



Marcher Apple Network

Charity No: 1095 151

# NEWS SHEET No. 10

## Spring 2011

### LET'S SAVE SOME TREES!

Enclosed with this News Sheet and List of Forthcoming Events, we have included a questionnaire. We should like members to help us to continue to make MAN a useful resource for all those with heritage orchard interests by letting us extend communications facilities to include contact via E-mail where appropriate. This is undoubtedly a quicker and cheaper way to keep in touch with everyone and we hope will greatly improve the two-way dialogue between the MAN committee and the wider membership. Therefore, we ask you please to return the forms at your earliest convenience, either by post or by Email.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Last year's AGM, held at the Cider Museum, attracted a good number of members and was a lively meeting with plenty input from those present after the formal agenda was completed. It was followed by a very interesting talk by Nick Dunn, of Frank Matthews Ltd. A decision as to where and when the AGM will be held this year has not yet been finalized.

### MAN APPLE DAY EVENT

Held over the weekend of the Hereford Food Festival, but in a smaller room than we had used in the two previous years. The number of visitors was disappointing and not many fruits came in for identification. (Perhaps this was because the very popular 'Hairy Bikers' were pulling in the crowds in an adjacent building.) With no alternative venue found, we have decided not to hold a MAN Open Day this year. Suggestions please for a one or two day event, with parking.

### PROJECT UPDATES

The date chosen for planting about 40 young trees at the Paramor Orchard at Cwmdru turned out to be a glorious sunny day, with only surface frost on the ground. With help from some of the local supporters, all the apple trees were planted and many of the bare root slips were put in behind the new fences at the gate and along the top hedge. The lunch-spread kindly provided by the PTA Cwmdru School in the newly decorated Village Hall was much appreciated and everyone enjoyed the day.

### PRUNING & PLANTING WORK PARTIES

Saturday, 26th February or Sunday 27th if Saturday weather dictates. Tredomen Court orchard. There is plenty work to be done there. Lunch free and petrol paid. Please let Tony Pain know if you can help. Tel. 01746 712325 or email Tony publicity@marcherapple.net

### TRAINING COURSES

(1) Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU) run free workshops and seminars on various subjects, fully funded through Farming Contract. They are held at various venues in Wales and a Pruning Workshop at the National Trust gardens at Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion, in late February and one on Restoration and Renovation of old orchards at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, in mid March are already fully booked. However, at the time of writing, there are vacancies on the date below and there will be a summer pruning course in August. For details of future courses, Tel. 01248-680450 or email calu@bangor.ac.uk

Thursday, 24th March. Blueberry and apple orchard management, near Wrexham, with Ian Sturrock and David Butterworth.

(2) We hope to have some MAN training courses dates arranged for later in the year and you will be contacted when you return the enclosed Membership Information sheet to Tony Pain.

(3) Saturday, 19th & Sunday 20th February. Tom Adams will be running two grafting courses at his workshop just outside Oswestry, from 10.30-1.30. The course will cover the theory behind grafting and rootstocks and a practical session where participants will graft and take away four apple trees. Booking essential. Tel. 01691-777512 or mobile 07776 498936. <http://tomtheappleman.wordpress.com/courses>

# NEWS

## Common Ground

2010 was the 21st anniversary of the start of the organization and, sadly, chosen to be the final year of their existence. Having founded Apple Day, each year they produced a most useful list of apple-themed events and their web site made fascinating reading, with so many ideas provided by the various groups which have sprung up all over the country as a result of their pioneer work. We shall all miss the close association with Common Ground and the two founders, Sue Clifford and Angela King Their suggestion was:- "We recommend that you choose one of the 10 days between 21 October (Apple Day) and 31 October (a date on which apples are often used to celebrate Halloween). If you're unable to host or attend an event this year why not donate to Afghanaid or consider volunteering? To register for your Apples for Afghanistan pack or to read more about Afghanaid please visit [www.afghanaid.org.uk/apples](http://www.afghanaid.org.uk/apples) or contact Ffion on [ffion@afghanaid.org.uk](mailto:ffion@afghanaid.org.uk) or 0270 065 0825. Afghanaid, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, LONDON EC2A 4LT [info@afghanaid.org.uk](mailto:info@afghanaid.org.uk) Charity Number: 1045348."

## National Orchard Forum

Another sad farewell. NOF has issued its final Newsletter. Back issues of their very informative bi-annual newsletters can still be downloaded from the website- [www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk](http://www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk) The Newsletter Editor, Ann Smith of the Gloucestershire Orchard Group and the Membership and Secretary, Linda Blenkinsip of the Northern Fruit Group, together with Simon Clark, also of the NFG, put in a tremendous amount of work for the benefit of the various groups involved in orchard activities. NOF's role is now taken over by the Orchard Network website - <http://www.orchardnetwork.org.uk>

## Herefordshire Year in the Orchard HYITO

If you see this strange acronym all over Herefordshire, this is what it stands for. Herefordshire Council, in conjunction with the RHS, Hereford Museum, Cider Museum, Bulmers, Orchard Topic Group, Big Apple, Hereford Cathedral, MAN and many others, is involved with promoting 'The Year' and there will be events over the coming months and particularly in the autumn. 'The Year' celebrates, among other things, the bicentenary of the publication of Thomas Andrew Knight's 'Pomona Herefordiensis'. Knight, a Herefordian, was President of the RHS and now, 200 years later, that honour has gone to Elizabeth Banks of Hergest Croft, Kington. Further information can be obtained from the following website [www.yearintheorchard.org](http://www.yearintheorchard.org).

## Library Additions

CD of e-books. The Horticultural Society. 19th Century Transactions, Proceedings, etc.

CD of e-books. Thomas Andrew Knight

Traditional Orchards Project on Kemerton Estate.  
Compiled by John Clarke of the Kemerton Conservation Trust. February 2011.

## New Committee Member

We welcomed Tony Pain to the committee at our first meeting in 2011. Tony volunteered to join the committee at the AGM and comes to us from an engineering, Royal Navy and agricultural engineering background. For the last 15 years he ran his own small company manufacturing straw filled mats for a variety of uses but, primarily, for algae control in ponds. He retired two years ago and moved with his wife, Pat, from Surrey to Shropshire and is keen to plant a small orchard with traditional varieties. In his own words, "I joined MAN to help and learn". Tony has already taken on the important role of Publicity and Communications Officer and members will no doubt be hearing from him in due course.