

THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

What a great club night we had in April. Pam and her colleagues were superb with their wonderful collection of owls.

It was also our AGM and once again all the committee were in agreement to stand for re-election. We welcome Bob Packer to the committee. He is going to work closely with Wendy and eventually take on organising our club night speakers. I must say a big thank you to Wendy for all she has done for the society as chairperson and talk organiser. It is very much appreciated. We are also very lucky to have such a dedicated committee who work to promote, encourage and expand the experience had by our members. Brian and Frank do a great job in keeping you informed through our newsletter and website which at times can be challenging. Phil does sterling work keeping our finance books up to scratch. Tom delivers excellent club shows which takes a lot of organising. Mike sits on committee and is a valued member who often gives us good/constructive advice at our committee meetings. One role I would not like is the role Bob Turner fills - having the pressure of getting that computer and projector to talk to each other when we have power point shows etc. Well done Bob! The person who I think underpins the society and keeps it ticking over is Bob Jubb as our secretary. He does a huge amount of organising behind the scenes, so a big thank you to you. He also has to put up with me as part of the double act on club nights! Membership numbers have fallen quite dramatically over the years but we still have a healthy membership and a good turnout at club nights. We are still getting a few new members each year but these are lower than the fall we are experiencing! Hopefully one day we may see an 'upturn' in people joining and enjoying the craft that we all love to do. Finally, I must say thank you to all the members for continuing to support us. Long may the club continue!

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Last month's speaker was Pam Brewer who brought along two colleagues and lots of owls. I have to admit, owls are one of my favourite birds (of the feathered variety you understand). But the one I liked best was the barn owl. His eyes hardly left Pam the whole evening and it was plain to see, they have a special rapport. I have noticed over the years owls are a bird which is often carved by our members. Thanks to Bob Jubb for the photo. I really enjoyed the evening and thanks to Wendy and Graham for organising it.



MEMBERS WORK

I always enjoy the part of the evening where members bring in work they have just completed and am always amazed at the variety and quality of the items they bring in. Photos by Frank Botterill



I only had space for these two pictures. The gun is by Ray Osgood and the teal is by Bob Jubb.

FEATURE ARTICLE

NEWS REGARDING DRONE PLANTING OF TREES

These Tree-Planting Drones Are About to Start an Entire Forest from The Sky

Villages have spent years replanting mangroves along the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar (also known as Burma). Now their work will go much faster, with some help from above. A British company, Bio-Carbon Engineering has won a large contract to help with the planting.

For the past five years, a group of villagers in the delta of the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar has painstakingly planted 2.7 million mangrove trees in an attempt to begin to restore an ecosystem that has been disappearing for decades. But the work is laborious, and the local non-profit guiding the work wants to cover a much larger area—so they're now turning to tree-planting drones. It's technically possible for a single drone pilot to oversee six of the drones simultaneously, reaching the maximum of 100,000 plantings in a day, though drone regulations in some countries require a pilot for every drone, making the process slightly slower. The drones are at least 10 times faster than humans planting trees by hand.

Bio-Carbon began developing the technology in 2015, and though the founders won't share many details about how it has evolved—explaining that competitors are trying to copy them—they say that they have successfully tested the process on test plots in the U.K. and in Australia, where they used a seed-spreading drone to plant trees at an abandoned coal mine. "Survival rates are definitely much better than spreading from a helicopter, which many people use." In the U.K., where the test plots have been in place for more than a year, the trees are showing good rates of survival. "Survival rates are definitely much better than spreading from a helicopter, which many people use," says Fedorenko. "In some species, it's comparable with hand planting."

In Myanmar the technology will be tweaked to best handle local conditions. Mangrove trees grow in brackish water along coastlines, so the drones will have to successfully shoot the seed pods underwater. Members of the local community will be paid to collect seeds and load the seed pods for planting, and, more importantly, take care of the trees as they grow. "Planting trees on its own is not actually that hard," she says. "The crucial part of the ecosystem restoration project is not actually planting trees, it's the post-planting monitoring and management." Mangroves play several roles in the area. The roots filter the water and create a tangled, protected network where fish can live. As the trees have been cut down to make way for rice or shrimp farming or used for fuel—75% of the local mangrove cover was lost by the 1990s—the local fishing industry has seen fish stocks plummet. The trees also protect the coastline from storms. In 2008, when a hurricane hit the area, killing at least 138,000 people, the damage was likely much worse because of deforestation. "We are now racing

against time to rebuild the green shield in order to protect the most vulnerable people living in the coastal zones before another massive storm hits them again,” says Bremley Lyngdoh, a board member at Worldview International. Mangroves also play a role in fighting climate change; an acre of the trees can sequester several times more carbon than the same area of undisturbed rainforest; on the flip side, cutting down mangroves also releases a huge amount of carbon.

I was pleased to read Bio-Carbon Engineering has won this contract for although this country has some of the best designers in the world, we often don't provide them with funds to develop their ideas, and often have to take their ideas abroad to get the funding they require. I look forward to hearing how this project turns out. Brian.

THE AMAZING WORD OF WOOD



How about this for a chainsaw project

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A man asks a farmer near a field, “Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:23 train.”

The farmer says, “Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you’ll even catch the 4:11 one.”

AMAZING TREES

You’re probably thinking “I know all there is to know about bananas; You can eat them for breakfast and they can make delicious banana bread.” Well, there is more to bananas than eating them. Even though they grow on trees, bananas are not trees, but giant herbs. After a year, they reach their full height of anywhere between 10 and 20 feet. The blossoms eventually bloom into a fruit, where they then ripen and are used for sustenance. Banana stems can weigh nearly 100 pounds and are about 93 percent water.

Habitation: Found in Central America, South America, Africa, Southeast Asia and non-tropical regions like the United States thanks to modern agricultural technologies.

I always thought bananas grew on trees so I was quite surprised to learn they grow on giant herbs. Brian.



AMAZING TREE FACTS

Britain is thought to have the largest population of 'ancient' trees in Europe.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Which tree do we get turpentine from?.....Answer on page 5

TREE FOLK LORE

THE ELM

According to Tree Yoga (see references below), the Elm is attuned to the spiritual properties of communication, love, letting go and freedom but: "The elum hateth man and waiteth". This proverb refers to the negative side of the "letting go" and "freedom" properties mentioned above. Don't climb or stand under an elm tree: they have a habit of dropping heavy branches, often weighing over a ton, without warning. When I was a kid growing up in Ipswich, I remember two boy scouts, camping in a nearby field under an elm tree in a storm, were killed when the tree dropped a large branch on to their tent.

The tree has a long association with man; its leaves have been used for animal fodder since the stone age. The tree stood at the crossroads leading to the fairy world, and so an Old English name is "Elven Wood," ("Elfenholz" in German) which indicates its association with the spirit world and the elm has been associated with death rituals both in Ancient Britain and Classical Greece. In England the wood was used traditionally for coffins while the ancient Greeks planted it in graveyards. Orpheus bewailed the loss of his love Euridyce with his lyre, beneath an elm tree. His enchanting song was so full of grief and despair that all of the forest animals gathered around and even the wind stopped to listen, and an Elm grove sprang up from the sound of his lyre. According to Virgil, the tree was found in the underworld.

OAKMASTERS

I recently visited a company called Oakmasters situated at The Mill, Isaac's Lane, Haywards Heath. They produce a lot of different things made from oak, including oak frames for Houses, Garages, porches, large structural beams and kiln dried beam casings. I found out they have a quantity of 25m/m sawn kiln dried oak in short end offcuts in varying widths from 3 feet and less. They are prepared to sell them to our members for very reasonable prices. Hope this is of interest to you all.

The managers name is Simon Wycherley and the phone no is 01444 455 455.

EUROPEAN TREE OF THE YEAR 2018

*I have recently found out about an annual competition for **European Tree of the Year** where people vote for their choice. I will be finding out more about this and will give details of how to vote, so if it's possible, some of our members might like to take part in it. The voting takes place In February and the winner is announced in the early part of the year and I will be featuring more of the runners up in the coming months.*

Environmental Partnership Association, the organizer of the contest, reserves the right to stop voting or change the rules of voting. Brian.

THE WHISTLER

The whistler owes the name to the sound from countless birds that lay on its branches. Planted in 1783 in Aquas de Moura, this cork oak has already been stripped more than twenty times. In addition to the contribution the cork industry, it has huge relevance for ecosystem services and fighting climate change. With 234 years of age, the Whistler has been classified as “Tree of Public Interest” since 1988 and is registered in **The Guinness Book of Records** as “the largest cork oak in the world.”



FUTURE SWS TALKS

2018

May 9th: Bernie Harris/Chris Grace Letter carving
June 13th Adrian Smith. A chat about walking sticks.
July 11th Lorraine Kelly Wild Life Wood sculptures.

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

May

5th Wood from the Trees, Amberly Museum and Heritage Centre

12th 13th Bodgers Ball Association of Pole Lathe Turners & Greenwood Workers, Weald & Downland Museum.

26th 27th 28th Traditional Crafts Weekend, Amberly Museum and Heritage Centre.

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

JUNE

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

July

28th 29th Woodfest Caerwys North Wales

AUGUST

25th 26th The Stock Gaylord Oak Fair Sturminster Newton Dorset

25th 26th 27th Wakehurst Place (SWS members will be exhibiting)

September

16th 17th European Woodworking Show, Cressing Temple Barns Essex

28th 29th 30th Bentley Woodfair

28th 29th 30th Yandle's Autumn show Martock Somerset

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

October

12th 13th 14th D & M Tools Tool Show Kempton Park Racecourse Surrey

26th 27th Woodworking Power Tool Show Westpoint arena Exeter Devon

December

21ST Setting up at Henfield

22nd 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..... Pine trees.