

The Wood Technology Society

A Division of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest WTS newsletter. I really don't need to mention what unusual times we are living in, but we hope that the items here will provide a welcome distraction!

In this newsletter issue we offer some updates on planned WTS activities, and some points of interest from the forest and timber industries. Once again Andrew True our webmaster has been busy, and he has highlighted some new material on the WTS website for you to enjoy.

Morwenna Spear FIMMM

What has the WTS been up to?

Many of the activities of the board are continuing as usual, using virtual meetings and digital technologies. Planning for the upcoming conference (Timber 2020) is well under way, see below.

This spring has seen several timber articles in *Materials World: Capturing Timber's Potential* (Morwenna Spear, March issue) and *Engineering Timber* (Martin Ansell, February issue).

Anobium continues to set interesting crosswords on a wide range of themes relating to the whole of IOM3's subject range.

You may also like to check out our regular column *Talking Timber* in the *Timber Trades Journal* – back issues are available on our website.

Timber 2020 – call for papers extended til 15th May

We still expect to run Timber 2020 on 9-10th September in London, although we are paying close attention to updates from HM Government on travel and other restrictions relating to Covid-19.

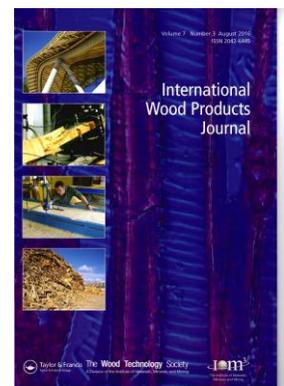
The Call for Papers has been extended to the 15th May, and full details are available on our website, and through the [dedicated conference website](#).

Do keep an eye on the website for updates, and the programme and registration information when it becomes available.

International Wood Products Journal

Looking for something to read? Then the WTS's journal, the *International Wood Products Journal*, (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ywpi20/current>) may be of interest. This is a scientific journal featuring peer reviewed papers in wood, wood products and industrial uses of wood. It is edited by our own Gervais Sawyer, and published by Taylor Francis.

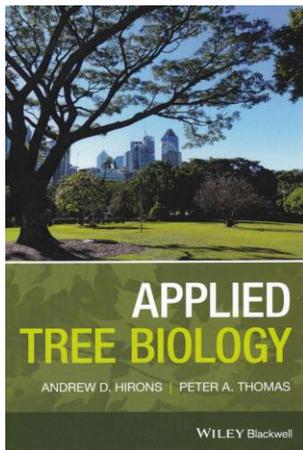
Latest articles feature the use of virtual reality to teach wood structure and protection; edge-gluing of wood based panels with different adhesives; bending strength of carbon fibre reinforced timbers; what engineers (still!) don't know about wood; particleboards using tannin adhesives and more!



Do remember to consider this if you are looking to publish your scientific papers in the field of wood technology. The journal is published quarterly, and features a wide range of articles on wood products. Don't forget, your IOM3 membership gives you access to this and many other scientific journals online (more info here <https://www.iom3.org/publications>).

Book Reviews

Two excellent titles to keep you entertained and educated during Covid-19 lockdown. The first is an abridged review by Gervais Sawyer (see the full detail at the IWPJ web <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20426445.2020.1746496>)



Applied Tree Biology

Andrew Hiron and Peter A. Thomas.

Wiley Blackwell ISBN 978-1-118-29640-0, approx. £45 softback

An earlier book on trees by Peter Thomas called 'Trees: their natural history' should have been a best seller because although a serious scientific book, it was so accessible to all. All the chapters were beautifully linked. However, it was clear that the publishers had restricted the number of pages allowed. So I was very eager to see this new book that is much more comprehensive and detailed.

This book is right up to date and covers all the issues that we want to know about trees in 2020. For example, the first chapter discusses the value of trees globally and in our urban environment. Straight away we are introduced to a style feature of this book, namely 'Expert boxes' which are authored by other leading scientists in the field. The whole style imparts a valuable balanced view and summary of the state of knowledge that never takes the simplistic view presented by many, politicians included.

Sensibly the book starts with a detailed study of the trunk and branches and how trees grow. Full use is made of excellent illustrations in full colour. The root system is investigated with equal thoroughness. Next comes a chapter on tree – carbon relations. The final chapter appropriately discusses the environmental challenges facing trees and what we can do about it.

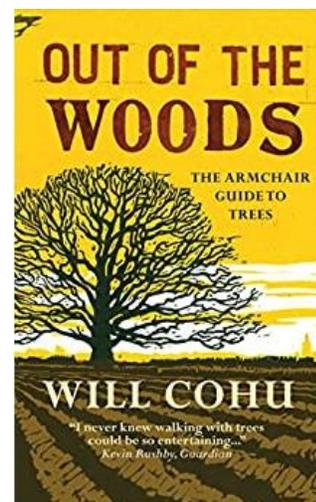
When I finished the book I was left in awe of what trees do and how they survive. There is far more information contained within than I can remember, so this will always be to hand for reference.

Out of the Woods: An Armchair Guide to Trees

Will Cohu

This upbeat and quirky guide to trees will take you straight away on a journey, in which you become fascinated with the character and properties of the nation's trees. In chapter 1 you are introduced to the many characters of the roadside corridor – birch, alder, willow, and by chapter 2, the stalwarts – oak, beech, ash, all with playful and vivid descriptions that allow you to instantly call to mind trees from your environment and travels, saying 'oh yes, that must be what that one is'.

Customs, traditions and folklore are mixed easily with botanical insights, timber properties and history of the countryside. The descriptions of tree



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silhouettes in the distance, or branch shapes seen up close, their leaves, bark, blossom or fruits and seeds are so on-point that no illustrations are needed (though they are provided, as photos). Quiz questions and anecdotes all help to fix new facts in your mind, it is ideal for the beginner, and through its breadth and light-hearted style, is equally rewarding to those who already recognise trees easily.

What's new on our website?

Here Andrew True highlights a few additions to the WTS microsite (<https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society>).

Our website has recently had new pages and information added. Note that for member only content you may have to log in, see more about this below.



In "All About Wood," John Park has prepared a "go to piece" on current standards pertinent to the wood and timber industry – [Wood and Standards](#)

Some other new Features are "[Scots pine - European Tree of the Year](#)," and an interesting "Meet the Board" piece about [Dan Ridley-Ellis](#).

For Crossword addicts, and those wishing to enhance their knowledge of wood science, "Anobium" has specially prepared one for us, and another is waiting in the wings.

Work is being undertaken on Profiles of Past Presidents of the IWSc, and subsequent Chairs of WTS. An example is our first President, Bryan Latham, photographed (right) with his wife.

To go direct to Bryan's profile click here: [Bryan Latham Profile.pdf](#)

For other Past Presidents, such as Terence Mallinson and John Brazier, please visit **Board**, and scroll down the page. You will also pass links to profiles on the current Board on the way. There is additionally a Side Banner with profiles of key personnel in the history of the IWSc, especially Bill Keating FIMMM and Harry Greaves from Australia, and David Woodbridge – a long standing Board member and educationalist – plus Brian Norris FIMMM (a key Board Member).



There are still plenty of gaps, though, so if you have anything to contribute please contact us (wts@iom3.org)

We have started work on a Member Only "Photographic Library." This will be built up over time to become a comprehensive source of photographic material. We would welcome any interesting images that you have of wood products, or timber in impressive structures and applications. Note this must be your own image, that you are willing to share with members. You are welcome to copy photographs, but please remember to acknowledge the Copyright.



This image of glulam in Richmond Olympic Oval in Vancouver was supplied by Martin Ansell for the image library.

Copyright Martin P Ansell

To access these direct, after logging in, from the “Welcome” screen, go to Member Benefits, and scroll down to “Exclusive news and features.”

Logging in to member features

IOM3 is upgrading the website, and some content is now on the ‘Member Portal’ and is accessed only by members. Such content includes the photographic library, IWPJ and Materials World.

For the existing WTS website, entry is via the following link: www.iom3.org/user/login, as use your “old” login details.

This will lead you to the main IOM3 site, and from there go to WTS via the “Our Communities” and then “Special Interest Groups” buttons, and scroll across the top past Materials Divisions until your reach the 3rd column – WTS is at the bottom.

As ever, if you are aware of notable new wood or timber publications, events and activities do get in touch with details so we can add it to the news or events section of the website (wts@iom3.org). This includes the successes of your colleagues or others who you believe deserve a mention.

Social Media

Remember to keep an eye on our social media accounts! We have a twitter account ([@wood_technology](https://twitter.com/wood_technology), https://twitter.com/wood_technology), Instagram ([@wood_technology_society](https://www.instagram.com/wood_technology_society/), https://www.instagram.com/wood_technology_society/) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8138693/>).

What’s coming up soon?

We are sorry to report that the planned trip to view the Misericords at Ripon Cathedral on 17th June 2020 has been postponed until further notice.

We still expect to run Timber 2020 on 9-10th September in London, although we are paying close attention to updates from HM Government on travel and other restrictions relating to Covid-19. The Call for Papers has been extended to the 15th May, and full details are available on our website, and through the [dedicated conference website](#).

All other events and seminars are being reviewed regularly, in light of Covid-19 guidance. Do keep an eye on the events board on our website for more information as it becomes available. <https://www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society/events>