

SOUTH OF ENGLAND HEDGE LAYING SOCIETY



Reg Charity No.1046124

*Promoting the craft of hedge laying, training, competitions
and countryside management*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly, an apology to our previous newsletter editor Ian Runcie: sorry I forgot to thank you for excellent work you carried out for the Society as newsletter editor. Thank you.

The hedge laying you all completed last season has been springing into life. The hedge laying you completed the previous winter will be getting well established, none the wiser of COVID 19, the wildlife will have been moving in and enjoying a quieter breeding season, with clean the air from less road traffic and certainly less air traffic as a large slice of the great British workforce is stood down or working at home due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Thank you to all the key workers that have kept everything going. As I write this I await to see if we are hit with a second wave of the virus or can we emerge into a new world of caution. I totally understand if you are cautious in venturing out in the new world we have found ourselves in. At present the 3 local ploughing match hedge laying competitions are cancelled. More details to be found in the calendar section.

Currently we are planning a series of events. These will be run according to COVID 19 restrictions / recommendation nearer the time of the events. I hope this does not detract from your enjoyment of helping wildlife flourish, but I totally understand, we need to be sensible with our approach as we need to ensure we are all safe in the way we progress. I look forward to meeting you when we can safely meet up.

Best wishes,

Phil Hart.

FROM THE EDITOR

Is there anybody out there? I hope so. I hope too that after months of lockdown you are pleased to get your copy of the South of England Hedge Laying Society newsletter and are preparing for the new season.

A couple of new sections have been added: 'Letters' and 'Ask A Hedgelayer'. Please do let me know what you think and, as always, send in material for the newsletter!

Mark Schofield

CONTENTS

Why Do I Like Hedge Laying <i>Matthew Beard</i>	4
Tidying Up <i>Phill Piddell</i>	9
Rights of Common in The New Forest <i>Chris Burchell Collins</i>	11
Hedge At Chelwood Gate <i>Frank Wright</i>	14
Nature Notes <i>Reg Lanaway</i>	17
Living on The Hedge <i>Mark Schofield</i>	19
Ask A Hedgelayer.....	23
Letters.....	24
For Your Diary.....	27
Committee.....	28

Cover photo: Hazel catkins and flowers.

WHY DO I LIKE HEDGE LAYING?

This is often a question I ask myself, especially when coming to the end of a particularly hard section of hedge (well, hard for me, at least), when my office worker body says enough is enough. Cramp in both arms, an extremely sore back, and thighs that feel as though they have done many hundreds of squats. So why do I love doing it?

To answer that, you need to go back to my birthday in 2015, when as a surprise, my wife had bought me a taster hedge laying day with Plumpton college at Netherfield, just north of Battle, in October. This gift had been prompted by me saying on car journeys across Sussex “that hedge has been laid, I wonder how they do that? I would like to give it a go”. Laura has rued the day she ever bought me that as a present.

Although I greatly enjoyed the Plumpton taster day, I had no means of doing any more hedge laying and for a few months I wondered what I could do with my new-found skills. Little did I realise that I had an awful lot to learn.

It was by chance that I came across the SEHLS website and promptly sent off an enquiry, which got an equally prompt and to the point response from the Membership Secretary - we have an event at Scotney Castle on 6 January 2016, join in and bring a cheque for £60.

Thankfully the weather gods were kind that day in January 2016 and I had a great day mucking up a simple hawthorn hedge under the tutelage of Peter Tunks, who, after an hour of so got his 2 handed axe out to show this couple of greenhorns how it should be done. Little did I realise that I was being shown how to pleach a stem by the Ronaldo of hedge laying. (I am sure Ronaldo could neither pleach a stem nor do a roll up like Peter Tunks).

Rather rashly I entered the pairs event for the 2016 competition, again at Scotney Castle, and did all the legwork for Bob Lewis, who I later found out was 79 at the time. That was a salutary lesson to believe the organisers when they say the hedge will be tough.



First completion hedge 2016 (very poor end result)

It was about this time that I noticed that when not really busy on something, I would day-dream back to the hedges I had hacked at and wonder to myself about what I could have done better and how I could improve. It was also around this time that the immortal words would be said “You never listen to me, what did I say?” I rarely confessed to thinking about how I was going to get a better edge on my Elwell.

So, from the end of 2016 onwards hedge laying has become a bit of an obsession and it has taken me a while to realise why.

True, the often quoted, “it is good for the environment, doing something productive, outdoors, healthy” reasons all apply; but for me it is more than that.

For me it is about have a grounded connection to the countryside, achievement and companionship.

I never tire of splendour that is Sussex and its landscape. I have travelled across the world and been to many places, and to me nothing compares to the great underrated counties of East and West Sussex. Hedge laying allows me to get to places I would never normally get to and actually be a part of the countryside for the day. There is nothing like being in the thick of it, to be part of it.

Every hedge I arrive at prompts me to think “Where the hell to I start?” More often than not, I am daunted by the sight before me and wonder where to start. I do make a start and generally get stuck in and things start to get clearer about how to go about it. And yes, sometimes I do achieve a passable result, although like the golfer seeking to break the course record/ personal best, I am never quite happy with the outcome. But, at very least, I have achieved something, which is real and tangible. It may well have derision poured on it by experts, but at least I have achieved something. I started off not knowing where to start, I struggled, and I achieved. I find that immensely satisfying.

That brings me to my third reason for loving hedge laying - companionship. As I have got older, I seem to have got more interested in other people’s lives. The Society and hedge laying can be described as a very broad church, with an amazing tapestry of characters and backgrounds. Bring them all on I say, the more diverse and eclectic the better. I find the stories people tell me fascinating, predominantly about country life, but about all sorts of things. It does appear that hedge layers like a good chat.

With companionship and camaraderie comes fun and I have had plenty of that hedge laying. No particular instances come to mind – I just seem to have fun every time I go hedge laying. Have a look at the photos below to see some fine fellows enjoying themselves.



Bob Hunt, Angmering Park Estate February 2018, dropping off stakes



David Crouch and John French, Charity Day, Seddlescombe, March 2019



Tim Hughes, Polegate, February 2019, President v Chairman Day with snow on the hills



Terry Standen and Matthew Beard, Scotney Castle, October 2017. Terry got the big mallet out.

So, I consider myself very fortunate to have stumbled across hedge laying and I am ever thankful for Laura buying that taster day in 2015.

Matthew Beard



It is probably at this moment I wonder about my love for hedge laying. Annual Competition, Fletching, March 2020

Editor: Mathew has been modest: he has not mentioned the fact that he is the Society's Treasurer.

TIDYING UP

During the last season I did a hedgelaying job for a local charity in Hawkhurst (Hands of Hope), with the plan that the volunteers would clear away any arisings (or Brash).

The hedge itself (460yards of mixed species) was very overgrown (tall and wide) it's main redeeming feature being a distinct lack of weeds, and because of the size of trees my skills with the chainsaw improved dramatically (as did the chainsaw fuel bill, and my chain sharpening ability).

Anyway, that was back in February and now in July it's time to deal with the massive piles of arisings. The charity did not want to simply pile it up and burn it, because the site is very ecologically sensitive, oh and they wanted the chippings.

We managed to blag a couple of free days from a local tree company who brought along the machines and a couple of people, with the charity volunteers helping out.

We picked (by chance) the hottest days of the decade, or so it seemed, so we basked in 32degree heat and a full scorching sun. The real fun started almost immediately as the grass had grown through the tangled piles of seasoned trees, separating each branch was something of a struggle at best. As the day went on the volunteers started to drop out so by the end of the first day there were just 3 of us slogging through the piles.

Luck was on our side as the chipper was not available for day 2, so we had a break of sorts and a couple of us attached chains to the brash and towed it, of course the Isuzu D-Max truck pulled everything out with ease.

Our second day of chipping was again a scorcher, but we were seasoned ground staff by this point, and managed to drag in a few more volunteers (the thinking being to do a few hours each, rather than a few slogging it out for hours on end). We made short work of another huge pile of wood, all the chippings were spread under a large oak tree to tidy up a large weedy area and provide a welcome shaded sitting space for the gardening team.

The cleared areas are much tidier and it's all looking really good, the regrowth is looking amazing as well.

Learnings from this

Make sure you are clear that you are not responsible for tidying up :-) if that's not possible then attempt to go for the mini-digger and bonfire option. If you have to chip it and you think you will get roped in then cut the stuff as you go, as chain-sawing in the heat of summer with all the PPE is not a huge amount of fun, especially when you are also shifting loads of wood.

As a bonus everyone working at the site who owns a wood burner now has a couple of years supply of logs seasoning.

Phill Piddell

RIGHTS OF COMMON IN THE NEW FOREST

Last time I wrote about the New Forest Boxing Day Point to Point, a highlight of the commoners' year.

Commoners are people who farm and live on the New Forest and have rights attached to their property or land, going back many years. It is very likely that the Commoners of today can trace their family history back hundreds of years within the forest. It is the commoners' stock which has grazed the heaths and woodlands that have helped to shape the environment and landscape we see today. It was the beautiful landscape combined with the many hugely important habitats within the forest which lead to it being created a National Park.

Like many things in the countryside, the Forest and Commoning way of life is under serious threat, with the cost of smallholdings and property within the forest increasing to such an extent which puts it beyond the reach of the average commoner.

To be a commoner, you have to occupy either a property or land to which is attached some or all of the Rights of Common; there are six, all are listed below and I have explained three of them. Not every property in the forest comes with rights at all. The rights are: The Right of Common of Pasture, (see below); The Right of Common of Mast, (see below); The Right of Common of Estover, (see below); The Right of Common of Marl; The Right of Common of Turbary; and The Right of Common of Sheep.

The Right of Common of Pasture

This right allows the commoner to turn out their ponies, cattle, donkeys and mules to graze on the unenclosed parts of the forest within what is known as the perambulation. The perambulation is a fence line and grid system set up by the 1964 New Forest Act which encloses the land ensuring that the

animals don't stray into any towns and villages adjoining the New Forest. To enable your animals to be let out on the forest, the commoner would apply to the Verderers' clerk. The clerk checks that the commoner is entitled to do so, and then allocates them a brand to mark the animals with. Once they have been branded and a marking fee paid (this helps to finance the cost of employing five Agisters), then the animals are allowed out onto the Forest.

The Right of Common of Mast

If you visit the New Forest between mid -September and November/December, then you may see pigs out in the forest. This is the commoner exercising the Right of Common of Mast. The pigs are let out for the pannage season, a period of sixty days or more. The dates are set out jointly by The Verderers and Forestry England and this can be extended if there is a heavy crop of acorns. Not only are the pigs happy to eat the acorns, they also eat the beech mast and crab apples. This helps fatten the pigs but in doing so provides a valuable service as by eating the acorns it means they aren't there for the ponies and cattle to eat as the acorns can be fatal for them. Each pig has an ear tag for identification purposes, plus a ring through the nose to reduce any damage to the forest by rooting.

The Right of Common of Estovers (known as Fuel Wood)

This allows the commoner access to free firewood, something attached to about 100 properties. The wood is provided by what was the Forestry Commission and is now Forestry England. The wood is normally left in cords at the side of the forest track in the enclosure. This Right of Common has never been popular with Forestry England (Commission).

For the Right of Common of Pasture, there is a marking fee which is £24 for ponies, cattle & donkeys on the forest or £12 for

the same on the commons. For the Right of Common of Mast, there is a fee per pig of £4 for one on the forest or £2 for one on the commons. These fees are set by the Verderers and payable to the local Agister; perhaps in the next newsletter I will write about them.



Pony out on the forest during winter



Pigs out during the pannage season

Chris Burchell Collins

HEDGE AT CHELWOOD GATE

This was an out-of-season job as the owner had been instructed to do something about a length of hedge that had grown up between and beyond the overhead lines, so it nicely diverted me from lockdown. The owner agreed to take responsibility for any interruption to services caused by my activity (although he didn't mention anything about recompense to my family should I contact the power line). Yes, I had read the instructions that came with the powered pole saw and the advice on operating near power lines. Rather arrogantly, I suppose, I chose to ignore it. Also, yes, I did check for birds' nests; there weren't any. No real surprise there.

Before



During



After



You might be able to detect the power line in the pictures but the one that was of greater concern was the far more fragile BT line below it, which is very difficult to detect in the pictures – and also in real life at times. It was not usually possible to cut away offending branches at low level as the weight could damage the line so this necessitated using the pole saw at a stretch, at head height or above, to cut the smaller branches to let as much as possible fall free then again close to the line, trying to ensure that the saw would not go through onto the line on exiting the cut as control of a heavy, 4 metre long object at head height is not easy. I could then use the much lighter hand pole saw to manoeuvre the hanging branch off the line. On some of the bigger trees it was not possible to trim out the top so they required roping to bring them down: one rope fairly high to pull them down, another rope to a pulley on a tree behind to control the fall and another to something off to the side to keep it clear of the lines. Generally, this went reasonably well although there were one or two anxious moments as the tree tried to twist itself off the heel and onto the lines.

It was an interesting exercise but rather time-consuming. The customer was very happy with it and when the BT van came by he was obviously satisfied that the vegetation posed no threat and the local residents passing by on their allotted lockdown outings all seemed happy with the change in scenery. As the “after” picture shows, a lot more light is now allowed to fall on the piece of woodland to the general benefit of the resident flora and fauna and the hedge itself should prove a more attractive habitat for small birds.

Frank Wright



NATURE NOTES

Whether there are more birds about or that people have had more time to record them, it would appear that good numbers of migrants have returned to Britain to breed this summer. Reports on the Sussex Ornithological Society website, of Cuckoos, many of the warblers and in particular Nightingales have been numerous and widespread.

Nightingales breed only in the southern half of England having spent the winter in Africa. They are of course well known for their marvellous song and as they like dense bushes and herbage, it is by the song that their presence is found. Though not a brightly coloured or strikingly handsome bird, they have a beauty of their own. Similar in a way, but larger than a Robin, they are brown above with lighter underparts. The main feature is the chestnut coloured tail. Juveniles are mottled as are Robins. They are in the group of birds known as “chats”, lesser thrushes, that also includes Stonechat, Whinchat and Wheatear.

The song of the Nightingale is its outstanding quality, but they sing for only a few weeks in April and May during their breeding period so by the time you read this they will have finished. The

more males, they are the ones that sing, the more song is heard. That may sound obvious but in adjacent territories when one of them feels threatened by its neighbour, it bursts into song to defend his patch. Therefore, each individual will sing more when close to others. They do sing during daylight hours but to hear them in darkness is the real magic

Unlike most small birds, they have just one brood of four or five eggs. The nest is on the ground, usually in a depression and made of leaves, often protected by a tuft of herbage, or fallen branch. For camouflage, the eggs are dark brown and hatch after about twelve days of incubation. The young fledge after a fortnight and the return migration starts in late summer.

Because they have just one brood each year, to retain the population level, they must be long-lived. Some have been known to have survived for ten years. When we operated the Constant Effort Site in Brock's Wood for many years, I ringed a returning adult Nightingale during the first visit at the end of April. This bird was of unknown age so could have been hatched the previous year or older than that. We kept detailed records of that study and in the next five years I re-captured her, identified as a female by the brood patch, on seven occasions. Four of these captures were in the original territory and the final one, about a hundred yards away. When you consider that they winter in the Congo area of Africa, that is a feat of navigation to be marvelled.

Reg Lanaway

Editor: 'A Field Guide to Birds' Nests' by Campbell & Ferguson-Lees (Constable 1972), states that there are two types of nest site: 'sketchy cover of occasional brambles, a few tufts of grass or perhaps bluebells in flower, usually beneath or near mature oaks' and hedge-bottom in dense tangle of ground foliage.

LIVING ON THE HEDGE

The Common Hazel (*Corylus avellane*)

Family & Scientific Name

Hazel are a group of up to 18 species of deciduous large shrubs and trees, usually placed in the Birch family. They are native to Europe, Asia, and North America. Identification of different species of Hazel relies on the shape and structure of the hazelnut husk (*involucre*) and the Hazel's growth habit – whether a tree or suckering shrub. The Common Hazel is found growing from Europe to north-western Iran. Its scientific name comes from the Latin *corylus* for a Hazel and *avellane*, derived from the Campanian town of Avella in Italy which is mentioned in Pliny the Elder's first century A.D. encyclopaedia 'Naturalis Historia'.

Vernacular & Folklore

Common names include Halse, Hezzel and Ranger. It is also known for its catkins called Lamb's-Tails. The Celts believed that hazelnuts gave one wisdom and inspiration, and in medieval times it was a symbol of fertility. In Grimms' Fairy Tales story 'The Hazel Branch', it is claimed that the branches offer the greatest protection from snakes and other things that creep on the earth.

History

According to pollen analysis, Hazel was one of first shrubs to recolonise Britain after last Ice Age. There is evidence of large-scale hazelnut processing by pre-historic peoples: a midden pit dating to around 6,000 B.C. on the Scottish island of Colonsay was found full of the remains of hundreds of thousands of burned hazelnut shells. Hazel was used for the frames of coracle boats and its foliage was used for cattle food. Hazel

wattle (split canes woven into a simple warp-and-weft latticework) was used to make hurdles, fencing, and the foundations for wattle-and-daub walls. Every village would have areas of Hazel coppice. The importance of Hazel coppicing is illustrated by a 1483 statute passed by Edward IV authorising the enclosure of woods for seven years after Hazel cutting. The Court of Exchequer used Hazel tally-sticks of a cubit's length as tallies to record payments made to it: notches were made along their length and after the last payment the tally-stick was split lengthways, one half being given to the payer and the other half being retained by the Court to vouch its written records.

In the late seventeenth century, John Aubrey praised the harvest from the great hazel woods of Wiltshire. In 1826 the owner of Hatfield Forest, Essex, complained that 'as soon as the Nuts begin to get ripe...the idle and disorderly Men and Women of bad Character from [Bishop's] Stortford...come...in large parties to gather Nuts or under the pretence of gathering Nuts to loiter about in Crowds...and in the Evening...take Beer and Spirits and Drink in the Forest which affords them an opportunity for all sorts of Debauchery'.

Plant Description

The Hazel is usually a spreading, multi-stemmed shrub, but sometimes grows into a taller tree with a short thick gnarled bole. The Hazel grows to between 13 and 39 feet (4-12 metres) high and with a similar spread. It takes between 10 to 20 years to grow fully and can live for up to 80 years, or several hundred years if coppiced. Hazel does not tolerate deep shade but is an important component of woodland understorey and is often found in mixed coppices with Ash, Field Maple, and Hawthorn. It grows in many types of soil but in the UK the best-quality Hazels copses are in the chalk uplands of Dorset, Hampshire, and Wiltshire. The bark is typically smooth and grey to light

brown, peeling with age into thin papery strips. There is great variation in rods from different bushes. Some stems of new regrowth are deep maroon purple. Others are crimson or a washed-out green colour. The rods also have different splitting qualities, suppleness, and toughness. (These varying properties seem to be associated with bark textures, making it possible to predict how brittle a rod will be and how easy to split). Some stools grow new shoots that are tall and erect, others grow shorter and more prostrate. Some have nuts that are long and bullet-shaped, others are nearly spherical or snub-nosed. Much of this individuality is caused by genetic variation because adjacent stools of same-age regrowth and in apparently identical conditions can have markedly different features and each rod on a stool has the characteristics of that stool.

Hazel twigs are covered with stiff reddish hairs. Leaf buds are brown in winter, turning green by early spring. The leaves grow to 4 inches long (10cm) and are rounded with a heart-shaped base and pointed tip. They have double-toothed edges, a hairy upper surface, and downy white hairs on the underside. The leaves turn yellow before falling in autumn. Hazel is monoecious, meaning that both male and female flowers are found on the same plant, but the female flowers must be pollinated by pollen from other Hazels. Small green male catkins can be present in autumn. They open between January and April (mainly in mid-February), before the leaves, and can be up to 3 inches (8cm) long. They are pendulous and yellow and hang in clusters. The female flowers protrude a few days after the Hazel sheds its own pollen. They are small and mostly concealed in the buds with only the crimson 1-3mm long styles visible. Once pollinated by the wind, the female flowers develop into oval fruits which mature into a nut whose edible kernel is the familiar hazelnut. The nut falls out of the husk when ripe, about seven to eight months after pollination.

The leaves provide food for many species of moth such as the Large Emerald, Small White Wave, and the Barred Umber. The caterpillars are in turn eaten by Dormice. Coppice Hazel is susceptible to deer damage. Red Deer, Red and Grey Squirrel, Dormouse and birds like the Nuthatch, Wood Pigeon and Jay eat the hazelnuts. Dormice also rely on the nuts to fatten themselves for hibernation. Hazel flowers provide early pollen for bees, but the bees find it difficult to collect because the pollen is not sticky, and the grains repel against each other. Mosses, liverworts, and lichens often cover Hazel trunks, and at least 21 species of fungus have a mutualistic relationship with Hazel.

Plant Uses

Hazel is popular with carvers and whittlers of decorative walking sticks because of the contrast between its white wood & flecked bark. Hazel rods are still widely used for pea and bean sticks and of course hedgelaying binders. The National Rivers Authority has revived the Dutch practice of sinking 'mattresses' of Hazel faggots and reeds to help fortify the banks of River Ouse near the Wash to catch tidal-flow sediment to build up and strengthen the riverbed and banks. Hazel wattle is used in some motorway sound screens. Hazel makes good charcoal. A quartered Hazel log needs to be seasoned for a year to make firewood.

Hazelnuts are a good source of calcium, protein, and potassium. Until the early 20th century, Hazel was grown in the UK for large-scale nut production. Cultivated varieties (known as cobnuts) are still grown in Kent. Kent Cobnuts are traditionally eaten 'green' which is when the husk (involucre) enclosing the nut is green and the edible kernel has a high moisture content and is more flavoursome. Roughway Farm in Kent is a major producer and has a variety of attractive recipes

on its website at <https://roughwayfarm.co.uk/news/cobnut-recipes-from-the-garden-of-england/>

However, most of the hazelnuts consumed in the UK are now imported. In 2017, one million tonnes of hazelnuts (in shells) were produced worldwide, with 67% grown in Turkey. Hazelnuts are used in products such as Nutella and Frangelico liqueur, and in confectionery they are used to make praline. And of course, where would ambassadors' parties be without Ferrero Rocher?

Mark Schofield

ASK A HEDGELAYER

I have noticed a tendency for soe style hedges (especially in competitions) to look semi-midland, with loads of showy pleachers not covered by brash. Is soe style being redefined?

Confused

Sailing club looking to plant hedge behind chain link fence right behind sea wall. Obviously needs to be hardy enough to survive weather. Non prickly preferred. Wildlife shelter for lizards and slow worms a help. Any suggestions?

Alan Hardy

In which circumstances root laying would be used and any advice in doing so?

Kevin Jeffries

LETTERS

Editor: the following letter should have appeared in the April Newsletter but was omitted due to my oversight.

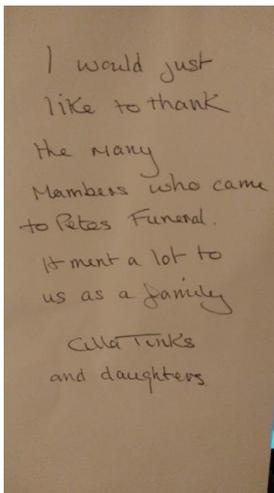
We were all shocked and saddened by the death of Pete Tunks our President for a few (too few) years but a founder member and stalwart of the society. A gathering of hedge layers without Pete? Condolences to Cilla and family.

At the February AGM I was elected as President, not accepted lightly in view of my predecessor. I was pleased to perform my first duty at the meeting of presenting our Secretary Chris Burchall Collins with the John Blake (a past President) memorial trophy for his work for the society. Our society requires a huge amount of work and is run by a committee of dedicated men.

I hope to see you in the caravan at summer shows and at our hedge laying days in the 2020/21 season.

All the best and enjoy the summer.

Mike Parrott.



Mark

I am so very grateful to you for sending that newsletter to me. The phrase "Purposeful in his actions and economical with his words" sums up Peter so well. He was a joy to have as a neighbour for 30 years

May he rest in peace

Thanks again

Tom Cleary

I have enjoyed my first year as a member of SEHLS and I am looking forward to the forthcoming season. I manage a small farm in Hampshire, and it would be interesting to know the thoughts of members about how the changes in agricultural subsidies will help hedgelaying. I see that there is so much potential for more hedges being laid in the countryside. Are there enough contractors out there capable of laying hedges? Or is it a case that there are enough people keen to lay hedges, but the landowners are not coming forward. With the new ELMS scheme no-one knows what it will look like and it is all about public money for public goods. Surely hedges are going to play a large part in this, landowners will not be receiving direct payments, like they do now. Therefore, hopefully they will be keen to fund the gap and take payments for hedge planting and hedge laying. This will be the biggest change in agriculture for a generation and hedgerows are vital to the farmed landscape, I see exciting times ahead for anyone with an interest in hedges!

Farming practices are slowly changing with a move towards regenerative agriculture and farmers are using pesticides and are seeing the benefits of hedgerows for pest management.

I also see that work on hedges can play an important part in helping with physical and mental well-being by the use of volunteers, this is something that landowners could explore as long as any work was managed by the correct experienced and qualified person. This is something that is being explored by the Nature Friendly Farming Network - www.nffn.org.uk

Andrew Ferguson

Loved the idea of including tree detail in the newsletter, would it be possible to get an expert hedgelayer to give tips for each different species, e.g. Laying, regrowth, whatever. I wonder if anyone reading would be willing to volunteer?

Phill Piddell



Summer tool maintenance

Tighten those loose tool handles by soaking them in linseed oil. Some people do this with water, which is a quick fix, but linseed oil does not dry out and evaporate as quick. Here I am using an old paint roller-tray to stand the tools in. The wooden & metal wedges can be given a tap with hammer to tighten the heads on axes & an additional metal wedge added if required & space

allows. Phil Hart

FOR YOUR DIARY

Coppicing Day 1 (CD1)	26 th Sept 2020	Blunts Wood
<i>Air Ambulance Charity Event</i>	26th Sept 2020* Postponed	Rotherfield Estate, Hants
Training Day 1 (TD1)	10 th Oct 2020	Uckfield
Pre-National Event	17 th Oct 2020	Fletching
<i>National Championship</i>	24 Oct 2020 Cancelled	Rotherfield Estate, Hants
CD2	31 st Oct 2020	Blunts Wood
TD2	7 th Nov 2020	Fletching
TD3	5 th Dec 2020	Chelwood Gate
CD3	2 nd Jan 2021	Blunts Wood
Improvers Day	9 th Jan 2021	Fletching
CD4	16 th Jan 2021	Blunts Wood
Charity / Fun Day	23 rd Jan 2021	RSPB Pulborough
Annual Comp	21 st Feb 2021	Norton Farm, Alton.
President v Chairman	13 th March 2021	Magham Down
Midland Day	27 th March 2021	To be decided.

All dates are correct at the time of going to press. Events might be cancelled at short notice because of COVID restrictions. Each event will be confirmed by email in the usual way.

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policy of the South of England Hedgelaying Society. The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude any item sent.