

SOUTH OF ENGLAND HEDGE LAYING SOCIETY

Reg Charity No 1046124

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

August 2018



June 2018



Dec 2017



FINDON

“Thanks for all your hard work” see letter page 12

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear members, I hope you have been enjoying the summer and that it cools down in time for the first competition on the 8th September.

Frank has been busy setting up all the venues for this season, thank you to Mike Mason for sorting out all the new branded clothing. See inside for further information. Thank you to all the members that have helped at the summer shows & the work carryout by the committee.

I look forward to you all at the various events throughout the season.

Kind regards.

Phil Hart.

It is with sadness that I have to report the loss of Geoff Key to the hedgelaying world. Geoff passed away on Friday 27th July. A true gentleman and respected ambassador for hedgelaying. Former Vice Chairman, 3 x Supreme Champion & active committee member of the National Hedge Laying Society. He will be sadly missed for his friendship, wise council, knowledge & skills on the hedge line.
Phil Hart

Battery Chainsaw review Stihl vs. Makita

You have probably noticed that battery powered chainsaws are becoming very popular, and rightly so as they are quiet and powerful, but which is best?

Phill has a lot of Makita 18v power tools and as a hobby hedge layer figured the Makita DUC353Z (which uses 2 18v batteries giving a 36v power tool) would be perfect as he already has the batteries and really didn't want another type of batteries

David is a already has Stihl power tool user so decided to add to his kit bag with an MSA 200 C a 36v power tool.

Looking at the Stihl it comes with a 14" bar with a nice small nose which is great for hedge laying as it can get into really small spaces, the chain is also very narrow. The Makita also comes with a 14" bar which is more parallel so the nose is much bigger, the chain is also wider. Both come as "body only" giving you have a choice of battery capacities and charger types.

We decided that for hedge laying the Stihl bar was a better shape because it is able to get into confined spaces, but of course you could swap the bar on the Makita if you wanted to.

Both saws weigh about the same in the real world (i.e. when you fill them oil and batteries), we didn't have some scales handy so this was a bit of a subjective test.

Both saws are very quiet in operation and neither provided noticeably more vibration

The Makita has an annoying "on" button, which must be pressed before it will operate, after about 10 seconds of inaction it has to be repressed, which in practical hedge laying use is just a bit to short so you are forever pressing it, the good news is that it is in easy reach of the trigger so just takes a bit of getting used to. Sensibly neither saw will operate if the chain brake is on.

Looking at the costs (inc. vat)

The tools on test (body only) cost £120 for the Makita vs. £255 for the Stihl

For both you then need batteries and chargers. We didn't have a choice for this test, based on what we owned, the Makita was powered by 2 5Ah batteries (2x90Wh = 180Wh) costing about £120, and the Stihl with a single more powerful AP 300 battery (227Wh) at about £157

The Makita DC18RD will charge both 5Ah batteries in 45 minutes, along with your phone, and costs about £50 (A cheaper single battery option is available for £30). The Stihl AL500 will charge the AP 300 in 35 minutes for £102, or the more economical AL300 will take 74 minutes and cost £60.

Replacement chains are about £13 for each saw, and of course you still need chain oil.

Thus the Makita comes in at around £280 for saw, battery and dual charger. The Stihl is £471 for high capacity battery and the slow charger or a whopping £514 if you want the faster charger.



In (typical hedge laying) wet weather the Stihl battery box seems designed to collect water (does not even have a drain hole!), on one very wet day last season Marcus Broom turned his saw upside down to empty the rain out, but it was still working, with the Makita batteries sit on the outside of the machine the rain should be less of an issue, but realistically chainsaws will be used in the winter so it would be good to know from the manufacturers that we can use expensive kit outside.

So how long do these tools last before you need to change batteries? For this test we had to work with what we had, and the Stihl had more juice available. David sponsored a couple of lengths of semi seasoned Chestnut which

he cut in the winter. We decided on 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 inch diameter wood and set off cutting disks.

Both saws cut a very impressive pile of coasters and the results were an impressive 123 vs. 186 the Stihl with the larger battery capacity was a clear winner.



Which is best? Well both performed really well with the Stihl able to cut a lot more discs, however the Makita is significantly cheaper and in our test had a lower capacity battery.

In essence if you already own battery kit from either manufacturer you

would be happy by adding either saw to your kit bag, which of course would mean you don't need to buy more batteries or chargers. If you have battery range anxiety then just buy some spares.

It would be interesting to test saws from other manufacturers or the higher capacity 6Ah batteries from Makita. we would also like to do a rainy day test, without the risk to our own kit.

Don't forget that you still need a certificate if you plan to operate any chainsaw unless you are on your own land. You can't yet do the training / test using a battery saw!

Pictures

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskuzx2y5>

David Dunk,
and Phill
Piddell



Training in Hedge Laying

See the diary for the planned training days for the 18/19 season.
Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Fees

Hedge Laying: the course (days 1 to 4) £150.
 1 taster day £60
Tool Sharpening: £10
Coppicing days: FREE to Members

If you are unable to attend a training event please let us know. No shows and late cancellations are a headache for the organisers. If you are unable to attend an event the following fees apply:

Over 1 week – no fee

Between 2 days and 1 week - £10

Less than 2 days – £20

No show / the night before / on the day - £30

Experienced current members

A section of hedge will be allocated for experienced current members wishing to lay hedge, if you wish to please let Phill Piddell know which event(s).

Maps

For each event a reminder email is sent about 1 week before, and Maps are emailed a few days later

To Join

To take part in any of these events you need to join the society so you are covered by the Society's insurance. Membership is £15 per annum. Please bring your membership cards to all events.

To get booking information for these events, send a completed membership application form (below) to Phill Piddell.

South of England Hedge-Laying Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (or renewal)

April 2018 to March 2019



PRESIDENT:

Peter Tunks
The Coach House, Waltersville Way
Horley, RH6 9EP
Tel: 01293 784826 / 07836 75757

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Phill Piddell, 1 Hope House Farm
Cottage Crouch Lane, Sandhurst
Cranbrook, Kent
TN18 5PD tel: 01580 850768

Annual membership of the Society	£15 per person
Lapel Badge	£5 per badge
Total	
Please treat my membership as a Gift Aid donation (YES / NO)	

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

PLEASE USE CLEAR BLOCK CAPITALS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Email: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

Emergency Contact (Name and Number) _____

Age (if under 18): _____ Occupation: _____

It is your responsibility to ensure that the Society is informed of any changes in your communication details.

Please return the completed form to Phill Piddell. You will receive a Membership Card in the post.

Alternatively please email the above details to phill.piddell@bt.com and transfer the money directly to our bank account: SORT CODE **20-49-76** Account **90867381** (South of England Hedge Laying Soc)

Renew on online - www.sehls.co

FOR YOUR DIARY

8 th Sept 2018	Laughton & District Competition, Primrose Farm, Arlington
15 th Sept	West Grinstead Competition, Priors Byne Farm, Partridge Green
22 nd Sept	Coppicing Hurstpierpoint
28 th -30 th Sept	Weald Woodfair, Bentley
6 th Oct	Hurstpierpoint Competition, Hook House Farm, Haywards Heath
6 th and 7 th Oct	Autumn Show and Game Fair, Ardingly Show Ground
13 th Oct	Training 1 , Bolney East Sussex
27 th Oct	National Competition, Barton, Cambs
10 th Nov	Training 2 , Dallington, East Sussex
24 th Nov	Coppicing. Furze Field nr. Turners Hill
25 th Nov	Tool Sharpening, Plumpton College, Sussex
8 th Dec.	Training 3 , Magham Down, Sussex
29 th Dec	Coppicing. Furze Field nr. Turners Hill
5 th Jan 2019	Hedge Laying Improvers Day 4, Isfield Sussex
19 th Jan	Coppicing. Furze Field nr. Turners Hill
26 th Jan	President's verses Chairman, Polegate
17 th Feb SUNDAY	ANNUAL COMPETITION Angmering
16 ^h March	Charity Day Sedlescombe
23 rd March	Midland hedgelaying day Angmering

NOTICES

HEDGE REVIEW FOR THE UPCOMING 2018/19 SEASON

TD 1 – 13th Oct 2018: Bolney – a nice easy hedge for beginners **FOOD**



TD 2 10th Nov 2018: Dallington – another easy hedge **Maybe food**
No photo

TD3 08th Dec 2018: Magham Down – less easy, possibly a bit brittle based on previous experience.



Improvers' Day 05th Jan 2018: Isfield – a thicker hedge but not difficult; should lay very nicely **FOOD**



President v Chairman 02nd Feb 2019: Polegate – a decent hedge with good access either side; a bit more difficult again but it should make a decent hedge. There are gaps but there's nothing to be done about those.



NOTICES

HEDGE REVIEW continued

SEHLS competition 17th Feb 2019:

Angmering Estate again; a continuation from last year's competition. A good hedge that looked smart once laid so no reason to expect anything different this time. **PUB LUNCH AFTERWARDS** no photo

Charity Day 16th Mar 2019: Sedlescombe – decent amount of hedge but a bit variable. The bulk (all?) of the hedge will be along the roadside, but it is a quiet road and should not be an issue. **FOOD**



Midland Day 23rd Mar 2019: Back to Angmering to finish off the remaining hedge. It should look smart in Midland style.



Hedgerow Heroes

Remember them from the previous August newsletter? Surrey Wildlife Trust set up Hedgerow Heritage Project a scheme to survey, plant, lay and restore Surrey Hedges, Well now they have a grant of nearly half a million pounds from the Heritage Lottery fund Fund to help carry this out.



[LINK](#)

EVENTS REVIEWS

Twyford Farm – Open Farm Day – June 23rd 2018

This farm is a 220 acre mixed farm near Horsted Keynes, comprising: pasture, a lake and woodland. In 2013, it was donated to the Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) by the late Alison Mountain.

The Countryside Restoration Trust is a UK charity promoting wildlife friendly farming and campaigns for a living working countryside, including hedge laying. They have over 2000 acres under their stewardship throughout the country with 4 sites in the South East. CRT are based in Barton, Cambridgeshire, with Lark Rise Farm, a 450 acre arable farm being their main site and the venue for the National Hedge Laying Championships on October 27th 2018.

It was fun taking the birch there for the demo hedge on the Saturday, passing through some rather pleasant countryside. The farm is located on the Ashdown Forest and in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The website states it is a magical location; I can't disagree with that description.



Because of the nature of the land, the farm has had to diversify, with a livery yard, B & B and a holiday let, to make the place viable.

Despite the hot weather and baked ground, I did manage to get the birch into the ground, pleached and staked (an iron bar came in handy). All was finished off with binders. I put out some of my tools to show the visitors what we use for hedge laying and, with the sun beating down on them, some got a bit warm.

Alongside me doing the hedge laying demo, the Countryside Restoration Trust had brought their caravan and displays down from Cambridgeshire. There was a coppice worker, making various things including Gypsy flowers, a spinner, a photographer who specialised in wildlife photos, plus Phil Hart who was shearing some of the sheep off the farm.



On the CRT caravan, was the organisation's Chairman, Robin Page; farmer, author, journalist and former presenter of the BBC's programme One Man & His Dog.

Unfortunately the Open Day clashed with an England game in the World Cup so the attendance was down.

However, it was an enjoyable day in a fabulous location and I would be happy to go back next year as it's not a bad place to spend a day.

If you want to find out more about the Countryside Restoration Trust take a look at their website:-

www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com

Chris Burchell Collins

Letter from Findon: Mered Harries

Dear SEHLS

I thought your team of hedge layers might like to see the fruits of their labours. Mid December you came to our field at the foot of Cissbury Ring on the South Downs, and laid our boundary hedge. It's now flourishing, with nesting birds and happily contained lambs!

Thanks for all your hard work
Lol and Mered

NOTICES

Summer shows update

Plumpton College Open Day, May 12th 2018

As I write this update the heatwave continues which seems odd when I think back to the college open day. The day dawned fine but the forecast did contain rain and when Gary turned up with the demo hedge he said it was forecasted for about midday. I commented that I hoped his weather forecasting wasn't as good as his hedge laying. Needless to say he was right and the rain duly arrived about midday. This also was the time we had agreed would be good to start the demo.

With a change around in the layout of the show and poor weather we had a very quiet day in terms of enquires and viewers for the demo.

Heathfield Show, May 26th 2018



This is a long standing event for SEHLS, and the organiser of the Country Ways area is a keen supporter of ours. Last year, our pitch was at the bottom of the Country Ways ring and a little bit off the paths. Leading up to the show we spoke with the organiser and got a pitch further up the area and at a crossroads of the paths. This worked well, as we had a lot more interest than 2017 with enquiries for hedge laying and training. Also our location meant that people passing by could see the ongoing hedge demo. The photo shows that we put together a good size hedge on the curve which meant that we were able to do two demos during the day.

This was the first Heathfield Show that I have attended when there has been no rain at some point during the day. This is unusual for this show, perhaps this should have been an indicator for the summer.

NOTICES

South of England Show, June 7th, 8th & 9th 2018



This show hasn't always been so productive for the Society as we were always tucked away in the centre of the Discover the Countryside area. Due to the poor ground conditions at the Autumn Show & Game Fair in 2017, our van was parked up next to Wakehurst Drive, and we seemed to be busy despite the poor weather. So I put in a request for the same pitch for the South of England Show.

We had 23 hedge laying enquires, some training forms were handed out and we were given some details about coppice sites, which may be available and need visiting. One could say, therefore, that it was fortuitous that it was wet for last year's Game Fair and we were able to move our pitch.

On arrival, on the first day of the show, we found we had some neighbours; the BBC Breakfast team with weather forecaster Carol Kirkwood who were doing short films for that morning's broadcast. Once they had left, we had plenty of room into which we expanded with our demo hedge.

Thank you

Leading up to, and on the day of a show, there is a lot of work which goes on to put on our display. Many thanks to all those people who have contributed so far to the show season, and ensured that SEHLS puts on a good display at the various events.

Chris Burchell Collins, Shows Officer

NOTICES

And Two Further reports from Phil Hart

Blackdown Hills Hedgelaying Association Annual Competition.

Devon style Competition report

A delegation from SEHLS visited the Blackdown Hills competition visited the Blackdown Hills competition.

The rain was drumming down on the marquee, as we waited for the draw to take place, it was another one of Gary Moore's famous hedgelaying "clearing up showers" in action. Today he was right, and as we progressed with the hedge laying, the sun tried to break through making pleasant working conditions.

Our steward Dick Foulter was waiting on the hedge line in the rain with a mobile office & food for a week. Being well organised, Dick kept us fully informed of time throughout the day.

We started cutting at 9 45 through to 3 30pm, this included 30 mins of extra time, which was very welcome.

Gary got his first side down only to realise he was only half way as it was a double comb hedge. He powered through hedge side number 2 and was rewarded with 3rd prize.

South of England cutters taking part were: David Dunk, Gary Moore, Geoff Pit & Phil Hart in the Intermediate class, Russell Woodham & Nigel Adams in the Open class. Spectators included South of England cutter Tony Gallows, with seasoned South of England supporters Julie & Phill Hallam appearing & cheering us up with good humored banter.

For me it was a good mental workout transferring the cutting & hedge building skills to the Devon style, as I had missed the training sessions. A big thank you to David Dunk, Gary Moore, Russell Woodham & George Pigeon for imparting skills & knowledge to bring together a successful weekend. It was a challenge to be climbing up & down a 5 foot bank, especially when you left a tool in the field and you were stood on top of bank or worse still the other side of the hedge / bank.

Thank you also to Mandy Woodham for a fantastic stew on Friday evening plus a delicious coffee & walnut cake. Thank you to Richard Hooker & the Blackdown Hills Hedgelaying Association for making us welcome, a fantastic event with over 100 cutters taking part, in 4 classes, Novice pairs, Novice, Intermediate, & Open class. We were in the Intermediate class of 17 cutters. Great food was provided from the WI, there was a good range of trade stands, I managed to get away without buying another axe, while Gary came home with a large succulent coffee & walnut cake which somehow managed to survive all the way back to Sussex without being sampled. For the moment food science will have to go without that piece of important research.

“The Pleach Boys” European Hedgelaying Tour, Netherlands, March 2018.

“The Pleach Boys” European Hedgelaying Tour March 2018.

From the rolling South Downs of Sussex, through the White Cliffs of Dover, under the English Channel, to catch up with old friends & make new friends, we found the next site for the next “International hedgelaying Championship” in France.

Excellent hospitality, challenging hedges, flat open landscape, fencing with railway sleepers for intermediate fence posts, we started in the Polders, with open flat fields & plenty of drainage ditches, old windmills that were drainage pumps. Excellent cuisine, glorious sunrises & stunning sunsets. The bikes had mud guards on.

Hay barns with raisable roofs, Lex Rouleveld’s birthday to celebrate, I found an old hay fork resting horizontally in my hedge, it must have been there for years, fantastic B & B at Jan & Corrie van Leeuwen, Langbroek plus 2 nights accomodation at Klooster Monastery in Boxmeer.

3 days training & demonstrating hedgelaying.

Great weekend at the Annual Boxmeer hedge laying championship with 47 teams & 5,000 plus visitors. Dave Turan was a clear leader in the “spitting the pea” competition at the “Hedgeland Games”. Thank you to Dave Turan & Peter Tunks for contributing to a great trip. Phil Hart.

South of England Hedge Laying Society

Merchandise 2018



Polo Shirts (Logo on chest, legend on back) £26, (Logo only) £15
Sizes S-XL (XXL and above add £1.20)
Colours - black, navy, bottle green, red, grey, maroon, sky, white, yellow.
Logo on shirts and legend on hats is embroidered. Legend on back of shirts is a heat transfer and says 'South of England Hedge Laying Society'.



**SOUTH OF ENGLAND
HEDGE LAYING
SOCIETY**



Sweat Shirts (Logo on chest, legend on back) £29, (Logo only) £18
Sizes S-XL (XXL and above add £1.20)
Colours – black, navy, bottle green, red, grey, maroon.



Woolly Hats (Legend on front) £8 One size fits all
Colours – black, navy, bottle green, lime.

Thinsulate Hats (Legend on front) £11 One size fits all
Colours – black, navy, grey, olive green.

SEHLS Merchandise order form

Item	Size	Colour	No. of	Price each	Total
P & P					
				Grand Total £	

Postage and Packing

Sweat shirts/Polo shirts £3.00 Hats £1.00 All three items £3.00

For larger orders please ask Mike Mason for quote

mike.mason@virgin.net 07917 437244

Save on postage – Let Mike know and he will bring your items to the next event!

Size guide

X Small = 36-38, Small = 38-40,
 Medium = 40-42, Large = 42-44,
 X Large = 44-46, XX Large = 46-48,
 XXX Large = 50-52

To order please complete the attached form and send to Mike Mason
mike.mason@virgin.net or 2 Ashfield Road, Midhurst, West Sussex,
 GU29 9JX

and transfer the money to the society bank account
 SORT CODE **20-49-76** Account **90867381** (South of England Hedge
 Laying Society)

Approx. 2 – 3 week turnaround on orders.

Committee Members and Officers

President	Peter Tunks 01293 784826
Vice President	Bob Hunt 01273 400898
Chairman & Training Officer:	Phil Hart 0771 705 4172
Vice Chairman	Frank Wright 01273 493309
Secretary and Show Officer	Chris Burchall-Collins 01273 495026
Treasurer	Mike Parrot 01273410292
Assistant Secretary:	Vacant
Membership Secretary: and Competition Secretary	Phill Piddell 01580 850768
Newsletter Editor	Ian Runcie 01273 567278
Awards Officer:	Mike Parrott
Coppicing Officer and committee member	Tim Hughes 01444892742
Transport Manager:	Bob Hunt 01273 400898
Hedge Manager:	Frank Wright 01273493309
National Reps	Phil Hart 0771 705 4172 & John French 01424 772371

Committee Dates, Nov

**Items for next Newsletter to Ian by mid
November please**

**Editor: Ian Runcie, Windrush, Cuilfail,
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