

Wood Technology Society Winter 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest Wood Technology Society (WTS) newsletter, and a brand new year of activities. 2022 seems to bring a greater optimism, especially for conference and event organisation, now that the whirl of 'getting back to a new normal' in 2021 has passed. I'm hopeful that this will mean an exciting programme of WTS activities and events, possibly some of these will even be back to an 'in person' format! Watch this space.

Here is a short update from the WTS, and the wider IOM3 activities. In this newsletter, we offer some updates on a new milestone for the *International Wood Products Journal*, changes on the WTS board and more new books for the IOM3 library.

Morwenna Spear FIMMM

What has the WTS been up to in 2021?

Now that we have all adjusted (more or less) to the new way of working our activities have been quietly continuing, albeit predominantly online. And new events are on the horizon. We have delayed our annual winter seminar to this year, in the light of recent developments with Covid variants. We intend this to be a hybrid meeting, hosted in IOM3 and available to dial in on Zoom, see more below.

We are very grateful to two organisations for offering the Wood Technology Society, and IOM3 their collections of books – the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) and the Wood Protection Association (WPA), see more below.

We hope you are now becoming familiar with the new IOM3 website. Andrew True, our webmaster, has been coordinating with Rachel Stonehouse, Policy Research Fellow at IOM3, to bring in new features, within the structure of the new page. One example is the scrolling 'Talking Timber' feature – where the articles produced by WTS members for *Timber Trades Journal* are collated online for you to browse. Other new features are still in development and will be rolled out steadily. For those of you who liked the old WTS microsite, it is still available on this link <http://www.iom3archive.org.uk/wood-technology-society> so you can still access the information and features.

For those who missed the Summer 2021 newsletter, it is available to download here: <https://www.iom3.org/group/wood-technology-society/document.html?id=A1A660A5-3354-42BD-B324E5A6491FDEE5>

Sir Terence Mallinson library

Following the report about the Wood Preservers Association Library (see last newsletter) a second opportunity was presented to us, this time by the Timber Trade Federation. The TTF were keen to find a long-term home for the Sir Terence Mallinson library – which included many books relating to the wide range of timbers available globally, plus a wide range of other topics such as timber in construction, wood processing, fire and some of a more historical perspective.

Sir Terence Mallinson was a highly influential figure in forestry and timber in the UK, and was president of the Institute of Wood Science in 1984–1986, so [his profile](#) can be read in our past presidents section of the archived website. As Director of the company Mallinson Denny he was able to innovate and put many wood technology concepts into production. Plywood and moulded plywood items were one prominent product range. The breadth of his library collection reflected his wide interests, holding roles in TRADA, the TTF, and as a Forestry Commissioner.

Once again we worked with the IOM3 library team to ensure that as many as possible were added to the IOM3 library in Grantham. We are very grateful to Gervais Sawyer and Andrew True for all their hard work during the summer to coordinate this. The books have been added to the IOM3 library in Grantham, with capable assistance from the team there, who also deserve recognition for their endeavours. We hope that this resource will be of benefit to IOM3 members over the years ahead.

Keith Purcell Stands Down

WTS Board member, Keith Purcell FIMMM, has announced his retirement from the Board.

Keith joined the timber trade in the mid-sixties and became a student member of the Institute of Wood Science while attending a three-year evening school course in Liverpool on Timber Technology and Business Practice. He went on to join the Liverpool and District Branch Committee of the IWSc for many years, and later was elected a main Committee Member on the National Council of the Institute of Wood Science, becoming President during 1992–1994.



When the IWSc joined IOM3, Keith maintained his position on the Board and continued to actively contribute to the newly constituted Wood Technology Society. He has served all his working life associated with all aspects of softwood importing and distribution.

Keith ended his long timber trade career as Managing Director of Evans Bellhouse Limited, softwood importers and traders on Merseyside. He hopes to maintain an active role within the timber industry and be supportive of any issues associated with the promotion of timber. Keith was awarded the prestigious IOM3 Outstanding Contribution Award in 2015.

We wish Keith a long and happy retirement and look forward to his continued interest in the Society for many years to come.

International Wood Products Journal Milestone! Comments from Gervais Sawyer

International Wood Products Journal Editor, Gervais Sawyer FIMMM, has recently received his 600th submission for publication. Gervais says, 'I don't know if I am pleased or exhausted!'

The function of Editor is honorary, and Gervais has now been Editor for more than 11 years. At this time, there were only two publications per year – now there are four publications per year. The first submission received by Gervais was on 1st June 2010, and was rejected by the reviewers – not a very encouraging start.

This is a truly international publication – the journal has published submissions from more than 28 countries and covering many aspects of the science and technology of the world of wood.

The IWPJ was previously the *Journal of the Institute of Wood Science*, and over 65 years it has earned a reputation for being very supportive to authors. Many of them are writing in a language other than English and they may be brilliant in the laboratory but find technical writing difficult. ‘Does it ever get any easier?’ asks Gervais. To date there have been 372 separate reviewers (and still counting!) on the panel. Reviewers usually give very full feedback and guidance, such that even a rejection is turned into a useful learning experience.

Gervais comments that the most popular paper published in his time as editor was entitled ‘Variability in the Water Vapour Sorption Isotherm in Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi* Lamb.) – Earlywood and Latewood Influences.’ Gervais adds “it attracted an awful lot of downloads and, interestingly, the conclusion of the research was ‘We still don't know!’

Gervais says that to recruit reviewers requires establishing a relationship with them before sending an invitation to review a paper. He aims to personally thank each reviewer for the work (often quite considerable) they have done in reviewing submissions. He also sends a personal Christmas greeting to every reviewer. Gervais feels that this really pays off, because reviewers are often so helpful in recommending other suitable reviewers for new papers. Wood science is truly a global club!

Gervais’s final thought and “it sounds a bit saintly, but just think of how it was done before the internet. How did you find reviewers? Then you wrote them a letter (First Class postage). They accept or refuse (or they don’t reply), followed by sending a copy of the paper and keeping a careful diary of when it is due back. Then proofread and send to the printers. Just incredible! I don't know how they did it. The same sort of process goes on today, but editorial software and other aids help keep track of things, and the software has a more reliable memory than me.”

Why not take a look? The *International Wood Products Journal* can be accessed on this link (www.tandfonline.com/toc/ywpi20/current), or through your IOM3 login. It is a significant member benefit – along with many of the scientific journals from Taylor & Francis.

New Website

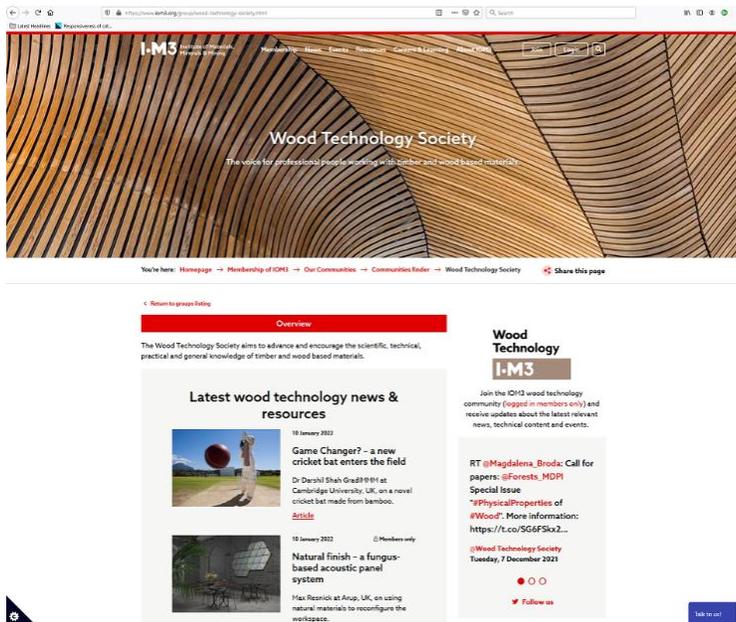
The new IOM3 website was launched last Autumn, with each Technical Community receiving a simplified and revamped page in the new IOM3 branding. During the course of 2021 more features and content have been added and various extra capabilities will continue to roll out into 2022. www.iom3.org/group/wood-technology-society.html

The first thing you will have noticed is the move to a new shorter title, Wood Technology, and a new logo. These are standardised across the different technical communities, and the colours combine to reveal the broad spectrum of different materials represented by IOM3.

One handy feature is the up to date Twitter feed from our [@Wood Technology](https://twitter.com/Wood_Technology) account, on the right hand side. Now you can easily keep an eye on quick updates.

**Wood
Technology**





The new site prompts you with the most recent news articles and resources that feature the ‘wood’ keyword, but others can be found using the search function. One handy tip – if you want to read an article that is featured, click the image, or the title, to get a direct link to the article text. The hyperlink below the item (e.g. Article or News) simply indicates the category this story is filed as, and clicking this link takes you to the overall News or Resources section.

Once you are in the Resources section it is possible to click the plus signs next to the options on the right to apply filters to the content. For example, you can select News

in the Type of Content in the workspace option, and then from the Materials section you can select Wood, to see all Wood News stories.

Our webmaster and his assistant (Andrew True and Morwenna Spear) continue to work with the IOM3 web team to migrate selected content from the old microsite, and to develop new features and upload new material. One example is the link to our Talking Timber articles.

In the meanwhile, you can still access the old WTS microsite on this link (www.iom3archive.org.uk/wood-technology-society). Although no new content will be added to it. All new items will be on the new site only. Note, if you had previous bookmarks to parts of the old microsite they may no longer work, so do use this link instead.

Obituary

The Wood Technology Group is sad to announce that Bill Keating recently passed away in 2021 at the age of 93. Bill was an honorary FIMMM. Bill was a very important, dedicated and committed member of the strong and vibrant Australian Branch of the IWSc from the very beginning, and was synonymous with the advancement of wood science. In particular, the Australian forest products industry today has much to be grateful for the work of Bill Keating.

A fuller obituary can be accessed on this link: : <https://www.iom3.org/resource/obituary-william-keating-honfimmm.html>

Logging in to member features

Logging in is now easier, using the button at the top right of all screens in the new look website. Some content is now only available for access by members. This includes many *Materials World* articles.

It is also easier to join or leave a technical community when you are logged in and using the new website. This also means that it is easier to join a second (or third) technical community if your interests

are wide. Examples you might consider are the Packaging Society, the Natural Materials Association, the Construction Materials Group. Don't forget there are local communities, member networks and international communities too. Have a browse using the Communities finder at: <https://www.iom3.org/membership/our-communities.html>

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 (www.linkedin.com/groups/8138693/).

What's coming up soon?

Our Winter Seminar was postponed in December 2021, as a result of rapid spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. We will now hold it early in the summer term. The topic will be Making Greater use of Homegrown Timber. At this stage we hope this will be a hybrid event, with members welcome to attend in person at 297 Euston Road and online. A link for registration for both formats will be made available shortly.

All other events and seminars are being reviewed regularly, in light of COVID-19 guidance. We expect to go ahead with the Timber 2022 conference this summer, so do keep an eye on the new website for any announcements. You will notice there is an events segment part way down the web page featuring WTS and related activities. <https://www.iom3.org/group/wood-technology-society.html>