



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMANS LETTER

Over the years we have had many articles written by members show casing their workshops, the set up and how cluttered they are or how neat and tidy and organised they are! I decided that it was about time I de-cluttered my workshop of benches to give myself a little bit more room to work and to breathe! Wow what a mistake! I thought it would not take that long to sort out but like many of us the biggest hurdle was the wood. It's amazing the different species, sizes and unusual pieces I have collected over the years. I have been brave, and as I went through it I threw some odd bits away that I thought I did not need or probably would never use. After a while, a sizeable pile was growing outside the work shop and I was being very good and was not having second thoughts. This was then tested when my neighbour popped his head around the door to see how I was getting on and began to mention the pieces that were there and how even the smallest pieces could be useful. However, I resisted the urge to return pieces to under the bench! Soon I am hoping to have a completely re-designed work shop so that I can enjoy it more. Maybe one day I will do an article for Brian on Paul's workshop! Look forward to seeing you back at club nights on March 14th.

FEATURE ARTICLE

GEORGE

I was thinking the other night about our wood club and how we got started. Then came a thought about the late George Swaysland and how due to one man's work, we have such a rich legacy of top class carvers in Sussex. Not only is George's work on display in churches and cathedrals for all to see. but he has passed on his passion and love of woodcarving to so many of our members. I know that this helped the formation of our club. It was Dave Clarke (who moved to Wales) who first mentioned to me he would like to meet with other woodworkers. Later I met Bob Jubb and when visiting a national woodworking show, mentioned this to him and he thought this was a great idea, and that's the shortened version of how the club was formed. Both Dave and Bob plus two other founder members were all taught by George and also knew each other.

Now all these years later Greta Chatterley is still teaching two carving classes per month at nearly 93. George taught evening classes at Oakmeads school and the Oakmeads carving club was formed when George died. The club still has several members who were originally taught by George from the

1970's. These include Bernie Harris, Tom Lednor, Bob Turner and Bob Jubb. Wendy Quantrill also runs the Newhaven carving class.

Greta has told me she is so indebted to George as he gave her a career which she has loved every moment of. She also told me George would never criticize anyone but if things didn't look right, he would try and make a joke out of it. For instance, if a duck being carved had too short a beak he would say, "I think he must have collided with something solid and shortened his beak".

So not only has George left so much of his work for people to admire and wonder at, but he has left behind what I call a living legacy in the form of the skills and love of carving he has passed on to others. And what better legacy could one leave behind than that. I just bet George is still carving up there in heaven, so if one day you have some fluffy looking woodchips fall on you, don't be surprised.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

. In which continent did the monkey-puzzle tree originate?

.....Answer on page 5

AMAZING TREES

THE BANYAN TREE



The banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*) is one of more than 750 species of fig trees, each of which is pollinated only by its own species of tiny wasps that breed only inside the figs of their partner trees. Banyans are strangler figs. They grow from seeds that land on other trees. The roots they send down smother their hosts and grow into stout, branch-supporting pillars that resemble new tree trunks. Banyans are the world's biggest trees in terms of the area they cover. The biggest one alive today is in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It covers 1.9 hectares (4.7 acres) and can shelter 20,000 people.

Banyans are ecological linchpins. They produce vast crops of figs that sustain many species of birds, fruit bats, primates and other creatures, which in turn disperse the seeds of hundreds of other plant species.

The first Europeans to encounter banyan trees were Alexander the Great and his army, who reached India in 326 BCE. The notes they took back to Greece informed Theophrastus, the founder of modern botany, and — ultimately — led 17th-century English poet John Milton to write in *Paradise Lost* that Adam and Eve made the first clothes from banyan leaves.

Hindus say a banyan tree at Jyotisar is the one Krishna stood beneath when he delivered the sermon of the Bhagavad Gita.

For thousands of years, people have used banyans as sources of medicines. Today in Nepal, people use banyan leaves, bark and roots to treat more than twenty disorders.

Hindu texts written more than 2500 years ago describe a cosmic 'world tree', a banyan growing upside-down with its roots in the heavens. Its trunk and branches extend to Earth to bring blessings to humanity.

The banyan is India's national tree.

Hawaii's banyans are not native. People who have planted them there include Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Amelia Earhart and Louis Armstrong.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

Two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of four.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A Spanish captain was walking on his ship when a soldier rushes to him and exclaims, "An enemy ship is approaching us!" The captain replies calmly, "Go get my red shirt." The soldier gets the shirt for the captain. The enemy ship comes in and heavy rounds of fire are exchanged. Finally, the Spaniards win. The soldier asks, "Congrats sir, but why the red shirt?" The captain replies, "If I got injured, my blood shouldn't be seen, as I didn't want my men to lose hope." Just then, another soldier runs up and says, "Sir, we just spotted another twenty enemy ships!" The captain calmly replies, "Go bring me my yellow pants."

THE AMAZING WORD OF WOOD



Two photos of fantastic carvings I came across recently which I wanted to share with you all. Unfortunately, there was no detailed information as to whether they were hand carved or done with a chain saw. I suspect probably both were used.

CORK BLOCKS AS A FINISHING AID

As we all know, finishing of our product is equally as important if not more so than the actual work undertaken in the early stages. In finishing a wood turned item, some people use a handful of shavings or even a timber that is softer than what is being turned, after the final sanding to try and burnish the surface of the product. I've never had much success with this, and have on occasions burnt and even polished my fingers as a result. OUCH. I have found it far better to use a cork block. The cork absorbs any heat generated provided you keep it moving so you don't risk any burn marks on the timber and it really burnishes the surface of the timber far better than shavings. You can visibly see the difference as you move the cork along the surface and often I can get a nice sheen on the timber prior to applying a finish.

FUTURE SWS TALKS

2018

March 14th Resume of Christmas Show (**Please bring your show exhibits along as usual**)

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

May 9th: Bernie Harris/Chris Grace Letter carving

June 13th 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

MARCH

23rd, 24th The Midlands woodworking & Power Tool Show, Newark showground, (10am to 4pm)

April

13th 14th Yandle's spring show Martock Somerset

May

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

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

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 Monkey Puzzle originated from South America.