

SOUTH OF ENGLAND HEDGE LAYING SOCIETY

Reg Charity No 1046124



April 2011

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

DISAPPOINTED in the turn out for the AGM. About 140 members in the society but only 20 turn up. MOAN OVER.

Looking at better things, the charity hedge-laying day went really well, good hedge-laying good sunny day and good money raised. THANK YOU

So now it's show time. If anyone is interested in helping out please give us a call. There are six shows - first one in May.

Well it's been one year now since I was elected your chairman, and its gone so quickly - good thing or bad, I don't know. But, I can say the hedge-laying has been good the enthusiasm has been great and the help much appreciated so THANK YOU. Have great summer and I look forward to seeing you next season.

Bye for now
Gary

Hi everybody,

I hope you have overwintered well and are enjoying the spring. My favourite time of year, when everything bursts into life.

The main thing for me to stress this time is the importance of completing and returning the questionnaire which accompanies this Newsletter. It will help the Committee enormously with the planning for future events etc. Please, please complete it clearly, particularly your contact details! We can only get information to you if your details are correct.

Cheers
Rachel

POINTS TROPHY

The new Points Trophy competition proved to be a big success, the winner being Bob Whittaker. Congratulations, Bob.

The 2011 event starts with the Laughton & District Agricultural Society hedge-laying competition on Saturday, 10 September at Middle Farm, Firle, Lewis, BN8 6LJ. This is the home of the National Collection of Cider & Perry so it's a good excuse to come.

Further events include:

West Grinstead & District Ploughing & Agricultural Society Annual Ploughing Match & Show on 17 September at Westons Farm, Itchingfield, Horsham, West Sussex. A good farm shop and good food!!

Hurstpierpoint Ploughing Match Hedge-laying Competition, Saturday 1 October.

Chairman's Team vs President's Team Competition, Alton 29 January 2011

This was the brainchild (storm?) of Gary Moore. Six competitors each were selected by John and Gary to attack their respective halves of the hedge. After the toss of a coin John chose the half worked on in a right-handed fashion (he's not President for nothing). We started at 9.00am and were finished at 1.0pm in a biting Hampshire wind. Judged the winners by Des Whittington were the Presidents team who were all awarded gold stars to hang round their necks and John a silver cup. The runners up had silver stars and a wooden spoon! Our hostess, Mrs R Moser, invited us all into her wonderful converted barn for hot soup, bread and cheese followed by cake and tea. After speeches by John and Mrs Moser it was agreed this should be a regular event. Thank you Gary – it was much appreciated.

Improvers Day 2011

A successful season of training days – thanks to all the trainers and our indefatigable training officer – came to a close at a site near Oxted on a cold windy day in January. There were ten improvers competing for the Ernie Briggs Memorial Shield, judged by Bob Hunt and others! The standard of work and the thought that went into building that laid hedge was declared to be good. As at all our events Roger Ferrand was on hand with his chainsaw to aid those without one. Thanks Roger.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st | Terry and Tom Standen |
| 2 nd | Helene Threadgold and Glyn Jones |
| 3 rd | Colin Dunstall and Andy Barrett |

Many of the trainers were there to lay more of the hedge leaving enough for the charity day on 19th March 2011.

A FIRST FOR THE SOCIETY'S COMPETITION

The Society's 27th Annual Competition was held this year at Church Hill Farm, Sedlescombe near Battle on Saturday, 26th February by kind permission of Holford Pitcher. The hedge was laid previously in our competition 18 years ago in 1993, the first time since its formation in 1985 that the Society has laid the same hedge in a competition.

In the same the year Arsenal won the F.A. Cup Final 2-1 against Sheffield Wednesday after a replay, Bobby Moore, James Hunt and Rudolf Nureyev died, John Major was Prime Minister and Bill Clinton was inaugurated as the 42nd President of the United States of America.

It was also a notable year for the Society. The Junior Westwood Trophy (Novices) was won by Bob Graham and the Championship Cup was awarded to Dave Sands who also acted as a judge at the competition this year. Other winners were George Streete in the Veterans Class and Des Whittington for the Best Overall Regrowth when the hedge was judged again a year later. Both George and Des officiated at the competition this year. 1993 was also the year a young Alan Ashby was nominated as Trainee of the Year and awarded the Ernest Briggs Shield.

This year's winners and awards are shown separately as an insert to this Newsletter. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the competitors, judges, stewards and members who turned up to help, not forgetting the lady in a nearby house who baked a cake for the occasion.

**COMPETITION
DAY
26TH February
2011**



Church Hill Farm
Sedlescombe
By kind
permission of
Holford Pitcher



NATURE NOTES

The Waxwings I wrote about in the last newsletter, duly made it to this part of the country. Typically the ones I saw just after Christmas were in Tesco's car park in Lewes. Many supermarket car parks have attracted these birds, not by any of the products in the stores, but because many of them have been planted with berry-bearing trees, the food supply of these wandering birds. The light was not good but we had clear views of over a dozen of them. Another flock was reported at the south end of Plumpton between St. Michael's Church and Wales Lane while I was away for the festive season.

Part of the garden vegetable patch that we managed to dig over has attracted a Badger or a Fox that has dug a pit in the soft earth with the feathers of a hen Pheasant showing through. Whether this is a store for later I will see. Other great buriers are of course Jays. They are still seeking the fallen acorns and hiding them for future food. Those they do not find are planted to the correct depth for them to germinate, thus providing the next generation of Oaks.

What a pleasure it is to see the hours of daylight increasing each end of the day. Several of the commoner species are singing to claim their territory for the breeding season and others will soon start. The Great Spotted Woodpecker has recently begun drumming on hard timber for the same reason. This is always a landmark in the natural calendar.

It is when we hear the first of the migrants singing in the woodland that we know that we have survived the winter and all is well in the world! Before the end of March the first of the Chiffchaffs will be back from spending the winter in West Africa, always a wonderful time to hear their, it must be admitted, rather monotonous song. In some years if the spring is earlier than the last one, we may hear the lovely melodious song of the Blackcap in late March. This easily recognisable beautiful rendition is special and in recent years not only in this area have they become more numerous but generally over the whole land.

Often one of the earliest birds to have broods of young is the Mallard. Regularly before March is over, a little flotilla of them following the duck may be seen on local ponds or lakes. Since their eggs need to be incubated for twenty-eight days and they lay usually ten eggs or more, one daily, the first egg must be laid by mid-February to achieve this. This is my best season of the year.

Reg Lanaway.

News Flash

Rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly turns up at Plumpton! More in the next issue.



CONGRATULATIONS to our two new Life Members, Dike Morley and Neale Sands who were presented with their badges on Competition Day. Thank you both for all you have done and still do for the society.



A big thank you to Clive & Jackie Gilligan and all in the Society for the beautiful print presented to me as a birthday gift on Competition Day.

Thank you also for the good wishes sent to Maureen and your continued friendship and support.

Ron Moulard

CHAILEY HERITAGE SPONSORED HEDGE LAYING FUND RAISING DAY

A sharp frost provided the incentive to swing the tools and keep warm on the 19th March at the sponsored hedge laying event. It was not long before the sun was shining, the grass was growing and the money was rolling in. At the moment the money raised is in the region of £1,200 and still rising. Many thanks go to the 22 cutters who laid 180 yards of hedge and a special thank you to Bob Whitaker for his help both at the Charity hedge and Improvers Day.

THERE IS MORE TO HEDGELAYING THAN LAYING HEDGES!

Believe me, I know. About twenty years ago I joined the Society and read that any member was welcome to attend a committee meeting just to see how things are run. I went along and was struck by the dedication of the committee and also their friendly welcome. Within a few months there was a vacancy on the committee and I soon found myself membership secretary. Twenty years later there is still a warm welcome for any member to come and observe.

When I joined each member of the committee had responsibility for one function. Now the only difference is that several of them have accepted the challenge of doing two separate jobs – in addition to being full-time self-employed. As a retired man I am concerned how these men and women continue to work so hard and, at the same time, give up their own working time to help the Society function by reducing their own income accordingly, sometimes even taking a whole day off to do so.

I beg of you, please think seriously of helping to reduce the load; there will be no need for interruption to your working day. Don't fall for this appeal straightaway; come and see what is involved. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.**

Dick Morley

Hedge Laying Wordsearch – thanks to Phil Hart,

r	b	e	s	s	e	k	a	t	s	c	e	s	c	e
o	a	n	r	i	l	k	a	o	h	n	i	e	h	r
o	c	r	e	r	p	e	x	a	i	b	r	v	e	b
t	k	o	d	r	a	w	i	w	l	h	c	o	r	i
l	l	h	n	o	m	n	w	a	y	o	o	l	r	r
a	a	t	i	m	s	o	c	s	o	l	p	g	y	d
y	y	w	b	a	r	k	u	h	r	l	p	b	o	s
i	i	a	w	e	t	s	i	l	k	y	i	o	s	n
n	n	h	g	h	o	n	e	y	s	u	c	k	l	e
g	g	d	o	h	a	z	e	l	h	4	i	d	a	s
2	e	r	l	l	e	w	l	e	i	w	n	t	s	t
h	n	h	t	w	o	r	g	e	r	d	g	e	h	l
e	l	b	m	a	r	b	s	b	e	a	d	l	e	o
l	o	p	p	e	r	s	h	c	a	e	l	p	r	9
e	l	d	e	r	k	o	o	h	l	l	i	b	l	3

Words to find (backwards, forwards, diagonal):

3901, 4wd, ash, axe, back laying, beadle, billhook, binders, birds nest, blackthorn, bramble, chain saw, cherry, coppicing, elder, elwell, gloves, hawthorn, hazel, hedgerow wine, holly, honeysuckle, loppers, maple, morris, oak, pleach, regrowth, root laying, silky, slasher, stakes, Yorkshire.



FOR YOUR DIARY

2011		
April		
May	1 st & 2 nd	South of England Spring Garden & Leisure Show, South of England Showground, Ardingly
	14 th	Plumpton College Open Day
	28 th	Heathfield Show
June	9 th – 11 th	South of England Show, South of England Showground, Ardingly
July	2 nd & 3 rd	Smallholders Show, South of England Showground, Ardingly
August		
Sept	10 th	Laughton & District Agricultural Society Annual Hedgelaying Competition, Middle Farm, Firle, Lewis BN8 6LJ
	16 th – 18 th	Bentley Wood Fair
	17 th	West Grinstead & District Ploughing & Agricultural Society Annual Ploughing Match, Westons Farm, Itchingfield, Horsham
Oct	1 st & 2 nd	South of England Autumn Show & Game Fair
	1 st	Hurstpierpoint Ploughing Match & Hedgelaying Competition
	8 th	Coppicing – Venue to be announced.
	15 th	Hedgelaying – Venue to be announced
Nov	19 th	Hedgelaying – Venue to be announced
Dec	3 rd	Coppicing – Venue to be announced
	10 th	Hedgelaying – Venue to be announced
2012		
January	7 th	Coppicing – Venue to be announced
	14 th	Training Day – Contact Mike Parrott for more details -
February	25 th	Annual Competition – Contact Jim Vantassel – 01483 416210 for details

Committee:

President	John Blake Tel: 01444 482414
Chairman & Training Officer:	Gary Moore Tel: 01444 239961
Vice Chairman:	Dave Truran Tel: 01444 235447
Treasurer & Training Secretary:	Mike Parrott Tel: 01273 410292
Secretary	Phil Hart Tel: 0771 705 4172
Assistant Secretary & Newsletter Editor:	Rachel Howkins Tel: 01428 645899
Membership Secretary:	Dick Morley Tel: 01273 843633
Competition Secretary/Awards Officer:	Jim Vantassel Tel: 01483 416210
Transport Manager:	Bob Hunt Tel: 01273 400898
Show Officer & Caravan Manager:	Ron Moulard Tel: 01273 513597
Coppicing Officer (Non-Committee position):	Terry Standen Tel: 01580 892090

► ITEMS FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER TO RACHEL BY END OF JULY PLEASE ◀

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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.

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