

Review of The 2017 AGM at Ewhurst

Anthony Mills Anthony Mills Dip. Hort.[RHS]; Tech Arbor. A..

Thank you for a wonderful day out. I learned a lot, for which I am most appreciative. I hope my comments and interjections were not too annoying...

Just to let you know, I posted this on my Facebook page today, together with the attached photos. Please feel free to make use of any of it / them if you wish:-

https://www.facebook.com/anthony.mills.5205/media_set?set=a.10213457449257595.1073741851.1441451897&type=3

"An excellent day on the midsummer weekend with the Surrey Tree Wardens, presided over by Jon Stokes [Tree Council]. First a presentation by Jim Jones of Surrey Wildlife Trust [in the purple Tshirt tree-hugging!] about the value of hedges in the landscape, Hedgerow Heroes, and a surveying and mapping exercise now being undertaken in Surrey.

<http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/living-landscapes/conservation-projects/hedgerow-heroes>

Followed by a young lady, Jessica Goodenough [also tree-hugging!] working for a collection of organisations including the OU, Forest Research, Treeconomics, Milton Keynes Parklife, NERC, and the Tree Council, who presented Treezilla,

<http://www.treezilla.org/>

The Monster Map of Trees, a really exciting citizen science initiative to survey and map trees in a nationwide i-Tree, it's first announcement and rollout beginning with us here! And after lunch, and a survey of the churchyard hedge, which turned out to be at least 800 years old from the standard estimation protocol [from number of native species per 30m], we walked up the hill to see the Ancient Yew.

The layering branches are quite unusual in having been left intact [though the Tandridge Yew has the same feature]. Interesting biomechanically insofar as the branches are visibly greater in diameter beyond the layering point - both from the contribution of the additional roots at that point, and because the branch between the tree and there does not need any more to be mechanically strong to support the growth at the end of the branch.

However, this is counteracted by the new function of the branch as a flying buttress to the trunk of the tree. Which similarly no longer needs to put on as much stem thickness to support the branches that are above the point where the buttressing branches join the stem. The direct implication of this biomechanical feature is that the tree is much older than the stem diameter below the buttressing - DBH being usually used as the basis for estimation of age - would indicate.

The last photo is of an old part of the church showing an example of galletting or garnetting, the insertion of small pieces of knapped flint into the pointing between stones –

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galleting>