



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMANS LETTER

Over the last few months we have had some new members join our society. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome them and hope they get as much enjoyment out of the society as we all do. If you see new members at our meetings please introduce yourselves and welcome them. Looking forward to September's club night, we are having our tool auction. So please look out those unwanted tools and even some nice pieces of timber and bring them along. Don't forget to bring some cash, you may well pick up a bargain! And hopefully it will be a fun evening!

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Last month's speaker was David Dyke who gave an interesting talk about supplying exotic timbers and wood for making luthiers. I know Greta is a long-standing customer of his and was so disappointed she wasn't able to attend, due to dropping a chair down the front of her leg and taking all the skin off. We wish her a speedy recovery. David showed us lots of super timbers and explained in great detail how he cuts the timber to get the best results. It was a very interesting talk which I enjoyed listening to. David also very kindly donated some timber to our club which will be offered for sale at our tool auction this month. David's company is based at Horam and is well worth a visit, something I intend doing in the near future. His e-mail address is www.luthierssupplies.co.uk Suppliers of select woods for luthiers and fine furniture making since 1980. His phone No is **Tel. 01435 812315**.



Thanks to Frank Botterill for the photo

MEMBERS WORK

There was no members work brought in but I demonstrated how I have made use of a pump action plastic spray bottle to help apply a finish to my engravings.

FEATURE ARTICLE

WAKEHURST PLACE SHOW

I am pleased to report that after an absence of a few years, for this year's Autumn show we were invited back to the mansion house at Wakehurst Place. It's a wonderful building and I loved being back there. The show was held over three days but unfortunately the Sunday was a wash out as it started raining late morning and carried on for the rest of the day. Understandably we had very few customers as a result. On the plus side, we have had lots of enquiries about joining our club over the three days and loads of nice comments about people's work. We had one particular lady who was so impressed, as she left she said, "Thank you so much everyone; you have really, really made my day". That is one of the nicest comments I have heard in all the years I have been exhibiting. Everyone sold quite well and I would just like to sincerely thank everyone who took part and who helped to make it such a good exhibition with lots like of varied work.



One of Paul Purdy's wooden puzzles and a Monkey Puzzle bowl by Jim Young.

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

A simple one for you this month.

Which tree's leaves are the symbol of The National Trust?Answer on page 5

AMAZING TREES

'BRITAIN'S OLDEST TREE' IS DISCOVERED IN A WELSH CHURCHYARD - AND IT'S MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD

A tiny village is believed to be home to Britain's oldest tree; a yew that first took root more than 5,000 years ago.

The majestic yew that lives in a Welsh churchyard was 3,000 years old when Jesus Christ was born, according to tree ageing experts. They have run tests on the tree in the St Cynog's churchyard at Defynnog near Sennybridge, Powys, including DNA and ring-dating.



HOW ARE TREES AGED?

The process of ageing a tree is called dendrochronology. There are now many different methods used, from physically measuring the circumference of a tree's trunk, to tree-ring measuring to DNA testing. Trees rings are a result of new growth during the year, so the number of rings directly corresponds with the number of years a tree has been alive. However, different species of tree have different growth rates.

There are literally hundreds of ancient yew trees dating back at least 600 years across Britain, but the 60-foot-wide giant at St Cynog's is believed to be the most ancient. Tree ageing expert Janis Fry, 64, who has studied yews for more than 40 years, said: 'I'm convinced this is the oldest tree in Europe.'

Editors note. There are yew trees that some experts believe are even older but they are unable to prove it as the inside of these trees have rotten away so they are unable to ring date them. Only the outer shell of the tree is left. There is one yew tree that is so large you can actually walk right through the middle of it. They know roughly how much a yew tree grows per year so their estimates are based on this.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

How much is a tree worth? I would say it's priceless.

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.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for

under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Sceptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

THE AMAZING WORD OF WOOD



A lovely way to finish the ends of the logs and a wonderful bit of woodturning are this month's photos.

I never cease to be amazed at the varied things people produce from timber. Wood surely must be one of the versatile and useful products ever. A customer once said to me, "You are only limited by the scope of your imagination", and they are so correct as you can see by the photos on this section each month and by the works of art our members produce.

FUTURE SWS TALKS

2018

September 12th SWS Tool Auction

October 10th

Michael Blencowe: - Sussex Nature Reserve

November 14th TBA

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 is taking 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.

EVENTS FOR 2018

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 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..... The Oak.