

THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter. We are now fast approaching our annual exhibition at Henfield and I am looking forward to this.

THIS MONTHS CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

As Brian has mentioned, our annual show at Henfield is fast approaching! I hope the competition pieces are well under way or at least you have a few ideas!

Thank you to all those who took part in last month's talk. It was a great evening and I have already started to have a go at a few of the techniques that were explained on the evening; whether I can replicate the excellent finishes will remain to be seen.

I look forward to seeing you all at the October club night. Paul.

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

We had a variety of speakers last month and it was all about wood finishing. I found it very interesting listening to other members talk about their finishing techniques and also the different products they use. As I mentioned during my short talk, there is probably a wider range of wood finishes on sale now than ever before and most have both advantages and disadvantages. To a beginner, it can be quite bewildering. I hope you all learnt a lot; I know I did.

MEMBERS WORK

Bob Fielding brought in one of his bird carvings which he has been working on despite the recent injury to his hand. Wendy Quantrill brought in an owl she has carved in Obeche (Scientific Name, Triplochiton scleroxylon or known by the natives as monkey wood). She was working on this at Wakehurst and it created a lot of interest from the visitors to our marquee. Paul Purdy brought in some lovely paper knives he has made from off cuts. I brought in a part finished water mill although the wheel was not turning properly. I apologise there are no photos this month but stupidly I didn't bring my camera with me.

DRYING TIMBER

As promised, here is what I know about vacuum kilning of timber. Years ago I worked at a company called Oakcraft who made virtually anything in Oak. One month our normal supplier of kiln dried Oak wasn't able to supply us with any 2" thick boards as they were waiting for it to come out of the kilns. I should point out we only used English oak as kiln dried American Oak is dried for their climate and

has a lower moisture content, not really suitable for use as external doors as they keep expanding in our climate. So I tried a new company who assured me they could supply the kiln dried oak we required. It duly arrived and was superb with very straight grain having been cut from what I would describe as a veneer butt quality log. We made two high priced oak doors but within weeks we had received complaints from both customers saying the doors had warped and were leaking when it rained. I inspected both doors and found the customers had treated them as advised. We were concerned they may not have treated the top and edges of the doors as this has been known to cause an unbalance of the doors. I had to agree to make both doors again. I couldn't understand why it had happened as we had never had this problem before. I asked the staff if they had checked the moisture content and they replied yes. I went with one of our guys and asked him to check it again. It was within normal tolerance. But then I asked him to check the readings all down the length of one board and we were surprised to find the moisture content was all over the place. That same morning the rep from our usual supplier arrived and I spoke to him about it and he informed me the other supplier only had vacuum kilns. They had lied to me and after further investigation I was advised vacuum kilns are only really suitable for thinner boards. On 2" thick oak they often cause what is known in the trade as ponding where just as on our boards the moisture content varies significantly. I arranged for the remainder of that delivery to be taken back and we never dealt with that company again as it cost our company a lot of money to replace the two doors especially as we ended up fitting them as well to show good will. So please ask when buying timber what type of drying method they have used.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

What local school has a collection of Japanese Cherries.....answer on page 5

AMAZING TREES

This month I am featuring the Monkey Puzzle tree.

Araucaria araucana commonly called the monkey puzzle tree, Chilean Pine, or Pehuén is an evergreen tree. It is native to central and southern Chile, Western Argentine and South East Brazil. *Araucaria araucana* is the hardiest species in the conifer genus *Araucaria*. Because of the longevity of this species, it is described as a living fossil. It is also the native tree of Chile. Its conservation status was changed to endangered by the IUCN in 2013 due to the dwindling population. In Chile the tree is called the Pehuén and is sacred to the local Pehuenche people. Its seed are an ancient staple of their diet. The tree possibly gained its name because it would be a real puzzle for monkeys to climb up its spiny leaves but there are no monkeys in Chile. The tree is known to have been alive 200 million years ago and rubbed shoulder with the dinosaurs. Its spine like leaves needles acted as protection from grazing animals now long extinct. It can live for 1,000 years and grows to 50m high with a trunk diameter of over 3m. Its large seeds pinones, take two years to mature. It grows on the slopes of rocky volcanoes and its bark is fire resistant so islands of trees can often survive lava flows.



AMAZING TREE FACTS

It has been estimated that in 50 years one tree recycles more than £60,000 worth of water, provides £50,000 worth of erosion control, £100,000 worth of air pollution control, and produces £60,000 worth of oxygen.

Another good reason for planting more trees, Brian

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A wife, being the romantic sort, sent her husband a text: "If you are sleeping. Send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bit. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying send me your tears. I love you".

The husband, typically non-romantic, replied: "I'm on the toilet; please advise".

AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD

I have two very differing pictures for you this month. What a work of art the bed is and a great selection of spoons. The design for both lots must have taken ages and a lot of thought.



THIS MONTHS YOU TUBE LINKS

Although I have personally viewed the videos listed and have not found any problems, as some sites have been found to carry hidden viruses, please be advised you use the links at your own risk.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saXEseRoVDs>

Making a dolls house

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsXA4iy_qWo

Walnut platter with inlay

FOR SALE OR WANTED

If anyone has something for sale and they can't bring it to the club, please send details to me together if possible with a photo/s and I will post it on here for you. Maybe if you want to know where to buy something, also please let me know and I will ask our members for you.

WAKEHURST PLACE EXHIBITION

In the later part of August, several of us were invited back to Wakehurst Place for a three day show over the bank holiday weekend. The weather was good; too good in fact as many people decided to go to the seaside. The Saturday was very quiet and sales were slow but Sunday and Monday improved so overall not too bad although nowhere near as good as The Wildwood Weekend we took part in earlier in the year. We have passed a cheque of £250 on to Wakehurst with thanks for asking us back again.



A photo of Wendy's wonderful wolf and her stand attracted a lot of interest as she was carving an owl. Alan's stand always attracts a lot of interest with people admiring his beautiful work.

BENTLEY WOODFAIR

I was pleased to hear that this year's Woodfair was a great improvement on the past few years. Demonstrator numbers had been falling but due to a new Bentley show organiser things were like the good old days. The woods were full of exhibitors as was the main field. There was I'm told not so many industrial type exhibitors but this was offset by a lot more craft stalls. Our member and toymaker Iain Russell told me he has had the best year ever sales wise. I am pleased about this as our club had a marquee there for many years. When I was exhibiting there, I used to look on it as my mini holiday and a lot of our members had many a good laugh there.

HENFIELD SHOW

Regarding our forthcoming show at Henfield in December, I would ask for our member to contribute items for the tombola as usual and to please bring them in to the next meeting so Tony and Jen can sort them. Also we would ask members to bring in cakes to be used for sale in the canteen.

Please also note the time for **booking in items for the exhibition will be from 6.00 to 7.30** as last year members didn't finish the paperwork until very late.

Also Tom is looking for stewards to staff the exhibition area. It's not an onerous job but a necessary one. So please can we have volunteers to help with this. At the next meeting Tom will have a stewards list with time slots so **please** put your name down on Tom's list, many thanks.

FUTURE SWS TALKS

Oct 11th John Lloyd Furniture
Nov 8th Continuation of Chris Graces wood carving talks
Dec. 13th Paul Reader Christmas Special!

2018

Jan 10th Closed
Feb 14th Closed
March 14 Resume of Christmas Show
April 11 Bernie and Chris demonstrating letter carving

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 2017

October

Sun 1st Surrey Hills Woodfair, Birtley Hills Estate, nr Guildford
Fri 6th Sat 7th Sun 8th D & M Tool Show, Kempton Park Racecourse, Surrey

December

Fri 1st Setting up for our annual show at Henfield
Sat 2nd SWS Annual show at Henfield Village Hall

EVENTS FOR 2018

JUNE

16th, 17th (Provisional date) West's Wood Fair, East Dean Nr Chichester

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 = Handcross Park School, Handcross, Sussex National Collection of Japanese Cherries