

STT

Newsletter

January 2018

*(Formerly Men of the Trees following the work of
Richard St Barbe Baker)*



Chairman's Comments

Dear members,

Those of you who managed to get out in the snow will recognise the sentiment of the picture below. I hope you have not had damage to your ornamental trees; I know a few trees that were damaged by the weight of snow and I saw the problem developing myself and was able to knock a lot of the snow off our Acer which still had some leaves on and was not bearing the weight of the snow well.



I hope that some of you got into St Chad's to see the Christmas Tree Festival. I am sorry to say I was not able to help through a training injury; plus the whole of town was thrown into chaos that day by the snow- and what a lot of snow it was!! at least 7-8 inches here.

Due to the snow we were forced to cancel our last talk but we have managed to rearrange the lecture by Dr Zoltan Hamori from Jurassic Plants to February 13th when it will take place at 7.30 pm with the AGM being held before at 6.30pm. We may be able to arrange some sort of extra refreshments to encourage you to attend so please bear with us for more information in the next newsletter!

Enclosed with this letter is the Membership Renewal Form. The fee has been kept the same (since at least 2010) although for those receiving the Newsletter by post and not already paying a supplement we are asking for an extra small donation. Please have a good read and check that we are communicating with you efficiently. Note that those joining STT in the last two months are not expected to pay a renewal fee.

My Committee and I hope to see you next year. Building on the successful visits and lectures of 2017, we have an exciting programme planned for 2018 including a visit to the world famous tree house (see photo) and we look forward to seeing you soon. The full programme will be sent to you once you have renewed your membership.

Some of you may not know that John Tuer had to undergo a second operation after his Anniversary cruise. I understand that it went well but that he is very frustrated not to be able to drive for yet another four weeks! I also understand that our President Geoff Kynaston has not been well. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Stay warm over the winter! A nice log fire should do it.....

David



Tuesday 9th January 2018 Tilley Timber Project Talk by George Nash Shropshire Wildlife Trust 7.30pm

Southside of Wem and separated from that famous stronghold of female emancipation and republicanism (the glorious women of Wem put those arrogant Royalists to the sword in the Civil War) by barely a field, now inevitably earmarked for housing development since it is in the flood plain of the Roden (where else would you sensibly want to build a house), is the ancient hamlet of Tilley. There are a few remarkable facts about Tilley; it has the most unbelievably fragile cart bridge over the river, it must be one of the smallest settlements in Shropshire with its own pub, the ever excellent Raven, but above all over 80% of the buildings on estate maps of 1631 still survive to this day and of the twenty or so dwellings almost half are designated listed buildings, some dating as far back as the thirteenth century. Just take a few seconds to ponder on how many of the houses you see being built so indiscriminately throughout the land at the present time could you imagine will still be habitable in eight hundred years time.

Our speaker in January is a resident of one of those ancient houses, the noted archaeologist Dr. George Nash. In 2014 he managed to get Heritage Lottery Funding to undertake research into these buildings most especially into ring dating of the timber, dendrochronology. This three year funding recently came to an end so George is going to tell us about the results of that work to date, though intriguingly the talk is entitled **The Tilley Timber Project, and Beyond...** Any regular listener to Radio Four will have heard him talking about his specialist subject of rock and cave art, in fact late in November I last heard him on a natural history programme concerning wall drawings of reindeer in Welsh caverns. I'm sure some of our older members can recall spying feral reindeer on the foothills of Snowdonia. As a slightly younger member I do not quite go that far back but I can still visualise steam engines on the mainlines of Wales, if that counts. And he always comes across as an excellent and authoritative speaker with a wide breadth of knowledge. A very different subject matter than the norm for STT, but surely a subject which one would not dare venture to miss.

Peter Aspin

