



# THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 123 MAY 2019

**President:** Wendy Quantrill 01273-845977

**Chairman:** Paul Reader 01444-451979

**Secretary:** Bob Jubb 01444-232955 e-mail [bojjubb658@gmail.com](mailto:bojjubb658@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Frank Botterill 01273-890598 e-mail [FABlamorna@aol.com](mailto:FABlamorna@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Philip Starnes 01444-453606 e-mail [pstarnes@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pstarnes@tiscali.co.uk)

**Editor and membership secretary:** Brian Campion 01444-232824 <mailto:briancampion542@gmail.com>

**Web address:** <http://www.sussexwoodcraft.co.uk>

Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Part of our next club night will be the AGM. I promise we will keep it 'short and sweet!' If anyone would like to stand for committee, taking on one of the roles, please let us know on the evening. One role you know is available for filling is show organiser, this includes our annual show. As you are aware, Tom is stepping down from this role after many years of dedicated service. Thank you, Tom.

This year's annual competition is a clock. It can take on any form you like so it does not have to be traditional! We will supply a quartz movement and hands for those people who would like to take part. There will be a list at club night so we know how many to order. If you can't make club night please email one of the committee and let them know then we can add you to the list. If you want to purchase your own movement that is completely up to you.

Also, Jim Young and the committee of the South Downs Woodturners are inviting SWS members to their club meeting in June. An invite to the SWS for members to come along to our practical evening on the 6th June and to bring some examples of their work. We meet at Lancing Village Hall South Street BN15 8AJ. If members go onto the South Downs Woodturners web site and click on Contacts / Links they will get a map and directions. The evening is an informal meeting. There is a 3 Lathe set up in the Hall with 3 members demonstrating - one is aimed particularly at beginners. We would aim to have the SWS set up in the adjoining hall so they can chat to our members and also watch some of the demos. The evening starts at 7.00 and aims to finish by about 9.30. The hall opens at 6.00 but most members arrive between 6.15 – 6.45. We break for refreshments at about 8.00 for tea and coffee. This is free but we do ask members to bring their own mugs. I attended their April club night and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Please speak to Jim or myself at our May club night for more details. **It would be advisable for members who plan to go to try to car share as parking is limited.**

## LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Malcolm Knight of the Tottington Woodlanders gave us a slide show and talk about Tottington woods. Tottington Woodlanders are an active group of conservation volunteers who manage 13 acres of Ancient woodland in Small Dole.

The main objective of the work that the Woodlanders carry out is to restore Tottington Wood as it was in the past and as a result produce quality timber and wood products. As a result of putting the wood back into a coppice cycle, the habitat is improved which therefore benefits and supports the local wildlife. This will hopefully increase the numbers of species present and perhaps encourage the return of those previously lost.

Tottington Woodlanders is a registered charity and affiliated to the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

## MEMBERS WORK

I would like to say a special big thank you to Frank Botterill for bringing his camera along each month to take great photos of members work. It makes my job a lot easier and adds a splash of colour to our newsletters. I think this is a very important part of the evening and one which I always enjoy. It is nice that people feel able to stand up and talk about their work, even telling us sometimes when things have gone wrong, for we can all learn from this. So please keep on bringing in your latest creations or even some of your older work.



Several people brought work in this last month and it is nice to see a wide variety of work brought in by our members.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### BRITAIN'S WIDEST RHODODENDRON

“Old Cornish Red” becomes Britain’s widest single stemmed Rhododendron after growing to 30ft high and 40ft wide. The enormous plant dwarfs those who come to marvel at its size and stunning pink flowers. It’s safe to say it has definitely outgrown the expectations of Victorian explorer Frederick Du Cane Godman, the man who planted a small bud in the gardens of the South Lodge Hotel in Horsham, West Sussex – 120 years ago.



The ‘Old Cornish Red’ - a giant rhododendron - planted 120 years ago by a Victorian explorer is Britain's widest single stemmed rhododendron and attracts visitors from around the world. Normally rhododendrons, which were introduced to the UK from the Alps in the 18th century, only grow between three and six feet high. ‘It has re-rooted itself over the years as it has grown and the branches have touched the ground, so that is how it has spread so much,’ said the

hotel's head gardener Paul Collins. The Victorian explorer, Frederick Du Cane Godman who died in 1919, travelled the world collecting rare orchids, alpine plants and magnolias with his second wife Dame Alice, who shared his love of horticulture. 'It is very unusual because you normally find lots of rhododendrons planted together but this is just one on its own on the lawn. 'It could be more than 40ft now, I would say closer to 50ft.' Mr Collins said tourists often travel to the hotel just to look at the rhododendron. 'It really is so impressive, especially when it is in full flower like it is now,' he said. 'It's in full bloom for two or three weeks a year, with pinky-red blossoms and it just looks spectacular. 'It really makes you stop and go "ooh" when you see it, and I know we have had some tourists from Holland come in recently just to see the rhododendrons. 'It's been in flower for about two weeks now so we have just one week left of it looking like this.'

Cambridge scholar Mr Du Cane Godman, whose family bought the hotel and its grounds in several stages from 1883, was fascinated with nature and zoology. The explorer, who died in 1919, travelled the world compiling a natural history classification of 50,263 species and gathered a large collection of rare orchids, alpine plants and magnolias with his second wife Dame Alice, who shared his love of horticulture. The couple planted rhododendron hybrids throughout the South Lodge grounds together. Commenting on the giant shrub, David Alderman, director of the Tree Register of Great Britain, said: "If it is one single plant then it is indeed the widest spreading we know of, although we know of taller and probably much larger girthed specimens of rhododendron."

## **THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ**

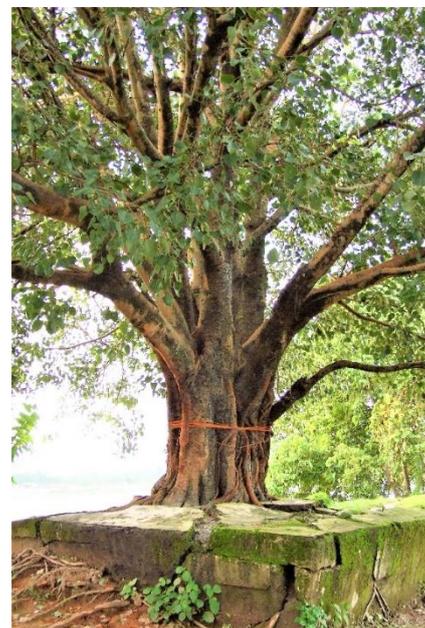
How many types of Rhododendron are there?.....Answer on page 5

## **AMAZING TREES**

### **THE PEEPAL TREE**

Trees are sacred in India, and often associated with a god or a goddess. Some scholars believe that it is the tree that was worshipped first, maybe for its medicinal or symbolic purpose, and that the gods and goddesses came later. That may be the case but today trees are an integral part of a deity's symbolism.

The Peepal tree is associated with Yama, the god of death and the tree is often planted outside the village near crematoriums. The Peepal tree does not let a blade of grass grow under it. Thus, Peepal tree does not allow for any rebirth and renewal. While Peepal offers shade from the sun, it offers no food. That is why it is not part of fertility ceremonies like marriage and childbirth where food-giving, rapidly renewing, plants with short lifespan such as Banana, Mango, Coconut, Betel, Rice and even grass, are included. Thus, it emerges that in Indian thought, there are two types of sacredness – one that is associated with impermanent material reality and the other which is associated with permanent spiritual reality. The Banana and the Coconut fit into the previous category; the Peepal fits into the latter. Banana is the symbol of the flesh, constantly dying and renewing itself. Peepal is the soul – never dying, never renewing itself.



## AMAZING TREE FACTS

The Copaiba Langsdorfii, a tree that grows in the Amazon, has sap that is so much like diesel fuel, that it can be used as fuel for diesel engines.

## THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A man is walking along a beach and finds a bottle. When he rubs the bottle, a genie appears and says, "I can grant you one wish."

"Well," says the man, "I have never been too fond of flying, so could you make a highway from California to Hawaii?" The genie says, "Do you know how much of my power that would take?" The man says, "Okay, I have never really understood women, so could you make that happen?" The genie says, "You want that highway two lanes or four lanes?"

## THE AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD



Two very different chainsaw carvings for you this month.



## FUTURE SWS TALKS

### 2019

May 8 <sup>TH</sup>	AGM, Clive Emsley - Bluebell Railway.
June 12 <sup>TH</sup>	Alan Alyward, Woodland Trust
July 10 <sup>TH</sup>	Members talking about jigs/ guides they have made
August 14 <sup>TH</sup>	Mary Smith, Green Circle, Bedelands Farm.
September 11 <sup>TH</sup>	Weald and Downland Living Museum
October 9 <sup>TH</sup>	Lester Backshall, Guitar Maker
November	To be advised
December	To be advised

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 2019

### May

**18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>** WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WOOD Haughley Park, Wetherden, Nr Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3JY

**25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>** WAKEHURST PLACE. Members of THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY will be exhibiting their wares.

### July

**12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>** WoodFest Country Show, Pen-y-cefn, Caerwys, CH7 5BP

2019 will be our biggest and best show ever!

**27<sup>TH</sup> 28<sup>TH</sup>** WILDWOOD FESTIVAL at WAKEHURST PLACE. Several of our members will again be exhibiting their woodworking creations.

### August

**24<sup>TH</sup> 25<sup>TH</sup>** The Stock Gaylord Oak Fair, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2BG 10am- 5pm

## **September**

**6th & 7th** Yandles Autumn Woodworking Show 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.

## **October**

**4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>** D & M Tools, Tool Show, Kempton Park Racecourse, Surrey

**20<sup>th</sup>** Wizardry in Wood Worshipful Company of Turners, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2

## **November**

**29<sup>th</sup>** Sussex Woodcraft Society Setting up for our Annual show

**30<sup>th</sup>** Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual exhibition and show at Henfield Hall

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..... There are around 1,000 species of rhododendron, which prefer cool climates with slightly acidic soil.

The plant was discovered by the 16th century Flemish botanist Charles l'Ecluse. While the rhododendrons brought to Britain came from the Alps, the majority are found in valleys bordering the Himalayas and in South East Asia. Frederick Du Cane Godman, who planted the whopping Old Cornish Red, above, also gave his name to the diamond and emerald 'Godman necklace' often worn by the Queen.

All the parts of the rhododendron are toxic, especially the leaves, and consuming them can lead to abdominal pain, convulsions and even death. Honey made from rhododendron pollen or nectar can cause hallucinations, vertigo and loss of co-ordination. This is known as mad honey disease.