



## **THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY**

**NEWSLETTER No 110 APRIL 2018**

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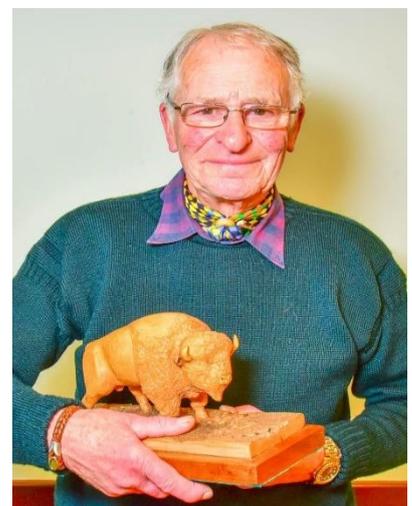
Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

### **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

This month sees our AGM at club night. Thank you once again to all the committee who do a fantastic job of running the society. Also, thanks to all members who support the society so well. If anyone would like to stand for committee at the AGM please make it known at the start of the evening to myself or Bob. Even though our numbers have reduced, we still have had a successful year with well attended shows and club nights. Please see Brian's article at the end of this newsletter with regard to increasing numbers and some improvements we are making to advertise the society. Also, if anyone has ideas for speakers or subjects they would like covered, please speak to Wendy. Look forward to seeing you on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER**

There was a very good display of work put out by members of pieces that had been in our annual show before Christmas. One by one members explained why and how they had made each piece. As usual the range of work was phenomenal, and it took about an hour and a half to get through it all, and liberally scattered with plenty of good humour."



*Thanks to Chris Grace for the photos, Brian .*

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME TROPHIES WERE NOT RETURNED FOR ENGRAVING INCLUDING THE LES SIMMONS CUP FOR RELIEF CARVING AND THE GRETA CHATTERLY PYROGRAPHY TROPHY. PLEASE BRING THEM IN TO THE NEXT MEETING. Bob Jubb

## **MEMBERS WORK**

Sorry I am not able to include this this month as I wasn't at the meeting.

## **FEATURE ARTICLE**

### **Scout Overland Hike Trophy**

**By Wendy Quantrill**

At our last SWS show a scout master, Derrick Payne asked me if I would carve a walking boot as he wished to present a trophy to promote the scout overland hike. I duly carved it for him from lime which I stained light oak and put it on a quartered oak base. I did not attempt too much detail as I felt it needed to be a fairly robust carving and to make a few scuff marks and creases in the boot to make it look more realistic. When Derrick came to collect the trophy I asked him about the hike. All the scout troops in East and West Sussex can enter the competition which is divided into two age groups, 12-14/15-18 years. Derrick initiated the 4day hike across the South Downs, 25 miles from Chichester to Eastbourne in 1968 and has only just retired from organising it. Up to 80 teams comprising of 4 scouts hike a week before Easter, carrying their tents and equipment with them. At each base camp they have various tasks to perform such as first aid, compass work, field work and observation skills which are assessed and awarded points. At the finish in Eastbourne they are rewarded with a great feast and the winning teams are awarded a trophy for each age groups. My trophy will be given to the younger age group and it is nice to know that the groups of Girl Scouts do as well as the boys!



## **THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ**

In which county is England's largest forest?.....Answer on page 5

## **AMAZING TREES**

### **TREE OF LIFE, BAHRAIN**



The **Tree of Life in Bahrain** is one of the mysteries of the world which is bound to be in the list of most unusual trees around the globe! This four-century old mesquite tree survives in the midst of desert without availability of water. The mystery of the survival of the tree has made it a legend and the name “tree of life” is absolutely appropriate for the tree, truly representing the magic of life. A legend is also attached to the site where the tree is located. The local inhabitants believe with heart and soul that this was the actual location of the **Garden of Eden**.

*Bob Jubb has informed me that there is a large underground stream that empties in the sea just off the coast of Bahrain and you can swim in fresh water where it comes up from the sea bed.*

### **AMAZING TREE FACTS**

A fully-grown Oak in the UK grows - and sheds - 250,000 leaves every year and produces around 50,000 acorns in a good year.

### **THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT**

Three guys are stranded in a desert. By a stroke of luck, they find a magic genie lamp.

The genie grants each of them one wish.

The first guy wishes to be back home. Wish granted.

The second guy wishes the same. Wish granted.

The third guy says, "It feels very lonely here now, I wish my good friends were back with me".  
Wish granted.

## THE AMAZING WORD OF WOOD

finally found the square root!



Two entirely differing photos for you this month. Wood never ceases to amaze me.

## REFORESTATION IN KOREA

Continuing with more good news about reforestation is the following item.

South Korea could likely serve as the model for reforestation: Lester Brown noted in *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth* that "Perhaps the most successful national reforestation effort is the one undertaken in South Korea beginning more than a generation ago." At the end of Korean war hostilities in 1953, the country was almost completely deforested because of logging and heavy use of firewood during the 35-year Japanese occupation earlier in the century. Since then, national and local government efforts have turned bare mountains into forest lands: according to *The Korea Times*,

Between 1961 and 1995, stocked forest land went up from 4 million hectares to 6.3 million hectares. Total timber rose from 30.8 million cubic meters in 1954 to over 164.4 million cubic meters in 1984. By 2008, 11 billion trees had been planted. About two-thirds of South Korea is now clothed with forest.

Even the de-militarised zone is now "pristine wildlife habitat" and while South and North Korea are still on hostile terms, the former has helped the latter with tree planting efforts.

*We need much more of this. Why is great news like this never given the publicity it deserves? We hear all the bad news about deforestation and quite rightly so, but I just wish our media would also publish some of the good news for I feel it would inspire people much more than continual bad news.*  
Brian.

## TREE FOLK LORE

### THE BEECH

*Something new for this month's newsletter; Tree Folk Lore. Trees have long been associated with legends and folk lore so I thought I would include a few of them in our newsletter over the next few months.* Brian.

The Beech has since prehistory been used as a relatively light material on which to carve the written word. The old High German word buchhin, meaning 'from Beech wood', became the word for 'book' in both German and English.

Astrologers associate it with Saturn, giving it the traits of preservation, compression, contraction and isolation. There is very little undergrowth in a beech wood and often none at all close to the tree trunks. At the same time, the astrologers assert that all broad-leaved trees are ruled by Jupiter. This gives the beech the force of expansion. It is, perhaps, the balance of the two forces which gives the tree its vitality. It is one of the most successful trees in Western and Central Europe.

## **FUTURE SWS TALKS**

### **2018**

April 11th A G.M. Pam Brewer. Owls Alive

May 9th: Bernie Harris/Chris Grace Letter carving

June 13<sup>th</sup> Adrian Smith. A chat about walking sticks.

When you are out and about at wood shows or exhibitions, if you see any person you think might be a candidate to give us a talk, please do ask them or at least take a note of their details and pass it on to Wendy or any of our committee member so we can maintain the great speakers we have had. We are always open to suggestions for new speakers and we do need your help and input to help with this.

Please also let me know of any shows or exhibitions you think may be of interest to our members so I can include them in the section below.

## **EVENTS FOR 2018**

### **April**

13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Yandle's spring show Martock Somerset

### **May**

5<sup>th</sup> Wood from the Trees, Amberly Museum and Heritage Centre

12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Bodgers Ball Association of Pole Lathe Turners & Greenwood Workers, Weald & Downland Museum

26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Traditional Crafts Weekend, Amberly Museum and Heritage Centre

26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Wakehurst Place Wildwood Weekend (SWS members will be taking part)

### **JUNE**

8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> West's Wood Fair, East Dean Near Chichester (Now a three-day show)

### **July**

28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Woodfest Caerwys North Wales

### **AUGUST**

25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> The Stock Gaylord Oak Fair Sturminster Newton Dorset

### **September**

16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> European Woodworking Show, Cressing Temple Barns Essex

28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Bentley Woodfair

28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Yandle's Autumn show Martock Somerset

29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Surrey Hills Woodfair (to be confirmed) Birtley House Estate, Guildford, Surrey

## **October**

12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> D & M Tools Tool Show Kempton Park Racecourse Surrey

26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Woodworking Power Tool Show Westpoint arena Exeter Devon

## **December**

21<sup>ST</sup> Setting up at Henfield

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual show at Henfield

Please note - as it is possible some shows may be cancelled or have the dates changed. Please check with organisers before travelling

## **ANSWER TO THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ**

The answer is..... Northumberland.

## **A PLEA TO OUR MEMBERS**

Hi folks, I have been informed that Jenny Burstow would like to continue to come to our club meetings but unfortunately, she has had to sell her car. Is there anyone who would be kind enough to help by bringing her to our future meetings? She lives at Mile Oak, Portslade. If you feel able to help, you can contact her directly on 01273 758868 or you can phone me on 01444 232824. It would be greatly appreciated, Brian.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We do need more members for our club. So, if you know of anyone you think may be interested in our club and its activities, please encourage them to come along or ask me to send them details regarding our club. Not only do new members swell our ranks but they often bring in fresh ideas.

Tom Lednore, myself and your committee are working to refresh our club stand. We are looking at replacing some of the photos on the display board as they are getting rather dated. We are also laminating the new photos so that we can take the board to places like Wakehurst Place. This wasn't possible in the past as the photos curled in the damp atmosphere. We have also purchased a 40-page book so we can display photos of our members work. So, may I ask if you have spare photos of your work you would like us to include, please bring them in to next month's meeting and give them to any committee member. Many thanks, Brian.