

Farming Talk

# Timber study throws spotlight on to industry

The recent Marches Timber Study report written by Martin Glynn, a chartered forester, on behalf of the Forestry Commission provides an in-depth look at the timber industry in the region and focuses on the need to enhance economic growth via woodland and timber.

The main points in the report are as follows. There are 56,300 ha of woodland in the Marches, which is predominantly broadleaved (73 per cent). Eighty-eight per cent of the woodland is owned by people and organisations other than the Forestry Commission.

The species proportions vary significantly between the FC and private sector, FC woodland being 70 per cent conifer and 30 per cent broadleaf and private sector being 22 per cent conifer and 78 per cent broadleaf.

The total quantity of carbon currently

**MARTIN JONES**  
 farming@shropshirestar.co.uk



stored in the Marches woodlands is estimated to be 28,280,000 tonnes of CO2. Current carbon sequestration by woodlands in the Marches is estimated to be 414,280 tonnes of CO2 per annum.

If one were to exclude certain types of grant support which do not necessarily generate management activity, then approximately only 25,896 ha (46 per cent) of woodland in the Marches is managed. This compares to an average across England of 53 per cent.

Opportunities for further growth are available in a significant proportion of undermanaged woodlands (approximately 30,000 ha). While some of these woodlands are small

in size and difficult to access, mapping work has shown that a worthwhile number are not. Overall it is estimated that around 255,600 m3 are currently being removed annually in harvested wood products. This represents only 67.3 per cent of the theoretical annual increment that could be harvested.

**Knowledge**

The unharvested timber is mostly of lower quality and owned by people who have little or no experience or knowledge of woodland management, the report says.

In the short term the market that has the best potential for timber from these woodlands is woodfuel and firewood, which if extracted will ultimately improve the productivity and the quality of the overall residual stand. The National Forest Inventory reveals that there is 124,000 m3 of timber unharvested in the Marches each year.

There is also an ageing and declining workforce, particularly the smaller scale forestry contractor using motor manual harvesting methods, as well as a low level of innovation in identifying and developing new markets. Total employment in the forestry sector in The Marches is approximately 610 people.

A number of potential areas for expansion of economic growth and job creation are explored in the report.

An important concluding observation is that recruiting people into the contracting industry is an issue which requires ongoing attention and enabling apprenticeships, low cost start-ups, "starter contracts" etc. all need facilitating.

**Martin B. Jones is a chartered forester and managing director of the Woodland Stewardship Company based in Shrewsbury**

# Brewery seals deal to buy big chain venue

Report by **DANI WOZENCROFT**  
 dani\_wozencroft@shropshirestar.co.uk



**BOSSES at Shropshire's biggest brewery are toasting their latest success - after snapping up their fourth pub in the county in a matter of months.**

Joule's Brewery, based in Market Drayton, today announced the purchase of the Rose and Crown in Church Street, Ludlow. And they have described the deal as an important move.

It is the third pub the company has bought from Punch Taverns since Easter, following the White Lion in Wem and the Kings Arms in Church Stretton.

Joule's has also purchased The Dolphin in Shrewsbury in a separate deal.

**Expansion**

It is part of a £1 million expansion plan announced in January in which the company will buy nine pubs within a 40 minute drive of the brewery in Great Hales Street, Market Drayton.

The cost of the deal to buy the Rose & Crown has not been revealed.

Judie Meredith, sales and marketing director at Joule's, said: "We are very focused on Shropshire, and brew our beer for the local market."

"We don't bottle our beer and we don't sell it far and wide, so it's important to us to have a number of flagship pubs all round the county," she said.

"This final purchase allows us to have a brewery tap in Ludlow, which is an important Shropshire town and nationally recognised for food and drink therefore a very important place for us to showcase our beers."

"Ludlow is jam packed with beautiful old buildings and the Rose and Crown with its little cobbled entrance is one of the most charming."

## Danger warning as school holidays end

Council officials are warning people about the dangers of Shropshire's roads as the summer holidays come to an end and thousands of pupils head back to school.

The road safety team has urged motorists to allow an extra 10 or 15 minutes for their morning commute, which will not only reduce stress, but help keep roads safer.

## Coffee morning

Oakengates United Church will host a coffee morning tomorrow.

Breakfast sandwiches and refreshments will be available from 10am until noon at the church on Stafford Road. For more information call John Woolley on (01952) 615658.

# Teacher launches French conversation class

A Shropshire language teacher is launching a new French class on October 3.

Lynn Jones, a former French teacher at the Telford College of Arts and Technology, is beginning her new class at Adams' Grammar School, in High Street, Newport.

The linguist previously ran a class at Newport Girls' High School for seven years but moved to her new venue last year due to building work at the school.

**Report by Joseph Masi**  
 joseph.masi@shropshirestar.co.uk

She says she specialises in teaching adults "conversational" French.

Miss Jones said: "When I was a teacher at the college I was always being asked by my students to do more of my kind of teaching rather than the set syllabus that relied on written tests."

"By becoming a private teacher I have been able to write my own courses and I have a very different approach to teaching French."

"The problem is that for most people learning any new language can seem to be a daunting if not impossible task."

"Most people have studied a language at school but why was it, after all your studies, the only thing you wanted to do was the one

thing you were never actually taught, which was how to hold a conversation?"

"It is very frustrating. My classes are all about speaking and practising modern and usable French."

Miss Jones will hold classes every Thursday for beginners, intermediates and advanced speakers of French.

For more information or for lesson prices and times call her on (01952) 812944.

## Friends in ultrasound boost for hospital



Carolyn Hefford, Dody Herman and Alan Millward at the Princess Royal Hospital with new ultrasound equipment

A group of volunteers set up to raise money for Princess Royal Hospital has donated more than £30,000 to pay for a new ultrasound system.

The Friends of PRH have raised £34,000 for the new Ultrasound System called EDGE, which is now being used in the emergency department.

**Massive**

It means emergency ultrasound can be carried out to aid decisions on patient care and will save patients having to be transported to another department.

Dody Herman, a consultant in the emergency department, said: "Firstly, the Emergency Department at the Princess

**Report by Jon Pritchard**  
 jon.pritchard@shropshirestar.co.uk

Royal Hospital would like to say a massive 'thank you' to the Friends for the funding of this ultrasound system EDGE from Sonosite.

"We appreciate their generosity immensely."

"Having this ultrasound system will greatly improve the quality of care, often for the sickest of our patients, by speeding up decision-making, and focusing our treatments and interventions," he added.

The new piece of kit will help doctors diagnose serious injuries quicker.

The Friends raise money by operating a coffee shop in the grounds of the hospital.

The shop is manned by volunteers and all profit goes towards funds for the hospital.

Alan Millward, chairman of The Friends of the Princess Royal Hospital, said: "We are pleased to be able to purchase the Ultrasound Scanner for the Emergency Department at Princess Royal Hospital at a cost of £34,191."

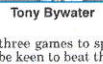
"We continue to support the hospital with the profits from the coffee shop and other donations with the incredible assistance from our bank of willing volunteers and our three staff members."

**STAR BRIEFING**

## Cricketers vie for Twenty20 trophy

Shrewsbury Cricket Club will be looking to add another piece of silverware to their trophy cabinet to mark a successful summer when it hosts the annual Salop Leisure Knockout Twenty20 Trophy tournament on Sunday.

The hosts defend the trophy as four of the county's top cricket clubs go head to head in the competition. Shrewsbury play neighbours Oswestry in the first semi-final at 10.15am while Shifnal take on Whitchurch at 1.15pm, followed by the final in the late afternoon. The umpires are Ant Harris, Ken Hordon and Pete Mitchell.



**Tony Bywater** Shrewsbury clinched the Birmingham and District Cricket League Premier Division title last weekend with three games to spare and their three county rivals will be keen to beat them.

Tony Bywater, chairman of tournament sponsor, Shrewsbury-based caravan dealership Salop Leisure, said: "We hope to see a large crowd at Shrewsbury Cricket Club on Sunday for this festival of cricket that showcases some of the county's best players. It should be an entertaining day."

## Join talks over town hall's use

Residents of an area of Telford are being invited to a meeting to discuss the future of their town hall.

The Friends of Dawley Town Hall will meet on September 5 at the Elephant and Castle in Dawley at 7.30pm.

The group formed last year and is now meeting regularly again as the hall is due to open this winter.

Anyone who has an interest in using the hall or just wants to join in with activities is welcome to go along.

During the summer members of the group attended local events including Dawley Day and Malinslee Urban Day to raise funds for activities and also promote the hall as a community venue. They will also be at Dawley Bank Day on September 14.

Dawley Town Hall project leader Diane Morris said: "The Friends have been very active in raising the profile of the hall and it is vital that community members are involved in the developments taking place for Dawley and the surrounding areas."

"Work is due to start in the next few weeks and the hall is scheduled to open during the winter time."

For more details in the group call Diane Morris on 07712 73554. A website for Dawley Town Hall is being developed and anyone who is interested in using the hall can also contact Diane Morris.

## Patients name hero surgeon

A Shropshire surgeon has been named a NHS Hero for his specialist work in paediatric orthopaedics.

Mr Nigel Kiely was nominated for the award by patients for his outstanding work at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital and making a difference to the health service.



**Nigel Kiely** Mr Kiely has been a consultant at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for nine years.

The Oswestry paediatric orthopaedic service treats children and young people for a range of bone, muscle and joint disorders, such as club foot, dysplasia of the hip, limb deformity and lengthening, cerebral palsy and neuromuscular conditions.

Patients are able to nominate their hero by writing 100 words, outlining why their nomination is deserving of the NHS Hero award.

Patients have described Mr Kiely as "attentive", "friendly" and "proof of exceptional care".

Mr Kiely, who has been a consultant at the hospital since 2004, was presented with his NHS Hero certificate by the trust's chief executive Wendy Farrington Chudd at the end of July.

## Walking group ready to tackle ramble route

A walking group in a village on the Shropshire border will host a walk in the local area tomorrow.

The Audlem Ramblers Society (ARS) will host the short-ARS walk from Audlem car park at 9.30am.

It will be led by Tony Crowther and will be led around Browns Bank, Newtown, Wilkesley, Heywood, Cox Bank and back to Audlem, near Market Drayton, via the canal.

It will be no more than six miles long and will finish by 1pm.

The walk will take in canal towpath, fields, village footpaths, main road, footpaths, farm drives, grassland, country lanes and narrow village lanes.

Walkers will see grass, field beans, maize, rape stubble, wheat, wheat stubble and crossing the gushing Duckow River which feeds the Weaver. They should also expect to see birds including skylarks, buzzards, swallows, herons curlews and swifs.

Organisers said although the route will be flat there will be "tremendous" views.