



Chairman's Comments

Dear Members,

I thoroughly enjoyed the talk by Dr Hamori, but I won't be trying the fruit of the Blue Sausage Shrub any time soon, although the surprisingly named Chokeberry looked better than it sounds! Can I reiterate some minor changes over the next months. From April we will be looking for a new venue so follow our lead very closely... We have two great talks lined up;

[The Work of the Royal Forestry Society by Simon Lloyd on March 13th](#) – venue **SWT as usual**. We shall be visiting a RFS site near Welshpool in October and this talk will put our visit into context. The RFS is the largest and longest established (1882) education charity promoting the wise management of woods in England, Wales and N. Ireland. Please come along and support Simon who is not charging us for this talk.

[The History and Future of Woodlands in the Marches by Andrew Allott on April 10th](#) – venue **St Peter's Parish Church Hall, Monkmoor, SY2 5BE**. More in the next newsletter.

I would finally like to welcome new committee member David Woodhouse as secretary, and new members Jon & Cheryl Kean, David Pannett and David Richards.

Can I just suggest visiting Dr Hamori's online plant nursery? planthuntersfairs.co.uk/jurassic_plants
David

Our last talk by Dr. Zoltan Hamori of Jurassic Plants on 13th February- review by John Tuer

What a fascinating talk this was and it was well attended too. Zoltan spoke to us about many less well-known and unusual hardy trees and shrubs that bore edible fruits or were ornamental, providing us with excellent projected photographs to illustrate all the species he covered. He grows most of these at his company, Jurassic Plants Limited, near St. Asaph in North Wales. It has to be said, though, that many of the trees and shrubs he showed were only semi-hardy and he does grow them under large plastic greenhouse-like cloches on his site.

Being Hungarian and having worked for the University of Horticulture in Budapest, he has derived many of his seeds from this body's arboretum. He has also collected them from north Mediterranean areas such as Italy and southern France, the 'cooler side' of the Mediterranean as he called it.

It does mean that if we were to try to grow many of these plants, we would need to find sheltered (not necessarily shaded) parts of our gardens, although some are more hardy than others. The Service tree (*Sorbus domestica*), for example, is easily grown in this country without the need for protection and I could take you to see two specimens of *Poncirus* that are grown in the open in

Shropshire.

Rather than look at each tree individually that Zoltan described for us, I propose to give a list of the trees. This will then act as a memory jogger for members who are interested enough to wish to buy any of the species. You would then need to remind yourselves further by looking them up on-line or in horticultural reference books for details of their edibility, colour, growing conditions, etc.:

Cornus capitata (Himalayan Dogwood)	'Green Sweet', 'Ice', 'Cigar', 'Signora', & 'Sultane'.
Poncirus trifoliata (Hardy Lemon)	Eriobotryajaponica (Japanese Medlar or Loquat)
Diospyrus kaki (Sharon Fruit)	Lumaapiculata(Chinese Myrtle)
Diospyrus lotus (Chinese Date Plum)	Mallotus japonicus (Food Wrapper Tree)
Diospyrus virginiana (American Persimmon)	Decaisneafargesii (Blue Sausage Shrub)
Feijoasellowiana (Pineapple Guava)	Aroniaprunifolia (Chokeberry)
Sorbus domestica (Service Tree)	Pyrus pyraster (Wild Pear)
Ziziphus jujuba (Chinese Date) and Ziziphus jujuba 'Lang'	Asimiatriloba (Indian Banana)
Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree)	Actinidiaarguta (Baby Kiwi)
Punicagranatum ('Black' form of Pomegranate) also Seedless form.	Missionariochiandetti with varieties: 'Issai' and 'Weiki'.
Punicagranatum 'Nana' (Dwarf form of pomegranate)	Zanthoxylum piperitum (Sechuan Pepper)
Broussonetiapyrifera (Paper Mulberry)	Elaeagnus xebbingei (Evergreen Silverberry)
Ficus carica (Fig Tree) with various forms: 'Panachee', 'Pedro', 'Dalmatie', 'Babits', 'Secone',	Elaeagnus umbellata
	Juglans mandschurica (Manchurian Walnut)
	Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)
	Caryacordiformis (Bitternut Hickory)

Twenty eight tree and shrubs with photographs of each often showing bark but always showing flowers, leaves and fruit. We would, I'm sure, accept that showy flowers and autumn leaf colour are good ornamentals in our gardens but Zoltan showed us that bark and fruit, particularly when in profusion and large clusters, can be a really attractive asset to our garden design.

I must add that Zoltan had never given a talk in Britain before and he was very anxious that his accent might put us off what he was saying. I hope members agree that he was easily understood. Because of his original view and not having given talks here before, he developed this talk and the slides entirely for us. He brought samples of seeds and fruit and, what's more, he even brought us all two Poncirus seeds to take home and germinate. This was an excellently prepared talk and a number of members afterwards said how interesting the whole evening had turned out to be.

John Tuer

Our next planting session will be on Friday, 16th March.

This will be our only planting session this season due to John's hospitalisation. So please come out and help if you are available. We shall be continuing the hedge at The Hurst. The hedge defines their boundary but also marks an ancient trackway. We have free trees for this from the County Scheme and we meet there at 10.00am.

How to get there: Go out of Shrewsbury on the A49 to Craven Arms and turn right at the roundabout towards Aston-on-Clun. Go through Aston-on-Clun and continue through Clunton. Still on the same road towards Clun, soon you will come to a sharpish bend to the right and will see a drive on the left signed 'The Hurst. The Arvon Foundation;' Go up the drive, eventually bearing right and you should see us to your right. Please don't forget your spades. The more volunteers who come along, the more speedily we can plant the 500 trees.

We hope to see many of you there!
The Committee, Severn Tree Trust