

HEDGE LAYING

At a well attended meeting in October, Peter Vaughan gave an interesting and informative demonstration of hedge laying. The speaker was introduced by the Chair of OWLS, Alan Brett, a fellow hedge layer and a one-time student of Peter. Throughout the evening the value of hedges to the environment was emphasised for without the birds, insects and other animals that inhabit hedges, our countryside would be much the poorer.

Peter, an acknowledged expert, demonstrated hedge construction in front of the audience, and with axe in hand formed the main supports called pleachers with great expertise. He then showed how they are joined together to make a living hedge. As an experienced practician he told the audience that he was able to lay thirty yards of hedge in a day single handed. Peter also showed a range of tools both traditional and modern and explained how to use them effectively and safely.

After the talk a very enthusiastic audience bombarded Peter with questions which he answered clearly and concisely. At the end of the session he encouraged members of the society to approach him for advice on any aspect of hedge construction or maintenance at any time.

Keith Snow