



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMANS LETTER

Christmas is upon us once again and I am very much looking forward to our annual show in Henfield on the 22nd December.

Please support us by entering the competition. The more entries the better the exhibition will be and also make sure you tell family and friends about the show and come along to purchase that last-minute present from one of our members' stands.

Anyone who would like to donate a cake for Katrina, Val and myself to sell on the day would be very much appreciated. As usual, tea, coffee and cakes will be on sale and proceeds help with raising money for the club.

Also, don't forget those tombola prizes as well please. If you could bring them along to our December club night on the 12th that would be really appreciated.

This year is Tom Lednor's last year organising the show as he is standing down at next year's AGM. Over the years Tom has done a fantastic job organising and making each show truly amazing. Let's try to make Tom's last show the best ever!

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Phillip Ricketts was last months speaker and his talk/slideshow was entitled, "THE MAKING OF ME". It was the first time he had spoken in public and he did very well. He showed how he used discarded pallettes to make a lot of varies items. These pallettes are nearly always constructed of softwood. It is so nice to see items made from scrap and Phil does have a large range of items and will make items to people requirement. Phil is looking for a garage size workshop with electricity so he can expand the range of items he produces. If anyone can help it would be appreciated.



MEMBERS WORK

People who brought in work last month included, Paul Purdy, Jim Young, Bernie Harris. Jim Young brought in a lamp and a bowl turned from Monkey Puzzle timber, and as any one knows timber that contains knots is not easy to turn or finish as you have both soft and hard timber. Paul brought in some Christmassy items he had made, and Bernie brought in some walking sticks. A nice varied collection as usual.



FEATURE ARTICLE

THE CHANGING FACE OF CRAFT SHOWS

As we approach our 33rd Annual Show, I am reminded of the very first craft show I took part in. My son who was at London Road School in Burgess Hill came home and proudly announced he had booked me in for his school's craft fair. I was shocked as I had never been to a craft fair, let alone take part in one. My wife had bought me a Black and Decker drill powered lathe and I had only been turning a few months. Anyway, at the craft fair there was this great woodcarver who I found was named Bob Jubb and as an indirect result of our meeting, some months later The Sussex Woodcraft Society was formed.

When Bob and I first started, Craft fairs were a bit of a rarity but a few months after our club was formed, we decided to put on our very first Annual Exhibition, which was held where we used to meet at the Red Cross Hall in Lower Church Road in Burgess Hill. I remember being amazed at both the range and the quality of work that was brought in. From a membership that numbered less than thirty, we managed to fill the hall with high quality woodwork. I wish I had some photos from way back then but I didn't take a camera with me. Since then our shows have evolved and has become a wonderful showcase for the talented people we have in our group and our shows are well known for the variety and quality of work on display.

I get angry where I visit some so-called craft shows and find a lot of the items on display are not hand crafted at all. I used to do a craft fair at Plumpton but they had stands selling watches, books which were obviously printed by large printing companies which were claiming to be hand crafted. In fact, the last one I did there I would say about 70 to 80% of the goods on display in the craft hall were not what I would call crafted items. Genuine crafts people cannot compete against this and in my opinion, depreciate the public's perception of what crafts are. It seems to me all the organisers are interested in is selling the table space.

When we first started, we didn't have to have insurance for our stands like we do today. The price of tables seems to get dearer every year which coupled with the insurance cost mean a lot of people can't even break even. I know of several people who have given up exhibiting and now only sell to

family and friends. Most crafts people I know don't do fairs for the money but they do expect to break even and cover their costs and that is getting increasingly difficult.

But back to our shows, we have been very lucky to have had some good show organisers. Our first one was Dave Clarke who moved away some years ago and was replaced by our Tom Lednor. I know Tom gets a lot of help from members, but I would like to end this by thanking Tom and his band of helpers who make our shows the great success they are each year. A lot of hard work and planning goes into each show starting weeks before the event. So thanks very much, Tom and friends.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

In which continent did the monkey-puzzle tree originate?.....Answer on page 5

AMAZING TREES

Here are pictures of some unusual looking trees I have come across just recently that were unfortunately not identified but which I thought I would like to share with you. Just goes to show, just like us humans, trees grow in all shapes and sizes. I am guessing the one on the left is related to the Baobab trees while the one on the right must surely be one of the many varieties of palm trees of which there are thousands of different varieties.



AMAZING TREE FACTS

More than 25% of the medicines we use originate in rainforest plants

Yet only 1% of rainforest plants have been studied for medicinal properties. Every second an area of rainforest the size of a football pitch is cut down meaning every day we might lose a potential cure.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart. "Wal-Mart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why on earth do you want your ashes scattered at Wal-Mart?" She replied, "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week".

THE AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD



Someone once said to me it's not the wood, it's what we do with it that counts. One for the kids this month. I can just imagine the fun the kiddies would have in climbing the stairs just to come down on the slide again. I wouldn't mind one myself ha ha. Would certainly speed up my decent. If I got one put in, I would expect my wife to get twice as much work done. Ouch, she's just read this!!!!

FUTURE SWS TALKS

2018

December 12th Video Tiger Safari / Paul and Katrina Reader Quiz

2019

January and February **No Meetings**

March 13th Resume of Christmas Show

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 Robert Packer who has taken over from Wendy in organising our future talks 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, especially events for next year.

EVENTS FOR 2018

December

21st Setting up at Henfield for Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual Show and Exhibition

22nd Annual show at Henfield for Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual Show and Exhibition

(9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.)

EVENTS FOR 2019

September

6th & 7th

Event: Yandles Autumn Woodworking Show

Location: Yandles & Son Ltd, Hurst Works, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JU

Contact: Tel. 01935 822 207

Cost: FREE Entry, FREE parking

Hours: 10.00am to 5.00pm Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday

One of the largest woodworking shows of the year. Charnwood's representatives will be there to demonstrate our range of bandsaws, table saws, planer thicknessers plus woodturning lathes and chucks.

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

Answer..... South America and the first seeds were brought back to this country by Sir Archibald Makenzie.

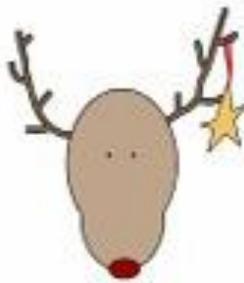


What's a good holiday tip?

**Never catch snowflakes
with your tongue until all the birds
have gone South for the winter**



May I on behalf of your committee wish you and your families all a great **Christmas** and a happy **New Year**. I would also like to thank each of you for the support you have given to the club over the past few months. **YOU** are what make the club what a happy club it is so thank you.



Why did Santa start sneezing as he went down the chimney?

He caught the flue