



Charity No: 1095 151

NEWS SHEET No. 7

Spring 2008

MAN'S CELEBRATION OF APPLE DAY

October 2007

A decision to change the venue led to our Apple Day Event being held last Autumn at the Cider Museum in Hereford where the display remained for a week. The AGM was also held at the Cider Museum, but at a later date, so that there was time afterwards for an interesting talk on Thomas Andrew Knight by Dr Murray Mylechreest, followed by lunch. Holding the AGM on a separate date, with another attraction to draw members to it, is still under consideration and members' views would be welcome. Also, should the venue/venues, be moved around to different parts of the Marches area? Please let us know what you think — by phone, letter or email.

ORCHARD HELP WANTED

We have had some offers of help, for which we are most grateful, but we repeat our pleas for more members to take an active part in MAN orchard maintenance. We would like to establish groups of volunteers willing to help look after the trees in their local MAN Museum Orchard. A very enjoyable day can be spent meeting other members whilst planting, pruning, labelling, adjusting ties and generally helping to maintain these very special varieties of apples. Later in the season help is needed picking fruit. There are jobs for all ages, with fresh air and fun abounding. We need lists of volunteers. If you are interested, please phone Sheila Leitch on 01497-847354 for further details and location map if required, and to leave contact number in case of cancellation due to weather conditions. (See enclosed Questionnaire .)

PRUNING COURSE

Advance notice of a tutored pruning course, on the 15th March, led by Chris Fairs, of Bulmers, has already been mailed. Chris led a similar course last Spring at Tredomen Court orchard, which was well attended.

PRUNING AND PLANTING WORK PARTIES

Work days at Tredomen Court, Llanfilo, and at Lower Ffordd-fawr, Glasbury, are planned, are planned for late February and dates and details have already been sent out to allow time for

booking. Please remember to phone Sheila if you interested in coming and she will phone back to confirm, depending on weather forecasts. Later in the year, after the 'June drop' there may be need for a fruit thinning day at Tredomen Court if some of the trees are heavily laden. Help will also be needed for fruit picking in the Autumn as we have several outlets for sale of named varieties. Windfalls and damaged fruit are the perks for the helpers!

A POMONA OF THE WELSH MARCHES

Margaret Gill has completed watercolour paintings of blossoms and fruit, and line drawings showing the internal anatomy of the fruits, of most of the thirty varieties of apple which will be featured in the Pomona. A specification has been prepared to enable us to obtain estimates of the cost of printing the book. We are seeking accurate colour reproduction and fine printing so that the beautiful illustrations will be seen to best advantage and the publication will be of greatest value for identification purposes.

The text is making slower progress and there are still some problems to be resolved. Finding an authentic tree of the variety *Ten Commandments* is proving almost as difficult as obeying the original divine precepts brought down by Moses from Mount Sinai. A third *Ten Commandments* candidate is now under investigation as the trees at Berrington Court, after leading us a merry dance, eventually proved false. Any information from members would still be most welcome.

Mike Porter

GLASU

The Orchard Doctors Information Leaflets for the Perllanau Project are available in bilingual form. The information is also included in PDF format on the Glasu and MAN websites. For more information on the Perllanau Powys Project, please contact Sally on 01982-552224 or email sally.shiels@powys.gov.uk. The Orchard Doctors, Liz and Tony Gentil, can be contacted for more information by email theorcharddoctor@tiscali.co.uk or Tel. 01270-780828. Liz has set up, for Glasu, a Yahoo group called Orchards of Wales. Anyone in Wales or the border counties, with an interest in orchards, can join. Visit <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/orchardofwales>. Questions can be asked and useful information can be found and exchanged.

NEWS

The National Orchard Forum

The Newsletters of NOF are published twice each year and *Newsletter Issue 11*, Winter 2007, is full of interesting facts and articles. A very useful list of guides on fruit identification, provided by the East of England Apples & Orchards Project, is included, and permission given to send it out to members of orchard groups such as ours. This list is enclosed with this mailing as a separate sheet. Electronic versions of all the newsletters are available from the editor, Ann Smith, smithcovell@btinternet.com. Contents of back copies are listed on the NOF website, www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk, or write to Ann Smith, NOF, 109 Orchard Way, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2AP, Tel. 01452-855677.

National/UK Biodiversity Action Plan gives Priority Habitat Status for Orchards

At last the value of the unique habitat of traditional orchards has been recognized. National England's detailed ecological surveys at half a dozen sites in the United Kingdom showed that traditional orchards provide a unique habitat for flora and fauna. Several other habitats and many additional species have been added to the original BAP list compiled 10 years ago. Powys already included traditional orchards in their Local BAP and the News Release from Defra in August states that a list of priority species and habitats has been approved by the Governments of all four UK administrations.

Orchard Grants

MAN members living in England may like to know about the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ES) run by Natural England. Grants to restore or create traditional grazed orchards are available. Application packs may be obtained from the Customer Support Team of the Rural Development Service (RDS), Tel. 08456 024095 or visit the website at: www.defra.gov.uk/rds

Hay Autumn Festival

Sue Clifford of Common Ground gave a most interesting talk and *Powerpoint* presentation about the newly launched '*The Apple Source Book*' to a very appreciative audience who had valiantly faced high winds and heavy rain to hear her. We now have a signed copy in the MAN Library. The book celebrates 18 years of Common Ground's work to make people aware of the local distinctiveness of every area of the country and has recipes for using many different varieties of apples. A chapter by Dr Joan Morgan entitled 'An Apple for all Seasons' provides a concise picture of which apples are best for which purpose.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Periodically, we have sent out questionnaires to our members so as to have an idea of their interests and skills. Our present Membership Application form now includes a few questions on the reverse. This information has been so useful that we have decided to circulate the enclosed improved and simple questionnaire to all our members now, so that we can bring our information up to date. It would be appreciated if you would complete this form and return it to Richard Cheshire as soon as possible.

NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 No. 2

For this next issue, please send articles to our new Editor, Celia Kirby, 1 Kingswood Road, Kington, HR5 3HE. Please send articles by letter or email to celia.kirby@btinternet.com by 1st June 2007 at the latest, so that the publication is out in good time to give notice of all the Autumn apple events. Celia is a newcomer to the area, having moved only four years ago to Kington where she has planted a new (small) mixed orchard. Her professional background is environmental science and her current 'day job' is working as a freelance editor/technical writer.

If you would like to place an advert in the Newsletter No. 2, please contact Tom Froggatt (Tel. 01584 831650) to discuss size and costs. The Editorial Subcommittee would be very interested to hear what you thought of the new format Newsletter and your views on future content will be very welcome. Please contact Celia by letter, email or phone.

Sheila Leitch

Network Co-ordinator
(Tel. 01497 847354 /email: sileitch@tiscali.co.uk)

Celia Kirby

Editor
(Tel. 01544 230053 /email: celia.kirby@btinternet.com)

Coming Apple Events

There will be further information on forthcoming events appearing in Newsletter Volume 2, No.2 (due out in the summer) but advance notice of some dates may be useful to avoid clashes. Dates for the AGM and MAN's Apple Day Event have still to be arranged. Further information is also available on our website, <http://www.marcherapple.net/diary.htm>. Where MAN has a stand, there will be an apple display, books and CDs for sale, and an identification service will be provided (three typical specimens of each variety please) and pomological advice available. Help is required at all events. Free tickets provided. Please phone Tom Froggatt on 01584-831650, or Sheila Leitch on 01497-847354

Saturday, 19th April British Beekeepers Convention at Stoneleigh.
Details from Tom Froggatt (see above).

Saturday/Sunday, 26th/27th April Mid Wales Mouthful Food Festival & Welsh Wonderwool at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd. TV chef, Antony Worrall Thomson will be opening and cooking at the event. MAN will have a stand there. Details from Sally Shiels. Tel. 01982-552224.

Saturday/Sunday, 3rd/4th May 'The Big Apple' Blossomtime. Walks & Cider Tasting at Much Marcle, Hfds. Details from Jackie Denman, Tel. 01531-670544.

Wednesday, 14th May Annual International Cider and Perry competition. Open to local competitors. For further information contact The Cider Museum. Tel. 01432-354207.

Saturday/Sunday, 17th/18th May Smallholder and Garden Weekend at Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Powys. MAN will be sharing a stand with Paul Davies.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, 4th/5th/6th July Wales International Craft Cider Festival at Abergavenny Castle. Ciders will be on sale from several European countries, together with regional food and live music. Details from Alan Golding, Tel. 01685-873866 or from website www.welshcider.co.uk

Saturday, 21st July Cwmdu show, near Crickhowell.

Saturday/Sunday, 23rd/24th August Black Mountains Festival, Talgarth, Powys. MAN will be in the Cattle Market on the Sunday. Display of early apples & identification of ripe early varieties. Tastings and fruit for sale. Details from Sheila Leitch.

Saturday/Sunday, 6th/7th September National Vine Collection and Herefordshire apples on show and for tasting. At Ewyas Harold. Details from Brian Edwards. Tel. 01981-240256.

Saturday, 13th September Kington Show. Details from Claire Edwards. Tel. 01544-260602.

Sunday, 14th September Entertainment under the Apples at Penlanole, near the Vulcan Arms, south of Rhayader, Powys. Please note that for safety reasons, the approach will be to the back of the farm and will be signposted from the A470. For details Tel. 01597-811487.

Saturday/Sunday, 29th/30th September Autumn Show at Three Counties Showground, Malvern.

Saturday/Sunday, 29th/30th September Apple Weekend at Berrington Hall, nr. Leominster. Details from Head Gardener, Nick Winney. Tel. 01568-619593.

Thursday, 2nd October Trumpet Ploughing Match & West of England Fruit Show, at Burley Gate, where A465 Hereford-Bromyard Road crosses the A417, Leominster-Ledbury Road. Details from Mrs J Eversham. Tel 01531-890447.

Saturday, 11th October Apple Day at The Greenwood Centre, Coalbrookdale. Apple display and tasting. Contact Michael Pooley. Tel. 01952-433632.

Saturday/Sunday, 11th/12th October 'The Big Apple'. For further details of talks, demonstrations and other events, phone the Secretary, Jackie Denman, Tel. 01531-670544.

Saturday, 18th October Leominster Apple Fair. At Lion Ballroom, Broad Street. Details from Felicity Norman, Tel. 01568-780886.

Saturday, 18th October Tenbury Agricultural Society Fruit Show & Apple Fest. Details from Tom Froggatt.

Saturday/Sunday, 18th/19th October Cidermaking Festival at the Cider Museum, Ryelands Street, Hereford. For more details, contact the Cider Museum. Tel. 01432-354207.

Sunday, 19th October Church Stretton Apple Fair at Sylvester Horne Institute, High Street, Church Stretton, Shropshire, from 11.00am - 4.00pm. There will be a display of local apples. Details from John Lloyd, Tel. 01694-723143.

Tuesday, 21st October Apple Day. Events countrywide. For programme send SAE to Common Ground, Gold Hill House, 21, High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8JE. Tel. 01747-850820. Web Site: www.commonground.org.uk

Saturday, 25th October Birmingham Botanical Gardens Apple Day, Pumpkin Show & Conservation Day. Contact Linda Keene, Tel. 01214-541860.

Saturday/Sunday 25th/26th October (Date to be confirmed.) Flavours of Herefordshire Food Festival. At Hereford race course. For further details Tel. 01432-260621.