



# **THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY**

**NEWSLETTER No 112 JUNE 2018**

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

## **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

As Brian mentions below we had a presence at the Wild Wood Festival at Wakehurst over the Bank Holiday weekend. I was there with my Wakehurst hat on, carving with Katrina. I must admit it was lovely to get stuck into a project for three days and make some good progress despite the interruptions from people wanting to look and chat about what I was doing. It was lovely to get great feedback about our display and also work in progress. I did plug the SWS marquee and send them to chat to other members and also to ask about membership. So let's hope we get some new members out of it.

One young lady, who was there on Monday, must have come back to have a look at the progress I was making on my carving during the day at least six times. It was so nice to see such enthusiasm in someone so young (9 years old). While chatting to her mum, she mentioned to me how she loved crafts of all types, especially wood. Let's hope that enthusiasm continues and maybe we will see her at one of our carving clubs in the future. I have taken her email address so that I can send an image of my completed project to her.

## **LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER**

We had a very good talk by Chris Grace and Bernie Harris who talked about letter carving. With a video camera operated by Graham Quantrill, they demonstrated how to carve letters in wood. It was a very interesting talk and I learnt a lot. I didn't know for instance that cavemen had the first house signs. Also, I learnt there are lots of places that have lots of samples of Bernie's handiwork on their premises. I thought Chris and Bernie make a good double act, (much like the two Ronnie's) Sorry Guys. Thanks to both of them and to Graham.

## **WAKEHURST WILDWOOD WEEKEND**

Several of our members participated in this event, and although the weather was good, unfortunately the sales were way below what members achieved last year at the same event. We had lots of nice comments about our work and we had several people very interested in joining our club. For our August show, we will be back by the visitor centre. Thanks go to all those who took part.



## MEMBERS WORK

We had three people bring in work. I brought in a finished and one part finished lighthouse and told how I have found a new way of gluing them together. Bob Jubb brought in a lovely crucifix that he and Bernie have both done work on. He also showed a love spoon he has carved for a relative. Doug Moyle brought in a beautifully carved beetle he has made. I must also apologise to Doug as the pistol I featured in last months newsletter was his and not Ray Osgood's. Sorry Doug.



## THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Which garden tree with yellow flowers has poisonous seeds?.....Answer on page 5

## AMAZING TREES

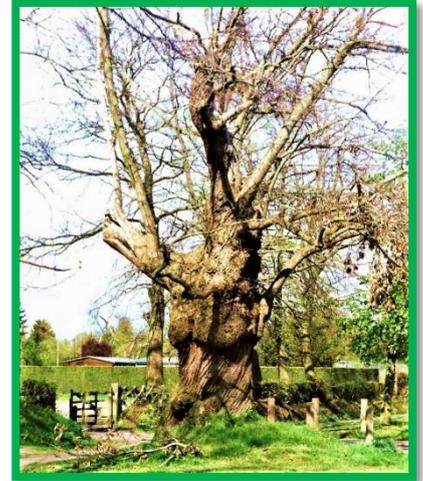
### AMAZING TREES IN SUSSEX

I have decided to write a few articles for our newsletters about some of our local amazing trees in Sussex. Over the years I have taken many photos of trees that were either old, misshapen or

unusual, or sometimes all three together (much like me) so these are the ones I want to highlight. A lot of trees I have photographed are Beeches and Sweet Chestnuts, as they often grow misshapen, with the Sweet Chestnuts often having spiral growth

## **SWEET CHESTNUTS OF FELBRIDGE**

Some years ago, while out for a drive, I saw a row of old, misshapen Sweet Chestnut trees. I stopped and took some photos of them on a pre-digital camera. I later found out the place where they were growing was called Felbridge. So, when I decided to write this article, I decided to find out more about these trees. My research turned up the fact they were thought to have been planted by the Evelyn family and there were two avenues planted and the trees are thought to be about 300 years old.



One avenue stretched from Rowplatt lane at the junction with Twitten Lane, to the southern entrance to the site of Felbridge Park off Copthorne Road. This avenue had 52 tree locations along the overall distance. The second avenue started just before Warren Close on the Crawley Down Road near the bus shelter. This also had 52 original tree locations. However, of the original 104 trees there were only 40 left standing in 2000 and this number has since been further reduced due to development in Twitten Lane.

Despite their age, they are still covered in leaves and produce a decent crop of chestnuts each year.

## **AMAZING TREE FACTS**

The world's oldest trees are Bristlecone pines in the USA, with confirmed ages up to 4600 years. Britain's oldest tree is probably the Fortingall Yew in Tayside, which is believed to be over 3000 years old. Westonbirt's oldest tree is a 2000-year-old coppiced lime in Silk Wood.

## **THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT**

Two men are playing golf. One of them is about to take a swing when a funeral procession appears on the road next to the course. He stops mid-swing, takes off his cap, closes his eyes, and bows his head in contemplation.

His opponent comments: "That must be the most touching thing I've ever seen. You are a very feeling man." The man, recovering himself, replies, "Yeah, well we were married 35 years."

## **THE AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD**



One for the turners and one for the carvers this month with the emphasis on **BIG**. I wonder how many pieces had to be cut for the large vase.

## TREE FOLK LORE

### The Lime Tree

There are many myths and traditions associated with the **lime tree** including those from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Celtic times and the Middle Ages.

Oak trees and limes often grow close to each other. This could be the basis of a Greek myth, which speaks of a time when the gods, Zeus and Hermes, decided to pay a visit to the land of mortals to see if they were behaving themselves. In disguise, they knocked on many doors and found that no one would give them shelter, eventually, they came to the house of Philemon and Baucis who welcomed them. To reward them for their generosity, Zeus granted them their wish to remain together forever after they died and transformed Philemon into an Oak tree and Baucis into a tilia (lime tree) so they could be side by side.

The lime tree was sacred to the Celts and judicial cases were commonly heard by a court sitting under a lime tree. This was said to inspire fairness and justice.

Because of the heart-shaped leaves the Lime tree was dedicated to Venus, goddess of love and In folklore medicine, preparations from the lime were said to cure all diseases relating to her.

## FUTURE SWS TALKS

### 2018

June 13<sup>th</sup> Paul Reader talking about *Nature*.

July 11<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Kelly Wild Life Wood sculptures.

August 8<sup>th</sup> David Dyke, Luther + Exotic wood supplier

September 12<sup>th</sup> SWS Tool Auction

October 10<sup>th</sup> Michael Blencowe: - Sussex Nature Reserve

November 14<sup>th</sup> TBA

December 12 Video Tiger Safari / Paul and Katrina Reader Quiz

## 2019

January and February No Meetings

March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 is taking 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.

## EVENTS FOR 2018

### 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

25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Wakehurst Place (SWS members will be exhibiting)

### 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 for Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual Show and Exhibition

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual show at Henfield for Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual Show and Exhibition

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

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

## ANSWER TO THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Answer..... Laburnum.