

## **Marcher Apple Network Spring 2025 News Sheet**

Dear M A N Members, welcome to the Spring 2025 Newsletter. We hope you are keeping well and that your fruit trees and orchards have survived the winter weather and that you are looking forward to another season of growth and fruitfulness.

A lot has been going on behind the scenes since the AGM and we want to share some of these with the membership.

For our new members – welcome to MAN we hope you enjoy being members and please feel free to get involved in the range of activities we undertake.

### **Admin and Finances**

The society remains on a good financial basis, and, with our new Treasurer, we are looking at how to ensure we remain financially viable for many years to come. Subscriptions, donations and gifts remain our sources of income and a big thank you to Ainsleigh who has just made a substantial gift to MAN.

As many of you know we, MAN, now have a commercial arrangement with Frank Matthews which has already allowed members to purchase root stock at commercial rates giving significant savings. Later this year, members will be able to purchase trees at commercial rates – see website for details.

We have updated the website to make joining and renewing membership with MAN simpler and we also have a new Gift/Donation page removing the need for paper.

We can take BACS, PayPal and Credit Cards online and now at shows we can take credit cards and cash which will help taking donations easier. We have also enrolled in PayPal's charity programme to reduce our costs when using PayPal.

Until now, MAN had no single place to store or share key society documents, everything was kept locally by individual Trustees. We have now taken advantage of the Microsoft Charity programme to obtain a shared file area, in the secure Cloud, at no cost, so that we can store and share our key documents amongst Trustees and post key information to the website.

This secures our core knowledge as it's shared and not relying on an individual's computer and helps with Charity Commission and Companies House regulatory requirements that we are obliged to fulfil as a charity.

## Website

As well as the new membership and gifting pages we have “locked down” some of our content which is MAN intellectual property to members only. If you need a password, then please email the [secretary@marcherapple.net](mailto:secretary@marcherapple.net).

You should see more content, content updated more regularly and changes to improve the website come over the next few months. If you have any suggestions, please contact Steven Richards-Price.

## Facebook

We have a Facebook page, and it would help greatly if members can join it and post and like posts made, this will help us attract more people to the page and potentially help recruitment of new members in the future. If you have any ideas for content, please let Gareth or Andrea know.

## Merchandise

For many years we have sold books, CDs and post cards on the website and at shows. This year we are expanding our product range and now have two mugs with MAN images – Bridstow Wasp and Pig’s Nose Pippin that can be purchased.



We are looking at other products we can sell.

If you have any thoughts, please contact Andrea Jackman.

## Events

The events calendar for 2025 is now available on the website and will be updated with details throughout the year.

We had a successful Grafting Course held last month with 20 attendees including 6 new members. A write up of the event is included below.

An apple ID course has been successfully started this month and those members who have signed up are now on their way to becoming expert pomologists able to help with ID at shows, and have a nice party trick up their sleeve.

There are orchard visits, apple fairs and our AGM listed on the events calendar.

After last year's successful Blossom Picnic at the Paramor Orchard, Cwmdy, MAN is once again opening the gates to the public for another picnic hosted by Cultivate. This will be on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am so please do come along. More details are published on the website Events page. If you are able to help with the stand during the day, please contact [treasurer@marcherapple.net](mailto:treasurer@marcherapple.net).

The AGM is now booked and will again be held in Ludlow.

Please see website Events for details.

## A unique opportunity to own MAN heritage apple trees

As you know, Frank Matthews has made a copy of our Paramor orchard tree collection, and they grafted and grew two grafts of each tree (for redundancy).

We now have many of the "spare" grafted trees for sale **immediately** to MAN members; so here's an opportunity to obtain potted, grafted heritage apple trees. See website and email for details of what is available and how to reserve and pay for your trees.

We also must take trees out at Paramor and Ty Glyn as part of progressive rationalising the holdings at each orchard. If you are interested in any (bare root trees only) from these two orchards please let us know by the **20th of April** as they could be available now, otherwise they'll come out when we have the time.

## Apples & Pears 2025

We would welcome contributions from members for our annual Apples and Pears publication. So, anything Orchard related however short please do tell us, it is only by hearing from members that we can gauge what is going on out there and what you as the members want from M A N in return. Please send any contributions to Wade Muggleton.

## **Apple grafting workshop 8th March 2025 Nash village Hall.**

Having heard the call for more events the trustees, supported by Wade, organised this grafting event as a demonstration of the trustees' commitment to improving member networking and skill acquisition.



20 MAN members attended a morning of apple grafting at Nash near Tenbury Wells; it was pleasing to see members from across the network attending including some from far into Wales. The morning started with an informative presentation from Wade Muggleton on the history, practices and applications of grafting followed by an extremely skilful demonstration of different techniques.

With the safety briefing concluded, members set to work armed with a plentiful supply of sharpened grafting knives, secateurs, red electrical tape and silicon! Members had embraced the chance to share scion wood from their own orchards and a blinding array of scion wood from over 40 different varieties was on offer to members for grafting. Rootstocks of various sizes were available from Frank Matthews at wholesale cost of £1.62 each. Members eagerly set to the task aided by Wade and other members with some experience in grafting, the result in the end was a room full of beaming faces, each clutching proudly a handful of grafted apples (some pears, and a cherry).

It was so pleasing to see and hear the interaction between members (new and old) sharing tips and stories. At the back of the room, we had a small table of our merchandise where we

launched our new 'Bridstow Apple' mug for sale at £8 to members and various books only available through MAN. All of which are available at significant discount to members via the website.

Events like this are a great way to strengthen the bonds of friendship and share knowledge amongst members and indeed we welcomed 6 new members as a direct result of this event, we even managed a pub lunch after the event to continue the frivolity and laughter. Do look out for more opportunities to meet your fellow members in the coming months and a big thank you to all involved with this excellently successful workshop, which is now sure to be an annual event.

### **Some sad news**

One of our members, Chris Sampson, recently and [unexpectedly](#) passed away. Chris attended the grafting course earlier this year and was going to attend the Fruit ID course as an active MAN member. Our condolences to his family.

### **The MAN Trustees – March 2025**