



Marcher Apple Network

Charity No: 1095 151

# NEWS SHEET No. 9

## Spring 2010

### WELSH MARCHES POMONA

We are delighted to announce that this beautiful book has now been published and that an official launch will be held as part of the Big Apple Blossomtime event organised by the parishes of the Marcle Ridge. The launch will be held on the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd. It will take place at Court Farm, next to Aylton church, by kind permission of Rebecca and Ian Jones, at approximately 3.30 pm, after the Morris Dancing. There is ample parking at the barn and refreshments will be served. There will be a exhibition of books and CDs for sale and a special exhibition of the original watercolours used in the production of the Welsh Marches Pomona. The Barn will be open from 2.00 pm. Do come along and talk to members of your committee and meet the author and artist of this important new work. The book will be available for sale to the public from this date,, at £25.00 + p.&p., and members can purchase extra copies (as presents?), less the £5 p.&p. or £20.00 if ordered before the end of March.

### MAN'S CELEBRATION OF APPLE DAY

#### October 2009

Again held over two days, at the Hereford Food Festival, the spacious venue provided room for a very impressive fruit display, including a separate collection of cider varieties. The displays were set up on the Friday afternoon, with several members manning the book stalls and looking after the displays on the Saturday morning, whilst the AGM was being held. However, most of the visitors were unaware of the fruit identification service that was available. This highlights the need to obtain a Publicity Officer for MAN. We again repeat the question: should the venue/venues, be moved around in different parts of the Marches area? Please let us know what you think, by phone, letter or email.

The AGM was held on the Saturday morning, at The Starting Gate, within walking distance of the Racecourse and was well attended, with members contributing ideas for the future. Holding the AGM on a separate date from the Apple Day event, perhaps with another attraction to draw members to it, is still under consideration. Members views please.

### PRUNING COURSES

Two training courses, which were arranged by the Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU), based in Bangor, North Wales and funded by Farming Connect, were held at Primrose Farm, PEAT, Felindre, between Glasbury and Talgarth.

Led by Marc Richmond, they were fully booked and much appreciated by the attendees. The one in late February covered apples, pears and soft fruit and the May course was on stone fruits. Marc has now moved out of the area. This year, CALU are holding a grafting course, with Paul Davis, at The Mountain Centre, Libanus, in the Brecon Beacons National Park. To be held on March 18th, it is already fully booked. I have asked to be notified by CALU of any future courses. Please let us know if you want to attend training courses and if you are not already on call for our work parties at various orchard sites, please contact Sheila.

### PARAMOR ORCHARD

A great day's work was done, in fine weather, at the end of February, at our new orchard at Cwmdy, near Crickhowell, when about 40 helpers planted young trees, all of local apple varieties from the Welsh Marches specially grafted by Paul Davis. MAN members were assisted by volunteers from the village including some of the Cwmdy Sustainable Energy Group, together with representatives of the Llangattock Woodland Group, and Hay Transition Town Group. There was work for all abilities, including digging holes, putting in stakes using heavy post rammers, planting the trees, attaching tree ties, and protecting them from rabbit damage with chicken wire. The damp alder copse was cleared of rubbish and abandoned ironmongery which was then towed away by tractor and trailer to a skip while children from

Cwmdu school erected bird boxes which they had made at school. It makes such a difference to have enough help for orchard work, with time to get to know newcomers, and this site already has the feel of a 'community orchard'. The main work was completed by lunchtime and the volunteers were then served a very enjoyable lunch in the Village Hall. We are very grateful to Nicky Macher and Sylvia O'Brien for their efforts in organising the day so well. Afterwards the MAN members went back on site to consider drainage plans. We had good publicity from this event with reports and pictures in the *Brecon and Radnor Express* and a splendid centre page spread in the *Western Mail*.

## PRUNING & OTHER WORK PARTIES

There will be work party days at Tredomen Court, Llanfillo. Please phone Sheila if you are interested in coming to any work parties and she will phone back to confirm date, depending on weather forecasts. Later in the year, after

the 'June drop' there may be need for a fruit thinning day at Tredomen Court if some of the trees are heavily laden. Help may also be needed for fruit picking in the Autumn as we have several outlets for sale of named varieties. Windfalls and damaged fruit are the perks for the helpers!

## ORCHARDS OF WALES

New members may be interested to know that Liz Gentil has set up, for Glasu, a Yahoo group called Orchards of Wales. Anyone in Wales or the border counties, with an interest in orchards, can join. You can ask questions, and others may contribute to ongoing correspondence and useful information can be found and exchanged. Visit <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/orchardofwales>

# NEWS

## The National Orchard Forum

The Newsletters of NOF are published twice each year and Newsletter Issue 15, Winter 2010, is now out. Electronic versions of all the newsletters are available from the editor, Ann Smith, [smithcovell@btinternet.com](mailto:smithcovell@btinternet.com) Contents of back copies are listed on the NOF website, [www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk](http://www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk) Or write to Ann Smith, NOF, 109 Orchard Way, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2AP, Tel. 01452-855677

## Common Ground

The 21st Apple Day — 21st Oct 2010

Common Ground has been celebrating Apple Day now for two decades. As this year is the 21st anniversary, they invite everyone to make a bit of a song and dance about it, hoping that new recipes will be concocted, new ciders made, lost varieties found, and even new Apple Day songs will be composed and performed.

From the start, Common Ground's aim was to initiate a new calendar custom — to invent a tradition so that the apple and the orchard would take their rightful place in our culinary and cultural lives once more. Common Ground has supported and promoted Apple Day for two decades and this will be the last time that they do it. They hope that Apple Day will prove robust enough as a seasonal occurrence to make it on its own from now on.

## FOR SALE

(1) Set of 6 Marler Haley display boards in their case, in good condition. There are also two larger boards, not cased. New, these cost about £750 and we are asking £200 ono.

(2) *Apples - A Guide to the Identification of International Varieties*. John Bultitude. £200 ono. Very rarely does a copy of this book become available and this one is in excellent condition.

Further details of sale items from Tom Froggatt. Tel. 01584-831650.

## Newsletter Vol. 2 No.4

For this next issue, of *Apples & Pears*, please send articles to the Editor, Celia Kirby, by 1st July, 2010 at the latest, so that the publication is out in good time to give notice of all the Autumn apple events in more detail. You can send articles by letter to Three Stones, Kingswood Road, Kington, HR5 3HE or by email to [celia.kirby@btinternet.com](mailto:celia.kirby@btinternet.com). The Editorial Subcommittee would be very interested to hear your views on future content. Please contact Celia by letter, email or phone Tel: 01544- 230053.

If you would like to place an advert, please contact Tom Froggatt to discuss size and costs.