



Marcher Apple Network

APPLES & PEARS

Volume 2 No 12

Non-members £2

Autumn 2018



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

www.marcherapple.net

MAN's official business: Chairman's report

AGM Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the VILLAGE HALL in PUDLESTON (between Leominster and Bromyard), HR6 ORA (though if using SatNav better HR6 OQY) <http://pudlestonvillagehall.com/> on Saturday 17th November MAN AGM at 11:00. The purpose of the AGM includes receiving and, if thought fit, accepting the Annual Report and Accounts, and electing three Trustees to the Board.

Coffee will be available from 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of 23rd AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual Report
5. Presentation and Adoption of Accounts
6. Other Reports
7. Election of Directors
8. Exemption from examination of Accounts 2018/19
9. Open Forum
10. Any Other Business

Our VISITING SPEAKERS, at around 12.15 p.m, are from the Colwall Orchard Group who will speak about this highly successful community driven project on the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border.

PROXY VOTING

If you are not able to attend the AGM but would like to vote on any 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, Upton Magna, Shropshire, SY4 4UA) 48 hours before the general meeting.

CURRENT DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES:

Peter Austerfield, Mike Porter, Jim Chapman, Jackie Denman, Nick Dunn, Sir Andrew Large, Andy Pillow, Stephen Ainsleigh Rice.

Three are retiring, Mike Porter Jim Chapman, Jackie Denman, whom are willing to, and seek, re-election. Any member interested to become a Trustee is cordially invited to contact the Company Secretary, Andy Pillow, at the registered office above.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Officers): Peter Austerfield, Sheila Leitch, Wade Muggleton, Daniela Bergman, Andy Pillow, Stephen Ainsleigh Rice, David Smith. All of these have indicated they are willing to continue serving subject to member and Board approval.

Any member who would like to join the Committee is cordially invited to do so. The process is that any member nominated is subject to Board Approval. Nomination may be made at any time, for instance you can contact the Committee's Secretary Wade Muggleton at secretary@marcherapple.net.

Alternatively you may contact any Trustee or Member of the Committee (Officer) or seek nomination at the AGM or after the AGM. Please give your special interests, e.g. secretarial, IT, PR and publicity, help at shows and exhibitions, practical orchard work. We meet 3 or 4 times a year and travel and out-of-pocket expenses can be paid.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

As all charities have had to do, MAN had to confirm with Members whether and how they wished to be contacted. We did not wish to lose any of our members so a considerable effort was made to make it easy for members to reply. It proved rather onerous administration and cost nearly £350 in postage. We are most grateful to several members who made donations that enabled that cost to be substantially covered.

We had, we thought, 291 Members early in 2018. As a result of this communications exercise, we had 14 confirmed resignations, sadly among them are a few who have died. There are 226 who have replied, Thank you to all of you. That is our new membership number and we shall respect your wishes with respect to communications.

Fifty-five have not replied confirming how we may communicate; these we shall place in a "sleeping" category and not communicate with them until they contact us, we hope that'll be soon after they miss receiving the next "Apples and Pears". For those who are life members we must honour the contract and wait a number of years hoping to have news, if not that will be taken as a resignation.

DISTRIBUTION OF 'APPLES AND PEARS'

Quite a few replies to our query about the GDPR suggested that MAN should distribute

'Apples and Pears' by e-mail (giving the link to the website) rather than printing and posting, while some indicated that they wished to continue receiving a printed copy. Hitherto we've deferred releasing the electronic version for two years because its availability could undermine sales of the printed version at Shows. Your Committee has decided to distribute by email to those wishing for that and make printed versions available to those who stated in their GDPR reply a preference for postal communication. If you will accept a digital version rather than printed please let our secretary know by email members@marcherapple.net. This will also reduce costs for MAN.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Two long standing Committee Members, Mike and Chris Porter, are standing down this year, on account of a few health issues and to enable Mike to concentrate on the Brecknockshire Flora. We are incredibly sorry to see them go. Mike with Chris were founding members back in 1993; they have given unstintingly of loyal support ever since and charted its direction and capacity. They tracked down many "lost" varieties in old orchards on farms and estates and gardens, identified many and enjoyed these searches just as Sherlock Holmes did. We prize many memories of Chris and Mike creating wonderfully illuminating meetings wrapped in kindly human concern.

VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE AND BOARD

So yes, we need new members to join the Committee. We're very welcoming and will give help to let you settle in nicely. It's not an onerous responsibility as we only meet three times a year at places most convenient to the Committee's "centre of gravity/residency". Our Articles allow for twelve Trustees. We will have five vacancies by the time of the next AGM, so if you are interested in serving, please ask the Company Secretary, Andy Pillow, for more information.

SHOWS

This year MAN will not attend the Malvern Show, partly it is because we are finding the three days involved is a considerable commitment, but also the number of very interesting apples submitted for identification there is fewer than at the local shows.

And finally income from book etc. sales

at Malvern is insufficient to cover travel and ancillary expenses of member attendance.

However, we shall continue attending shows at Tenbury Wells, Big Apple, Leominster and Chepstow as listed in the Events section below. Perhaps we'll see something very interesting, and not just a grasshopper.

ON PLANTING TREES....

A little passage I thought you might like, from *The Woodlanders* by Thomas Hardy, Chapter 8

“The holes were already dug, and they set to work. Winterborne’s fingers were endowed with a gentle conjuror’s touch in spreading the roots of each little tree, resulting in a sort of caress, under which the delicate fibres all laid themselves out in their proper directions for growth. He put most of these roots towards the south-west; for, he said, in forty years’ time, when some great gale is blowing from that quarter, the trees will require the strongest holdfast on that side to stand against it and not fall.”

SUMMARY STATUS OF ID AND DNA WORK

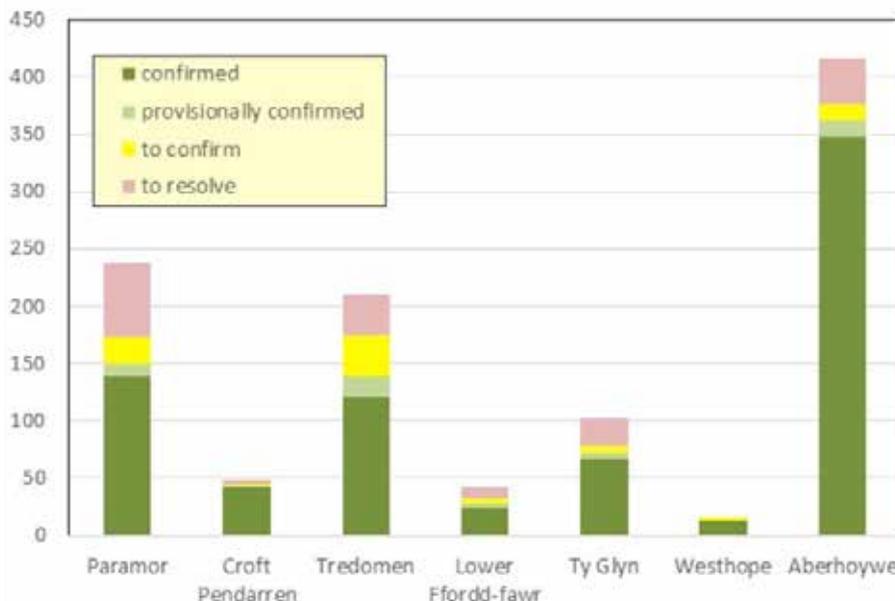
Over the years trees have been added to orchards, trees have been identified at the October ID workshops and more recently by DNA fingerprinting. You might like to read a summary of our progress.

For seven orchards the figure below shows the status of a total of 1071 trees. The majority of trees in all orchards have now a confirmed ID, the solid green bars shown in the chart below. Additionally a number of DNA results “seem to be right”, though we’re not completely convinced, so we call these “provisionally confirmed” and show them as pale green.

About a quarter of all trees do not yet have an ID assigned with confidence. About half of these we consider the ID is likely or that there might just be a few candidates. These are the “to confirm” category. Finally the remainder are ones about which we have much uncertainty ranging to complete ignorance, they are the “to resolve” category and shown as pink bars. Quite a few are possibly seedlings and some aren’t worth much either! Paramor and Tredomen, as our “research orchards”, hold the majority of these “to confirm” and “to resolve” trees. As we try to hold (at least) duplicate copies of interesting varieties, the actual number of unknown varieties is substantially less than the sum of all these pink bits.

As we enter the third year of the DNA FP campaigns, we are pleased to note that little more will remain to be done from next year,

ID status of trees within Orchards



at least with current technology. In the chart below, you can see the progress towards all “useful” analyses being made.

In 2016, 166 samples were fingerprinted, mainly from Tredomen, Aberhowe and Paramor. These are shown below as the Blue stippled bars. In addition to these direct analyses of specific “reference” trees, because our records showed that many of these trees had one or more copies which had been grafted from the same original source, or “clones”, these too had effectively been fingerprinted; they are shown as paler blue. That was another 200 trees. In the first campaign then a third of all the trees were fingerprinted.

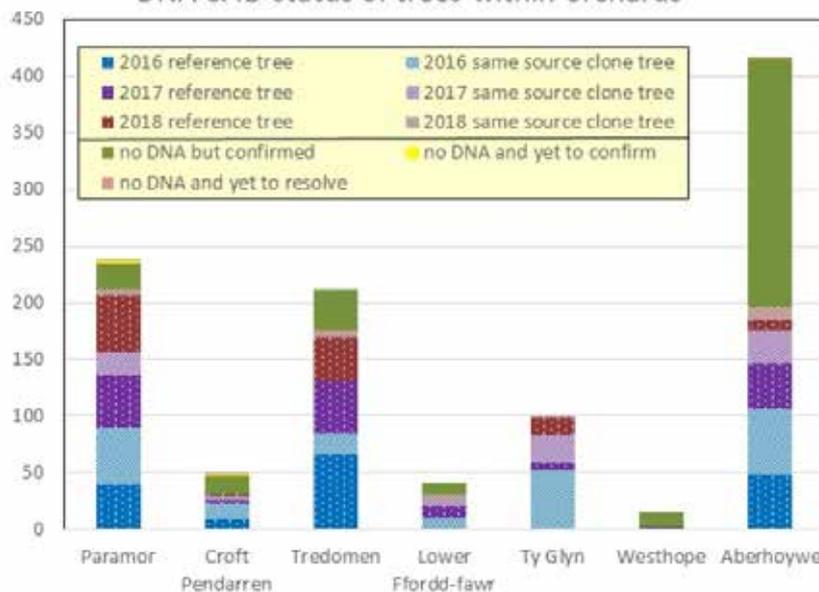
For 2017, nearly as many trees were sampled, 152 ‘reference’ trees, but only 82 ‘clones’ were indirectly fingerprinted. In the

figure the stippled violet and pale violet bars represent these.

This year only another 115 “reference” trees have been sampled which resulted in 30 “clone” trees being fingerprinted. These are shown as stippled maroon bars. By this approach, first samplings were those with greatest benefit and coverage, and progressively we have sampled and analysed varieties with a lesser value.

While 70% of the trees have been fingerprinted directly or indirectly, a third of these do not match any fingerprint in the National Fruit Collection (NFC), i.e. are unique or duplicate ones either in MAN’s collection or that of other orchard [groups]. Further research and discussion with other Orchard groups is necessary to unravel their naming, or acknowledge they are seedlings (see below).

DNA & ID status of trees within orchards



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Of the 30% trees not (yet) covered by fingerprinting the benefit was considered small. Many are ones for which morphological ID is considered unambiguous resulting in confident IDs. Why fingerprint another King’s Acre Bountiful or Lord Hindlip? There are only about six trees which have not been fingerprinted and that are either in the category “to confirm” or “to resolve”. ID’s of these will actually benefit more from discussion with staff at the NFC and elsewhere.

However, a word of caution is in order. As discussed later [page 17], our experience with Green Purnell and Old Girl shows that puzzles do

Full details of all our events, and others that we hear about, are given at:

www.marcherapple.net/diary.htm

Orchards News

Paramor

Summer Pruning of more than half the trees was carried out by Tom Adams and members of the Cwmdru Support Group at the end of June. Thanks to them all for braving this hot afternoon. We’ll complete the rest of pruning in August. You are welcome to join us.

We are also assessing what is needed and its cost for the main orchard area to be grazed by sheep without harm to the trees. This is because the annual grass cutting cost is now over £1000. There is an article

in this issue on grass cutting and methods for protecting trees from grazing by sheep. If you have experience we’d be delighted to have it; MAN needs all the advice we can get.

Tredomen

Tredomen has been our most important investigative orchard, at least until the recent yields of quality fruit specimens from the nursery orchard at Parmor. It has been a real boon to MAN having this orchard and we acknowledge with enormous appreciation the kindness shown by Roger

Williams letting us have this orchard on his land. There are now some issues here though:

- planting locations are almost full, including quite a lot now of little interest to MAN;
- it is in a frost hollow;
- many trees are badly infected by canker and now woolly aphid is appearing;
- annual grass cutting cost is nearly £1000 and
- it is quite remote for volunteers to reach.

Roger has kindly agreed that MAN may retain the orchard as long as it is useful. As collections at Paramor and Ty Glyn become ‘complete’ with varieties of immediate interest, MAN is investigating whether Tredomen could be returned to land lightly grazed.

Again your thoughts are sought as to how this could be done around trees on MM106 and M26 rootstocks. This would provide the Farm with additional in-bye land and also apples while at the same time allowing MAN access for a few more years to specimens of fruit for exhibitions and identification purposes as well as additional variety security.



Wheeler’s Russet F12 has died, we’re not sure why as it looked healthy last winter. Also we’ve had to remove it and Eden because of canker. Replacements will be grafted onto M25 this next winter.



While out pruning, two trees were seen to have small infestations of Ermine Moth. And during this summer of hot dry weather we’re watering the new plantings by hand.

Lower Ffordd-fawr

We expect the owner will wish to redevelop the site during this year or next. In readiness for the loss, we have taken at least two copies of all trees considered interesting or unknown and are either planted at Paramor and Ty Glyn orchards, or will be this winter.

Donnington

We have released this orchard from our care and notified the owner's agent.

Westhope

Nothing to report

Ty Glyn

As reported in the Spring News Sheet, this new collection on M26 cordons has been started. Particular thanks are due to Nick Dunn and F P Matthews Limited who have given much practical advice on materials needed and how to establish it. If you'd like to visit it please contact Ainsleigh via 01497-820332.

Of the 545 total spaces for which provision has been made, 100 trees have been planted and nearly another 300 have been grafted ready for planting this next winter. You can see a photograph of the orchard below. This will soon contain a second copy



Tom Adams doing summer pruning at Ty Glyn orchard

of all the interesting or unknown varieties that we have accumulated at Paramor and Tredomen as well as leaving room for some more accessions as opportunity arises. While doing summer pruning Tom Adams had to remove three trees because of canker on graft knuckles and observed that two others are showing weak growth.

Protecting against rabbits is with a perimeter fence of chicken wire and spiral

guards around each tree. As an adjunct, a family of foxes has been enlisted. They often play just outside the perimeter fence on the sloping bank. Now, how will they be attracted to remain overwinter? Please, no, I shall not keep chickens..... But we'll report on our method of pruning cordon trees in the New Year.

Stephen Ainsleigh Rice

Other Orchards

The Duchy of Cornwall has already planted 50 standard trees at a sites in Harewood End, and another 50 trees have been grafted for planting this winter. These are varieties local and/or traditional to Wales and the English Border Counties. It is a wonderful back-up for us of rare varieties such as *Bringewood Pippin*, *Brithmawr*, *Chatley Kernel*, *Gipsy King*, *Lady's Finger of Shropshire*, *Pig yr wydd*, *Springrove Codlin* and *Wormsley Pippin*.

In addition MAN has had 76 trees of 57 varieties grafted on standards for three Herefordshire properties owned by the National Trust: Berrington Hall, Croft Castle and Brockhampton. These are mainly of varieties local to Herefordshire and the immediately surrounding area. Planting is planned for this next winter season. If you are interested in helping with planting and managing these trees or the curation of them to the public, do let us know.

FP Matthews has kindly planted a row of 84 cordon trees on MM106 rootstock. These are mainly of unknown varieties in MAN's collection. There are another 122 unknown varieties grafted to complete this collection. As this is likely to exceed the total available space so if, as varieties are identified they prove to be from out of the area or are common local ones, they will be removed allowing something potentially more valuable to be planted.



New planting at Harewood End

The Pippin Trust Orchard Project

Breinton, Hereford

This project was first conceived in the latter years of the last century by Gillian Bulmer. Gillian had noted with some consternation that with the closing of the Long Ashton Research Station and the lack of interest in cider varieties at Brogdale, the gene bank of cider fruit was under threat.

Having collected many examples of cider fruit in the past for apple displays (in particular the 1983 event to celebrate the Centenary of the National Apple Congress of 1883 in London) and with access to several orchards that contained a wide range of varieties that are rarely propagated today, Gillian realised that she was in a position to initiate the planting of an orchard that would become a gene bank for many of the varieties that were once valued but are now largely ignored

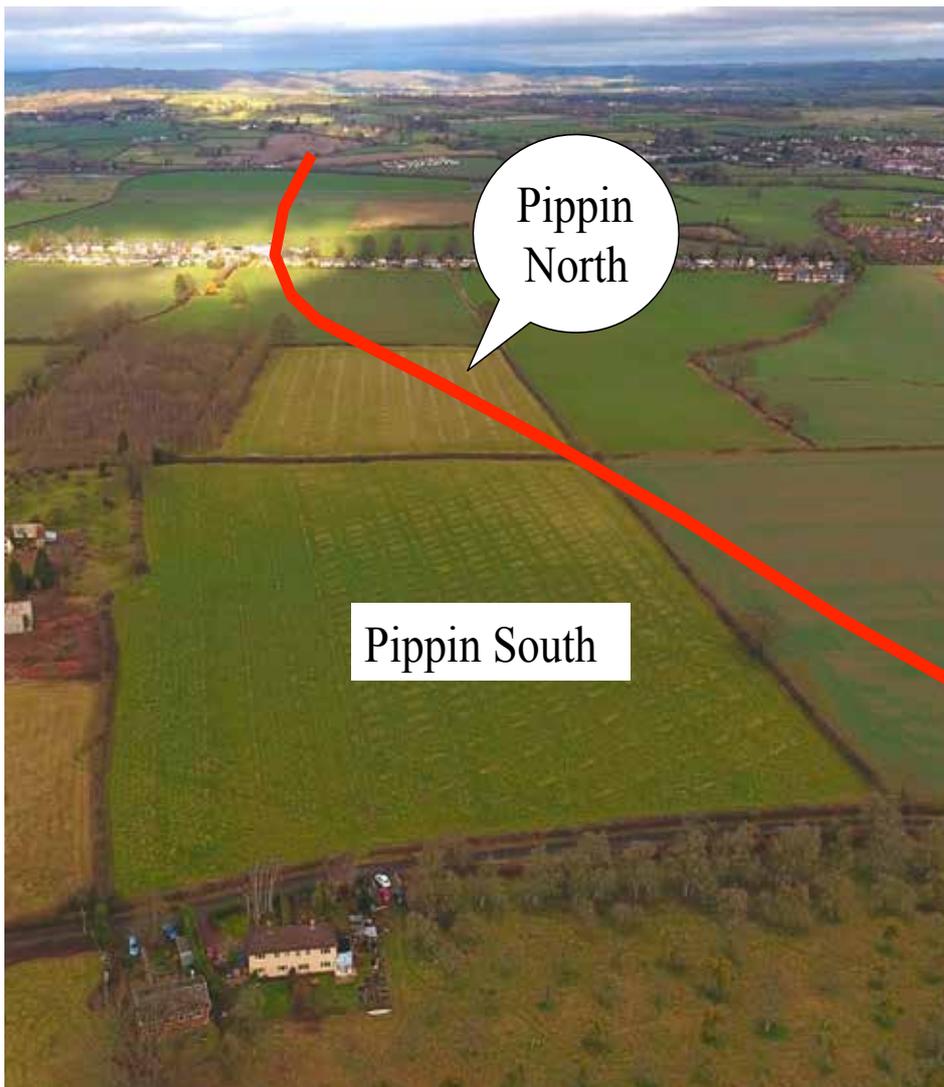
because they do not fit into the limitations of modern bush orcharding practice.

The project was first set in motion in the early years of the new millennium when Gillian asked John Worle to collect graftwood from the surviving varieties growing at Adam's Hill Orchard. This Orchard is situated on the south side of the Hereford to Upper Breinton road and is in the region of three-quarters of a hectare in area. It was planted in 1932 to trial the potential of 71 varieties of cider apple for their suitability for bush orcharding. Although this trial was only intended to last for seven or eight years before the orchard was grubbed up, the onset of the Second World War resulted in a shortage of labour and as a result the orchard survived. Although not all of the original varieties are still there, enough remain to make it an important

collection. The graftwood collected was then propagated by Mac Trumper and his assistants at Bulmer's Nurseries at Kinnersley on seedling rootstocks that had been obtained for the purpose by Tim Epps. This replicated the manner in which the original trees at Adam's Hill had been grown. Further supplies of budwood were collected and propagated in 2006 and the resulting trees were planted out in the new Pippin Orchard in 2009 by Rob Uren and Richard Horne assisted by Gillian Bulmer and John Teiser.

Pippin Orchard was marked out by Chris Fairs with a generous "on the triangle" spacing with 40 feet both between the rows and between the trees in the row, giving a diagonal distance of just under 45 feet. This was to allow maximum light and air circulation around the trees, and to allow enough light to reach the grass between the trees for the orchard to be useful for grazing cattle or sheep. Three trees of each variety have been planted, this number on the advice of the late Ray Williams, the renowned Long Ashton pomologist who considered three examples to be the minimum required to be sure of enough consistency to make any collection an accurate and reliable record. Ray Williams also recommended the use of seedling stocks budded directly with the required variety and without the use of an additional stem builder. Unlike the Adam's Hill trees which were pruned as bush trees, the Pippin Orchard trees are being pruned as centre leader standards, this formative pruning and the guarding of the trees being carried out by Rob Uren assisted by Gillian's nephew, Tim Bulmer.

In 2014 two further batches of trees were planted, one that was propagated by Richard Horne and the other by John Teiser. More trees were added to the collection in 2015, and in 2016 the planting was extended into a second field directly to the north of the first. This new block, Pippin North, was planted on a similar triangular grid to that used in the first orchard, Pippin South. 24 varieties were planted in 2016, and a further 35 in 2017. At the time of writing (July 2018) there are now a total of 142 varieties planted in the two orchards.



Pippin Trust Orchards at Breinton, with proposed Red Route of bypass sketched

Gillian transferred Pippin Orchards into the Pippin Trust in 2016 to give the orchards the support and protection this important endeavour deserves. Chris Fairs has become Chairman of the Pippin Trust and continues to bring his experience and expertise gained during his many years as Growers Manager for Bulmers. The Pippin Trust (also known as The Gillian Bulmer Charitable Trust) is a registered charity, Charity Number 1015043.

On 14th June 2017 149 leaf samples (including some only recently grafted and not yet planted in Pippin orchards) were collected and sent for DNA fingerprinting, the cost being covered by the Pippin Trust. The results revealed a number of anomalies which require further investigation, but they also showed up 36 varieties as 'Unique'

i.e. they were not held in the National Fruit Collection nor had been submitted from any other collection. A further 19 matched samples submitted from other collections, but were not held by the NFC. In addition a number of samples matched varieties held by the NFC, but under different names: in a few cases it would appear that there are errors within the NFC.

During June 2018 a further batch of leaf samples (including some perry pear samples) were sent for DNA fingerprinting, the results of which should be published at the end of the year. Some of these are intended to clarify anomalies and possible errors in labelling or the collection of propagation material.

There is one dark cloud on the horizon however. The recently published recom-

mended route for the new Hereford Bypass cuts through Pippin North. Whether the planners can be persuaded to adjust the proposed route slightly remains to be seen, a final decision should be made by the time this article is published!

John Teiser

Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project

We're now in our fourth and final year of the project and it is time to start looking at what we've achieved. The statistics are impressive – 34 traditional orchards restored, 500 local variety fruit trees planted in them, 300 volunteers and 40 Orchard Champions trained in orchard skills, plus celebrations, events, articles written, data collected and advice given.

The Heritage Lottery will receive a report giving details of all the targets met (52 in all!) but that will not tell the whole story. The project has acted as a springboard for countless orchard activities – from producing fruit guides and orchard history books to grafting old varieties, setting up Mother Orchards, registering a 'National Plum Day' and much more besides, none of which were in the original bid. But the really

special thing about the project is the way it has connected individuals and organisations with a passion for traditional orchards right across the Three Counties. That has encouraged the sharing of energy, ideas and knowledge, and as people involved with the project have joined local groups, helping to rejuvenate committees and bringing new talents with them.

And we're not finished yet! In the next six months we will be working hard to make sure that the project leaves a meaningful legacy. We are working with partners to set up a much needed 'Worcestershire collection' of fruit trees. We are piloting orchard training for Parish tree wardens in Worcestershire, helping them to make sure that our traditional orchard heritage is protected and encouraging the planting of replacement trees. Further, our existing orchard champions will be offered advanced level training, building on the skills they already have and making them even more effective orchard ambassadors.

Our slogan, when we pitched our bid to the Heritage Lottery, was "Orchards need people", and that has certainly proved true. As we reach the final leg of the project we are incredibly grateful to all those people who have helped to make it such a success – including members of the Marcher Apple Network

Karen Humphries



Three Counties Orchard Project volunteers weeding young trees, the mega mesh guards are easy to open for such maintenance.

The Value of Mulch

As I write this in mid-July 2018 we are in the midst of one of the driest periods in decades and for those of us with young trees of any kind, it is a concern.

In the heat of the day trees lose considerable amounts of moisture through transpiration and in the baked dry ground they struggle badly to recoup that water. If climate change projections are correct then we are going to see more and more extremes of weather, so what can we do to build in some climate change resilience to our plantings and orchards?

Well perhaps the easiest way to assist our young trees is through mulching: a good

So ideally, when planting a young tree give it a thorough soaking and then a good mulch. For already established trees mulch or re-mulch at the end of winter so capping in the wet winter soil and when watering, it is always better to give an occasional thorough soaking than regular dribs and drabs. So if watering a young tree in these current conditions give them a bucketful each and then spread your mulch to keep that water from evaporating.

voles who in the worst of bad winter weather can eat the bark and roots of young trees. So, best practice is to let trees get a good soaking over winter and then top up or refresh mulches in early spring.

And it does make a difference on my heavy clay soil in Shropshire: pushing my fingers down into and below the wood chip mulch in early July there is still a dampness to the soil around the 3, 4 and 5 year old trees, though I have conceded to watering the winter 2017/18 plantings.

If climate change and extreme weather is here to stay, we may need to try and build in some drought-proofing to our orchards and plantings. So mulch, mulch and mulch away

Check out Walcot Nursery's advice pages at www.walcotnursery.co.uk where there is some great advice on this and other topics.

Wade Muggleton



One cautionary word: it is best not to mulch heavily in autumn or the beginning of winter as this can reduce the chance of water getting down into the soil if we have a dry winter. Also, it can in some situations provide a good habitat for

thick mulch not only slowly breaks down and feeds the tree, but it provides an insulating cap on the soil that vastly reduces moisture loss as well as smothering weed growth. When it comes to what to mulch with, it depends upon what you can get or have to hand — compost, wood chip, farmyard manure, grass clippings, etc. will all do the job. Note however, that it is vital we only mulch after wet conditions or watering, as mulching in dry conditions can have the reverse effect of reducing water getting to the roots because the mulch soaks up the rain rather than letting it permeate down to the roots.



The Grass Dilemma

Having an orchard is wonderful and whilst we think of trees, bountiful crops of fruit and even cider, there is the perennial problem of what to do with the grass — the sward beneath the trees, i.e. how do we manage the orchard floor?

In the past it was perhaps more straightforward because when there was an abundance of small mixed farms there were sheep or cattle, and some orchards even had a hay crop made from the grass between the rows. But today it is not so easy: agriculture has become big and specialized. When establishing new orchards we now have this dilemma of what do we do about the blooming grass!

There are two obvious options, grazing or mowing, each with its pros and cons.

Grazing seems an obvious no-hassle solution and certainly was the traditional practice in the majority of orchards. But grazing animals also have an appetite for eating young fruit trees, so physical protection is required to keep the beasts away from the tree for a good many years or even for the entire life of the tree. This option obviously saves the cost, time and fuel of having to mow the orchard floor

However, the option of mowing does negate the need for individual tree protection, although wild animals — from rabbits to deer — could still be a potential problem. So it comes down to costs: the cost of owning a mower of some sort and the fuel, servicing, storage and time commitment of having to cut the grass, or paying someone else to do it. Set against this is the cost of protecting each individual tree if using grazing animals.

There is a significant cost associated with either option and in different orchards in different circumstances one option may be more applicable than the other. MAN has spent a lot of money over the years paying for grass to be cut in our orchards so we are now wondering whether, as the orchards mature, grazing might be becoming a better option.

The decisions regarding tree protection are hugely influenced by what you plan to graze with. Sheep are easier and cheaper to keep off your trees than cattle or the dreaded horses. The age of the trees is another significant factor, as is the rootstock. For

in a standard traditional orchard ultimately we are looking for a high canopy of at least 1.5 m so that the animals can simply graze beneath. On smaller rootstocks with more bush forms and lower branching, keeping the grazers away may require a different approach.

Trees can be guarded in a variety of forms, from box or crate-like constructions made from standard post and rails with wire to pre-shaped or ready bought wrap-around type guards. In any situation anything more than a simple rabbit guard, the cost of the protection may be (much) greater than that of the young tree. Here we look at a few options that might work in our orchards.

Weld Mesh

These ready shaped weld mesh tubes come in 1.2 m or 1.8 m versions and a range of diameters and can be used with either one or two stakes. Easy to erect and minimal labour. Nevertheless, the risk remains that branches may grow through the mesh inviting sheep or deer using the mesh like a ladder to climb up and nibble growth higher up the tree. Cost: approx £17 - £20 a tree (plus VAT), not including labour.



Mega Mesh

A relatively recent innovation, consisting of a thick heavy grade plastic that forms a very fine mesh and comes on a roll so can be cut to any length. Has proved very effective against sheep who cannot climb the slippery sides. Also possibly acts as a rainwater harvester, trapping rain and drizzle that drips down into the root zone. The cons possibly include: yes it is plastic and at some point in its life may need disposing of, also it does limit sunlight on very young tree and ultimately the trunk. Cost: based



on purchasing a 25m roll and 2 posts per tree, with a 1.5m length used per tree = approx £15-18 a tree (plus VAT), again not including labour

Box / crate

3 or 4 tanalised posts with one or two rails and stock netting plus a strand of barbed wire variable size to suit cost upwards of £20 worth of materials but considerably more labour and skill intensive than the



above. Again, the cons are that will need to be replaced as wood rots and all material needs disposal at the end of their life.

Visual Considerations

But what will it look like is also a factor. If we want to enjoy our orchard we probably want it to look pleasing to the eye and some guarding can look a bit like Alcatraz for trees. I personally don't really want to see my young fruit trees entombed in metal and barbed wire.

So it really is a case of bespoke solutions for individual orchards in different situations,

Wade Muggleton

Tom Adams recently inspected both Tredomen and Paramor for making an assessment of what would work at both orchards.

At Tredomen, quite a lot of low hanging branches would have to be removed. The canopy isn't high enough even for 1.2m weld mesh guards, so they would require some cutting to fit around the lower branches. Tom felt that chicken wire cut to length over hanging the existing rabbit guards, as shown in the photo or perhaps pegged down with tent pegs and, as used in some orchards, with a spiral of barbed wire to stop sheep climbing onto the wire and pulling it down from top of the trunk.

The capital cost would be less than £5 and a similar amount for labour. For the whole orchard the total cost would be in the range £1000-2000, though some trees are likely too small to be protected effectively, especially on the rows YZ. We have to ensure that we have at least two healthy copies of all these varieties. If this



proposal is seen as OK we can get this work done this winter and start grazing next year.

At Paramor, most of the older trees in rows A to E or F have a high enough canopy for grazing, but some pruning work next year

is necessary before sheep could graze all this area. Again, the cheapest solution is as above but it will be 2020 before grazing could start. The rest of the main area, rows F or G to N, will have to wait another 5-10 years before it can be grazed, by which time we will have planted more standard trees (in rows O-S we expect to call them!) Thus we'd have to move the fencing.... Also the nursery area will have to be cut for much of its future useful life. Hence we have to install at least one, and likely

two fence(s) and gate(s) from top to coppice. Still it may be financially worthwhile doing in winter 2019/2020.

We welcome your views.

Waltham Abbey Seedling

MAN was contacted during the Spring with an interesting possibility. Mr Jones had owned a home in Ipswich where there was an old tree that might be *Waltham Abbey Seedling* (WAS). It's broadly the right location for the variety. And keen readers of 'Apples and Pears' will recall that we have had several trees we had thought might be that long lost one. We have found *Harvey* has been sold around Glasbury area as WAS. Another source tree proved

to be *Hembling's Seedling*, yet another *Roundway Magnum Bonum* or *Breitling* (NFC are unsure which). Fortunately, when Mr. Jones moved to Kent he took a grafted tree with him. He has kindly let us have leaves for fingerprinting, and we hope to ask for fruit this Autumn and scions over winter.

Now many would be mighty pleased if it were to match the description in Hogg p.234 and the fingerprint is unique.

Apple Detectives in Worcestershire and Shropshire

We have to accept that with the passing of the years the chances of finding lost varieties is diminishing as they have either been found or are truly gone. However apple detective work can still yield some interesting finds and the use of DNA allows us to clarify things as never before. Here are few snippets from interesting leads and what they did or didn't reveal.

Clows Top Codlin— this tree in the garden of an old farm in Clows Top in Worcestershire had stumped us for two years. It's an incredibly early Codlin that doesn't keep at all. The tree is possibly around 90 to 100 years old.



Despite going to MAN identification sessions we couldn't put a name to it. A DNA result matched Summer Stibbert, an obscure West country variety that we had never heard of. How it ended up in this part of Worcestershire... who knows!

Long Codlin - this is an odd one growing in the Middle of the lawn of a very old cottage in Stottsedon in Shropshire. It is possibly the biggest apple tree I have ever seen, approaching perhaps 50ft in height, spectacular blossom but a very poor quality apple although they do last incredibly well into the winter.



The vigour and no sign of graft line, added to the poor fruit qualities, rather pointed to it being a seedling. DNA seemed to validate this hypothesis as it came back with no match to anything else. So one is left to ponder as to its origin and why it was planted in such a prominent position and has survived for what I would guess is maybe 150 years and it is still in fine fettle. Was it perhaps grown by a past resident or

even a child and planted in the garden for sentimental reasons?

Oldbury Pippin - this attractive looking apple grows on a verge near Bridgnorth in the Oldbury area, hence the name I gave it. DNA is unique so it is almost certainly a seedling: fruit a rather ordinary flavour but attractive. I have grafted two and given it this name.



Haughty's Red - this is a Worcestershire Variety that, as reported in Apples & Pears 2017, we had failed to find anywhere in Worcestershire and had to go to Brogdale for graftwood so that Walcot Nursery could propagate it for The Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project.



However as reported in last year, MAN member David Spilsbury had come across an incredibly old tree in Kyrewood, the area of this variety's origin. It was a strange tree that had obviously been over-grafted at some point in the past as it seemed to have Sam's crab on half the tree and this other unknown red dessert on the other half. DNA results proved it was Haughty's Red, the first and still only one we have found in its area of origin. But thanks to the TCTOP, a range of young ones have been planted in various orchards across Worcestershire. As reported last year the tree has an ancient rusting muck spreader slowly decaying away beneath it and the owner had referred it as

"old muck spreader" in the absence of not knowing what it was. So now it is perhaps a case of muck spreader no more, for it is indeed *Haughty's Red*. What a change of fortune!

Chorley Apple - this is an interesting one as it is an old tree in a farmyard — some sort of cider apple? As the DNA came back as unique it is either a seedling or a lost cider variety.



Kinlet Hall Apple - Kinlet Hall in Shropshire has a ruined wall garden that in its heyday would have rivalled the ones at Dudmaston or Attingham. Today it is just grass with one living pear and one ancient collapsed apple tree, along with the skeletons of a few other long dead apple trees,



The pear is I believe a grown-out rootstock. The apple we could not identify in 2017 sessions. Seemingly a green cooker, it has been submitted for DNA analysis in 2018.

This sort of apple detective work is diminishing year on year as the generation who knew many of the old and local varieties pass on and we have to face the prospect that there are fewer and fewer still out there waiting to be found.

A Good Apple

All this identification searching for lost and forgotten fruits is all good fun. But there is another side to the story, that of what **is** a 'good apple'. I mention this as something of an obituary to Reg Farmer of Tenbury Wells who passed away



in the summer of 2017, aged 88. I was fortunate to know Reg for about 15 years and was in his company at a various apple days and events. Whilst never claiming to be an out and out identifier, Reg had a life-long relationship with fruit and orchards, having been a buyer and seller of fruit at one period of his life and spend countless hours in orchards and in conversation with farmers and growers. As such he did have a good knowledge of many of the varieties growing in and around his part of Worcestershire.

I tell this story as a fond memory and a reminder that we perhaps shouldn't take ourselves too seriously. When confronted by someone with an apple at an event where he didn't know what it was, Reg would say to the owner, "Well is it any good? Do you like it?" and if they replied "Oh yes I love it", he would say "Well there you go, it doesn't matter what it is, does it? You enjoy it!". And if they said "No I don't really like it" he would reply with

"Well chop it down and get a decent one then."

It always amused me.....

He did also once say to a lady with an apple which he could not identify, "Where do you live?". "Corner Cottage" she replied. "Well there you go, "Corner Cottage Surprise" You call it that for 10 years and that's what everyone will believe it is."

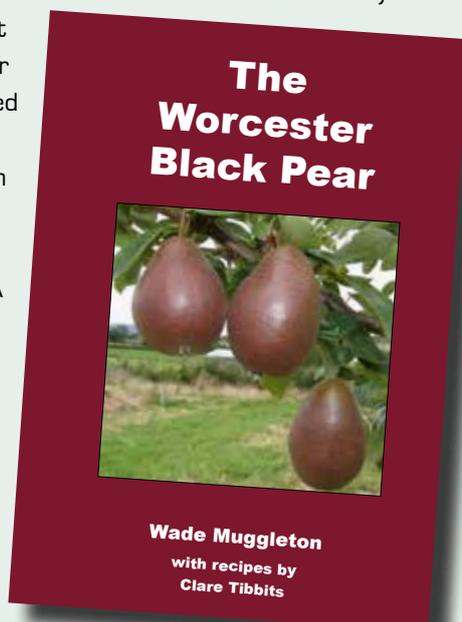
For all of bit of light-hearted fun, he had a point: yes it is endlessly fascinating, all the history, research and detective work that we at MAN are so passionate about, but there are equally times when a good apple is just a damn good apple and it really doesn't matter what it's called....

New Books for your library

'The Worcester Black Pear'

Following on from his first book the '*Apples & Orchards of Worcestershire*' our secretary Wade Muggleton has now published 'The Worcester Black Pear', an in-depth story of this iconic fruit. Living or working in Worcestershire it is very hard to escape the image of the pear. It occurs in so many places — from the cricket club badge to the county coat of arms — but just what is the history of the pear and why is it so embedded in Worcestershire life? Here, for the first time in a single volume, the story is told, including up to date DNA research.

Priced £8, available from the shop page of our website, with all profits going to orchard conservation work.

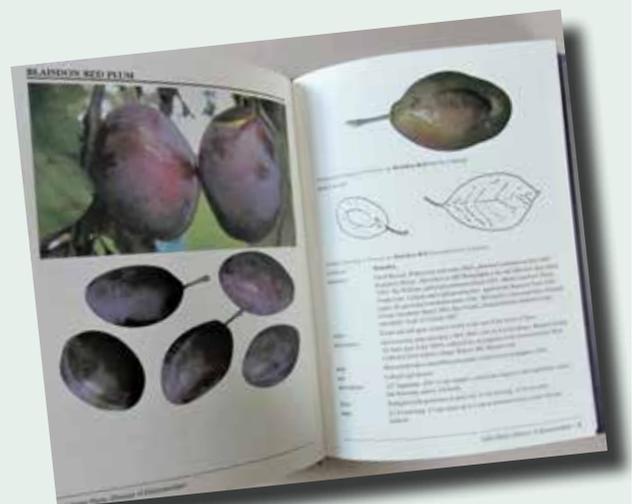


'Plums of Gloucestershire'

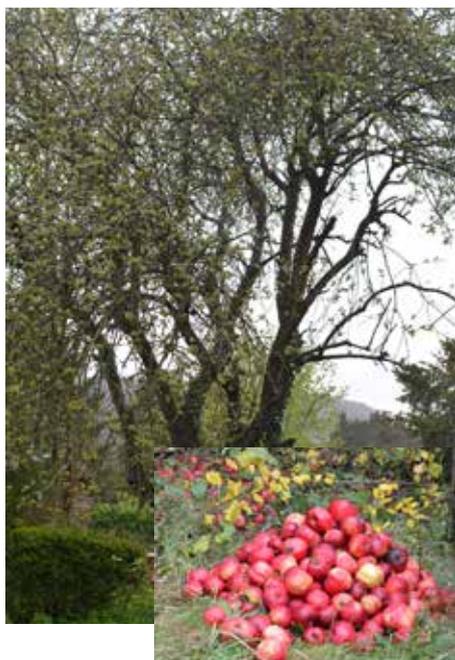
Complementing his first two Pomonas on perry pears and Gloucestershire's apples, Charles Martell's detailed description of the plums and damsons believed to have originated in Gloucestershire, has just been published.

Priced at £25 casebound or £15 soft cover – available from Gloucestershire Orchard Trust's on-line bookshop at

<https://glosorchards.org/home/our-orchard-books/>



An old apple tree near Welshpool



This New Year we expect to get the results of DNA tests on an extraordinary apple tree in the Welsh border garden that my family has owned since 1926. We have sent leaves to East Malling, courtesy of MAN and results are due after Christmas.

I have climbed the tree since 1951 when I was five and my parents bought the house from my great grandparents. And we eat and cook its fruit. My great grandparents, retired farmers, planted an interesting range of trees, two King of the Pippins, a Bramley's Seedling, another unidentified and awaiting DNA results, a pear, plum, greengage and damsons. It took me 60 years to realise that this tree, the most prolific and largest, pre-dated our family, but relatives in their nineties remember

climbing it too, and it has become a ritual to photograph family children sitting in it.

It is huge, higher than the house, and it is almost always so prolific that the bulk of its fruit rots into the ground. It is a soft cooker, definitely not a keeper, but edible raw and cookable from early August, when the fruit is green, to late September, when it turns a glorious red. [For herb jellies this allows dramatic colour effects: with mint, the green is vivid, with sage, deep red].

I joined the Marcher Apple Network five years ago when I began trying to identify it. This winter, as well as having a name for it, we plan to take grafts.

Anne McHardy

Seedlings

Original seedlings won't have a graft knuckle..... well they shouldn't have. Also there will be no duplicate elsewhere. In his article on *Martin Nonpareil* (*Apples and Pears*, 2016 p11), Wade persuasively used the find of two old trees of the same variety adjacent to each other, to argue they were deliberate plantings not seedlings, and from other evidence that they must be *Martin Nonpareil*.

Another example of varieties which aren't seedlings is *Gelli Aur* of which a very old tree has been found in Carmarthenshire and a pair next to each other in Fermoy, Ireland [see A&P No.11]. And other occurrences of trees with the same DNA fingerprint (though different local names) at two or more different locations include varieties we call *Hollingworth Cooker* and *Weekes's Red Dessert*, and *Dolau Farm 1* and *Tir Allen 65*, and also *Walters 10* and *Winter Quoining [Ted]* and *Charlotte Daunt* [in Ireland]. But it'd be amazing if all our roughly 100 unknown trees are waiting for their "kin" to be found. It's a bit like finding the same sort of needles in two haystacks. Yes, we've had some success already... but a 100 more such?

There are about 60 varieties in our orchards, the DNA 2016/17 sampling of which has found no match with any database and which we have not identified with any described variety. Many, even most, are likely seedlings. Additionally, in the 2018 DNA campaign we are including the remaining unknown (i.e. to

resolve) varieties of which there are 55; some will probably be matched in various collections.

What will we do about those we think are seedlings? They will be kept at Paramor, Ty Glyn and FP Matthews while we assess the quality of the fruit and any other virtues.

Varieties in our collection that have no DNA match include:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Ffordd Las</i> | <i>Winter Majetin [f]</i> |
| <i>Folly 1</i> | <i>Silk Gullely Green</i> |
| <i>Parkfields 1</i> | <i>Ty Du Russet</i> |
| <i>Dolafallen</i> | <i>Mother Tree</i> |
| <i>Michaelchurch 1</i> | <i>Sheep's Nose</i> |
| <i>Unknown Cider</i> | <i>Bascombe Mystery [f]</i> |
| <i>Ty Du RBT</i> | |

Of these all but *Sheep's Nose* were found in or around the Welsh Marches. From the names 'Winter Majetin' and 'Bascombe Mystery' you can see we had made tentative identifications for these two, but the DNA demonstrated they weren't, just rather similar seedlings. Perhaps some of these may have a good taste, be very early or excellent keeping varieties, cook beautifully, have a fascinating scent. In fruit trials of new varieties as many as 10000 seedlings are tested before a promising variety is selected for further testing. So we don't hold our breath in anticipation MAN having the next mega-success.

Currently we have an idea to test them with local Mother's Union and Women's Institute

groups. Both have expressed an interest, this would be rather similar to what is done at the Big Apple for cookers and we'll try some at our next AGM. An enquiry made to the local model railway society hit the buffers hard. Do you know of groups willing to assist and of a structured approach to such testing? If such testing works well, we could extend it to local varieties as a way to increase interest in them. The Welsh Perry and Cider Society have had their fruit analysed for sugar, pH and tannin content; perhaps this may be something we should consider for any variety that passes a threshold of potential utility.?

Stephen Ainsleigh Rice

Orchard Network Meeting

On 26th April I represented MAN at the Orchard Network meeting held in Birmingham. This group is certainly a 'who's-who' of the orchard scene in the UK and is intended to draw together interested parties to seek influence and representation at a national level to get better profile and protection for Traditional Orchards.

The notion that a group like this can lobby for policy change at governmental level is I feel difficult, but the value of networking like this is in shared best practice, learning from what others have done and not having to reinvent when one can borrow ideas and practices.

Wade Muggleton

More on DNA fingerprinting

Results from 2016/17 campaigns

Of 176 samples submitted in 2017, the fingerprint results were discussed at a special ID session at The Harp, on 22nd March. The summary of outcomes is listed below:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Total samples submitted | 176 |
| MAN ID matched NFC | 69 |
| MAN ID didn't match NFC | 37 |
| MAN FP matches other organisations | 6 |
| 2017 FP duplicates | 5 |
| 2016-17 FP duplicates | 14 |
| No FP match found | 22 |
| No sample submitted | 0 |
| Unknown or unresolved | 4 |
| Missing data | 6 |
| Third party samples | 13 |

and in 2016 FP there were 3 duplicates with other organisations

In our first set of samples submitted for the 2016 DNA FP campaign, we included varieties that were thought likely to be old local and traditional varieties of the Welsh Marches.

In the 2017 DNA FP campaign, MAN sourced samples predominantly for confirming or refuting the ID of many varieties that had been found but which were less likely to be these 'lost' ones. Instead, we expected that there would be more matches with varieties at the NFC and other groups. That is how it has turned out.

Rather than go through all these results here, we've posted them on our website. However, a few examples of results will show how useful this has been. If you would like to know more, do please contact Ainsleigh.

MAN ID matching with the NFC

It is encouraging that 69 varieties of the 163 MAN sourced samples which had previously been identified matched those held at the NFC. The 94 others are the ones for us to focus on where there is uncertainty, doubt or difference of opinion.

There were 37 varieties for which we had a made a provisional identification, and which had a matching fingerprint in the NFC

collection. Of these, 25 we readily accepted those identifications and another ten we thought very probably reasonable; just four of the latter have pending matters to be resolved by the NFC. Of the two remaining, one we have to confirm which tree was sampled; the other we'd identified to be a false *Wanstall* but is held by the NFC as *Wanstall Pippin*.

That leaves 57 varieties from MAN Orchards (no, not from Heinz) that did not match any at the NFC.

Now ten of these had technical problems, "unknown or unresolved" or "missing data" in the DNA analysis and characterisation, so there are now just 47 to consider further.

MAN ID matching with other organisations (including MAN!)

Of those not matching any at the NFC, five samples were found to match those submitted from the Irish Seed Savers Association, including two copies of our *Bridstow Wasp* and their *Beauty of Ballintaylor*, and three other samples from both MAN and ISSA as unnamed. A sixth sample was found to match unnamed accessions by both the Tamar Valley Groups and the NT at Monk's House. As these have been found at two or more widely distributed locations they are more likely deliberate plantings rather than grafted copies of chance seedlings.

There were five samples that matched others submitted during 2017, and another 14 that matched samples submitted in 2016. A few examples may illustrate the diversity of these. The old cider tree at Tredomen that fell several years ago had been grafted as a precaution. It matched another eight submitted samples in the 2017 campaign, three from the Pippin Trust (TPT), two from the Welsh Perry and Cider Society (WPCS) and three from the NT. It is likely a *White Beech*, though TPT had identified the other two of their samples as *Abundance* and *Blanc Mollet*: perhaps they are sports.

Underleaf is a variety that has had multiple sample submitted: are they the same or are

some sports? Five samples were variously described by MAN as *Landore*, *Raglan Underleaf*, *Gloucester* and unnamed as of *Walkmill and Wern*. Gloucester Orchard Trust (GOT) has submitted two samples including *Green Underleaf*, NT a further two, and one from WPCS. As we discussed last year they may be synonyms but there is a case that several are sports.

Last year we remarked that our accessed *Gabalva* had been matched with a tree in Cornwall in a NT collection which they know as *Magnum Bonum*. We remain hopeful that this may be the old Welsh Variety. Now it has a match with a tree MAN found at Aberglasney. Thornhayes Nursery has it as *Reverend McCormick*, and there is a tree in Coombe Martin, Devon. Is it *Gabalva*?

Another tricky issue we mentioned last year is with a variety we call *Masshder* after the location where it was found; GOT has two samples they know as *Over Apple* and *Royal Turk*. This year MAN has confirmed a second accession sourced from Thornhayes Nursery that we call *English Codlin*. NT also have one called *Royal Turk*.

Redstreak supplied to MAN by Bernwode Nursery only matched a submission from the NT which itself may have come from the same source via Tidnor. Incidentally, the *Herefordshire Redstreak* MAN acquired from F P Matthews matched the NFC accession of *Red Foxwhelp*. Sadly *Herefordshire Redstreak* does not yet seem to have been found anywhere, and that's a real prize awaiting discovery.

We believe that trees found at Worcester and Upper Coston are *Rymer* and a DNA match found by the Orchard Project at Lady Gilbert's Orchard in London. Have the Northern Fruit Group got a sample in their collection? Another pair of trees, originally from Hereford and Droitwich, is as yet unnamed. As reported last year, this variety has turned up in Warwick and now in London at Hainault Lodge. We're keenly pursuing both these, perhaps they were brought from London to the Welsh Marches last century?

We cover the confusion around *Green Purnell* and *Old Girl* later in this Newsletter. There's no doubt that the DNA fingerprinting will help uncover what happened. And there have been a number of cases where MAN collected scions from two nearby trees in an orchard and have now had it confirmed that they were of the same variety, including *Gilfach* and *Covender*.

No FP match found

The final group of 22 samples tested in 2017 are where there was no match, not even within MAN. Many of these may be seedlings as mentioned above, and if so several do not merit retention.

What's in MAN's collection?

Here's a list of the 86 (more or less) varieties that MAN holds that either originated in Wales and the English Border Counties or at least there has been a strong association with the region.

With benefit of the DNA Fingerprinting, we have considerable confidence in the identification of these.

Further work on our collection, future DNA fingerprinting, and comments from other experts, will likely cause us to revise this list.

Stephen Ainsleigh Rice

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Adams's Pearmain</i> | <i>Edward VII</i> | <i>Lord Derby</i> | <i>Rushock Pearmain</i> |
| <i>Arthur W. Barnes</i> | <i>Forester</i> | <i>Lord Hindlip</i> | <i>Saint Cecilia</i> |
| <i>Ashmead's Kernel</i> | <i>Frederick</i> | <i>Lorna Doone</i> | <i>Sam's Crab</i> |
| <i>Autumn Pearmain</i> | <i>Gabalva</i> | <i>Machen</i> | <i>Sandlin Duchess</i> |
| <i>Bardsey Island Apple</i> | <i>Gennet Moyle</i> | <i>Madresfield Court</i> | <i>Schoolmaster</i> |
| <i>Betty Geeson</i> | <i>Gipsy King</i> | <i>Marged Nicolas</i> | <i>Severn Bank</i> |
| <i>Breakwell's Seedling</i> | <i>Gladstone</i> | <i>Martin Nonpareil</i> | <i>Spring Grove Codlin</i> |
| <i>Bridstow Wasp</i> | <i>Gloucester Underleaf</i> | <i>May Queen</i> | <i>Stoke Edith Pippin</i> |
| <i>Bringewood Pippin</i> | <i>Golden Harvey</i> | <i>Monmouth Green</i> | <i>Sure Crop</i> |
| <i>Brithmawr</i> | <i>Golden Pippin</i> | <i>Newland Sack</i> | <i>Sweeney Nonpareil</i> |
| <i>Brookes's</i> | <i>Golden Spire</i> | <i>Onisbury Pippin</i> | <i>Ten Commandments</i> |
| <i>Broxwood Foxwhelp</i> | <i>Green Purnell</i> | <i>Orange Pippin</i> | <i>Tewkesbury Baron</i> |
| <i>Byford Wonder</i> | <i>Herefordshire Beefing</i> | <i>Perthyre</i> | <i>Tillington Court</i> |
| <i>Chatley Kernel</i> | <i>Hope Cottage Seedling</i> | <i>Pig Aderyn</i> | <i>Tyler's Kernel</i> |
| <i>Chaxhill Red</i> | <i>King Coffee</i> | <i>Pig y Fran</i> | <i>Welsh Druid</i> |
| <i>Cissy</i> | <i>King's Acre Bountiful</i> | <i>Pig yr Wydd</i> | <i>Wheeler's Russet</i> |
| <i>Collington Big Bitters</i> | <i>King's Acre Pippin</i> | <i>Pigs Nose Pippin</i> | <i>William Crump</i> |
| <i>Colwall Quoining</i> | <i>Lady's Finger of Hereford</i> | <i>Pitmaston Pine Apple</i> | <i>Worcester Pearmain</i> |
| <i>Crimson Queening</i> | <i>Lady's Finger of Shropshire</i> | <i>Pitmaston Russet Nonpareil</i> | <i>Wormsley Pippin</i> |
| <i>Cummy Norman</i> | <i>Landore</i> | <i>Pomeroy of Herefordshire</i> | <i>Yellow Ingestrie</i> |
| <i>Dewdulip Seedling</i> | <i>Lodgemore Nonpareil</i> | <i>Puckrupp Pippin</i> | |
| <i>Downton Pippin</i> | <i>Longney Russet</i> | <i>Red Foxwhelp</i> | |

Sampling in 2018

In the last two years we have had about 320 samples fingerprinted from MAN orchards. Never knowing if this year will be the last one with a DNA fingerprinting campaign, your Committee decided that we should largely complete coverage of all varieties that we have in our orchards and add a large collection of 'unknowns' from Welsh sourced apples. This year we have submitted 115 from MAN orchards, 71 from the Welsh collection, and 70 from third party orchards, some of which are of clear interest to MAN. Additionally we have found a cherry and six pears, all of considerable antiquity.

This work will enable us to confirm the ID of most of our trees or to check whether they've been fingerprinted before, or whether they are unique. From this we will be much clearer about what we may wish to conserve for subsequent study. Already we have several years of future work to secure accreditation for naming our valued varieties. And this is where it will really start to get rewarding, to have documented and archived the basis for a 'bit of wood' being given a particular name.

Pears and Cherry

We found a couple of old pear trees ages ago and propagated them, one at Paramor and the other at Croft Pendarren. But what are they?

Two of a cluster of six magnificent veteran (perry) pear trees at Clifford from a remnant orchard have been sampled, some of the trees are shown in the photograph below.

At Bromyard, where the apple *Old Girl* was found, there are three pear trees remnants of an orchard dating back into the 19th century, they may be a perry, an eater and a cooker.

At Tredomen, there are several fine cherry trees about 100 years of age; one has been sampled.



Hereford Cathedral

A few years ago Derek Tolman of Bernwode contacted Hereford Cathedral wondering if they might have old trees that might be the *College Apple* (Hogg, p47). Dr Anthony Evans showed Derek around and three old ones were thought possible candidates. They were grafted up and later young copies planted besides their clone forebears.

With the Dean's permission we have also taken scions and had them grafted for Paramor and Ty Glyn, and have also taken three sets of leaves for this year's DNA FP campaign. Will they be unique or are they a well-known variety? Please be patient and wait for the next News Sheet.....

Brockworth

At the Chepstow Show in October 2016 we were shown two samples of an unusual apple. It was a bit like a greasy red version of *Blenheim Orange*, at least in rough shape. But most strange; one apple had six and the other seven carpels.

Last Autumn we were kindly given another six apples. This time three of them had six carpels and the others five. John Savidge took the photograph below during one of our ID sessions at the Harp. None of us at the ID session had seen its like before; we showed it to Charles Martell, he hadn't. Well, the owner kindly permitted us to take leaves for fingerprinting and if that's interesting we may return to collect graftwood.

Is it a veteran tree on its last legs? No, it's unprepossessing. According to the owner, the tree was likely planted about 40-50 years ago at Watermead. It may have been bought or it might have come from the site of the Gloucestershire Airfield. It's a modest tree,



This winter Dr Evans contacted MAN and invited us to view. In this picture the Cathedral guide party are assisting in scion collection from the three veterans (trees, that is), and coming prepared... perhaps... in case Ainsleigh fell into the River Wye which you can see at the bottom of the orchard.

only about 2.5 – 4 m tall, rather gangly as if it's growing on M26 rootstock or a weak grower on MM106. It has a bit of canker and some woolly aphid infestation. Do you know what it is?

More work for another day.

Stephen Ainsleigh Rice

Green Purnell

Some apples have a long and well recorded provenance of the place from which they originate, who first bred, grew or found them.



Others do not. One such is the Worcestershire variety *Green Purnell*: of all the varieties researched it is one of those about which least is known. A chap from Worcestershire sent it to National collection in the 1940s claiming it was an old variety that was much grown in Worcestershire. And that is it, that's about all we know, where it came from — who knows? It is possible it was/is something else or something else is it. It could be a variety known by a different name in another part of the country, it could have been a good chance seedling. There literally is no associated history, so more DNA work will be interesting, and possibly enlightening!

Having researched and recorded the varieties of Worcestershire in his book "*The Apples & Orchards of Worcestershire*" (available from the shop page on the MAN website) Wade is more than ever convinced many of these regional heritage varieties were never widespread, with many perhaps unique to a few villages or a small district where local people just shared scions of what was perceived to be a decent apple. It is this localisation that makes them very vulnerable to decline and extinction.

But that's not the end of *Green Purnell*.... recent DNA analysis has puzzled us a lot. And it matters as we have offered *Green Purnell* to both the National Trust and the Duchy of Cornwall so we have got to sort it out. *Green Purnell* (abbreviated GP) is in the National Fruit Collection (NFC) with accession number 1945-101. A standard NFC photograph is shown below (left). The *Welsh Marches Pomona* has it as triploid, a cooker that keeps until January; its painting taken from fruit

supplied by Brogdale is shown below (right). The NFC DNA is unreliable as it was likely incorrectly sampled from its (diploid) neighbouring tree *Gros-Api* 1952-108 (Matthew Ordidge, unpublished).

We had Paramor A15 fingerprinted in 2017 (A1150) and, unsurprisingly, it did not match NFC 1945-101. Instead, it matched two trees at Tredomen L06 (A452) and L07 (A1127), both of which were grafted from *Old Girl* at Bromyard... or so we thought.

There is another GP at Tredomen L08 planted



immediately next to the two *Old Girls*; John Savidge's photographs taken in 2016 of the fruit from these three trees are so similar that they are likely to be the same variety. We understand that the fruit from *Old Girl* at Bromyard does not look much like John's photograph (above right). And finally, the owner uses *Old Girl* fruit as dual purpose and they do not keep long — see photo of the tree standing below towering pines, with a scar where she long ago lost a major limb.

We think somehow a propagation error has occurred. Now, to investigate it further this Autumn, we will inspect fruit from all trees we have named GP, that's two at Aberhoywe, one at Lower Ffordd-fawr, two at Paramor and one at Tredomen. We hope to get GP fruit from Walcot Nursery and from Wade and also original and Tredomen *Old Girls*. We've also submitted leaves for



Old 'Girl' fruit from tree Tredomen L06

DNA fingerprinting of GP at Aberhoywe, Tredomen, Walcot and Wade's orchard as well as the original *Old Girl*. We hope that will let us unravel the mystery and can make report in the next News Sheet.

And there is another reason for helping sort this out. National Trust also have a tree, the DNA of which (A1533) matches MAN's three trees (Tredomen L06/07 and Paramor A15). Paul Davis suspects this came as part of the grafting of Henry May's Tidnor collection for the NT about 2-3 years ago. Some years ago Paul provided Tidnor with two trees:

- Tidnor 86 provenance Brogdale delivered 2010
- Tidnor 471 unknown provenance delivered 2013

If the NT tree sampled for DNA derived from Tidnor 86, that suggests the NFC accession has been changed at some time or very unlikely that the NFC sampling for DNA was from *Gros-Api*. If it was from Tidnor 471, that suggests the unknown provenance was of graftwood in MAN that was thought to be from NFC but may have been of something else.

Wade Muggleton and Stephen Ainsleigh Rice



MAN Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2018

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2016 £ | Total 2015 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Annual Subscriptions | 1,284 | - | 1,284 | 1,481 |
| Apple ID | 1,517 | - | 1,517 | 1,315 |
| Gross Bank Interest | 15 | - | 15 | 110 |
| Donations | 11,043 | - | 11,043 | 14,187 |
| Life Members | 380 | - | 380 | 200 |
| Misc. Receipts | 3,482 | - | 3,482 | 836 |
| Pomona Project | 85 | - | 85 | 142 |
| Speaker Fees | 35 | - | 35 | - |
| Grants Received | - | - | 0 | 1,500 |
| Events | 495 | - | 495 | 0 |
| Sale of Books & CD's | 2,063 | - | 2,063 | 1,326 |
| Sale of Trees | - | - | 0 | 200 |
| Peelers | - | - | 0 | 336 |
| Grafting/Pruning Courses | 240 | - | 240 | 250 |
| Juice Sale | - | - | - | - |
| Closing Stock | 7,798 | - | 7,798 | 9,112 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 28,437 | 0 | 28,437 | 30,995 |
| Resources Expended | | | | |
| Direct Charitable Expenditure: | | | | |
| Running and maintenance costs | 18,333 | 0 | 18,333 | 14,318 |
| Opening Stock | 9,112 | 0 | 9,112 | 9,434 |
| Total Resources Expended | 27,445 | 0 | 27,445 | 23,752 |
| Net Incoming Resources | 992 | 0 | 992 | 7,243 |
| Fund balances brought forward at at 31st March to start of year | 72,661 | 0 | 72,661 | 65,418 |
| Fund balances carried forward at 31st March to end of year | 73,653 | 0 | 73,653 | 72,661 |

All amounts above are derived from continuing operations and the Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those passing through the Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

| | <u>As at 31/03/17</u> | | <u>As at 31/03/16</u> | |
|--|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets held for Charity Use | | | | |
| Land & Improvements | 36,000 | | 36,000 | |
| Orchard Equipment | 1,705 | | 2,895 | |
| Computers | 111 | | 148 | |
| Library, Reference books & Equipment | 3,000 | | 3,000 | |
| | | 40,816 | | 41,043 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Debtors | 432 | | 408 | |
| Bank Balances | 32,405 | | 22,506 | |
| Stock held for Resale | 7,798 | | 9,112 | |
| | | 40,635 | | 32,026 |
| Less Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors | 7,798 | | 408 | |
| | | 32,837 | | 31,618 |
| NET ASSETS | | 73,653 | | 72,661 |
| Represented By: | | | | |
| Capital Reserves - Unrestricted Funds | | 73,653 | | 72,661 |

Major apple events

* = Apple display and MAN ID service.

Friday to Sunday 7th to 9th September. <http://www.foodfestival.co.uk/>. The Ludlow Marches Food and Drink Festival. There is always a good selection of local cider makers and fruit juicers in attendance.

Sunday 9th September from 14:00, Heritage Day event, Hartpury Orchard Centre, Blackwell's End, Hartpury GL19 3DB <https://www.hartpuryheritage.org.uk/our-initiatives/the-national-perry-pear-centre/background/>. The National Collection of Perry Pears Over 70 varieties on display (crops permitting!), Teas. Explore the Wildlife Wetland and bring your perry pear for identification. There will also be the opportunity for any aspiring perry, cider or juicers to discuss the opportunities to use or hire equipment from the Centre.

* Sunday, 9th 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. From 2.00-5.00pm. For details Tel. 01597-811487. <http://www.penlanole-organics.co.uk/events.php>

Sunday 9th September. Frampton-On-Severn Country Fair, www.framptoncountryfair.co.uk Gloucestershire Orchard Trust will have a stand and apple display.

Saturday 15th September. Hartpury Orchard Centre — General Introduction to fruit identification., Hartpury Orchard Centre — to be followed by more detailed Perry Pear identification session. Numbers limited, book through ann@smithcocell.co.uk or info@glosorchards.org.

Weekly workshop at the Harp Inn, Glasbury (tenatively) MAN ID Session from Thursday 27th September, from 10:15..

Saturday/Sunday, 23rd/24th September.

Autumn Show at Three Counties Showground, Malvern. Please note that MAN will not be attending this year. If you have apples for Identification please note these can be sent to us or handed in at the Big Apple stand. Do please note our guidelines and fee for submitting each variety, see <http://www.marcherapple.net/research/identification/>

More details about the Malvern show at: <http://www.threecounties.co.uk/tradestands/malvernautumn/>

Thursday, 4th October. Trumpet Ploughing Match & West of England Fruit Show. (No apple display.) Details of venue from Mrs. J. Green, Warren Cottage, Lower Eggleton, Ledbury HR8 2UJ. Tel. 01531-670608.

* Saturday, 6th October. Applefest. Tenbury Wells, held on the town's Burgage Recreational Area, from 10:00-17:00, Further details: www.tenburyapplefest.co.uk

Daily throughout October 10:00-15:00 at Berrington Hall, the National Trust property near Leominster invites you to join us as we celebrate our harvest with a full month of traditional apple themed activities. With a children's trail, apple themed treats in the tea-room, crafts and apple pressing on selected weekends, Berrington has a lot to offer. Also on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October we will be having traditional horse and carriage rides to get you into the swing of the season. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/5f62deb6-143e-4765-875d-a346462653de/pages/details>

* Saturday 13th October. Apple Day at The Green Wood Centre, Coalbrookdale near Telford, from 10:00-17:00 <http://www.shropshireappletrust.co.uk/appleday.php> Apple pressing using the large community apple press, fresh juice for sale; hog roast, live music, apple display and apple trees for sale, cider bar, WI stalls, craft demonstrations and hands-on opportunities to practise polelathing, pottery, etc. Contact: 01952-433594 or 433880

* Saturday-Sunday, 13-14th October. THE BIG APPLE. Weekend rural events in and around Much Marcle <http://www.bigapple.org.uk/>. £2 entry to historic grounds of Hellens, from 11:00-16:45 where there will be apple and pear displays, ID services and tastings of a selection of cooking apples. Further details of talks, demonstrations and other events, from Jackie Denman, Tel. 01531-670544.

* Saturday, 20th October. Leominster Apple Fair at The Priory, Leominster. 10:00-16:00. Parking nearby in Bridge Street Car Park. Various stalls, apple display and ID by MAN. Details from Felicity Norman, Tel. 01568-780886.

* Saturday and Sunday 20th-21st October, National Botanic Garden for Wales, Llanarthne, SA32 8HN, 10:00 - 18:00, Apple Weekend <https://botanicgarden.wales/visit/whatson/>. MAN members will be there for identification. Paul David attends every year with a display of his apples and also brings pot grown trees along for purchase.

Friday 19th October, National Apple Day <http://commonground.org.uk/projects/orchards/apple-day/>

Saturday 20th October. Apple Day at Gloucester Life Museum, 11am-4pm. www.citymuseum.co.uk

* Sunday, 28th October. Chepstow Apple Day, organized by Chepstow Town Council at the Drill Hall, Chepstow. Admission free. 11:00-16:00. MAN Apple display, apple juice, cider and perry tasting.

Saturday 17th November.

MAN AGM

at 11:00 in the Village Hall in Pudleston (between Leominster and Bromyard), HR6 ORA (though if using SatNav better HR6 OQY) <http://pudlestonvillagehall.com/> MAN AGM, with guest speakers Tim Dixon and Helen Stace of the ColwallOrchard Group.

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 £15.00 + £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.

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 previous issues are now available as PDFs — see web site for order form with full details of prices.

The **PARAMOR ORCHARD CWMDU** an illustrated flora, 2014. Includes the history of the acquisition of the orchard. With detailed, botanically accurate black & white illustrations which could be coloured in by children. The original black & white drawings by Dr Margaret A V Gill, have been deposited in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Price £3 including p and p in the UK.

THE APPLES & ORCHARDS OF WORCESTERSHIRE by Wade Muggleton This book captures a few of the stories of the apples of a county once so renowned for its orchards.

With 32 varieties described and photographed, as well as chapters on lost varieties, heritage varieties, Pears, Orchard stories and aftercare the book will be available at all events that MAN attend as well at www.marcherapple.net/shop all proceeds from the sale go to Marcher Apple Network

Price £8.50 including p and p in UK.

MAN Library contains over a 100 books and major articles on fruit, principally apples. Members may arrange to borrow these, and the public by specific arrangement (donations are welcome). A library listing is given in <http://www.marcherapple.net/libr.htm> When new website is launched there will be a new address. For more information contact secretary@marcherapple.net

To Order all items: Preferably download an order form from www.marcherapple.net/books.htm — note that *MAN* now has a PayPal account — or write to Membership Secretary, Marcher Apple Network, 25 Grange Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire S&3 9DG. Cheques should be made payable to Marcher Apple Network.



APPLES AND PEARS

is the Newsletter of the Marcher Apple Network

Charity No 1095151

Company No 3787303

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Apples & Pears Autumn 2018