Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the new format WTS newsletter. It’s back!

In this issue we set the scene for a new series of newsletters. I intend to provide some short updates on WTS activities, progress, new ideas and opportunities. We know you are well catered for with the excellent content of Materials World, but hope to provide some direct pointers to timber-related news. I’ll also give a short update from the WTS board to keep you informed on their activities and new possibilities for getting involved. I hope you enjoy it

Morwenna Spear FIMMM

What has the WTS been up to?
It's been a busy year for the IOM3, celebrating 150 years, and for the Wood Technology Society. Our contribution to the celebrations was held during our Timber 2019 conference in 297 Euston Road. We gathered a good cross section of the timber research community and timber traders, modified wood manufacturers, timber users (from architects to joiners) and enjoyed an excellent event.

There were a raft of excellent presentations, and discussions which followed hit on some very relevant topics for our industry: training and education, sustainability and many questions relating to the best use of wood in the circular economy. George Fereday (The Cass, London) reported his work with architects to familiarise students with timber in practical projects, while Jade Stocker (Property Care Association) outlined the training and quality required to equip professionals working with building remediation. Prof Callum Hill (consultant) and Eilidh Forster (Bangor University) presented the carbon impacts of timber, and significant benefits of using timber in construction.

We welcomed several speakers from overseas, bringing some excellent science and innovation, Prof Vikram Yadama from Washington State University, Dr Albin Baecker from South Africa, and Prof Mike Barnes from Mississippi State University. As the conference was held on the 4th of July, Mike shared with us the origins of the Star Spangled Banner, written in London in the 18th Century for the Anacreonic Society. This drinking song became popular long before its tune was reused with its newer set of lyrics. A memorable way to celebrate new international friendships and connections for the WTS.

Delegates relax on the roof terrace before the conference dinner.
To celebrate the 150th anniversary, and coinciding with Timber 2019, IOM3 launched the online access to the IWSc journal archive. The Journal of the Institute of Wood Science (published from 1958 to 2009) is an immense repository of knowledge from the field of wood science.

Early issues include papers from big names, such as JM Dinwoodie, AF Bravery, WB Banks, JG Savory, JG Sunley, GE Elliott and C Venables. Some significant characters, and depending on your field, many more will trigger your interest. The image on the right is from a journal paper on permeability that I have been looking for several months!


Volume by volume, these articles have been scanned and are being uploaded to the IOM3 document portal ([https://iom3.captureweb.co.uk/](https://iom3.captureweb.co.uk/)). We are very grateful to board member Gervais Sawyer who has collated abstracts and keywords from all the early volumes, and the IOM3 team for scanning and uploading. Do take a look. You will need to create an account to use the portal, but this will allow you to browse some excellent reference works.

**News from the board**

We are have set up a twitter account ([@wood_technology](https://twitter.com/wood_technology)), and already it is showing new opportunities. New board member Dr Bronia Stefanowski has taken the reins for social media content for the WTS, and we’re also on Instagram ([@wood_technology_society](https://www.instagram.com/wood_technology_society/)) and LinkedIn.

Our Chair, Dr Graham Ormondroyd recently became a Strategic Advisor for the IOM3. He said in a recent Q&A with Natalie Daniels that he’s looking forward to help in the development of the Institute for the future. He and the seven other Strategic Advisors form the Technology Communities Board (TCB) which was set up this spring. Read the Q&A here [https://www.iom3.org/news/2019/jul/10/qa-graham-ormondroyd](https://www.iom3.org/news/2019/jul/10/qa-graham-ormondroyd)

**Recent Events**

*From Timber to Trees*, was a set of three short talks organised by the WTS at the Seven Hills Building, Edinburgh Napier University, on 11th September. Speakers Annie Pollock, Mila Duncheva and Martin Ansell addressed three topics relating to trees and timber and their role in improving quality of life.

Starting at the tree level, Annie Pollock discussed the role of trees and shrubs in improving air quality in towns. The next talk, by Mila Duncheva looked at retrofit options for buildings in the UK, many of which were based on timber, such as wood fibre insulation.
Finally Martin Ansell provided a showcase of many recent advancements in wood science, and their application in a surprisingly wide range of fields.

**What’s new on our website?**

I hope you have been keeping an eye on the WTS microsite ([https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society](https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society)). If not, do take a look as there is plenty of new material, and a frequently updated news section. If you are participating in notable wood or timber events and activities (or know of others taking part who deserve a mention) do get in touch with details so we can report it ([wts@iom3.org](mailto:wts@iom3.org)).

There is also an events listing, including recent and upcoming Seminars. If you missed the Edinburgh event (From Timber to Trees, 11th September), make sure you keep an eye on [https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/events](https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/events) to see what’s happening next and come along!

The mainstay of the WTS site is our “All about wood” section ([https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/wood-industry-information](https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/wood-industry-information)), featuring simple information on all aspects of timber manufacturing and use. It has been extensively updated over the past 12 months. Three of the newest topics to be added are “Wood in carpentry”, “Wood in cladding” and “Wood in joinery”, part of our focus on end uses of timber.

A new feature is the “Meet the board” column. This month it is the turn of Jim Coulson, well known for his training activities and consultancy. But do you know his cross-word setting nom de plume? Follow this link to find out ([https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/feature/2019/aug/07/meet-wts-board-jim-coulson-and-anobium](https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/feature/2019/aug/07/meet-wts-board-jim-coulson-and-anobium))

**What’s coming up soon?**

There will be a WTS seminar in London on the afternoon of 12th December. The venue is booked at 297 Euston Road in the Mine. Keep an eye on the events board on our website for more information! [https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/events](https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/events)