

MARCHER APPLE NETWORK

Charity No: 1095 151

NEWS SHEET No. 5 Spring 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and APPLE DAY, October, 2005. Our annual event was very successful and enjoyed by the large number of people who attended the spacious Baskerville Hall Hotel, Clyro. The venue proved to be very suitable and attracted a good number of local people as well as our own members. We have booked it again for this year. Make a note of the date, Sunday, 22nd October, in your diaries. Offers from members to bring some of their surplus harvest this year would be much appreciated, as people were glad of the opportunity to buy interesting old varieties after tasting them. Can we please have offers of help, required from 9.00am onwards for this particular event? The more the merrier, to help it run smoothly and give helpers time to enjoy the day.

WANTED. We have had some offers of help for which we are most grateful but are repeating our pleas for:-

1) **More members** to take an active part in *MAN* orchard maintenance. We would like to establish groups of volunteers willing to help look after the trees in their local *MAN* Museum Orchard. A very enjoyable day can be spent meeting other members whilst planting, pruning, labelling, adjusting ties and generally helping to maintain these very special varieties of apples. There are jobs for all ages, with fresh air and fun abounding.

2) ***MAN* Work-Party Organizer.** Is there anyone who would be willing to organize orchard work parties? Much of the orchard management has to take place in the winter months, often after Christmas: a good time to improve apple tree and human fitness. **We have provisionally arranged for planting, pruning and some other work to be done at Tredomen Court on two dates: Wednesday, 15th & Thursday, 23rd February. If you are interested, please phone Sheila Leitch on 01497-847354 for further details and location map if required. Leave contact number in case of cancellation due to weather conditions.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The Committee has decided that subscriptions need to be increased due to rising costs and to enable benefits to members to improve. Annual rate will be £10 from 1st August 2006. Would members who pay by Standing Order please amend their instructions to their banks using the enclosed form. The subscription for new Life Members will increase to £100 from that date.

SUCCESS STORY. An Identification Session last Autumn provided information which has helped save an old orchard from a building planning application. *MAN's* identifications were presented in a letter citing the orchard as typical of a well-planned Victorian collection which would supply dessert and culinary varieties over a long period. This letter was used as part of the evidence which saved the orchard.

PROJECTS UPDATES.

Pomona Project. The CDs are selling well but we need to let the general public know about them. Please put the enclosed flyer somewhere it will be seen. If you can put a supply in your local library, information centre, or other suitable place, please contact Tony Malpas and ask for further copies. Tel: 01568-613023.

NEW PROJECTS. 1) Pomona. We are planning a second CD. Contents this time will be Thomas Andrew Knight's *Pomona Herefordiensis* (1811), *The Apple and Pear as Vintage Fruits* by Hogg & Bull (1886), *Perry Pears* by Ray Williams, Long Ashton (1963), *Cider Apples & their Characters* by Ray Williams & R.D.Child, Long Ashton, (1961-64) and *Bulmer's Pomona* (1987). Target publication date: October 2006.

2) **Welsh Marches Pomona.** The time seems right for us to begin work on another Pomona project. Discussions have been taking place with a botanical illustrator, Dr M.A.V. Gill of Glasbury, a Life Member of *MAN*, with a view to producing a new Welsh Marches Pomona which will include accounts and illustrations of local apples not previously fully described. There will be a fuller report in the Summer Newsletter.

GLASU. Sally Shiels is now in post as the New Harvest Project Officer at Glasu, taking over the Perllanau Powys (Orchards in Powys) project from Becky Webb. This year, the project continues with the Orchard Doctors' advice and training, awareness-raising events and an economic study into the feasibility for local orchard fruit producers to supply box schemes and school tuck shops. Glasu hopes to have the results by August. For more information on the Perllanau Powys project, please contact Sally on 01982-552224 or email sally.shiels@powys.gov.uk

Glasu and the Orchard Doctors, Tony and Liz Gentil, have arranged two 'Introduction to Orchards' workshops, one in the north and one in the south of Powys. They will introduce you to topics such as choosing a site, suitable varieties, rootstocks, planting and staking, aftercare, fruit harvesting and storing. If you would like to know more about planting a new orchard or looking after an existing one, these beginners' workshops should prove ideal. Please bring suitable footwear for a tour of the orchard as well. The workshops will run from 10am to 4pm with a light lunch included. Cost is £10 per person. Places are limited so please book by contacting Sally Shiels at Glasu, as above. **See over for dates and locations.** The Orchard Doctors are working on Information Leaflets for the Perllanau Project, which will be available later in the year. The information will, hopefully, also be included in PDF format on the Glasu and *MAN* websites. They are also mapping existing orchards in Powys for Glasu and would be interested to hear from orchard owners, particularly in the north of the county. Please contact the Orchard Doctors for more information on Tel. 01270-780828 or email theorcharddoctor@tiscali.co.uk

COMING APPLE EVENTS. A complete listing with full details and times will appear in Newsletter No.12, but advance notice of some may be helpful, to avoid clashes. An up-to-date Events List can always be found on our website <http://www.marcherapple.net/diary.htm> **Help is required at all events. Please phone Tom Froggatt on 01584-831650 or Sheila Leitch, on 01497-847354.**

SPRING TRAINING COURSES. These courses fill up quickly, so book early if you want to attend. An up-to date Course List can be found on our website <http://www.marcherapple.net/course.htm>

Tuesday, 21st February. Two half-day pruning courses run by Paul Davis, at The Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, arranged by 'The Blue Remembered Hills Project'. To book, contact John Tucker. Tel. 01588-674092.

Saturday, 18th March. 'Introduction to Orchards' at Penpont, near Brecon. Arranged by Glasu. **Details overleaf.**

Saturday, 8th April. 'Introduction to Orchards' at Powis Castle, near Welshpool. Arranged by Glasu. **See over.**

EVENTS.

Saturday/Sunday, 25th/26th March. Open House at the National Vine Collection, King Street, Ewyas Harold, Hfds.

From 12.00am – 4.00pm. Free new year's bottling for tasting. All welcome to this enterprise, run by our members, Brian and Annie Edwards. Tel. 01981-240256.

Saturday, 22nd April. British Beekeepers Convention at Stoneleigh. Details from Tom Froggatt. (See above.)

Sunday/Monday, 30th April/1st May. 'The Big Apple' Blossomtime. Walks & Cider Tasting at Much Marcle, Hfds.

Details from Jackie Denman. Tel. 01531-670544.

Saturday/Sunday, 20th/21st May. Smallholder and Garden Weekend at Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Powys. Details from Tom Froggatt. (See above.)

Sunday, August 27th. Black Mountains Festival, Talgarth, Powys. *MAN* will be in the Cattle Market. Display of early season apples & identifications. Details from Maelog Williams. Tel. 01874-658202..

Saturday, 9th September. Kington Show. Details from Tom Froggatt. (See above.)

Sunday, 10th September. Entertainment under the Apples at Penlanole, Newbridge-on-Wye, Powys. For further details Tel. 01597-811487.

Saturday/Sunday, 16th/17th September. Abergavenny Food Festival. Details from Julia French. Tel.01873-851643.

Saturday/Sunday, 23rd/24th September. Autumn Show at Three Counties Showground, Malvern. Details from T.F.

Thursday, 5th October. Trumpet Ploughing Match & West of England Fruit Show, Much Marcle. Details from Tom Froggatt. (See above.)

Saturday/Sunday, 7th/8th October. Apple Weekend at Berrington Hall, nr. Leominster. Details from Head Gardener, Nick Winney. Tel.01568-610593.

Sunday, 8th October. Apple Day at Acton Scott Farm Museum, nr. Church Stretton. Mike and Chris Porter of *MAN* will be attending for apple identification. (Three typical specimens of each variety please.)

Saturday, 14th October. Apple day at Coalbrookdale. Contact Michael Pooley. Tel. 01592-433229.

Saturday/Sunday, 14th/15th. 'The Big Apple'. For further details of talks, demonstrations and other events, phone the Secretary, Jackie Denman. Tel. 01531-670544.

Saturday, 21st October. Apple Day. Events countrywide. For programme send SAE to Common Ground, Gold Hill House, 21, High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8JE. Tel. 01747-850820. Web Site: www.commonground.org.uk

Saturday, 21st October. Leominster Apple Fair. At Lion Ballroom, Broad Street. Details from Felicity Norman. Tel. 01568-780886.

Saturday/Sunday, 21st/22nd October. Cidermaking Festival at the Cider Museum, Ryelands Street, Hereford. For more details, contact the Cider Museum. Tel. 01432-354207.

Sunday 22nd October. Marcher Apple Network's Annual Event to celebrate Apple Day. At The Baskerville Hall Hotel, Clyro. Preceded in the morning by the AGM, for members only. Details from Sheila Leitch. (See above)

Sunday, 22nd October. Church Stretton Apple Fair. At Silvester Horne Institute, High Street, Church Stretton. From 10.00am – 4.00pm. Details from John Lloyd. Tel.01694-723143.

Friday, 27th October. Tenbury Agricultural Society Fruit Show & Apple Fest. Details from T. Froggatt (See above.)

Saturday 28th October. Special cider event for members: One Day Conference jointly with the Friends of the Cider Museum, Hereford. Subject: The Long Ashton Legacy. Talks and discussion at the Museum in the morning and an orchard walk in the afternoon. Details will be in the Summer Newsletter, but note the date if you are interested.

Saturday/Sunday, 28th/29th October. Small scale village apple-juicing event. Bring some apples and a container if you wish. Village Hall, Clunton, nr. Craven Arms, Shropshire. Details: Tel. 01588 660309.

AUTUMN COURSES IN POWYS. Glasu will be organizing courses as part of their 'Orchards in Powys' programme. To be put on the data base and sent information as courses are arranged, contact Sally Shiels Tel. 01982-552224, or watch out for adverts.

NEWSLETTER No.12. For this issue, please send articles to the Editor, Sheila Leitch, Wye View, Glasbury-on-Wye, HR3 5NU, by 1st June, 2006 at the latest. If material is not sent in by the deadline it will be held over until the next issue. Feedback now from members as to the future content would be very welcome. Which type of articles do you enjoy? Is the present format about right? What would you like to see included or excluded? From small beginnings, our Newsletter has grown, like Topsy, with the content more or less dependent on what is sent in, with some editorial pruning or chopping. An editorial sub-committee has now been appointed, to share the load and ensure the next issue is out in good time to give notice of all the Autumn apple events. Please send articles to me, in Word format, RTF or TXT on disk. If you would like to place an advert, please contact Tom Froggatt to discuss size and costs. If you wish to use email, send your article to newsletter@marcherapple.net

MARCHER APPLE NETWORK

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL REMINDER

We don't appear to have received your subscription yet for 2005/2006, although a reminder was sent out with the last Newsletter. If this is an oversight on your part, we shall be very pleased to receive your subscription now, as we don't want to lose you. It helps if you can renew very soon with this renewal slip, cheques payable to MAN. Send to Treasurer, Mr.T.W. Froggatt, Ashford Mill, Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow, SY8 4BT. Thank you.

If, however, you have decided not to renew, please accept this copy of the Spring News Sheet, with our compliments and our thanks for your past support. If you have any observations as to how our services to members could be improved, we would be glad to hear from you.

MAN Membership Renewal from August 1st 2005

Annual Subscription £5	£.....
or	
Life Membership is available @ £75	£.....
Donation	£.....
Total	£.....

Name.....

Address.....

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MARCHER APPLE NETWORK – LIST OF APPLE EVENTS IN OUR AREA, 2006

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Saturday/Sunday, September 2nd/3rd. Open weekend, National Vine Collection. (See above.)

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