



Marcher Apple Network

APPLES & PEARS

Volume 2 No 8

Non-members £2

Autumn 2014



Reviving the old varieties of apples and pears
in the marcher counties

www.marcherapple.net

MAN's official business: Chairman's report

This last year we have reviewed MAN's Memorandum and Articles of Association and found a few things that needed a little attention. Some of these matters were covered in the last Spring News Sheet but, at the risk of boring you a little, here is a summary of what more we have done.

We started from the point that the Board of Trustees is your representative body that governs the Company/Charity. You vote for the Trustees and hold them to account at General Meetings (the next one is at the Cider Museum on Saturday 29th November). This means then that the Management Committee do not need to be elected as we have been doing, otherwise we will have two elected bodies. This could make for confusion (although it never has, as a result of the sound common sense of everyone involved). The Board will now be the only elected body. They will consider nominations duly seconded by members to the Management Committee, and at any time. We still propose to take the nominations at our next AGM and let the Board then say yes, or no. The Management Committee will continue to function as it always has, though now with clearly established rules and authority delegated from the Board.

At our next AGM*

The Agenda is:

- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of 19th AGM
- Matters Arising
- Annual Report
- Presentation and Adoption of Accounts
- Other Reports
- Motion 'Change to Notice of General Meeting'
- Motion 'Change of General Meeting Quorum'
- Motion supporting 'Change financial year-end from 31st July to 31st March'
- Election of Directors
- Open Forum
- Any Other Business

Afterwards we will have the pleasure to hear from Hilary Dodson of the Northern Fruit Group about their activities. It promises to be very interesting, especially to learning about the broad range of fruit and their horticultural practices. In 2013 Hilary was

* Do you recall where and when it is? At a place and time convenient for a pre-Christmas shopping trip into Hereford.....

awarded the RHS Harlow Carr medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for services to Horticulture in the North of England.

As indicated in the Agenda, as a result of the review of our Articles of Association we will be proposing two changes to the Articles:

Change to Notice of General Meeting

Our Article of Association 58 requires that notice of a General Meeting be sent prepaid as first class post with despatch a minimum of (effectively) 15 or 22 days before that meeting. There is no provision that allows use of second class post or e-mail with an appropriately adjusted period of notice. To give members the option and to save money, the Board would like to change this article to include options to send by second class post or by e-mail as you, the member, may wish. We ask members to resolve to vote to amend Article 58 to:

"58. Notice of General meetings may be served by either e-mail or by second class post, according to the preference of the member. Any notice, if served by e-mail, shall be deemed to have been served on the same day the notice was sent, and proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the e-mail was properly addressed and despatched and without an error message having been received. Any notice, if served by post, shall be deemed to have been served on the third day following that on which the letter containing the same is put in the post, and proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and put into the post office as a prepaid second class letter."

Indeed, breaking our rules even before we have approval to do so, it is our intention to save about £100 by including the Notice of the AGM with this copy of Apples & Pears and we hope that members will excuse the transgression.

Change of General Meeting Quorum

Current Article 11 states quorum at a General Meeting is "...three members personally present". It is thus conceivable that just three members would be sufficient to make substantial changes to our governing document and affect members, MAN's orchards and how we work together. The Charity Commission has been concerned that charities do not lay themselves open to easy "hi-jack" by outsiders. MAN has had a membership

consistently of at least 250 of whom at least 25 and typically 35 or more have attended AGMs. The existing quorum is considered too small. We ask members to resolve to vote to amend Article 11 to:

"11. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business. Save as herein otherwise provided three members or 5% of current membership are personally present, whichever is the greater."

Change financial year-end from 31st July to 31st March

The current end of our financial year at 31st July makes tight timing for completing accounts ready for including with grant applications, and with *Apples and Pears*. There is advantage in bringing it forward to the more usual date of 31st March. The accounts and annual report could be prepared by the following July, included with Apples and Pears for distribution by the end of August, and we could hold an AGM before the end of September, i.e. prior to the autumn show season.

While not requiring member approval for this change, the MAN Board wishes to have member comment upon this proposal before confirming it for the year 2014/15.

Proxy voting

And finally, please note that if you are not able to attend the AGM but would like to vote on any of the motions, you may do so by exercising a proxy vote. A form is available to anyone wishing to do so. It has to be returned duly signed, or notarised, to MAN's Registered Office (Brock House, Pelham Road, Upper Magna, Shropshire, SY4 4UA) 48 hours before the general meeting.

Reducing costs

Postage, paper, printing and envelopes costs MAN over £150 to send out the News Sheet, and much more for *Apples and Pears* Newsletter. While our finances remain reasonably healthy, we do have to contain costs and incidentally make life easier for your Committee Members. In view of this we want to take several steps:

- Send notices of the AGM with Apples and Pears by second class mail, hence the motion on the AGM.

- Send the Spring News Sheet only via e-mail.
- Notify members of events, courses, shows only via the MAN website <http://www.marcherapple.net/>

To achieve these savings we do ask you please to send your e-mail address to membsec@marcherapple.net. We will still produce hard copy of *Apples and Pears* and post it, though we'd prefer distributing it as a *.pdf file. If you do want a hardcopy, would you please let the secretary know, otherwise we will be waiting for your e-mail address. Marie may be contacted at: secretary@marcherapple.net or Marie Ward, 8 Nant-y-Felin, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0SJ, telephone 01497-847847.

Schools pollination project

Do you recall that MAN was asked in Summer 2012 whether we could help with a project to help teach children in nine Radnorshire primary schools about bees, trees and pollination: what it is and its importance. We have repeated this exercise at two schools in Herefordshire this spring, Clifford and Weobley.

The trees were donated and MAN subsidised Jenny's sessions. It was such fun and again brought good publicity. Next winter we have to follow up with pruning the trees in Radnorshire. And we'd like to repeat it again, likely at schools in Brecknockshire.

Do you know any who would be enthusiastic to have MAN and Jenny visit?

Would you like to be involved too?

Continuing our Orchards

Eight years ago, Peter Austerfield raised a gentle query cum request about the possibility of MAN acquiring land on which to establish its own orchard, or at least to have land with a long lease. Dr Margaret Gill very generously became our benefactor; land at Cwrmdu was purchased and Paramor was established. Since then over 150 trees have been planted and it is now maturing nicely. The Management Committee has been wondering what should we do for securing the future of other orchards at Tredomen, Croft Pendarren, Lower Ffordd-fawr, Westhope and Donnington. We are in discussion with Mr Roger Williams MP about a formal tenancy agreement at Tredomen. Orchard maintenance, consolidation, tenancy, viability and a possible cider collection are all issues that concern us. We'd like to have suggestions from members on any matters, even to whether we might again seek benefactor(s). Any comments to Stephen Ainsleigh Rice 01497-820332 or ainsleigh_jennifer@btinternet.com.

*Stephen Ainsleigh Rice
Chairman*

Family trees

Apple varieties are frequently named after their breeders. Those of us with unusual names are often intrigued to know if we have a link. In Hogg's *The Fruit Manual*, he lists a *Deans' Codlin*. From his description, it sounds a good apple: "Fruit very large, flesh yellowish, tender and pleasantly flavoured. A first-rate kitchen apple; in use from November till February. This was introduced by Mr W Deans, a Nurseryman at Jedburgh."

My maiden name was Deans and my direct line goes back to the times of the border reiver raids, when the miller, John Deinis of Hawick was killed, protecting his neighbour's geir (cattle). A copy gravestone dated 1546 tells the tale. The town is only 10 or 12 miles from Jedburgh. I wonder if pomology can be in the genes.

I have looked up the details of William Deans, who was the breeder, I presume, of *Deans' Codlin*. He was born in Jedburgh about 1799 and lived there, at Anna Cottage all his life, dying between the 1881 and 1891 censuses. No children, but had apprentice gardeners and seedsmen lodging with him and his wife. She was a Cranston, and born in England, which may be significant as there was a Cranston's Nursery in Hereford, now Wyevale.

I don't know if it is still stocked anywhere. Brogdale do not have it. I would like to grow one if it can be located, because of my maiden name and the fact that the family were in Hawick for many generation, so I expect the nurseryman was a relative, as it was an uncommon name. The Deans all seemed to marry late in life and have small families!

Sheila Leitch, nee Deans

Weobley pupils all buzzing about trees for bumble bees



Ainsleigh Rice and pupil Rosie Williams get the tree planting underway.

Gloucestershire Orchard Trust is organising a fruit conference at Malvern on 14th November. The theme is about how Orchard Groups can earn an income from traditional orchards. Very topical! MAN will attend and have a stand, and we do hope to get some more ideas.

Zeit geist?

Have ideas, those penetrating brain-worms, changed noticeably since those of the 1990s that inspired the foundation of Marcher Apple Network? Certainly, Common Ground must have picked up some of these vibrations when the first Apple Day, 21st October 1990, so caught the attention of the British Public.

Many folk had been conscious of the damage being done by the up-rooting of old orchards in our area of the Marches — and further afield. Some of us had been trying to find varieties of apple we had known and enjoyed in order to plant these in our gardens, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to find nurseries which still stocked these. Most of the apple trees we planted in our garden and eventually, orchard, in the 1970s and 80s, came from Scott's of Merriott, who sent them carefully enclosed in straw, making a giant parcel which might have been mistaken for the "Kon-Tiki" raft.

The enthusiasts who founded MAN in 1993 had some experience of what an apple should taste like and were determined to contest the universal *Bramley* and *Granny Smith* — often the only apple representatives to be bought in our supermarkets, polished of course to perfection.

The threads which have directed MAN's aims and objectives through these 21 years can be traced in the old Newsletters, as we tried to raise awareness in our localities and enlisted help to discover lost apple varieties and graft these, often little-known local favourites, onto trees planted in new orchards, growing on land loaned to us by generous well-wishers.

Meanwhile, similar strains were stimulating like-minded people in Cornwall, East of England, Gloucestershire and Northern England to plant orchards and find their local apple varieties. The mood was taking hold in so many places that Brogdale, where the National Collection of fruit varieties is held, organised a meeting in 2000 to try to find a way of checking the identity of some of the local apples being discovered. This encouraged the formation of the National Orchard Forum, where apple topics could be discussed on-line — for we were now trying cope with computers as well as apples!

Some organisations were run by the County Councils in areas like Gloucestershire where historically orchards had been important features of the landscape, of farming and of industries like cider-making. MAN had valuable support from the Herefordshire Parks and Countryside team. In 2002 Powys published its Biodiversity Action Plan to which MAN contributed a Habitat Action Plan for Traditional Orchards. The different orchard

groups each had their own perspectives and assets.

Our ID skills had to be built up during this time. How else could we be sure of the identity of any apple? Our autumn days have been taken over by unknown apples sometimes found from searching the old orchards to which we had been invited, or perhaps brought to the Autumn Shows like 'Big Apple', Malvern, Leominster, Church Stretton and Chepstow. Indeed, we used to have our own Apple Day until life became too crowded in September, October and November as apple appeal took over our area — and sometimes beyond! Parcels of apples came from hopeful folk trying to find the name of some treasured apple tree miles away from our base.

We began to realise what this new electronic age could do for us besides allowing more direct communication. These new ways of contact, of encouraging MAN members to take a more active part in the organisation, give much hope for the future. More members are becoming involved in sharing decision-making about MAN's development. Member attendance on various orchard skills courses demonstrate how helpful and popular these are viewed. John Savidge's Apple Data-base with its wonderful collection of apple photos, amassed over many years of visiting Apple Shows where and whenever they were taking place, certainly is helping us to reach firmer conclusions about the apples under scrutiny at our ID sessions. Future apple enthusiasts will be influenced and helped by such programmes.

Equally valuable and exciting are the annual articles like "Orchard Gleanings" which appear in the old Newsletters. The trail heated up as more apple varieties previously considered lost were found still growing in someone's orchard or garden. The research which went into establishing their identity is amazing. They make the interest catching and are another strand in the tapestry; threads which can be traced and give extra substance to MAN's performance during these 21 years. The steady helm held by our three Chairmen, Ray Boddington, Peter Austerfield and now, Ainsleigh Rice, charted the course we have followed. We shall always be grateful to Vice-Chairman Richard Wheeler for guiding us through the difficult time we were without a Chairman.



Young trees in Aberhoywe orchard



Checking fruit at Tredomen—

The new style nurseries, where special fruit trees can be bought or grafting of individual favourites arranged, the young entrepreneurs who are willing to demonstrate techniques of grafting and pruning for enthusiasts to prolong the life of a favourite variety, are indicative of the trends to which people of all sorts of backgrounds and interests can relate. Trends take time and patience to make a difference. Ideas become amalgamated and stirred into the mixture of the past. There is much more interest and emphasis now on locally made products. Farmers' Markets flourish, giving opportunities for local specialities to be recognised and add value to our lives.

There have been stirrings in the south-east of the UK also. Reading University, now responsible for the Brogdale collections, is trying to ensure that local varieties of apple which MAN has been responsible for discovering (and which are now established in our own orchard of Paramor) will be recognised as being important, since many of these are not found in the National Collection. (see also pages 6 and 7). Perhaps each region will maintain a sort of gene bank of orchard fruits which have been associated and loved in that area.

These 21 years have had so many exciting moments and some dreams have come true! MAN is still functioning, expanding and trying to do better – so, we'll lift our glasses of apple juice, cider or whatever tippie, to celebrate past and present and face the future with hope and confidence.

Chris Porter

Mystical associations

A friend has just copied out for me some pages from a book on apple lore and I read that the apple is one of three legendary magical fruits - hazel, apple and oak - said to satisfy all mankind's needs, and which were given to King Conig in Ireland in the 1st century CE. By ancient Irish Law there were seven noble sacred trees: birch, alder, willow, oak, holly, hazel and apple. The apple, along with hazel, was the only sacred tree for which its deliberate felling was punished by death.

We presume that those giving out grants in the ' for destruction of old orchards did not know this.....

Celia Kirby

Powdery mildew

Conditions this spring and summer have encouraged the powdery mildew fungus to proliferate. We'd be interested to know if any of our members have trees in orchards that are affected badly or not at all.

Is it true that local Welsh Marches varieties are more resistant to powdery mildew?

What is your experience? And also are other diseases more or less evident this year on local or non-local varieties.

Please contact on 01497-820332 or ainsleigh_jennifer@btinternet.com



Photo: © apsnet.org

Marcher Apple Network Accounts for year ended 31.07.14

| EXPENDITURE | 2013 | 2014 | INCOME | 2013 | 2014 |
|---------------------|------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| Library & equip. | | 349 | Annual subscriptions | 1178 | 1303 |
| Mileage. | 738 | 1254 | Apple I/D | 421 | 583 |
| Miscellaneous payts | 702 | 2502 | Bank int. gross | 163 | 260 |
| Newsletter | 1043 | 767 | Donations | 1230 | 1298 |
| Orchard Maintenance | 1988 | 2334 | Life members | 300 | 100 |
| Orchard main.equip | 268 | 501 | Misc.recpts. | - | 666 |
| Postage | 541 | 468 | Pomona project | 800 | 353 |
| Purchase of trees | - | 999 | Sale of books | 1025 | 2593 |
| Staty./copying | 58 | 352 | Speaker fees | 70 | 81 |
| Telephone/insurance | 56 | 415 | Grants received | 3373 | - |
| Paramor orchard | 2022 | 2 169 | Events | 168 | 340 |
| Website | 54 | 54 | Sale of trees | 85 | 162 |
| Surplus for year | 1619 | - | Deficit for year | | 4230 |
| | 8813 | 11969 | | 8813 | 11969 |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT JULY 31ST. 2014

| LIABILITIES | 2013 | 2014 | ASSETS | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Unused Grant | 3373 | | Publications at cost | 5779 | 3726 |
| Anniversary Trees | 45 | | C.D's & cards | 5800 | 5542 |
| Accumulated Fund | 68756 | 65341 | Orchard Equipment | 2500 | 2600 |
| | | | Exhibition Materials | 825 | 800 |
| | | | Planting materials | - | - |
| | | | Computers | 750 | 349 |
| | | | Library & Ref.books & Equipment | 3100 | 3000 |
| | | | Stationery | 164 | 298 |
| | | | Land & improvements | 36000 | 36000 |
| | | | Bank balance | 17256 | 13026 |
| | | | | £72174 | £65341 |

ANDY PILLOW
Hon.Treasurer

Subject to verification by Directors

fruit ID is being created by an informal network of enthusiasts willing to share expertise freely for all those interested in identifying or researching both heritage and modern apple cultivars.

Accurate identification is crucial in the conservation of heritage orchards and varieties. Samples of fruit from trees of known provenance are photographed and characterised and combined with information on cultivation and heritage from the literature and personal knowledge.

Although this is a huge undertaking, we are progressing well with the production of content and have accessioned 780 cultivars and have at least basic image sets on 630 of these comprising some 23,000 high definition zoomable images. We have 490 cultivars 'ready for search', having loaded 80,000 fruit characteristics. We have so far published 220 cultivars as complete and the rest are under construction and visible to associates.

The National Fruit Collection (NFC) at Brogdale and RHS Wisley are of course well known as the prime UK sources of trees of known provenance but FruitID's aim is to extend the coverage of cultivars (also page 7). The project is interested therefore in both the 'national' cultivars that have been widely distributed by the leading nurseries and also those 'local' cultivars that have a restricted occurrence and generally not well described by the main literature.

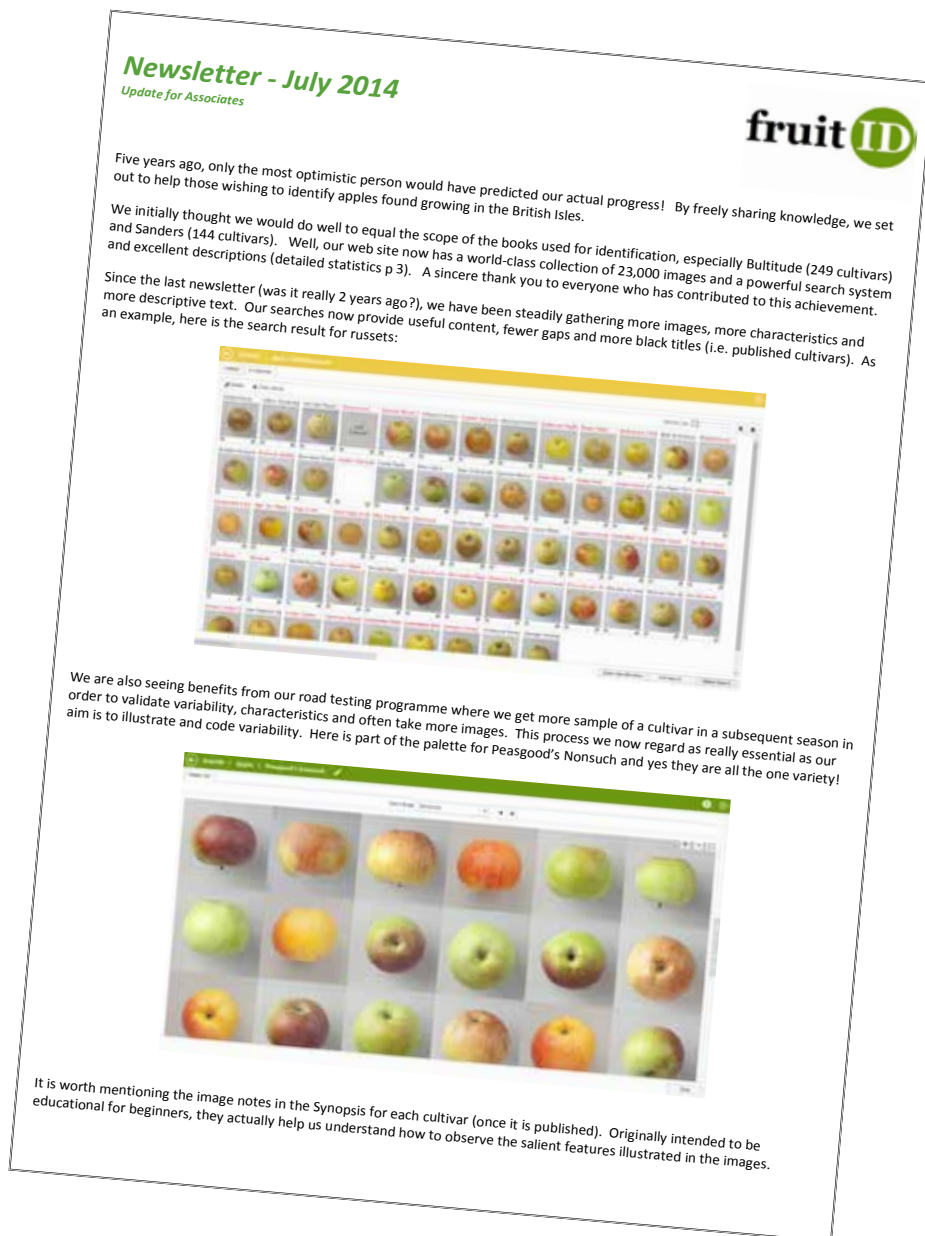
There is a distinguished history of individuals/groups publishing pomonas of their local cultivars. The fruitID project now enables that knowledge to be lodged into a comprehensive resource to everyone's mutual advantage. This requires no cash expenditure but, as always, time and effort from contributors and it is sharing the workload that makes the project feasible.

FruitID had its genesis in the East of England and already includes their local apple cultivars. Interest has already been received from individuals and orchard groups in several parts of UK and in Eire who would like their cultivars to be included and the system is now sufficiently mature for this to be practicable. It is hoped that MAN will be willing to cooperate in due course, either individually or collectively.

Peter Laws

Did you know.....

that last year Poland overtook China as the world's biggest apple exporter, 1.2m tonnes going to Russia.



Editor's note:

John Savidge, who has constructed an identification system based largely on his photographs and observations of our local apples, has maintained contact with the fruit ID enthusiasts. He tells us that it may be helpful in the next year or two to add his material to the fruit ID data base.

Last winter we sent a complete list of the varieties growing in the MAN Orchards to Matthew Ordidge at Reading University, who

is curator of the National Fruit Collections at Brogdale.

This article from Peter is followed by two more contributions, from Steve Oram of PTES and MAN stalwart Mike Porter, all on the general theme of finding and recording local apples. We make no apology for this 'over-exposure' of the topic because it is a key objective of MAN and one which is growing in support.

Recollecting the forgotten fruit

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) became involved with orchards when we started conservation work on the noble chafer beetle, now famously representative of the high biodiversity associated with traditional orchards. Around 4.5 percent, and growing, of all British species are known to live in orchards. This makes it one of our most biodiverse habitats, comparable to ancient woodland in importance. Much of this diversity is down to veteran features of older trees, in particular the standing deadwood found within the branches and trunks of mature trees.

We are now in our eighth year of conservation work with this habitat like no other combining as it does the practical considerations of crop production with more esoteric characteristics of wood pasture, landscape amenity, and back-gardens. This means conservation work isn't as straight forward as with many habitats less obviously man-made. Because of this our focus is fairly broad and incorporates the principles of the 'triple bottom line' of people, planet and profit. We know traditional orchards are good for the planet, but without people and profit traditional orchards are not going to persist.

Our goal is to increase the extent and condition of orchard habitat. We want to increase appreciation of home-grown produce, as well as the knowledge and popularity of 'rare fruit breeds'. Old orchards need to be restocked to ensure continuity of habitat and markets must be evolved to use the fruit. Many orchards are lost to urban growth and infill, so encouraging the incorporation of old orchards into towns and new developments is a big win and one of the few areas of habitat expansion. It creates more social and financial benefits than grubbing it out: greenspace is now widely recognised as a critical component of new developments.

During the course of our work we have collated a wealth of information regarding the location of varieties and important collections. A new project proposes to put this invaluable information to use in the form of a curated national virtual collection. The National Fruit Collection (NFC) at Brogdale is the UK's most significant, but it is incomplete. Notably omitted from the collection are most cider and perry varieties and there is a bias towards fruit with a provenance closer to its location in the southeast of England; some less widely-distributed cultivars from the far flung corners such as Cornwall, Wales and Northern Ireland for example have been overlooked. Moreover, the collections were designed with the interests of the fruit industry

in mind as opposed to the fruit enthusiast or horticulturalist. Our data includes many varieties of interest only to the amateur grower or a niche market.

A single geographically isolated collection is vulnerable to the vagaries of pests, disease and climate change. This vulnerability is displayed in the current embargo on distribution of all stone fruit material due first to Apricot Chlorotic Leafroll Phytoplasma and now Plum Pox Virus. The cost to repropagate and verify virus-free clones has to be found by the curators from the budget provided by Defra to manage the collections. Repropagation of the plum and cherry collection is specifically included in the new contract, but no mention is made of the costly process of epidemiologically cleaning it up. Even if this is done, replanting to an infected site presents further difficulties.

The new PTES database will duplicate the NFC, incorporate more diversity and provide an alternative source of material. Regional varieties respond better when grown in the regions from which they hail. The fruit is truer to form when it is grown without chemicals

on a vigorous rootstock; take for example the 'Scotch Bridget' apple. Grown in Kent it produces an over-sized under-flavoured eater or positively dull cooker, but in its traditional northern climes it is an old and reliable favourite with a smaller, tighter growth habit and a crisp texture and flavour. Likewise many European and American varieties fail to fully ripen in the UK. In short, if you want to taste a Scotch Bridget as God intended it, grow it in Cumbria.

Managed regional collections could be a local source for repropagation material and provide reference collections that are, being grown locally and non-intensively, more typical of samples presented for identification at apple day events. Regional collections would also be closer to hand than the National Fruit Collection in Kent.

The more information we can garner regarding the whereabouts of varieties — all of them, not just the rare ones — the more secure they will be for the future. Please contribute your cultivar lists to the project via MAN or directly to PTES at the email above. If you have something rare or important, we may ask if it can be included in the virtual national collection, or used for repropagation into a regional mother orchard. Private geographic data will not be available to the public so any requests for material transfer will be controlled and coordinated via the curators.

Steve Dram

Email: Steve.Dram@ptes.org



Scotch Bridget – 'north' and 'south'

Orchard gleanings

The hunt for old varieties

The 21st anniversary of the establishment of MAN seemed an appropriate time to consider the progress of one of our main objectives, to find some of the old varieties of apple and bring them back into cultivation.

The table opposite lists those varieties that have been refound since our formation in December 1993. Most are local apples and it is these which have been our main target. From searches of the apple literature it has been calculated that about 280 varieties of dessert or culinary apples have been raised or found in Wales and the West Midlands since the 18th century. These range from relatively well-known cultivars such as *Edward VII*, *Gladstone* and *St Cecilia* to obscurities such as *Forman's Crew*, *Downton Lemon Pippin*, raised by Thomas Andrew Knight about 1800, or *Caradog Scarlet* and *British Queen*, which were cultivated by Frank Whiting at Credenhill in Herefordshire a hundred years later.

There are two main ways in which the 'lost' varieties in the table have been traced:

(1) Through the identification service provided by MAN at events such as the Malvern Autumn Show, Big Apple and the Apple Fairs at Leominster and Chepstow.

For example, at the Church Stretton Apple Fair in 2004 a pretty little reinette brought in by Tom Adams was recognised as *Gipsy King* and at the 2008 Malvern Show a sample of three small apples from a farm orchard near Tewkesbury submitted for identification by Mary Troughton turned out to be the long-lost *Barcelona Pearmain*. These events also allow us to advertise for 'lost' varieties. On our first visit to Malvern in 1995, to accompany an exhibition of unknown apples we had assembled, we displayed a poster seeking information about certain "wanted" old varieties. We are still searching for most of those!

(2) Surveys of traditional orchards and old gardens have often uncovered "lost" varieties.

In 1994 MAN carried out a survey of Carmarthenshire farm orchards for the Countryside Council for Wales and brought to light old Welsh varieties such as *Pig-yr-wydd* and *Marged Nicolas*. Following the discovery of *Gipsy King* at Church Stretton we visited the very old traditional farm orchard which was its home and were amazed to find *Round Winter Nonsuch* and *Bringewood Pippin*, another two

of our "wanted" apples, growing there.

About twenty years ago John Bunn, a farmer who lives near Checkley in Herefordshire, led a party of apple enthusiasts from MAN around a cluster of his ancient orchards showing us rarities such as *Severn Bank* and a strangely spotted cooker that his wife called "The Leopard", which was our first encounter with a *Red Chatley*. On subsequent visits other old varieties such as *Winter Quoining* have been found, but these magical old orchards remain a treasure trove of unknown apples.

By whatever means these old varieties are rediscovered, much research is required to confirm their identity. *The Herefordshire Pomona*, apple handbooks, such as *The Fruit Manual* by Robert Hogg, catalogues of long-extinct nurseries and reports of local fruit shows are all useful aids in identification. The Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Fruit Collections at Brogdale have also made an enormous contribution to the process of verification and we are grateful to their librarians and curators for all their help. Several members of MAN have played a key role in the research process. Paul Davis of Capel Isaac near Llandeilo, the nurseryman who propagates our apples and pears, has

come across several of the old Welsh varieties such as *Gabalva* and *Pren glas*. Peter Weeks from Chatley in Worcestershire established the identity of *Chatley Kernel*. Muriel Beck from Glamorgan succeeded in tracking down *Brithmawr* and unravelled its history. Des Mayo from Itton in Monmouthshire has traced the background of the handsome variety *Machen* and ensured its survival for at least another generation. The epic hunt by John Aldridge for *Newland Sack* was chronicled in Newsletter 7 (2001).

There is still plenty of scope for further research. Identification has to be a meticulous process and can be very slow. It took MAN several years to work out that the so-called Winforton and Arrow Costards were examples of the variety *Scotch Bridget* and not ancient Costards. But we are, I hope, improving and John Savidge's identification database has become an invaluable asset. There remains considerable scope for members to make a contribution towards research and hone their detective skills. At least thirty varieties in our museum orchards at Paramor and Tredomen are known only by temporary nicknames. Some, no doubt, are recent seedlings, but a few may be old varieties waiting to be unmasked.

Mike Porter

Current members of the MARCHER APPLE NETWORK Board of Trustees

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Andrew Large..... | President |
| Ray Boddington..... | Hon. Vice President, Director & Trustee |
| Peter Austerfield..... | Vice President, Director & Trustee |
| Jim Chapman..... | Trustee |
| Jackie Denman..... | Trustee |
| Nick Dunn..... | Trustee |
| Tom Froggatt* | Trustee |
| Andy Pillow* | Company Secretary, Treasurer & Trustee |
| Mike Porter* | Director & Trustee |

*denotes also member of Management Committee

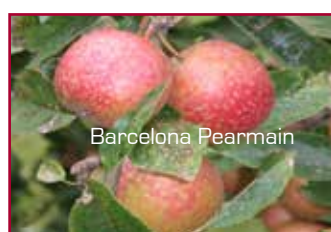
Management Committee

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Diggory Kempton..... | Membership Secretary |
| Celia Kirby..... | Editor |
| Sheila Leitch..... | Network Coordinator & Librarian |
| Gillian Menzies..... | Member |
| Chris Porter..... | Archivist |
| Ainsleigh Rice..... | Comittee Chairman |
| David Smith | Member |
| Richard Wheeler..... | Vice Chairman & Webmaster |
| Marie Ward..... | Secretary |

| Variety Name | Synonyms | Type | Date | Local (L) | How found? |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Barcelona Pearmain | Speckled Pearmain | 7LD | 1830 | | I |
| Blacksmith | | 1MC | 1900 | L | O |
| Bridstow Wasp | Wasp Apple | 3EC | 1884 | L | O |
| Bringewood Pippin | | 5LD | 1800 | L | O |
| Brithmawr | | 3MC | 1900 | L | I |
| Captain Tom | Downway Costard | 7MCD | | L | I |
| Chatley Kernel | | 6LC | 1894 | L | O |
| Credenhill Pippin | | 7LD | 1900 | L | I |
| Gabalva | | 7LD | 1840 | L | I |
| Gipsy King | | 7MD | 1872 | L | I |
| Herefordshire Quoining | | 7MD | 1700 | L | O |
| Hunt's Duke of Gloucester | | 7LD | 1800 | L | I |
| Lady's Finger of Shropshire | | 5LCD | | L | I |
| Landore | Monmouth Green | 5MCD | 1872 | L | O |
| Machen | | 6MC | | L | I |
| Marged Nicolas | Morgan Nicolas | 5MCD | | L | O |
| Newland Sack | | 7LD | 1800 | L | O |
| Onibury Pippin | | 5MD | 1830 | L | O |
| Pig Aderyn | | 4LCD/K | | L | O |
| Pig-yr-wydd | | 2MC | | L | O |
| Pomeroy of Herefordshire | Sugar Apple | 8MD | 1700 | L | I |
| Pren glas | | 2ED | | L | O |
| Puckrupp Pippin | | 8MD | 1872 | L | I |
| Round Winter Nonsuch | | 6LC | 1840 | | O |
| Rymer | | 6LC | 1818 | | O |
| Sam's Crab | Longville's Kernel | 4MD | 1820 | L | I |
| Sugar-Loaf Pippin | | 1EC | 1830 | | O |
| Sweeney Nonpareil | | 8LC | 1800 | L | I |
| Ten Commandments | | 7MCD | 1700/1883 | L | I |
| Welsh Pitcher | Harvest Apple | 5ECD | | L | I |
| Winter Quoining | | 7LC | 1818 | | O |

Col.4=Date when raised /first recorded

Col.6: I=Identification event;O=Orchard visit



Barcelona Pearmain



Bringewood Pippin



Gabalva



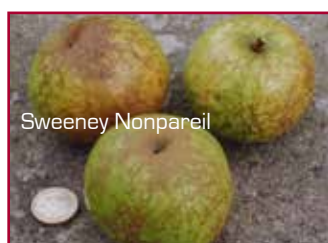
Herefordshire Quoining



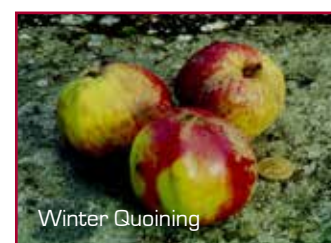
Machen



Sam's Crab



Sweeney Nonpareil



Winter Quoining

More on growing apples in high places

In the last issue of Apples & Pears I wrote an article, 'Orchards on High', drawing attention to the varieties of fruit trees which were doing well at heights well above the 600' contour usually considered to be the limit for successful orchards.

Paul Davis, our nurseryman member who grafts trees for our Museum Orchards, is frequently asked by 'would-be' planters what he would recommend for their sites, hence my article, based on information I had acquired over the years when walking and riding in the Black Mountains. This was augmented by telephone chats with other members who had planted upland orchards or moved to sites where they existed.

As Network Coordinator, I always try to use the knowledge and expertise of our members to spread information to others. Having recently bought a copy of 'A Garden in the Clouds', written by the best-selling author, Antony Woodward, (A MAN member) I read the chapter on 'The Orchard' with particular interest and realized I must have met him when we both attended the 'Introduction to Orchards' training day which was funded by Glasu, the Leader+ Initiative. ('Glasu' can be translated as greening or as becoming verdant. It is a rural development initiative providing assistance and support to businesses, individuals and community groups in Wales.) The course was held in March 2006 at Penpont, an historic old country house with 25 acres of organic gardens and orchards. The course was run

by Tony and Liz Gentil, who had recently been appointed by Glasu as 'Orchard Doctors'.

A range of subjects was covered in a most entertaining way. Lunch was followed by a browse around the orchards, where beginners soon learned to distinguish between the fat fruit buds and pointed leaf buds and see where pruning would maintain shape and increase yield.

Antony writes amusingly that he came away from the course inspired and better informed and, most usefully, had the telephone number of Tony and Liz, and the knowledge that they offered a comprehensive survey service. He made contact and a few weeks later was visited and soon received an Orchard Management Report, complete with suggestions for varieties of apples, pears, plums quinces and crab apples. So came about the orchard planted at 1200 ft.

When I contacted Antony, having been unable to visit on this year's 'Yellow Book' Gardens day, he was able to confirm the findings of other high orchard owners, that *Ashmead's Kernel* and *Tom Putt* were bearing fruit and looking healthy, although all his apples had a tendency to be biennial. I was intrigued to see his plan showed *Scotch Dumpling*. According to Frank T Mathews 'The tree guide for gardens' it is "Large apple, cooks to a well flavoured puree.

Very attractive flower. (Scotland 1949)". So, though not an old variety, it sounds as if it should be included in our recommendations for growing in high places.

He was shocked and saddened to hear from me that Tony had died in 2012. The Open day had been a great success, with about 200 visitors, some from as far afield as New Zealand and Australia, who had read his book and were keen, while over here, to see the farm and the very unusual 'Yellow Book' Garden. The chapter describing the attempts to convince the County Organiser of the suitability of the application is hilarious.

My crops on my own apple trees in the Wye Valley, over 100 years old, are very variable this year. Blossom was prolific but only early fruiterers have a reasonable crop, now ripening about 4 weeks ahead of their usual time. Pears are all well laden, also plums. Some later apple varieties have nothing on. It is planned to revisit another high mixed orchard this year. Apples, pears, plums, damsons and cherries were noted last year and we hope to collect fruit in early October and look at these hardy specimens at an Identification Session at The Harp in Glasbury. Identifications of these varieties from an orchard planted probably in the mid 1900s will be an invaluable addition to our knowledge and ability to proffer advice.

Sheila Leitch



Blossom and fruit of Scotch Dumpling growing in Antony Woodward's garden.



New Opportunity

I am planning to step aside from my role of keeping the records of MAN Members, so an opportunity will arise for someone to join the MAN Committee as a new Membership Secretary.

The duties are not onerous or time consuming. Attention to detail, as well as enjoying contact with Members are important. Basic familiarity with keeping records on computer is useful, though this can easily be picked up.

There will be plenty of time and support for handing over and learning the ropes. If you'd just like to find out more, phone Diggory (01588 660 392) or MAN Chair Ainsleigh Rice (01497 820 332) for an informal chat.

Diggory Kempton

News of MAN Orchards

Tredomen Court – what has happened here?

The heavy rain this winter meant that much pruning wasn't possible for almost all of December, January and February as it was either raining or too wet underfoot. Only 75 trees were pruned. Then when it dried out in March we had our own gardens to tend. Sounds familiar?

Five more trees were planted this year, two from scions taken at Lower Ffordd-fawr. Now Tredomen is pretty well full, except for the nursery area in the YZ pan-handle.

And at Lower Ffordd-fawr

Joe from Drover Holidays helped us look after the orchard. A thorough winter pruning has the trees in good condition with a moderately good crop. However, strimming proves to be hard work between the dense pack of trees on their M9 rootstock.

Ainsleigh Rice

Paramor Orchard

With invaluable help from the Paramor Orchard Volunteers an additional 12 trees were planted on Feb 22nd. The new bench at the top of the orchard provided welcome relief for weary diggers. There are now 119 standard trees, mostly of known local varieties, in the main orchard and 60 bush trees of unknown varieties in the small orchard – a total of 179 varieties.

Margaret Gill has compiled a lovely booklet with line drawings of most of the wildflowers growing in the orchard sward, the Wern and surrounding hedgerows. The booklet will be on sale at shows and can be purchased in some local bookshops.

There was a wonderful show of dandelions in flower in March and early April providing nectar for insects – mainly bumblebees – before the apple trees blossomed. Several trees in the main orchard have borne a few apples this year but only *Tewksbury Baron* required serious thinning. All the trees here have been pruned and labelled.

The fence along the north side of the main orchard, site of a sheep invasion in the Spring, was repaired by the Paramor Group, who have also replaced a number of stakes and ties.

There is now a new fence along the northern boundary. A kissing-gate has been erected beside the main entrance. We are grateful for financial assistance from Environment Wales and the help of the volunteers in the management of the orchard.

Mike Porter

Croft Pendarren

Here the apple crop is very variable. Some trees like *Bridstow Wasp* and *Pig yr wydd* are full of fruit; *Duke of Devonshire* and *Severn Bank* are of notably good quality. Others like *Sam's Crab*, though growing well, have produced few apples this year. There were hosts of Ringlets and Meadow Browns around in June and July.

Last winter the owner arranged for some of the mature ash and oak trees on the boundary to be pruned, as these were beginning to overshadow several of the young apple trees. Further attempts have been made to quell the exuberant bracken by strimming.

Chris Porter

Westhope Orchard

The cropping is not good this year with the exception of *Stoke Edith Pippin*, *Sam's Crab* and *Duke of Devonshire*. *Lady's Finger of Hereford* has a reasonable crop which is amazing in that the trunk split vertically for about two and a half feet and a chain saw was required to take off this side of the tree. The remaining half has quite a lot of fruit on.

Some of the more leaning trees have been supported and *Prince Alfred* is now virtually upright from a 30 degree lean which did at least make fruit picking easier.

Peter Austerfield

Donnington Orchard

Much less fruit than last year but with a few exceptions such as *Hanwell Souring*. Well established trees fare well here but some have struggled over the years showing poor growth and serious canker. Of over 60 trees, nine have died and four could be described as 'poorly'. A winter pruning session removed some of these trees and the rest will be taken out later this year. There is an issue of drainage in some parts of the orchard and the soil is heavy clay. Donnington was the venue for our 21st

birthday year BBQ preceded by a master class in summer pruning given by Nick Dunn. Many a member was busy pruning their own orchard within days of receiving his clear guidance. Some 18 members then enjoyed the feast that followed ably organised by our chairman. Many thanks to all who contributed to this first BBQ in one of our orchards. Perhaps we can repeat this social event next year.

The one problem encountered at Donnington was the problem of long grass throughout the orchard except for a perimeter strip. In previous years the main lanes have been cut by the farmer/agent so that our job was to trim only round the trees. This year we were met with above knee high grass which took two people five and a half hours to hand trim around the trees and create lanes between them. I have written to the agent and hope the orchard will be cut as usual. I gather that the estate is up for sale for the second time in only a few years and this might have some bearing on the issue.

Peter Austerfield

Odd shapes

Here's another oddity. Can you identify the species and variety? Ainsleigh picked this at his home last Autumn (answer on page 16). Please do share yours too, otherwise we'll be sharing with you a picture of a siamese mange-tout!



Front Cover

Bird damage is a particular problem with brightly coloured Discoveries, but this year I've had to net my tree against the determined predations of the resident Moor Hens from our pond. - Ed.

MAN grafting training event at Glasbury

Following recent retirement, and our move back to Devon imminent, the thought dawned of taking our excellent fruit trees with us. A telephone call to Mike Porter for advice provided a most opportune response: cut scions immediately (it was early March, with little sign of bud expansion), slightly dampen them and keep wrapped in plastic in the fridge in readiness for an imminent grafting course at Glasbury.

Accordingly, a group of 13 enthusiasts gathered on the 22nd March to receive instruction from Tom Adams who arrived from Shropshire with an amazing collection of rootstock, scions, knives, tape, wax, books and leaflets, large bundles of willow stems,

and much more. The youthful Tom explained how he had gained a fascination for cultivating fruit trees and increasing experience before running his own apple tree business. He was clearly an expert in his field of work, and a good demonstrator. He emphasised the need for rootstock to be bred to withstand disease, the importance of disinfecting tools, and the value of keeping fingers off cut surfaces of the graft.

Following what appeared as a high-risk method of slicing through the woody stem (first aid kit to hand!) with a pruning knife, Tom showed how clean and straight cuts are achieved and thumb injury avoided, with matching cuts on both rootstock stem and scion for later binding together. The whip and tongue method

was employed to achieve a good mechanical joint, and it all looked so simple! Thankfully we could practice endlessly with willow stems and immediately found it wasn't quite so straightforward yet with a bit of practice and further advice from Tom, satisfactory junctions were achieved. We then went on to graft scions we'd brought ourselves or those supplied by Tom onto his various types of barerooted rootstock — for standards or half-standards or dwarfing, whichever was best for our personal circumstances. As each graft was made, grafting tape was wrapped round to enhance the strength of the joint and help keep out disease. Finally the scion was cut off about 5 to 7 buds above the graft and sealed with wax.

I completed the day with four grafted apple varieties to take home and plant, and thoughts went to the spiritual concepts behind the text "I am the vine, you are the branches" (from the Bible: John 15). How very satisfying, and how grateful I am to MAN and all who helped make the day so worthwhile!

One dilemma I encountered: which of the bewildering variety of apple tree scions brought by Tom should I have chosen? I concluded that I might have done better to attend a MAN training day on apple varieties first.

Andrew Ferguson, Bwlch.

Note: this event followed a similar course held in Monkland on 9th March 2013.



Hill Farm Orchards

Five years ago, the clearance of the long established farm pool led to our new interest in planting fruit trees (old and modern varieties). The spoil from the pool had to be fenced off from the livestock, so we hit upon the idea of planting fruit trees rather than reseeding the area: we thought that we would then have the pleasure of blossom in the springtime and fruit in the autumn.

We started off by planting old varieties that our parents used to talk about, such as *Scotch Bridget*, *Tom Putt*, *Blenheim Orange*, *Newton Wonder*, *Worcester Pearmain*, *Court Pendu Plat* and a *Black Worcester Pear*. There are about 20 trees in this area. This interest has led us to fence off two further areas around the farmstead. Many different varieties, both old and new, are growing well. Some trees

have flourished exceedingly well including *Scotch Bridget*, *Tom Putt*, *Adams Pearmain*, *Broadholme Beauty*, *Red Devil*, *Rev. Wilks*

and *Herefordshire Russet* (all trees supplied by Frank Matthews). Previously, there was no established orchard on Hill Farm but we

do have several old greengage plum trees in the garden and a very old pear tree in a roadside hedge (see left). This tree is very unusual in that the bark grows in a spiral up the trunk and along the branches. The fruit is a perry pear variety and not edible!.

Marion and Sherley Owen



Recent MAN activities

Three Counties Autumn Show

As usual MAN was well represented at the Autumn Shows including at Malvern.

In this picture John Aldridge is enthusing to members of the public as he identifies apples. Meanwhile Richard Wheeler and Andy Pillow sell books and peelers....



MAN's 21st Birthday celebrations

Here are three things we've done to celebrate it:

[1] Tom Adams prepared Anniversary trees for us. Ten grafts were made of six local varieties. Sixteen members bought 52 of them. Also a total of 51 scions were provided to MAN members. We hope they are all growing strongly, thus distributing the genes widely. That's one of MAN's Objects!

[2] Tom Froggatt kindly hosted a Blossom Time walk at his orchard on 10th May



[3] Sixteen members learnt from Nick Dunn of F P Matthews (one of our Directors) the importance and benefits of pruning during the early summer at a meeting held at MAN's Donnington orchard. Afterwards members celebrated MAN's 21st Anniversary year with a BBQ. Several members reported getting to work pruning their own orchards immediately thereafter.

First Aid kit and emergency contact details at Paramor



Preliminary notice
AGM
11.00 a.m.
29th November 2014
Cider Museum, Hereford

A high-ish orchard in the Shropshire Hills

I was interested to read Sheila Leitch's article *Orchards on High* in last years *Apples & Pears*, for in the Spring of 2013 I planted a new orchard of 50 apple varieties at 650ft in the South Shropshire Hills on a less than ideal north west facing slope. My selection was an odd mix of West Midlands rarities, a few favourites old and new and a few Welsh rarities; I was pleased to note that some of my choices were mentioned in Sheila's piece as seemingly good at altitude, notably *Tom Putt*, *Monmouth Green*, *Burr Knot* and *Sam's Crab*, *Mere de Ménage* and *Discovery*.

I see the whole orchard as a long- term experiment in apple growing in less than ideal circumstances as well as trying different establishment techniques. To get it started I bought in a dozen or so M25 maidens from Walcot nursery in Worcestershire and opted to graft the rest myself. I made 80 grafts onto M111 rootstocks, 2 each of 40 different varieties, my aim being to get one good specimen of each for the orchard. I went around collecting scions from a range of sources, old trees, friend's orchards, garden trees, etc.

Once grafted, I put one of each out *in situ* in March (2013) in a 90cm deer tube and a



backup in a pot: whilst I have not come across this technique of putting the newly grafted rootstock straight into its final position, (although I am told it is used in Holland) I felt it was worth a try as, however well tended maidens in a nursery are, there must be some root trauma in lifting, bare rooting and re-planting. Using my method the roots can get established and will never again be disturbed, an experiment the success of which only time will tell. All the trees, maidens and rootstocks had an application of Root Grow Mycorrhizal additive sprinkled on the roots at the point of planting.

Come November (2013) and the end of their first growing season it was interesting to look at the results. Whilst one would expect some variation in vigour between varieties, I was struck by the observation that the ones which seemed to have done the best – making three and half foot of growth in the first season – were those where the scion had come from very young trees. In some cases I had taken small pieces of scion from feathered maidens and these seemed to have made more growth than even scion collected from 10-year old trees. This is just an observation and not a measured experiment but it perhaps makes sense, the vigour of youth etc Certainly where I took scion from ancient trees the growth rates were small, making only half that of the younger scion, which again probably stands to reason, old wood lacking vigour. Of the 80 grafts there were only two failures, hence a huge surplus of potted trees that I farmed out to various places.

The other experimental aspect that I was interested in was establishment: being very interested in Permaculture and an advocate of Michael Philips book 'The Holistic Orchard'.



I used combinations of a limited supply of wood chip and an unlimited supply of cut grass to heavily mulch the trees. I want no weed competition at all during the early years of these trees' lives and, using a dense layer of thick mulch after extremely wet weather, means I am capping in all that moisture that would evaporate from bare soil, so making them more drought resistant into spring and summer.

The coming years will show the success and or failure of my various experimenting and dabbling and may shed light on which of my chosen varieties do well at this altitude and exposure in this particular part of the Shropshire Hills.

My collection consists of:

Ten Commandments; Dabinett; Harry Masters Jersey; Tom Putt; William Crump; Edward VII; Stoke Edith Pippin; Court Pendu Plat; Ashmeads Kernal; Dick's Favourite; Betty Geeson; Whitting Pippin; Chatley's Pippin; Worcester Pearmain; Martin Nonpareil; May Queen; Yellow Ingestrie; Nonpareil; King of the Pippins; Golden Hornet; Blenheim Orange; Discovery; Kidds Orange Red; Crimson Bramley; Herefordshire Beefing; Limelight; Lemon Pippin; Lady's Finger of Hereford; Bloody Ploughman; Herefordshire Russet; Spartan; Tupstones; Mere de Menage; Winter Banana; Beauty of Bath; Scrumptious; Bramley; Cox Cymraeg; Brookes; Dunkerton's Sweet; Monmouth Green; Brithmawr; Gelli Aur; Glansein; Sam's Crab; Burr Knot; Delbartardive; Sandlin Duchess; Hanwell; Souring; Bardsey; Tickled Pink.

Wade Muggleton

A request for feedback

Some years ago Nicky Matcher kindly prepared some crisp policies for us. Since then the demands from grant giving bodies and PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations) have begun to ask other organisations for more detail in their policies. To forestall being seen having inadequate depth, we would like to expand on those originals for covering both Safety and Environment Policies. The suggestions below are brief and incomplete and we'd much appreciate any suggestions, or exemplar policies, from Members for what should be included.

Environment issues

It is MAN's aim to conserve biodiversity in relation to apple varieties and orchards. Details will be documented and archived.

MAN will employ natural methods of pest and disease control in the first instance. In none of MAN's orchards have chemical sprays been used for prevention or cure, indeed having orchards allows us observation of which varieties of apples survive without such treatments. It is recognised and accepted, though, that commercial nurseries use chemical treatments on their products for ensuring that they do not knowingly or inadvertently sell trees harbouring diseases or pests.

Wherever a serious infestation might require chemical or other non-natural methods, the Management Committee will be required to authorise the minimum action required to be effective. Materials used will be sourced as near as practicable to the site of end use, and empty or partly used materials disposed according to manufacturer guidance and local authority rules.

The environmental cost of all operations will be considered and steps will be taken to reduce it whenever practicable. Volunteers are encouraged to share transport when travelling to events or meetings.'

Members will have access to MAN's experiences in orchards and be encouraged to share their knowledge.

Safety

Whenever MAN Members meet they shall do so safely. Prevention of accident or injury is the first duty that all members owe each other, and no task should be undertaken if there is doubt that it may be done safely without prejudice to anyone.

At each site event there should be a designated leader, who is responsible for ensuring that a risk assessment has been done. Volunteers are to be made familiar with any risks or hazards, and these are to be mitigated as far as practicable.

It is encouraged that work parties should include a first aider and have first aid equipment available.*

MAN has insurance cover with BTCV for volunteers working in its orchards, though use of chain saws is excluded. Contractors are expected to work to MAN's policies and must be covered by their own insurance policy or work at their own risk.'

* First aid at our orchards

The Management Committee has decided to ensure that there is provision of necessary first-aid equipment and skill at our Orchards. Ainsleigh was sponsored by MAN to be trained in First-Aid at work (a 3-day event CIEH-registered) course at Coleg Powys. There are now first aid posts, kits and emergency contact details at both Paramor and Tredomen Court orchards, see picture on page 13. If you, as a MAN volunteer, would like to be considered for sponsorship on a first-aid course, do please let us know and we will seek grant funding (contact Ainsleigh, details as elsewhere).

What's on?

A list of regional apple events was included with the spring newsletter but note that full details of all our events, and others that we hear about, are given at www.marcherapple.net/diary.htm

Apple Identification Course

Apple Identification training is carried out during the regular Thursday sessions at the Harp, Glasbury. A group of apple enthusiasts from MAN provide guidance and training for members to improve their confidence and skills in the science of apple identification. Over the years they have "re-found" many old local or traditional varieties that we thought rare or even extinct.

This Autumn there is to be another series of weekly workshops with training provided. Identification training sessions start on **Thursday 2nd October**, when John Savidge will demonstrate recent changes to his

photographic data base. You are cordially invited to join these events and share the enthusiasm of the experts. During these sessions you can learn skills, perceive the subtle differences, and develop your own capability recognising which apple is which. There is access to reference books, Computer databases of hundreds of descriptions and photos from Brogdale and our own MAN collections. All the tools to hand and in a pub too.

Please apply to MAN Secretary Mrs M Ward, 01497 847847 by **25th September 2014** if you wish to come to this course

MAN events in 2015

Saturday 14th February, or Sunday 15th February (weather dependent). Winter pruning Course led by Paul Davis <http://www.applewise.co.uk/>, we'll begin at 11:00 and finish about 15:00 ... or when enthusiasm diminishes. The course will be restricted to 12 people. Paul will explain the objectives of winter pruning, provide guidance notes and give a demonstration of pruning at MAN's Tredomen Court orchard. You may then carry out guided pruning on the trees to gain a wider variety of "hands on" experience. Whilst MAN will be providing pruning equipment for the course you are welcome to bring your own. Lunch will be taken at a nearby café/ restaurant. (The cost of lunch is not included in the course fee). There are no toilet facilities except at lunch time. Please phone Mrs M. Ward on 01497 847847 to confirm a place before sending in your booking form. Yes we're planning it

on St Valentine's Day! Love your apples and trees too. If the weather is inclement we have alternative dates reserved for four weeks later, Saturday 14th / Sunday 15th March.

Saturday 28th February. Grafting Course led by Tom Adams <http://tomtheappleman.wordpress.com/> at Glasbury Village Hall. This is the third year for running the successful and enjoyable course. Course starts at 10:00 and runs till about 15:00. All equipment, four rootstocks and many scions will be available to choose from; you are welcome to bring your own equipment (secateurs and grafting knife) and graftwood if you wish. Bring your lunch or enjoy it in a local Pub. As places are limited to a round dozen, please phone Mrs M. Ward on 01497 847847 to confirm a place before sending in your booking form.

Summer 2015. Advance notice....

Nick Dunn has invited members of MAN to visit F P Matthews tree nursery at Berrington near Tenbury Wells <http://www.frankpmatthews.com/>. It would likely be a Saturday early in summer time, when they are less busy. Many tens of thousands of trees to see, lots to discuss and a myriad varieties of trees to buy. Already overwhelmed? It promises to be an incredible day. You won't need to walk much as we can be hauled around behind a tractor. If that has already got you excited please do phone Mrs M. Ward on 01497 847847 to let her know of your interest and reserve a place. More details will follow in our Spring News sheet.

Answer to the Oddity fruit quiz:

Malus var. Egremont Russet.

Available from the Marcher Apple Network

Welsh Marches Pomona is written by Mike Porter and illustrated by Margaret Gill. It contains beautifully illustrated descriptions of 31 varieties of local apples, some of which have never featured in the apple literature. Life-size views of ripe fruit and blossom at both pink bud and fully open stages, plus line drawings of leaves and sections of fruit make this a truly unique reference work.

Hardback format, 300mm × 230mm; full colour throughout. 96 pp.

Price £25.00 + £5.00 p and p (UK)

Apples of the Welsh Marches describes 54 old varieties of apples cultivated in the traditional orchards of the region, plus 24 further varieties grown here extensively in the past and still found in local farm orchards.

Price £5.00 inc p and p in the UK.

The Herefordshire Pomona CD contains copies of all the 77 coloured plates from *The Herefordshire Pomona*, originally published by the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club of Herefordshire in 1885. The corresponding sections and text descriptions of the 432 varieties of fruit illustrated on the plates are included, as are the lists of local cider apples and pears and the lists of varieties which the Woolhope Club recommended for planting.

The Vintage Fruit CD contains 290 separate descriptions of cider varieties and 107 descriptions of perry pears, all taken from hard to obtain reference works.

Prices £16.50 per copy, inc p and p in the UK.

Full Colour Postcard Reproductions Seven plates from *The Herefordshire Pomona*, in postcard format (6" × 4").

Price £2.00 per pack, plus 50p post and packing for up to two packs, thereafter PLUS 15p per pack.

Back Numbers of the MAN Newsletter

Many of the articles featured contain advice and ideas which have stood the test of time and still make an interesting read. Copies of last year's issue of *Apples and Pears* (Vol 2. No. 7) are also available.

Prices Nos 1 to 6 (1995 to 2000) £4.00: Nos 7 to 12 (2001 to 2006) £7.00: All 12: £10.00, all including p and p in the UK. Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 £2.00 ea. including p and p.

MAN Library List, managed by Sheila Leitch

Price £2.00 inc. p and p in the UK.

To Order: Preferably download an order form from www.marcherapple.net/books.htm — note that MAN now has a PayPal account — or write to Diggory Kempton, the Membership Secretary, Marcher Apple Network, Brook House, Hopesay, CRAVEN ARMS, Shropshire, SY7 8HD. Cheques should be made payable to Marcher Apple Network. Wholesale price list on request.

APPLES AND PEARS

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Marcher Apple Network

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