



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

An enjoyable auction was held last month. While being the auctioneer, I thought about those men and women standing running auctions where the bids are in the millions. I'm glad I did not have that responsibility. I expect Phil feels the same way!

We have sent off the application for a Christmas tree at Cuckfield church and as soon as I hear that we have been lucky enough to get a tree, I will let you all know, via Brian. It will certainly be good advertising for our Henfield show as quite a few thousand pass through the doors over the weekend.

Brian has mentioned my retirement. I am actually on a little career break so will be catching up on DIY, a bit of caring for my mum and hopefully doing some talks for local groups on Wakehurst and also wildlife, incorporating my photos. I have also signed up as a volunteer guide at Wakehurst. Hopefully I can find a bit more time to spend out in my workshop, who knows!

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

Last month saw the return of our tool auction which was I thought very successful. We haven't had one of these for some time and I thought it was a very good evening, though a lot of work for some people. A lot of thought went into organising it and thanks to Mike Dempsey for coming up with the idea for the labels. As the evening progressed, it brought it home to me, how many people had tools they no longer used or needed. The variety on offer surprised me and there were some very, good bargains on offer. Some items were much sought after and several people had a battle to see who would offer the most. We also had some timber on offer which was kindly donated last month by David Dyke. Thanks to all of you who brought goods in and to all those who helped organise it like Mike Dempsey, Bob Jubb, Paul Reader, Wendy Quantrill and Phillip Starnes. Particular thanks go to Phil as he and Wendy helped book things in then Phil had to take care of the money side of things at the end of the evening.

MEMBERS WORK

Three people brought work in. Colin Irving brought in some wonderful mini tools he had made. Ray Osgood brought in some of his wonderful walking sticks and gave a short but humorous talk about how he made them. One of our new members, Kier Gallaher brought in two items he had made during

a recent course. One was a laminated cheese board and the other was a cracker box. Both very nicely made. Apologies there are no photos this month.

FEATURE ARTICLE

KINGLEY VALE

Kingley Vale boasts much to see and explore. It has a grove of ancient trees which are estimated to be amongst the oldest living things in Britain, and one of the finest yew forests in Western Europe. The nature reserve is a perfect opportunity to photograph some of the giant twisted trees. There are a number of notable birds, such as green woodpeckers, red kites and buzzard; it's definitely worth keeping an eye out! The terrain can be steep at points, so is not recommended for wheelchairs.



Ancient Yews. There are several legends as to where the magical ancient yew forest in the bottom of the valley came from. It is thought they could have been planted as far back as AD 849 to commemorate dead Viking warriors, or that they were planted in the middle ages to make longbows. Some people think that they could have grown during the 'black death' in 1348, as there were not enough people farming the land and stopping the yews from spreading. Nobody actually knows how old the ancient yews are or whether they were planted as they are very hard to date. That is because they grow in layers and the older layers rot from the inside so you cannot simply count the rings. However, we know that they are at least 500 years old and it is possible that they may be very much older than this, perhaps many times as old. On the site, the yew forest is left to develop on its own but the grasslands and farmland next to it are maintained which stops the forest spreading outwards. Thousands of bird's flock to the yew.

Many of the mystical and superstitious beliefs surrounding the yew are very ancient. Druids used these trees and their poisonous seeds in religious ceremonies and the wood for making spears and bows. In Christian times, they became a symbol for resurrection and their branches were used as palms on Palm Sunday. Although many churchyards have yews growing in them, some of these trees certainly predate the birth of Christ, the churches having been built on much older, pagan sites. In medieval times, the hard wood was used in the making of axles, drinking vessels and mill cogs. The yew groves form the heart of this reserve and here there are several large, very spectacular and extremely old trees. Legend says, that they were originally planted to commemorate a battle won by the local men of Chichester against Viking marauders in AD 859. Yews are still important medicinal plants; a substance called Taxol, recently found in yew leaves, is now being used as a treatment for cancer.

Location of Kingley Vale NNR Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve lies near the village of West Stoke (North of Chichester). From a car park north of the village there's a track leading to the main entrance of the Reserve. Well worth a visit.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Something a little different for you all this month. Each of the 14 collection of letters below represent a tree. See how many you can get. Write your answers in the space provided.....Answer on page 5

- | | |
|----|----------|
| 1 | SHA |
| 2 | IRF |
| 3 | KETA |
| 4 | NIPE |
| 5 | CREAD |
| 6 | RHBIC |
| 7 | RHECRY |
| 8 | PYLTUS |
| 9 | PPALOR |
| 10 | RIKCHOY |
| 11 | TWUNLA |
| 12 | SYESPRC |
| 13 | DODOWER |
| 14 | GAMYANOH |

AMAZING TREES

PADAUK

The blood red colour wood Padauk, is obtained from several species of *Pterocarpus*. All padauks are of African or Asian origin. Padauks are valued for their toughness, stability in use, and decorativeness, most having a reddish wood. Most *Pterocarpus* woods contain either water or alcohol-soluble substances and can be used as dyes.

The padauk which is found most often is African Padauk from *Pterocarpus soyauxii* which, when freshly cut, is a very bright red/orange but when exposed to sunlight fades over time to a warm brown. Its colour makes it a favourite among woodworkers. Burmese Padauk is *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* while Andaman Padauk is *Pterocarpus dalbergioides*. Padauks can often be confused with true rosewoods to which they are somewhat related, but as a general rule padauks are coarser and less decorative in figure. Like rosewood, padauk is sometimes used to make xylophone and marimba keys, and guitars. It is an important material in traditional Chinese furniture.

Some padauks, e.g. *P. soyauxii*, are used as herbal medicines, for example to treat skin parasites and fungal infections.



AMAZING TREE FACTS

The world's shortest tree is the dwarf willow, which lives in northerly and Arctic Tundra regions and rarely grows more than a couple of inches high.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

Paddy was on his death bed and knew the end was near.

His nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons are with him at his home in Belfast.

He asks for 2 independent witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes.

When all is ready he begins to speak:

"My son Seamus, I want you to take the houses in Cultra."

"My daughter Geraldine, you take the apartments over in Malone Road."

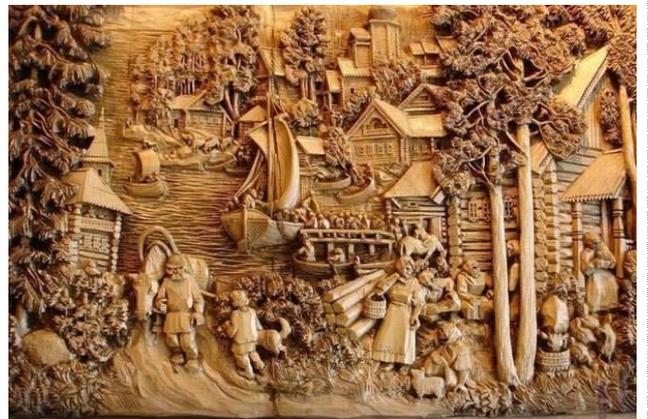
"My son Patrick Junior, I want you to take the offices in the City centre."

"Bridget, my dear wife, please take all the residential properties on the Upper Lisburn Road."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away. They did not realize the extent of Paddy's wealth. As he slips away, the nurse says to his wife, "Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, my deepest condolences. Your husband must have been such a hard-working and wonderful man to have accumulated all this property".

"Property?", his wife replies. "The blooming idiot had a window cleaning round."

THE AMAZING WORD OF WOOD



Two widely differing creations on offer this month.

I wonder how many pieces of wood went into making that huge vase and how long it took to cut and glue them together.

Probably as many hours as went into the beautiful relief carving. If I remember right, when I downloaded this photo, I believe it was done by a native with a very limited variety of tools.

I never cease to be amazed at the huge variety of things people make from wood, which must surely be not only one of the oldest products ever used, but also the most versatile natural product ever discovered. Where "wood" we be without it, if you'll pardon the pun.

TREE FOLK LORE

THE APPLE

Like the Hazel, the apple was considered sacred to the Celts and felling it carried the death penalty. It has always been a symbol of love but to the Celts it also represented the other world. Like the willow, it is linked to water which represents the transition or crossing to the other world (as in the river Styx). The apple also protects against evil magic and were used for this purpose at the festival of Samhain. The custom carries on today with apple bobbing on Hallowe'en night.



The faerie maiden lured Connla to the Land of Youth by throwing him an apple. After he ate it he pined for her so much that he willingly followed her into the faerie realm.

RETIREMENT

As some of you already know, our chairman Paul Reader has now retired from Wakehurst Gardens after working there for 34 years. Paul said, "Over my 34 years I have had the privilege to work for and with some extremely dedicated people". We wish him a very happy retirement and know he will continue with his wildlife photography.



SOME GOOD NEWS

The item below was sent to me by Wendy Quantrill. Thanks Wendy

Hi, Brian,

I belong to the Woodland Trust and they have just sent me this message, I think it would be good to print it in the newsletter for all our members to read.

The Government has agreed at last to give ancient woods and veteran trees the highest possible protection in planning policy. The new planning policy makes it clear that from now on, loss or damage to ancient habitats should only be considered in wholly exceptional circumstances. The change puts these precious habitats on a par with our best built heritage. This new policy will give The Woodland Trust a legal basis to help fight against habitat loss.

Wendy

AMAZING TREE FACTS

The plane tree, common in London's streets, is excellent at absorbing pollution and sheds its bark regularly so it can absorb more

MORE AMAZING TREE FACTS

Some African Baobab trees can store more than 25,000 gallons of water in their trunks. Also, some with age have become hollow and have been used as homes. One was even used as a bus stop and could shelter up to 30 people.

The oldest known door in England is made of oak and is located in Westminster Abbey. It is over 900 years old and was put in place during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066). Made from one tree, it is six and a half feet high and four feet wide. There is a rather unpleasant legend about this door too, which said that it was once covered in the skin of a punished man. Tests have now shown the skin to be cow-hide though.

FUTURE SWS TALKS

2018

October 10th Michael Blencowe: - Sussex Nature Reserve

November 14th Philip Ricketts:- "The making of me". He will explain about how he uses old pallets.

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

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 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.)

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.....

- 1 ASH
- 2 FIR
- 3 TEAK
- 4 PINE
- 5 CEDAR
- 6 BIRCH
- 7 CHERRY
- 8 LYPTUS
- 9 POPULAR
- 10 HICKORY
- 11 WALNUT
- 12 CYPRESS
- 13 REDWOOD
- 14 MAHOGANY

HELP WANTED.

Urgent help needed.

The pallet gardener here, I'm looking for a storage unit preferably with power. I can pay up to £100 per month for the right space in the right location. Please reply to phillricketts@gmail.com

DECEMBER SHOW

For those wanting table's at our December show, please note Tom Lednor will be taking bookings and deposits at our meeting. He won't be able to attend our November meeting.