

# **SOUTH OF ENGLAND HEDGE LAYING SOCIETY**

Reg Charity No 1046124



**December 2016**



**National Supreme Champion Alan Ashby with  
the winning hedge, Midland Style, Chester Oct  
2016**

## **Message from the Chairman**

**Phil**

### **Congratulations to Alan Ashby for achieving the Supreme Cutter Award at the 2016 National Hedge Laying Championship in Cheshire.**

Thank you to everyone that has helped out with transport, advice & visits following my recent knee operation.

I am sure you would all like to wish a “speedy recovery” to recent knee operation layers Peter Tunks & Des Whittington. We look forward to seeing you back on the hedge line soon.

Congratulations to all the competitors who have taken part in the recent competitions. A big thank you to Tim Hughes, Terry Standen and the coppicing crews for the good work carried out.

The training days have been well attended, thank you to all the trainers for helping pass on their skills.

Best wishes for the Christmas season & the New Year.

Phil Hart.

### **Alan Ashby**

Alan started hedge laying 25 years ago with the South of England Hedge Laying Society, his first trainer was Dick Moorley which has held him in good stead, over the years Alan has won numerous ploughing match hedge laying competitions. In 2000 he won the South of England Open Class at the Nationals, he then turned his attention to cutting in the Midland Style in the Open class. He has won the Midland Veteran Class for the last 3 years, topping this with the Supreme Championship in October 2016.

Favorite tools include a left hand & right hand side axes, depending on which side of the hedge he is working on. His cherished billhook is a Leicester pattern. His other favorite tool is the petrol powered orange axe... He has always been a fan of hedge laying mitts.

He says sharp tools is one of the keys to successful hedge laying, he uses a selection of carpentry oils stones for keeping a keen edge on his tools. Hedge layers that have contributed to his success include Mick Haynes, Tony Carter & Nelson Russell.

Phil Hart

## Tools of the trade 3: Chainsaws



I came across this beast whilst on holiday in the Norfolk Broads in the Broads Museum. It's a manual chain saw. Has anyone used such a thing?

I guess it was operated by wrapping the saw round the trunk and yanking from side to side. I was puzzled as to why this might be used in preference to a decent standard saw and the only thing I could come up with was the obsession of boating folk with neatness and efficient stowage. The whole saw must fit into the pouch shown and perhaps this represented a neat way of stowage on a tiny skiff of the type used to navigate the narrower channels in the Broads and a convenient way of carrying an effective saw through the swamps, attached to a belt.

Hand held chainsaws were first utilised from the late 18 century during surgery for purposes which I don't intend to go into. A German surgeon, Bernard Heine is credited with inventing the first chainsaw operated by manually rotating a sprocket handle, an instrument which he called an osteotome. The first effective powered chainsaw for timber is usually attributed to a Canadian, James Shand who, in 1918, used a remote power source and a saw with a recognisable bar and sprocket system. It didn't catch on and it was Andreas Stihl in Germany who managed, in 1929, to

produce an 2 stroke engine that was light enough to be effectively incorporated into the cutting machine. It required two persons to operate it and it was not until 1950 that he manufactured the first single operator machine.

It is now necessary to obtain certification before using a chainsaw at any of the Society's activities. This can be dauntingly expensive for non-professionals but fortunately Phill Piddell organised a course and assessment for members that is more affordable. Hopefully this will continue. Anyone doing the course cannot fail to be impressed by the finesse incorporated into the modern machine. Both the machine and the chain are complex triumphs of engineering and the results of evolution of efficiency and safety features.

The recent leaps taken in battery technology and power will probably mean that in a decade or so the petrol machine will join the hand operated ones on the museum shelf.



### Risk Assessments

For all events that the South of England Hedge Society organise, a Risk Assessment is prepared. Two examples, one for hedge laying & one for coppicing follow and can also be seen at <http://sehls.weebly.com/info.html>. Each site may have additional risks that may need to be added & considered.

The risk associated with hedge laying are detailed in the Risk Assessment. The numbers in the columns on the right relate to the Likelihood (L) of the accident happening & the Severity (S) of the accident if it happened. These 2 numbers are multiplied to give a Risk Rating (R). A high Risk Rating (R) number indicate dangerous tasks. Using this form and the calculation the Risk of the Hazards can be assessed. The explanation of what these numbers refer to are as follows:

<p><b>(L) LIKELIHOOD</b>            1 Hazard exists very infrequently; limited numbers exposed            2 Likely to occur; hazard exists intermittently or occurs occasionally            3 Likely to occur soon; permanent hazard or occurs daily/repeatedly; many may be exposed</p>	<p><b>(S) SEVERITY OF HAZARD</b>            1 Could cause minor injury only            2 Could cause major injury/3 day or more absence            3 Could cause a fatality/severe injury</p>	<p><b>(R) RISK LEVEL</b> is the product of Likelihood and Severity (L x S)</p> <p>Very High Risk score 6 or 9            Moderate Risk score 3 or 4            Low Priority Risk score 1 or 2</p>
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If you have any questions regarding the hazards & how to reduce risks please ask. Phil Hart, Chairman, Training Officer or your trainer / site organiser at the event you are attending.

# South of England Hedge Laying Society

## Site Risk Assessment

Date:	Task: <b>Coppicing</b>	Grid Ref			
Location:		Nominated Site Foreperson:			
Hazard	Whom affected	Control Measures(s)	Risk Level		
			L	S	R
Using a slasher to clear brambles / nettles etc	Coppice Worker Public	Training / Experience, operate a safe working distance of at least 2 lengths of the slasher handle	1	2	2
Rabbit holes	Coppice Worker Public	Raise awareness of them Mark holes with a stick / hazard tape if in the way of pedestrians	3	1	3
Tools flying out of Coppice workers hands	Coppice Worker Public	Training / Experience do not hold hand tools (Billhooks, Brush hooks) while wearing gloves.	1	1	1
Using Sharp Hand tools	Coppice Worker Public	Training / Experience, keep the public away from hedge laying operators. Cut away from your body / people.	3	2	6
Chainsaw operation	Coppice Worker Public	Full Chainsaw PPE, Operator to hold relevant chainsaw certificate	3	3	9
Felling Coppice material	Coppice Worker Public	Good observations maintained, Training / Experience, safe working distance maintained	2	1	2
Moving long Coppice material / binders and other hitting people	Coppice Worker Public	Good observations maintained, Training / Experience, safe working / observation distance maintained	2	1	2
Lifting heavy items	Coppice Worker	Training / Experience, Communication, Team work	1	2	2
Nearest Phone: Mobile Phone on site		First Aid Box Location:			
Ambulance Meeting Point:		First Aider: Mike Parrott / Phil Hart / Gary Moore			
Nearest Hospital/Medical Facilities:		First Aid Contingency: Small cuts – first aid Medium injuries – non life threatening & safe to move patient, First aid then take to hospital. Major injuries- life threatening. Not able to move patient, First aid, then call ambulance.			
Risk Assessment Undertaken by: P J Hart					
<b>(L) LIKELIHOOD</b> 1 Hazard exists very infrequently; limited numbers exposed 2 Likely to occur; hazard exists intermittently or occurs occasionally 3 Likely to occur soon; permanent hazard or occurs daily/repeatedly; many may be exposed		<b>(S) SEVERITY OF HAZARD</b> 1 Could cause minor injury only 2 Could cause major injury/3 day or more absence 3 Could cause a fatality/severe injury		<b>(R) RISK LEVEL</b> is the product of Likelihood and Severity (L x S)  Very High Risk score      6 or 9 Moderate Risk score      3 or 4 Low Priority Risk score      1 or 2	

**VERY HIGH RISK SCORES (6 TO 9) NEED ADDITIONAL ACTION. ACTIVITY MUST NOT COMMENCE.**

## Site Risk Assessment (continued)

*Note: If this additional page is needed the results MUST be used when assessing the hazards and risk level of the task*

Hazard	Whom affected	Control Measures(s)	Risk Level		
			L	S	R
If present, Over Head Power lines	Coppice Worker Public	Get them turned off before Coppicing commences, do not cut coppice material if within 2 tree lengths of the Over Head Power lines	3	3	9
Pricked by Blackthorn	Coppice Worker Public	Wear gloves when handling blackthorn.	3	1	3
Saw dust	Coppice Worker Public	Wear safety goggles when close to wood being cut	3	1	3
Twigs / thorns scratching your eyes	Coppice Worker Public	Wear safety goggles when close to Twigs / thorns	3	1	3
Lifting heavy items, back injury	Coppice Worker,	Share the lifting with someone else Use safe Lifting Techniques,	2	2	4
Stabbing feet with a fork	Coppice Worker,	Strong stout boots preferably with steel toecaps	1	1	1
Tetanus	Coppice Worker	Vaccinations up to date	1	3	3
Burn from fire / sparks / steam / boiling sap	Coppice Worker	Load fire from up wind of the fire, turn in fire with a fork	1	2	2
Slip, trip, fall	Coppice Worker	Clear brambles, keep a tidy work site, and do not walk in woodland with your hands in your pockets.	1	2	2
<b>Additional Controls Needed:</b>					
<b>If working near power lines they must be switched off before the job can start.</b>					
<b>Further Preventative Measures:</b>					
<b>Chainsaw operators require certification before chainsaw use can take place.</b>					
<b>Coppice Worker and trainers to ensure safe working distances are maintained.</b>					
<b>Additional Personal Protective Equipment:</b>					
<b>Chainsaw Operators each to carry their own personal first aid kit at all times.</b>					
<b>Training Needed: All Coppice Workers to have under taken basic training before carrying out coppice work</b>					
<b>Monitoring and Communication: This risk assessment to be updated &amp; additional risks added where appropriate.</b>					
<b>Mobile phones on site, check for signal.</b>					
<b>(L) LIKELIHOOD</b> 1 Hazard exists very infrequently; limited numbers exposed 2 Likely to occur; hazard exists intermittently or occurs occasionally 3 Likely to occur soon; permanent hazard or occurs daily/repeatedly; many may be exposed		<b>(S) SEVERITY OF HAZARD</b> 1 Could cause minor injury only 2 Could cause major injury/3 day or more absence 3 Could cause a fatality/severe injury		<b>(R) RISK LEVEL</b> is the product of Likelihood and Severity (L x S)  Very High Risk score      6 or 9 Moderate Risk score      3 or 4 Low Priority Risk score    1 or 2	

## South of England Hedge Laying Society. Site Risk Assessment.

Date:	Task: <b>Hedge Laying</b>	Grid Ref:
Location:		Nominated Site Foreperson:

Hazard	Whom affected	Control Measures(s)	Risk Level		
			L	S	R
Using a slasher to clear brambles / nettles etc	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Training / Experience, operate a safe working distance of at least 2 lengths of the slasher handle Do not wear clothes with swinging tools	1	2	2
Rabbit holes	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Training, communication, mark rabbit holes with a stake/ post / hazard tape	3	1	3
Removing /& handling barbed wire	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Training / Experience, use gloves	1	1	1
Using Sharp Hand tools, billhooks, axe	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Training / Experience, keep the public away from hedge laying operators. Cut away from your body, / people, do not wear gloves to hold axes or billhooks	3	2	6
Chainsaw operation	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Full Chainsaw PPE, Operator to hold relevant chainsaw certificate	3	3	9
Felling hedge row material	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Good observations maintained, Training / Experience, safe working distance maintained. Public to be a minimum of 2 shrub / hedgerow plant lengths away, marked by hazard tape	2	1	2
Moving long hedge row material / binders and other hitting people	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Good observations maintained, Training / Experience, safe working / observation distance maintained Public to be a minimum of 2 binder lengths away, marked by hazard tape	2	1	2
Lifting heavy items	Hedge layer, Trainers	Training / Experience, Communication, Team work	1	2	2
Slip, trip, fall	Hedge layer, Trainers, Public	Remove trip hazards, keep the site tidy, wear boots with good grips. Do not walk about with your hands in your pockets.	1	1	1

Continued on next page

**Site Risk Assessment (continued)**

Nearest Phone: mobile phones on site Pocket		First Aid Box Location: On Hedge line	
Ambulance Meeting Point:		First Aider: Gary Moore Mike Parrott Phil Hart	
Nearest Hospital/Medical Facilities:		First Aid Contingency: First Aid Kit Small cuts – first aid Medium injuries – non life threatening. First aid then take to hospital if ok to move the patient. Major injuries- life threatening. First aid, then call ambulance.	
Risk Assessment Undertaken by: P J Hart			
<b>(L) LIKELIHOOD</b> 1 Hazard exists very infrequently; limited numbers exposed 2 Likely to occur; hazard exists intermittently or occurs occasionally 3 Likely to occur soon; permanent hazard or occurs daily/repeatedly; many may be exposed	<b>(S) SEVERITY OF HAZARD</b> 1 Could cause minor injury only 2 Could cause major injury/3 day or more absence 3 Could cause a fatality/severe injury	<b>(R) RISK LEVEL</b> is the product of Likelihood and Severity (L x S)  Very High Risk score      6 or 9 Moderate Risk score      3 or 4 Low Priority Risk score    1 or 2	

**VERY HIGH RISK SCORES (6 TO 9) NEED ADDITIONAL ACTION. ACTIVITY MUST NOT COMMENCE.**

Please turn over & complete the next page



**Site Risk Assessment** (continued)

*Note: If this additional page is needed the results MUST be used when assessing the hazards and risk level of the task*

Hazard	Whom affected	Control Measures(s)	Risk Level		
			L	S	R
If present Over Head Power lines	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Get them turned off before laying commences or do not lay the hedge if with in 2 tree lengths of the standing hedge	3	3	9
Pricked by Blackthorn	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Wear gloves when handling blackthorn.	3	1	3
Saw dust	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Wear safety goggles when close to wood being cut	3	1	3
Twigs / thorns scratching your eyes	Hedge layer, Trainers Staff Public	Wear safety goggles when close to Twigs / thorns	3	1	3
Bruised hands / legs from Mell / maul	Hedge layer,	Training / Experience	2	1	2
Stabbing feet with a fork	Hedge layer, Trainers	Strong stout boots preferably with steel toecaps	1	1	1
Wet ground /ditch slipping	Hedge layer, Trainers, Public	Tread carefully, keep a tidy worksite Appropriate foot ware with good grips	2	1	2
Traffic on road	Hedge layer, Trainers, Public	Warning Signs, Good Observations	2	3	6
Petrol explosion / flash fire / face scald burns	Chainsaw operators	Caution filling hot chainsaw, let it cool down, use funnel or specialist fuel can nozzle to reduce spillage Start 10 m away from the refuelling site.	2	3	6
Horses & Riders	Hedge layer, Trainers, Public Horse riders	Good observations & communication. No sudden movements if horses are approaching / passing. Do not start / operate chainsaws if horses are approaching / passing	2	3	6
Wasps nest	Hedge layer, Trainers, Public	Mark with a stick, hazard tape, do not lay the cant affected until made safe.	1	3	3

**Additional Controls Needed:**

**If working near power lines they must be switched off before the job can start.**

**Further Preventative Measures: Chainsaw operators require certification before chainsaw use can take place. Staff and trainers to ensure safe working distances are maintained.**

**Additional Personal Protective Equipment: Chainsaw Operators each to carry their own personal first aid kit at all times.**

**Training Needed: All Novice hedge layers**

**Monitoring and Communication. Training Officer / site foreperson to discuss with the land owner / site manager and update this risk assessment as deemed necessary.**

**Mobile phones on site, check for signal.**

Updated P J Hart November 2016

# South of England Hedge Laying Society

Reg. Charity N0 1046124

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



## Training in Hedge Laying

Training Fee for Hedge Laying is £150 for four training days, or £60 for one "taster" day. You also need to be a member of the society for insurance purposes. All training must be pre-booked.

The following training days for Coppicing & Hedge Laying are planned for the 17/18 season.

	Subject	Cost
	Tool Sharpening	£10
	Coppicing	£150 for all four days
Day 1	Hedge Laying	
Day 2	Hedge Laying	
	Coppicing	
Day 3	Hedge Laying	£60 for one day
	Coppicing	
Day 4	Hedge Laying Improvers Day	

Note that dates and locations may be subject to change

### **Coppicing days are FREE to all Members**

In the event of a cancellation a re-booking fee will apply as follows

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

Note also that you must also be a member of the society, so if your training is over multiple years you will need to re-join.

## **Experienced current members**

A section of hedge will be allocated for experienced current members wishing to lay hedge, please contact Phill Piddell book your place.

Other events

- The 'Presidents verses Chairman' Competition
- Our Annual Competition
- The Hedge Laying Fun Day

Please note 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 events.

## **To get booking information for these events, send a completed membership application form to Phill Piddell.**

**The Membership Secretary, Phill Piddell.**

**1 Hope House Farm Cottage, Crouch Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, TN18 5PD 01580**  
850768 [phill.piddell@bt.com](mailto:phill.piddell@bt.com)

# South of England Hedge-Laying Society



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (or RENEWAL) April 2016 to March 2017

**PRESIDENT:**

Peter Tunks  
The Coach House  
Waltersville Way  
Horley  
RH6 9EP

Tel: 01293 784826 / 07836 757570

**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	
<b>Total</b>		
<b>Please treat my membership as a Gift Aid donation (YES / NO)</b>		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name and Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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.uk](http://www.sehls.co.uk)**

## NOTICES

### Keeping You Informed.

Everyone gets regular newsletters which are packed full of useful information, please do let us know if you are happy to receive them by email (you get them about a week earlier than the post!), however things change. It's really useful for the society to update you with event information during the year by email – it's fast and free. We will never sell your email, and will not junk-mail you with adverts. So if you do have an email please let me know, it's a great way to get the latest information. If you really don't have email but want to be kept up-to-date please let me know your mobile phone number and I will send you details by text.

We also have a website [www.sehls.co.uk](http://www.sehls.co.uk) which has a blog (a sort of on-line diary) which contains event reports, and pictures, along with useful information. You can access this by using the computers at the local library, and you don't need to sign up to anything.

Phill Piddell



### **Manor Farm Byfleet, Surrey Training Day 2 12 November 2016**

A wet and windy day greeted the hardy souls, who numbered around 20, including a handful of trainees, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance to be there. The hedge was relatively young and consisted of a good mixture of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, field maple, dogwood and rose. Adjacent sections had been laid by earlier in the year by the Surrey Group.

If ever there was an easy hedge this was it with good access, moderately sized healthy stems and no over crowding. The amount of clearing out was minimal but brittle and clinging rabbit guards were a slight irritation.

So, in the main, cants were done in good time, although the process of continuous binding took a while, but the results were worth the effort.

A section at the end was tackled by the chainsaw gang who made short work of it. Terry and Tom then gave us a splendid demonstration of continuous binding, whilst mere mortals raked and tidied up.

Thanks must go to Frank for organising, to Gary for the marvellous stakes and binders and his wit during the rainstorms and, of course, to the trainers. Indeed all that turned up deserved a medal - it was pretty darn wet.

Phil very kindly organised a card for Peter Tunks, who has had a knee operation and we all wish him well in his recuperation and look forward to seeing him out again.

Next training day is on 10 December at Scotney Castle.

Mathew Beard

## Before and after at Byfleet



### **Save the SOEHS Money**

We would like to encourage members to receive this newsletter by e mail, please let Phil Piddell know if you would prefer this: [phil.piddell@bt.com](mailto:phil.piddell@bt.com)

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Hedge Laying 3
7th Jan	Hedge Laying Improvers Day 4
21 st Jan	President's verses Chairman
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Coppicing day, Leith Hill
19th Feb	Annual Competition
24th Feb	AGM, Plumpton College
18 th March	Fun Day, Fletching

### Trainers wanted

Are you willing to help the Society train the next generation of hedge layers? We are looking for volunteers who can come along to the training days and pass on your skills? If you can help with one event per season it would make a big difference.

Please let Phill Piddell know which event(s) you can help with.



Supreme Champion Alan Ashby gives an axe masterclass with a good selection of 'trainees' looking on.

## NOTICES

The Society is pleased to announce the 33<sup>rd</sup> **annual Hedge Laying competition** to be held at Magham Down, Sussex. Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 Those who have been keeping an eye on our blog ([www.sehls.co.uk](http://www.sehls.co.uk)) will have had a sneak preview of this hedge, it's a nice consistent hedge which will not need chainsaws! (Beware: Frank has found something more "interesting" for next year, whatever that means)

If you attended any other competitions this year (or read the blog!) you would know that we have introduced a much simpler scoring system. We have also increased the prize money significantly. As always competitors and officials get a meal, and this year we are at the Horseshoe Inn <http://horseshoeinn.relaxinnz.co.uk/> located in the charming village of Herstmonceux just a short drive from the site and located in the heart of Trug making country. If you wish to attend please complete the entry form and return it to me (email preferred, just give me your name and class, and any additional meal details). Note that entries will not be accepted after the 12<sup>th</sup> February, so please do it now.

Phill P



We have plenty of spaces available for the next **coppicing event at Leith Hill**. It's just west of Gatwick Airport, so reasonably central. If you fancy a day out do pop along, Tim will be glad to have you on-board. You do not need to let me know if you intended to attend the coppicing.



### **Training Day 3 – important update**

We have reviewed the hedge at Crowborough. For those who visited last year you may have worked on the roadside section which was ok, but the hedge going down the field was slow going and we feel it's a chainsaw day. So we are splitting the event over two sites

#### **Site 1 – Scotney:**

**All the Trainees (and some specially selected members to help train); you should have had an email already.**

Anyone: hand-tools only

#### **Site 2- Crowbrough:**

Experienced members who have a **Chainsaw AND A LICENCE** (or want to use hand tools and tackle something meaty!). If you have not given me your license details please do so asap.

Bonus: The landowner will again be laying on superb food for the attendees. If you intend to attend TD3 please let me know, and tell me which location! Maps will be sent out as usual a week or so before the event.

Phill Pidell

## NOTICES

<b>Points Trophy 2016 - 2017</b>						
Cutter	Laughton	W Grinstead	Hurstpierpoint	SOE Annual Competition	Total	Current Position
Gary Moore	10	9	10		29	1
Mike Bentley	9	7	7		23	3
Darren Hulbert	3	2	3		8	9
Paul Matthews	0	10	0		10	8
David Dunk	6	3	5		14	5
Mark Moore	5	4	6		15	5
Clive Gilligan	8	8	8		24	2
David Drosher	4	5	4		13	7
Bob Whitaker	7	6	9		22	4

<b>Competition Results</b>			
	<b>Laughton</b>	<b>West Grinstead</b>	<b>Hurstpierpoint</b>
1 st	Gary Moore	Paul Mathews	Gary Moore
2 nd	Mike Bentley	Gary Moore	Bob Whitaker
3 rd	Clive Gilligan	Clive Gilligan	Clive Gilligan
4 th	Steve Mockford & Bob Whitaker	Bob Whitaker & Mike Bentley	Mike Bentley

Nationals please see the results on the Nationals website,  
<http://www.hedgelaying.org.uk/pg/nationals/2016.aspx>



**Comment received regarding the West Grinstead Ploughing Match from Anthony Oliver:**

“Comment on yesterday's show and competition near Cowfold. Both my wife and myself (farm at Chailey now ret'd.) enjoyed a wonderful day at the ploughing match and hedgelaying event. We would like it to go on record that it was without doubt one of the very best organised and run shows we have visited ever! The standard and quality of the hedgelaying coupled with the enthusiastic and helpful attitude of your competitors was impressive. Thank you all very much for a wonderful day.”





## NOTICES

### **National Hedge Laying Society Patrons Competition November 2016**

Held at Prince Charles's Home Farm, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. An invitation only event. Following a very wet late winter this event was moved from February 2016 to November 2016. Congratulations go to all the cutters that took par. To encourage the younger generation, this was the first year that Young Novice cutters were invited. As part of this initiative by Prince Charles to get more young cutters interested in the craft in order to keep the skills & benefits of hedge laying alive, the society has been training up novices.

There were 4 classes at the competition / event. Midland Open 9 cutters, Midland Novice 8 cutters, South of England Open 9 cutters, South of England Novice 10 cutters. The South of England Style had the largest class, with 10 cutters who all put in a good performance.

Congratulations to Johnny Adams who was placed first, all the cutters received a certificate of attendance and met HRH Prince Charles, who was on top form as he came along the hedge line chatting to all the cutters.

#### Results

South of England Open 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Kirkwood 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Matthews 3<sup>rd</sup> Russell Woodham 4<sup>th</sup> David Dunk

South of England Novice 1<sup>st</sup> Johnny Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Moulard 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Burrough 4<sup>th</sup> Heath Charnock

Midland Open 1<sup>st</sup> Graham Teece 2<sup>nd</sup> John Exton 3<sup>rd</sup> David Bull 4<sup>th</sup> Colin Clutterbuck

Midland Novice 1<sup>st</sup> Giles Barnett 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Clayson 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke Costello 4<sup>th</sup> Marcus Richmond

The rest of the results are here

<http://www.hedgelaying.org.uk/pg/news/patrons.aspx>

Also taking part in the South of England Novice class were: Natasha Stonestreet, Shannon Rowland, Charlie Miller, Daniel Brend, Adrian Handley, Ralph Connelly. All produced a stock proof hedge to be proud of.

A fantastic day for hedge laying.

# SOUTH OF ENGLAND HEDGE LAYING SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 1046124

## 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL HEDGELAYING COMPETITION

to be held at Nodes Farm, Magham Down BN27 4HY

By kind permission of Alec Holt

on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Entries close 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Entry for the competition is **free to members** and includes lunch at a local hostelry details will be in your joining pack. A joining pack including a schedule, map and prize list will be posted/emailed on **13<sup>th</sup> February 2016**. Confirmation that your entry was received will be sent to members who have email

The Meal is free for competitors and competition officials. Everyone else is welcome to join us, the cost is £13.50 per meal, please include payment with your entry.

### Classes and prizes

Class	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Champion	The Society Cup + £50	£25	15
Senior	Westward Plaque + £50	£25	15
Novice	Westward Plaque + £50	£25	£15.00
Novice Pairs	Society Plate + £50	£25	£15.00
Veteran	The Society Trophy + £50	£25	£15.00
Best 1 <sup>st</sup> Year re-growth	The Whittington Shield + £25	£15	£10.00
Best Veteran re-growth	The Fred Moulard Memorial Trophy		£25
Best length of bindings (Novices only)	Presidents Prize - kindly donated by the Society President		£20
Most improved Novice	The Bill Truran Memorial Trophy		£25
Best work on a poor length	The Joan Streete Memorial Shield		£25
Best staking & binding	The Jim Vantassel Tankard		£25
Best work with hand tools - Novice			£50
Best work with hand tools - Novice Pairs			£50
Best work with hand tools - Veteran			£50
Best work with hand tools - Senior			£50

# COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR ENTRY DETAILS BELOW

(Please note that entries in all classes are limited by availability)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you are happy save the society money and receive joining instructions by email? \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE THE CLASS WHICH APPLIES TO YOU (**tick 1 box**)

Class	Eligibility	Tick
<b>1 Veteran A</b>	For those aged 60 to 69 years of age on the competition date	
<b>2 Veteran B</b>	For those aged 70 and over on the competition date	
<b>3 Senior</b>	For those who have previously won 1 <sup>st</sup> prize in a novice class and experienced cutters who, having previously entered the Novice Class, and now wish to compete at a higher level	
<b>4 Champion</b>	For those who are current members of the Champion Class or have previously won the Senior Class. You will only be eligible to enter this class if you have competed in the SEHLS annual competition within the last three years (i.e. if you have not competed for three years or more you must enter another class) <b>Special note for the Champion class is for the elite layers, and is restricted to a Maximum of Eight entries allocated on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVED basis. Additionally the person in last place will not be eligible to enter this class the following year (they will swap places with the winner of the senior class)</b>	
<b>5 Novice</b>	Entrants for this class must have completed at least 4 training days in the past 3 years or have previously entered, at a similar level, and completed a recognised competition in the allocated time. The first prize winner from the previous year may not enter this class again.	
<b>6 Novice Pair</b>	Entrants for this class must have completed at least 4 training days in the past 3 years or have previously entered, at a similar level, and completed a recognised competition in the allocated time. The first prize winners from the previous year may not enter this class again Name of person you wish to pair with (leave blank if you are willing to be "paired on the day")	

**Lunches:** I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ additional lunches £13.50 (and enclose payment)  
If you would like a vegetarian meal please advise  
I have read, understood and accept the Competition preconditions & rules (tick)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

**Phill Piddell. 1 Hope House Farm Cottage, Crouch Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, KENT. TN18 5PD. Or ideally email details to [phill.piddell@bt.com](mailto:phill.piddell@bt.com)**

## CONDITIONS

- All competitors must be fully paid up members of the Society for the current season.
- All competition applications must be fully completed and acknowledged.
- Any exceptional circumstances or special conditions required by a competitor (e.g. assistance due to lack of mobility or injury) must be agreed by the Chief Steward prior to the start of the competition.

## COMPETITION RULES

- The draw will take place at the class sections at **08.15** and laying will commence at **08.30**.  
Rejection of the drawn cant will result in immediate disqualification and a penalty of suspension from the Society Competition in the following year.
- Competitors not present at the draw will be allocated a cant by the section steward.
- Time allowed: 5 Hours** – any extra time will be at the discretion of the Competition Director and Chief Steward.
- Competitors arriving later than 30 minutes from the start of the Competition will be allowed to start at the discretion of the Chief Steward.
- Signals: An air horn will be used:
  - 2 short blasts will indicate the draw for cants at 08.15.
  - 1 long blast will indicate the start of the competition at 08.30.
  - 1 short blast will be sounded 15 minutes before the end of the competition
  - 2 long blasts will indicate the end of the competition.

**Immediately following the final signal competitors will be expected to stand away from their work and no further work is to be undertaken.** The Judge will then mark the cant according to the work that has been completed. **Competitors who have not completed their cant will then return to complete it. Failure to do this will result in exclusion from the following year's competition.**

**If in the opinion of the Steward or Judge the cant is not completed due to the competitor wasting time, the Judge will deduct 5 points from the competitor's score.**

**Failure to stand away from the hedge will result in that cant not being marked whether complete or not.**

- All competitors to cut and lay a stock proof hedge in the South of England style (definition on separate sheet) of not more than 10yds with a finished height of 4 feet to the top of the binders (Veterans and Novices typically 8yds).
- All frith to be cleared to the side of the hedge indicated by the stewards with a minimum 1.5 YARDS separation from the hedge. Any competitor leaving frith within 1.5 yards is liable to DISQUALIFICATION. All cants to be left tidy.
- Only those stakes and binders provided by the Society are to be used.
- The Competition will be regulated by the Chief Steward in conjunction with the competition Director.
- Competitors in the Novice Classes will not be allowed to use chainsaws. A chainsaw steward will be appointed.**
- Competitors in other classes must provide and use the appropriate safety equipment and have their Certificate details registered with the society.**
- Previously agreed assistance shall be limited to non assessable activities.
- The Judge's decision is final.
- All Competitors agree to abide by the safety directions.
- Depending on the number of entries, it may be necessary to cancel or amalgamate classes and adjust the prizes accordingly.
- No 3<sup>rd</sup> prize will be paid if there are only 4 entries
  - Vehicles may only be parked as directed.**

## Directions to Leith Hill

Coldharbour village, Dorking, Surrey. RH5 6LU



### Directions

A24 North bound from HORSHAM KINGSFOLD – continue North to CAPEL. Where Dual carriageway section starts travel North approx. ¼ mile from the roundabout (at start of dual carriageway)

Turn Left B2126 to Ockley. Bumpy road for approx. 2 miles. Join A29 and turn Left and almost immediately Right onto B2126 Forest Green Road. Follow Brown NT sign LEITH HILL after approx. 1 ½ Miles turn right (Brown NT sign) on bend into Leith Hill Lane.

**The Coppicing site (Black Circle) is a short distance up the lane on the left by the track leading to ETHERLEY FARM. Park along the unmade road well away from the junction and at least 50 yards along the track as it is quite narrow and on a bend near the junction (Red X).**

## NATURE NOTES

### Bird Watch

**OCT '16** Up until Mid-August I had had many Greenfinches and Goldfinches on my feeders in the garden. Then I noticed how much less frequently the seed needed replenishing, as they had moved out. Others also commented on this and we wondered why. I can only suggest the reason: that might be the available seeds in the fields of stubble after harvest. Oilseed Rape residues particularly attract large companies of finches, the energy rich seeds are of great value in building up their bodyweight before the winter. Another source of food that they are certainly finding is the abundance of Blackberries in the district. Anyone who handles and rings wild birds will know how many different species feast on this juicy food by the purple patches left on hands and clothing! I expect them back later in the season.

Compared with other years when perhaps we have not had such a sustained period of fine weather, I have ringed fewer birds in my garden. The high pressure periods allow night flying migrant birds a clear, uninterrupted journey south. Evidence at coastal Bird Observatories where recordings of over-flying night migrants are made, show many have left these shores unobserved. The call notes of each species are distinctive and positive identification can be made. At night with limited visibility, these contact notes are the way flocks keep in touch and stay together and are recognisable to experienced birders. It is when the skies are cloudy that migrants are closer to the ground and easier to see. A favourable season for birds is not necessarily the same for birders.

A couple of days ago I was indoors with the front door open and the passage clear to the back window, looking through to the wood behind. Suddenly there was a thump and a bit of a commotion so I went to investigate and there was a first year male Sparrowhawk spread-eagled (or perhaps spread-hawked) against the window. He must have been chasing a small bird up the garden path that then took evasive action while he flew straight on. These birds are adapted to fly through quite dense woodland in pursuit of prey and seeing the wood at the back must have flown straight on through the house. Totally unharmed and very cross, he departed, having been measured, wearing the appropriate sized ring. I had to wash off the blood I had shed from my hands that had suffered from his black needle sharp talons.

**NOV '16** The migration period this autumn has been most interesting. Many unusual species have come to our shores, brought by the strong winds from different directions. Earlier we had a succession of low pressure systems to the west. These brought north-westerly winds, so the West Country and Ireland received numerous birds from North America. Here I have to own up to being taken on a "twitch". I have stressed that my style of birding is local populations, not chasing rarities. This however was different as I was staying with my son and his wife in Shrewsbury so, having located a rarity on his pager that had arrived the night before, off we went in search of it. This was not difficult as instructions and directions to Upton Warren in Worcestershire were fool-proof. This was a place looked after really well by the

## NATURE NOTES

County Wildlife Trust and members were there to greet us and other visitors, relieve us of £3 and show us from which hide we could see the Baird's Sandpiper, a new one for me and freshly arrived from North America. The reserve, which was the remains of salt extraction pans, also held other waders like Ruff, Common Sandpipers and Avocet and a variety of ducks. It was an interesting place to visit and I hope this bird will fare better than their two previous rarities over the years that were taken by a Sparrow-hawk in front of the hide full of visiting birders!



**Baird's Sandpiper**

Later the winds have come from Scandinavia. A look at the Weather Maps show very well how many light migrants arrive, drifted across the North Sea. Goldcrests of course do breed in Britain but in autumn when the winds are favourable, many thousands come to spend the winter here where it is less harsh. Weighing just five grams, if high in the air in a strong wind, they have little say in where they will end up! Look out for them as they can be approached to a few feet while seeking insects in hedgerows. For those with excellent hearing, their high pitched calls announce their presence before being seen. The Yellow-browed Warbler, that a few years ago was considered rare has also come across in very large numbers. The East Coast Observatories have had in excess of one hundred in a day when normally only the odd one was reported.

I stayed almost a week at Portland Bird Observatory in early October as I have done in spring and autumn for a dozen years or so. We were catching and ringing migrant species, departing Britain or arriving from the Continent. The weather for much of the week was too bright and windy so not a large number was caught until the last day when we had to leave late morning.



**Blyth's Reed Warbler**

Cloud cover made for a much better catch of a good variety. I had the experience of catching a Blyth's Reed Warbler, I am quite confident in identifying birds we regularly ring and have handled many Reed Warblers but I thought this was a bit different so found the Warden who verified it as the sixth ever Blyth's for the Observatory. Breeding in Eastern Finland through Russia, their normal wintering range is India so it was really lost. Another was found on Shetland about the same time as mine.

## Committee and Officers:

President	Peter Tunks 01293 784826
Vice President. and Assistant Training	Gary Moore 07767 894 961
Chairman & Training Officer:	Phil Hart 0771 705 4172
Vice Chairman	Frank Wright 01273 493309
Secretary	Chris Burchall-Collins 01273 495026
Treasurer	Mike Parrott 01273410292
Assistant Secretary:	Vacant
Membership Secretary: and Competition Secretary	Phill Piddell 01580 850768
Newsletter Editor	Ian Runcie 01273 567278
Awards Officer:	Mathew Beard
Coppicing Officer and committee member	Tim Hughes 01444892742
Show Officer:	Chris Burchall-Collins 01273 495026
Transport Manager:	Bob Hunt Tel: 01273 400898
Hedge Manager:	Frank Wright 01273493309
National Reps	Phil Hart 0771 705 4172 & John French 01424 772371

Committee dates: 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 & 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

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acknowledgements: frontpiece Jackie Gilligan

Baird's sandpiper Meo, Flickr

Blyth's Reedwarbler <http://hilbrebirdobs.blogspot.co.uk/2011/06/blyths-reed-warbler.html>