



NEWS SHEET No. 19 Spring 2020

AGM on 16th November 2019

Following two successful years with AGMs held at Pudleston Village Hall, we accepted the wish expressed by a number of members to return to the Cider Museum for our AGM in 2019. We were pleased to see 25(++) members attend.

Our Chair, Jackie Denman, had to be away attending urgent family matters, so our President, Sir Andrew Large, kindly agreed to chair the meeting. Formal business included receiving the Annual Report and Accounts and re-election of Trustees Peter Austerfield, Nick Dunn, Andy Pillow and David Smith. Report and Accounts were accepted and all four Trustees were re-elected. Members agreed to the Appointment of Messrs Silver & Company as Examiners for Accounts 2019/20. Membership was reported as 293.

Some details of activities and achievements during the course of 2018/19 were outlined by Ainsleigh. Many of these have already been covered in Apples and Pears 2019 volume 3 number 1 or are described below.

A discussion was led by Jim Chapman about the establishment of an Endowment Fund for MAN to build a reserve for sustaining it in the long term. In this manner the Charity can legitimately accumulate a reserve significantly larger than its annual expenditure, without the Charity Commission becoming concerned, indeed it demonstrates prudent management of a long term asset. There was unanimous support from members for an Endowment Fund. Suggestions included setting aside gift aid receipts, and/or setting aside £2 of each member's annual subscription, or requesting members to make a donation of £5 each year, and Life Members be asked to make an additional donation. Committee and Trustees were requested to develop a proposal. Comments and suggestions from all members are cordially solicited (send to secretary@marcherapple.net).

One of the apples Accredited in 2019 was Grosmont Glory. During the AGM David Mann kindly told us about his connection with it. It's a lovely story so we include it below, under Accreditation, as an example of the life cycle from query through conservation to accreditation.

There followed an excellent talk by Helen Woodman of Gregg's Pit Cider, Much Marcle. She led us through her excitement and joy caring for her trees and their associated wildlife, as well as the fun sharing that... and in cider making. It was warmly received, and kindly acknowledged.

The Cider Museum produced an excellent light lunch.

WM & SAR

Identification Report for 2019

With poor weather at the end of April, it was generally a modest harvest except of late flowering varieties or ones growing in sheltered spots... A hot dry summer soon brought on fruit to ripen nicely. A consequence of the mild winter was leaves suffered from more attacks of various aphids sometimes to the point that fruit yield and quality was affected.

Identification

Many thanks to our regular identifiers (SL, PA, CP, MP, SAR) and our latest enthusiastic recruits KL, AP); we are grateful to JS for having shared his invaluable database for use during sessions. As we did not attend Malvern, nor advertise our ID services for postal receipts, fewer samples were submitted by the public. Indeed the "footfall" at those shows to which we went did seem markedly less than in earlier years. It wasn't entirely due to the cold wet weather, either. At the seven events we attended a total of 214 samples were inspected and some of the more unusual varieties brought in by the public are noted below:

Catshead (Tenbury) – growing at 350 m amsl
Newland Sack (Tenbury)
King's Acre Pippin (Tenbury)
King Coffee (Tenbury and Craven Arms)
Dumelow's Seedling (Big Apple)
Allington Pippin (Big Apple)
French Crab (Big Apple)
Lambrook Pippin (Big Apple)
Michaelmas Red (Chepstow)

Conveniently, as last year, with fewer apples received, we were able to concentrate on apples from our own orchards. First fruits from young trees at Paramor (9), Tredomen (1) and Ty Glyn (34) were matched

against that of trees from which scions had been taken, thus enabling us to transfer the DNA fingerprint identification of reference trees (e.g. at Lower Ffordd-fawr or Tredomen) to their clones at Paramor and Ty Glyn. A number of unknowns were identified, and a few tentative identities suggested such as the Ludlow Longnor apple might indeed be Grange Apple.

We noted we'd never carefully inspected or even photographed fruit from Tredomen E14; the few poor specimens confirmed the surprising DNA result we had last year: it is Round Winter Nonesuch, this time from Phepson's Orchard near Himbleton (there are few trees left there and none had fruit on them). Others that we confirmed included

<i>Working Name</i>	<i>Accepted Name</i>	<i>Working Name</i>	<i>Accepted Name</i>
Cambridge Ballard	Lemon Roy	Banks Fillbasket	Catshead
Jones-Parry 2	Washington Strawberry	Gloria Mundi (f)	Round Winter Nonesuch
Tir Chanter Btm	Cherry Pearmain		
unknown			

Two samples from Covender House near Yarkhill have now yielded nice fruit. We could not make identifications, so we gave them to John Teiser of The Pippin Trust in case he recognized them as Cider Fruit.

He thinks one might be "Black Norman". The table below allows comparison of this autumn's activity with the previous four years.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Identification panel meetings	4	6	9	7	9
Events at which MAN offered identification	7	9	9	9	10
Total identification sessions	13	15	18	16	19
MAN hours involved	204	306	465	476	465
Number of samples examined	214	352	350	530	618
Number of exhibitions staged	2	2	3	3	3
Most productive events for identification	Tenbury (56)	Tenbury (81)	Big Apple 74 (2 days)	Big Apple (109) (2 days)	Tenbury (109)
	Big Apple (51)	Big Apple (60)	Malvern (54) (2 days)	Leominster (85)	Malverns (79) (2 days)
	Chepstow (22)	Leominster (51)	Chepstow (42)	Chepstow (68)	Big Apple (76) (2 days)

Nantwich and South Cheshire Show

Quite a few members of MAN remember Tony Gentil with great respect and fondness. Tony and his wife, Liz, were active as 'The Orchard Doctors' for many years, rejuvenating orchards from Cheshire to Herefordshire. Tony died eight years ago and we still miss being able to ask his advice. Some of our members benefitted both from their knowledge and their kindness. The community orchard in Nantwich has been planted with some of the varieties Tony rescued from obscurity and it has been dedicated in his memory.

We thought you might also like to note that there is a prize awarded by Liz at this Show 'THE TONY GENTIL TROPHY' for the exhibitor with the most points in the Junior Section; a lovely tribute.

<https://nantwichshow.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Horticulture-Schedule-and-Entry-Form-2019.pdf>

Apples that won't let go on New Year's Day

"Those that stay the longest keep the longest" is an orchard saying that implies that those apples that hang on the tree late into the season are the ones that will keep in storage the longest. So as the 2019 season drew to a close we asked a few folk to conduct a one-off and not at all scientific study of so "Which apples were still hanging on the tree on New Year's Day 2020.

And here's a few results (by hanging on the tree, we mean a very good number of fruit still hanging and not just the odd one or two which is quite common, here we mean half the crop or so still present on the tree, and not yet plundered by birds).

Down in Gloucestershire Jim Chapman reports

Lemon Roy, Stantway Kernel and Longney Russet. Sadly no perry pears - even Nailor has gone since Christmas. He enjoyed eating both Lemon Roy and Longney Russet fresh from the trees on 1st January; they were crisp and sweet.

Stantway Kernel



Stantway Kernel is an indifferent eater, but a real blaze in the orchard. Worth planting as a decorative !

Medlar as you know has limited appeal — but I enjoy it. Wildlife think similarly, for the last three years a lone Fieldfare has protected the tree from all comers, ignoring the flocks that visit our garden and one grey squirrel eats them as a gourmet, selecting specific fruit, eating delicately and discarding the skin. Other squirrels ignore it. As other fruit disappears it becomes more popular until eventually the tree is cleared.

Up in the hills of South Shropshire, Wade our secretary reports from his orchard: Chatley Kernel, Nonpareil, Tupstones and Pink Lady.

Now Tupstones is an obscure Worcestershire apple with incredible keeping quality and will last till Easter in a good year so no surprise there perhaps. Pink Lady is a commercial variety but one that is not commercially grown in UK and probably equally not that suited to our climate but like all commercial varieties keeping is a key characteristic.



Pink Lady



Chatley Kernel

Nonpareil and Chatley are listed as being good keepers, but other good keepers like Court Pendu Plat, Ashmead's Kernel and Granny Smith were in my case long gone from the tree. Chatley Kernel was still fine eating straight off the tree on January 2nd.

Whilst I won't be picking many of these late fruit for use, the wildlife in the form of the fieldfares, blackbirds and redwings certainly benefit from them as they provide a valuable food source through mid-winter.

Over at our own Paramor orchard, Ainsleigh reports:

Elmore Pippin was well covered with lesser quantities on Martin's Kernel and Longney Russet, the latter confirming Jim's observation.



Elmore Pippin

Judging from the number of fallen apples with clear pecks marking the skin, at Paramor we are supporting a goodly few crows.

Accreditation

After having found an interesting variety of apple, MAN has spent much effort identifying it. Sometimes we're successful, sometimes not. If it turns out to be something not seen or recognized before and the DNA doesn't match anything else, we get excited. As mentioned under identification page it may be something of real interest, perhaps an old long lost variety or perhaps an old tree beloved by grandparents. To ensure these aren't lost again, MAN is conserving them in its orchards and in collaboration with Duchy of Cornwall, National Trust and F.P. Matthews Ltd.

We are pleased to supply graftwood to members of the public for a modest charge. It will help to embed these varieties into wider distribution. Details of scion availability can be found on our website.

As a condition of offering such graftwood to the public we have submitted samples, photographs and DNA fingerprint records for accreditation to meetings of the Register of Local Cultivars. On the accreditation panel are members from the National Fruit Collection, Royal Horticultural Society, renowned experts such as Joan Morgan and Liz Copas, and many representatives from regional orchard groups. Further information can be found on the fruitID help web page.

The table below lists those varieties that have been accredited to date (13 Nov 2019), together with the DNA sample number, general comments and literature references about the variety. Indeed, accreditation of apples, both re-found or 'new' varieties, is one of our most significant objectives and has become a major achievement for the Charity.

Name	DNA sample	Comments	References
Betty Robinson	A1961, A410	Mature culinary apple in Low Farm Orchard, Cumbria, Duplicate in MAN	none
Coch Annie Jones	A2651	single old tree (100+) growing at Guilsfield, Welshpool	none
Corras	A500	A variety found growing at Trevithel, Three Cocks, grown/studied by MAN since late 1990s	Hogg p50, NARp110
Gelli Aur	A394, A2414	Old tree (<i>ca</i> 200 years) found growing in Carmarthenshire, also old trees in Fermoy, Ireland, and Leominster, Herefordshire.	Dolau-hirion nursery: http://www.applewise.co.uk/leaflets/pdf/variety.pdf
Glifach	A396, A1090, A2556	Radnorshire cultivar found at Gilfach and localities on the Doldowlod and Llys dinam Estates	none
Grosmont Glory	A442	Old tree growing at Grosmont, Monmouthshire, brought for identification by a MAN member	none
Harvey's Wiltshire Defiance	A497, A1139, A2428	Unknown cultivar found during survey of farm orchard at Llanwrda, Dyfed, also near Y Groes	BPOM(Hogg),1851; Scott, 1873; Hogg,1884
Haywood Pippin	A368	Row of three trees in orchard of former smithy on the edge of old Haywood Forest near Hereford	none
Hunt's Duke of Gloucester	A415	Confused naming, MAN thinks NFC has PP and HDoG interchanged	Trans. Hort. Soc.Vol. 4 (1822), Lindley (1831), BPOM p115, Hogg p118, NAR p262, Morgan p255, Martell p100, Welsh Marches Pomona p42
Puckrupp Pippin	A474	Confused naming, MAN thinks NFC has PP and HDoG interchanged	Scott's Orchardist p85, Richard Smith Nurserymen Catalogue (1880-1), NAR p439, Welsh Marches Pomona p64
Marged Nicolas	A443	Cultivar found growing in farm orchards in Dinefwr, Dyfed.	WMP p50 in local nurseries: Dolau-hirion Ian Sturrock, Tom the Apple Man

Pearson's Plate \$ Round Winter Nonesuch A2464	A2119, A379, A2483, A2649 A476, A1143,	variety known to Hogg, Old tree found in farm orchard in SW Shropshire and matching cultivar brought for identification from Herefordshire	Hogg p169, NAR p405 Herefs Pomona pl.61, BPOM p.174, SO p65 Hogg p199, Bun p114, others see NARp504
Shropshire Hills	A2500, A428	Unidentified cultivar from farm orchards near Ashford Bowdler and All Stretton in SW Shropshire	none
Wanstall	A473	Old unidentified tree found in the orchard of a smallholding in Eywas Harold, Herefordshire	BPOM (1851), Scott (1873), Hogg p235, Herfs. Pom. Pl54 Bun p130, RHS Apples & Pears (1934), NAR p597
Welsh Pitcher	A508, A2420, A2575, A2645	Known from localities across South Wales, Monmouthshire to Pembrokeshire.	previously marketed as Talgarth apple by Dolau- hirion Nursery http://www. applewise.co.uk/leaflets/pdf/ variety.pdf
Witney's Kernel	A2441	Old mid-season dessert cultivar from Worcestershire recently re-found in Teme Valley	Barron (1884) p237, JRHS (1888) p367, NAR p626 in none is there a description
# with Welsh Perry and Cider Society \$ with Pippin Trust			

These trees include a number of new names for varieties that members and MAN have brought back to cultivation. All are variously unique in that they were not known to the NFC nor anywhere outside our area. Let us introduce some of them to you.

Coch Annie Jones

This tree from near Welshpool was submitted by a member for accreditation; it is named after the owner's grandmother. The tree is at least 100 years old, and is an early season apple that can be cooked in July while still green and eaten in August and September when it turns a deep red. For such an early apple it keeps a remarkably long time.



Gilfach

We have called this Gilfach, pending any other name. It was found by MAN at the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust reserve at Gilfach. DNA has shown several more trees near Rhayader and Newbridge-on-Wye. These sites are at 200-300 m amsl, and experience has shown that it is scab resistant and its blossom to be remarkably tolerant to spring frosts. Flesh is sub-acid with some sweetness, perhaps a little coarse and of rather nondescript flavour.

Grosmont Glory

David Mann has kindly offered a description of this tree.

"My wife Helen and I purchased Little Beech Farm in early 1975, the farm is situated on the western side of the Graig Hill between the villages of Grosmont and Cross Ash in Monmouthshire. The farmhouse is a traditional stone built Welsh longhouse, and substantial parts of the house date back to the mid-sixteenth century. So the house and associated garden, at the front, are of some antiquity, as are some of oak and beech trees in the hedgerows adjacent to the house. In the garden itself and fairly close to the house we discovered an overgrown stone cider mill and an ancient apple tree which seem to be in good health. Soon after moving into the farm this tree had a spectacular covering of blossom, so we waited for the autumn to see the sort of apples it would produce.

There was a huge crop, mostly of fairly small apples but amongst them were some much larger fruit; they were certainly not dessert apples but



did cook well, having a pleasant taste and good texture,

ideal for tarts and baked apples as the fruit does not cook down to a mash like many cooking varieties.

In subsequent years, we found the tree usually cropped well and was almost completely free from any disease, this we thought might be due to the garden being at 600 ft amsl and remote from other trees. We also found it ripened well in our situation and climate and proved an exceptionally good keeping apple right to the end of March.

Searches for a variety for our garden tree from a number of apple references came to no avail. It was not till the autumn of 2009 when we visited the Much Marcle Big Apple weekend, taking some apples in the hope that they might be given a name, but it was not to be. However, Mike Porter was sufficiently interested to ask if MAN could have graftwood for propagating a young tree for making cleaner fruit with which ID would be easier. A second grafted tree was given to me to plant back at Little Beech Hill. This tree grew on well and is now quite a substantial tree and bearing good fruit as is also the tree at Parmor.

I became a member of MAN in 2010 and kept in touch with the work that the Network were carrying out. Occasionally I saw reference to my tree which was only in the records as 'Mann's Keeper', but still had no definite identification. As time went on my hopes were raised that we might have found a new variety!

In 2016 East Malling Research were successfully using a DNA sampling technique to identify known and unknown apple varieties. MAN had sent leaf samples from this tree in 2016 and found to be unrelated to any known (or unknown) variety. Over the next two years over 1000 samples were submitted but still no matching fingerprint. So Mike Porter phoned me in autumn 2019 with the news that it was likely unique. We discussed names; my suggestion was 'Grosmont Glory', accepted by MAN and accredited at the University of Reading last November. Hopefully sometime it may become a well-known variety.

David Mann

Incidentally, the young tree at Paramor is markedly fastigiated, i.e. the branches grow very upright. That is also a characteristic of Marged Nicolas and interestingly the DNA suggests that Marged Nicolas might be a parent of 'Grosmont Glory' (or possibly the other way around).

SAR

Other Orchard groups

Gloucestershire Orchard Trust (GOT) has two orchards at Longney and Centres at Day's Cottage and Hartpury; details can be found at <https://glosorchards.org/home/got-orchards/>. Like MAN, GOT has been working studiously to use DNA fingerprints of trees of their collection to improve the confidence of their identifications, and to accredit varieties hitherto not captured in the NFC. Their current list is available on their website at <https://glosorchards.org/home/fruitvarieties/gloucestershire-apples-listing/>. We have greatly enjoyed working with them

Hayward Pippin

Originally we had called this Callow 14, as it was one of many old trees we surveyed in smithy orchard near Callow. This area would have been by the old forest of Haywood, hence the name proposed. It is a second early dessert apple, sub-acid with a pleasant lemon flavour.

Shropshire Hills

MAN originally knew this apple with the 'working' or 'manuscript' name of 'Lady's Finger of Shropshire'. We asked the Panel for it to be accredited 'Shropshire Hills' in memory of Tom Froggatt, who was our Treasurer. It's a variety he had in his orchard and which he brought to MAN's attention. The parent tree has grown for more than 80 years at Ashford Bowdler in Shropshire. Tom Froggatt noted in 1997 that his grandfather gave scions to neighbours and some of these trees may still survive. Indeed one with the same DNA was found nearby All Stretton.



It is a medium sized apple with green skin, has almost no russet and an unusually shallow cavity with rather thick long stalk. [Photo]

Best used as mid-late season dessert apple. Flesh is white with green tinge, firm, fine textured, sub-acid becoming sweet, pleasant but rather weak flavor.

SAR

Website

Our website is being maintained by Wade Muggleton. Some improvements to the Shop, Membership and Resources pages have been made recently. Committee and Trustees are most grateful for the hard work and care.

Ainsleigh, with effective help from a kind friend, has done some further updating and amending. These cover Accreditation, DNA, list of varieties and ID.

You can find it at

<http://www.marcherapple.net/>

If you have any corrections or additions to be made, please contact Wade via secretary@marcherapple.net

DNA Fingerprinting update – 2019 campaign

As reported in *Apples and Pears* last year, we have continued to submit varieties for DNA FP-ing where some issues remain or new material becomes available. A total of 42 apple and 2 pear samples was submitted to East Malling Research (EMR) last summer; the cost will be about £1600.

[Pear DNA results will be covered in the Newsletter next September.]

Apple DNA results were received on 30th January, apparently analyses had far more “tricky” queries this year and there was an instrument failure too. EMR and fruitID staff worked incredibly hard to complete the preliminary results. A report to Committee will be prepared for them to assess the follow up actions. Before then here are some unchecked highlights from the 54 apple results (includes 12 from a member's orchard):

- Gwendolyn, a Worcestershire variety, has no matching DNA, so we'd likely plan on accrediting this during 2020.
- Of the varieties still held at the cider orchard Applemead, most either matched similarly named varieties in the NFC, or there was no NFC match though usually these matched names from the Pippin Trust, National Trust or Liz Copas. The only surprise was that Cowarne Red matches the NFC Strawberry Norman.
- Welsh Pitcher is now found at two more sites: North Pembrokeshire and Llanfrynach.
- For various reasons we submitted quite a few samples, the ID of which we were fairly sure about but wanted speedy confirmation, and this was the outcome.

The Techies call it 'Data Mining'. This is when you start to squeeze even more information from data than that derived from its original 'simpler' purpose. It's been realised for some time that the DNA fingerprints can give information about parentage, at least which varieties are not the parents of a given variety! Further work has shown that it can identify plausible pairs of parents, for instance 'Golden Delicious' x 'Kidd's Orange Red' produced 'Gala'. Muriel Smith in the National Apple Register (1971) lists both parents for 181 varieties of which we also have DNA data; it includes lots with one of the parents being a Cox's Orange Pippin, a McIntosh or a Jonathan. Of these 181 only 83 parentages appeared plausible, perhaps another 22 might be plausible if there were experimental 'glitches' in DNA fingerprints; 76 were clearly implausible. It suggests that either frequent historic mistakes were made in the original ID of trees and/or cross breeding is a lot more hit-and-miss than we have assumed. Among other breeders it is notable that Laxton Brothers and Wastie seem to have made many errors. Or have we mis-identified their trees?

And continuing in this vein, a variety that has puzzled us on many occasions is Garway 1. It has many features

of Sam's Crab, yet several fairly clear differences. The DNA 2019 results have shown that it isn't Sam's Crab; furthermore it can't be progeny either.

SAR

DNA fingerprinting at Aberystwyth University

We became aware that Dr Danny Thorogood at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University, can carry out similar DNA fingerprinting to that done by East Malling Research (EMR). Indeed, he has already fingerprinted most of the Welsh Perry and Cider Society collection.

We agreed with Dr Thorogood to carry out a blind test of 15 samples from MAN orchards to enable us to report to members (and the public) an impartial opinion of this capability. Details of the samples submitted and results are available on our website <http://www.marcherapple.net/research/dna-fingerprinting-services/>. In summary, Aberystwyth University results were fully in line with those previously obtained by EMR, even to the point that some of the difficulties of interpretation with a few samples were similarly experienced.

Temporarily we host details of the Dr Thorogood's offer <http://www.marcherapple.net/research/apple-and-pear-cultivar-identification-by-dna-profiling-at-aberystwyth-university/>. And And... one surprising result that Dr Thorogood made last August was that Brithmawr matches Machen matches Pride of the Orchard; at this stage we'd not had the (correct) Brithmawr fingerprinted. Now, the EMR results just in, include Brithmawr and show... Yes indeed, that it matches these.

Our orchards and collection

We have orchards at Paramor, Croft Pendarren, Westhope, Tredomen and Ty Glyn. There are 857 trees in total, with about another 60 shortly to be planted and already another 100+ being grown on for planting next winter season.

Paramor, Tredomen and Ty Glyn orchards each have a Management Plan that has been approved by Committee and Trustees. These documents describe the conservation issues and their management, the current varieties planted, plans for removal of un-needed trees and further plantings, work schedules and rough budget estimates of work to be done.

Stephanie Coates of the South and West Wales Wildlife Trust, who is also a MAN member, kindly gave advice about conservation opportunities at Paramor. There are areas that she recommended would benefit from light grazing by sheep, another wetter area to be cut once a year and raked clear and another around the alder coppice where grass should be kept long for

encouraging mice and voles as prey for various raptors. Over the next few years we will work towards enabling these. This winter, if the ground dries sufficiently, we will have the long grass topped and creosoted stakes knocked in ready for future planting over the next few years. Summer pruning of the main Paramor orchard is continuing, with minimal intervention in the nursery area. A number of trees can be removed, as they are variously duplicates, common or out-of-area varieties: this will free up space for more valued varieties to be planted over the next few years. Grass will continue to be mowed.

Minimal work is planned for Tredomen, mainly working towards its release back to Roger Williams. Light grazing will be resumed and those trees of most value will be protected and grafted on.

At Ty Glyn, further planting of about 80 trees is underway. The margins either side of rows will be planted with wildflowers for attracting both pollinators and birds for preying upon aphids, the latter of which became significant pests in 2019. Continued regular monitoring is being made of tree health, flowering times, growth, fruit yield and timing. Pruning continues in the summer.

At F P Matthews nursery, Nick Dunn has kindly established a cordon row of about 114 trees, mainly of rare or unknown varieties. Some we now find can be removed, and more added.

The Duchy of Cornwall has kindly taken about 100 trees at their Grange Farm, mainly of Welsh Marches provenance. We are progressively delivering local traditional varieties to the National Trust for Berrington Hall, Brockhampton and Croft Castle orchards.

These actions will enable a more assured conservation of MAN's collection.

Details of the varieties that MAN has in its orchards are available on our website. If you want scions, please contact us via secretary@marcherapple.net

SAR

Grafting and Planting in 2020

We intend to ask Paul Davis and Tom Adams to graft about 140 trees this year. Of these about 100 are for duplicating the remaining local varieties or 'unknowns' from Paramor, Tredomen and member orchards that are not yet held at both Ty Glyn and Paramor. The remainder are of varieties from other collections that we consider it would be good to have at Ty Glyn and a few at Paramor.

About 70 trees are to be planted this year, mainly at Ty Glyn. They are of varieties collected from Tredomen, some from Paramor and member orchards. There are another 100+ trees grafted last year that will benefit from retention for a further year before planting.
SAR

Surplus trees

For a variety of reasons, grafting work during 2019 resulted in more trees than needed. The surplus is marketed by Nurserymen Paul Davis and Tom Adams. (See their stocklists.)

Many of them have also had DNA fingerprinting for confirming their identity. We should like to give MAN members the opportunity to buy them so, if interested, please contact them direct:

Paul Davis: <http://www.applewise.co.uk/>
01558 668744

Tom Adams: <https://www.tomtheappleman.co.uk/>
01691 777 512 & 07776 498 936

Cosmic Crisp®

Yes, its name is a complete give-away, it is no local traditional variety. Recently introduced to the USA, the apple is described as remarkably delicious. It is the result of 20 years of study and research by Washington State University's tree fruit breeding programme; it is a cross between Enterprise and Honeycrisp <https://cosmiccrisp.com/>. It keeps a long time and doesn't bruise easily, attributes which may be key to its success <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50619281>

They are large, round, the skin is rich red with very little russet even in the cavity, and a deep narrow basin. It is reported to be well balanced acidity and sweet. Lenticels are quite prominent giving it a sparkle according to the breeders, and from that the name 'Cosmic' arose. Now we are used to varieties that have prominent lenticels such as Chatley Kernel Red, Barcelona Pearmain, Gipsy King and Ten Commandments (which in Dutch is called Sterrenappel, or Star Apple, after its spots). So perhaps this isn't so much to write about as perhaps a bit of marketing hype. Don't hold your breath though, as only licensed growers in the US can purchase the trees and have to adhere to strict product standards.

I was intrigued as I've not seen them in the UK. A cousin from Denver kindly offered to run the gauntlet of US and UK Customs in mid-January and bring me three: the price was \$2.99/lb, or a dollar more than other premium varieties.

We'd love to have your impressions of Cosmic Crisp or any other variety.

SAR

And what of its taste? My impression is of a Braeburn or Granny Smith, though perhaps less juicy. It is very sweet and with only a little acidity.

Above all, I noted the cleanness of the flavor, no noticeable clinging after-taste which comes with some varieties. The core is quite small for the size of the fruit. It is undeniably a lovely product. My wife, Jennifer, was even more smitten than I and thought it'd be nice with cheese.

We also sampled Limelight (now past its best), Ashmead's Kernel, Kidd's Orange Red and Winston. By comparison, Cosmic Crisp is indeed crisper, juicier, sweeter and slightly less acid, though to my taste it just lacked something, such as is exemplified by that tantalizing distinctively delightful flavour of such as Kidd's Orange Red, Spartan, Egremont Russet, Ellison's Orange and our 'Young 15' (which may be a Sops-in-Wine).



Coming Apple Events 2020

Where *MAN* has a stand, the details are printed in bold. Pomological advice will be available, books and CDs will be for sale and, in season, there may be an apple display. At events marked with ✱ there will be an apple identification service (3 typical specimens of each variety please). Help is required at all events. Free tickets provided & mileage paid. Please contact Ainsleigh Rice on 01497 820332, or email secretary@marcherapple.net. Our website shows an up-to-date Events List (www.marcherapple.net/diary).

Saturday/Sunday, 3/4th April. Welsh Beekeepers 2020 Convention at Harpur Adams.

✱ **Saturday 29th August.(tbc) Black Mountains Festival, Talgarth, Powys.** *MAN* will be in the Cattle Market on the Sunday, from 11.00–17.00. Display of early apples & identification of ripe early varieties. Tastings and fruit for sale.

Friday/Sunday 11–13th September. Ludlow Marches Food and Drink Festival. There is always a good selection of local cider makers and fruit juicers in attendance.

Sunday, 13th (tbc) September. Frampton-on-Severn Country Fair, www.framptoncountryfair.co.uk

Saturday, ???, September 14:30- 17:00. Perry Pear ID at Hartpury Orchard Centre, Hartpury Orchard Centre, Blackwells End, Hartpury, Gloucestershire GL19 3DB United Kingdom.

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 hiring equipment from the Centre. <https://www.hartpuryheritage.org.uk/our-initiatives/the-national-perry-pear-centre/background/>. Perry Pear ID at Hartpury Orchard Centre. £2 per variety, bring at least 8 + a few leaves, all in good condition! <https://glosorchards.org/home/events/category/allevnts/>

✱ **Weekly ID workshop** at The Harp Inn Glasbury (tentatively) *MAN* ID Session from Thursday 24th September (to be confirmed) from 10:15.

Saturday/Sunday, 26th/27th September. Autumn Show at Three Counties Showground, Malvern. <https://www.malvernautumn.co.uk/>. Perry Pear ID available, but 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 or Gloucestershire Orchard Trust stand. Do please note our guidelines and fee for submitting each variety <http://www.marcherapple.net/research/identification/>

✱ **Saturday, 3rd October. Applefest 2014,** Tenbury Wells, held on the town's Burgage Rereational Area, from 10.00–5.00, Further details: www.tenburyapplefest.co.uk

Daily throughout October (to be confirmed) 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 2nd and Sunday 3rd October (to be confirmed) there will be traditional horse and carriage rides to get you into the swing of the season. *MAN* may possibly attend on Sunday 6th and offer an ID service. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/5f62deb6-143e-4765-875d-a346462653de/pages/details>

Saturday 10th October. Apple Day at The Green Wood Centre, Coalbrookdale nr. Telford, from 10.00–5.00 <http://www.shropshireappletrust.co.uk/appleday.ph>. 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 432046.

✱ **Saturday/Sunday, 10th–11th October. 'THE BIG APPLE'.** Weekend rural events in and around Much Marcle. £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, 17th October. Leominster Apple Fair at The Priory, Leominster. 10.00–4.00.** Parking nearby in Bridge Street Car Park. Details from Felicity Norman, Tel. 01568–780886. <https://www.eventgoat.co.uk/leominster/leominster-apple-fair-2019/>

Saturday and Sunday 17/18th October (to be confirmed), National Botanic Garden for Wales, Llanarthne, SA32 8HN, 10:00 - 18:00, Apple Weekend <https://botanicgarden.wales/visit/whatson>. Paul Davis attends with a display of his apples and also brings pot grown trees along for purchase.

✱ **Sunday, 18th 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.

October at The Cider Museum Hereford, Pomona Place, Hereford HR4 0EF; Apple Day cidermaking celebration, details to follow. <https://www.cidermuseum.co.uk/events-exhibitions/>

Wednesday 21st October. NATIONAL APPLE DAY/ <http://commonground.org.uk/projects/orchards/apple-day/>

Sunday, 25th October. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, School Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9RS. *MAN* members may be there for identification. <https://www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk/>

✱ **Tuesday 27th October. Acton Scott,** Acton Scott Historic Working Farm, Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6QN. *MAN* members may be there for identification.

Saturday 14th or 21st November (to be confirmed).

MAN AGM at 11:00 in The Cider Museum Hereford, Pomona Place, Hereford HR4 0EF, details to follow.