000.00
			Library & Ref. books & equipment	£2,840.00	£3,000.00
			Stationary	£220.00	£261.00
			Land & Improvements	£36,000.00	£36,000.00
			Bank Balances	£14,638.00	£15,636.98
TOTALS	£71,081.00	£72,198.98		£71,081.00	£72,198.98

P.J. Austerfield

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. For the year ended July 31st 2012 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477[2] of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts were approved by the Directors on 11 September 2012. These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.