

# Welcome to the Isle of Wight Hedgelaying Competition 2008

**W**e hope that you will enjoy watching the performance of this traditional craft which has been used to manage hedgerows for hundreds of years. Originally carried out to contain livestock, such as sheep and cows, now it is primarily carried out to create habitats for the birds, animals and flowers which so enrich our visits to the countryside. Some may be inspired to learn the craft, whilst others enjoy the transformation of the hedge that takes place during the day.

Hedgelaying is the art of cutting a stem partly through so that it will bend without breaking and will continue to grow.

Modern hedgelaying dates from the late 1700s. The word 'hedge' derives from an earlier word meaning bank - the division between strips of land in the mediæval farming system.

After the Enclosures Act (1700s), each man had to dig a ditch to create a boundary, piling up the soil on his side and planting bushes on the soil to keep livestock on his land. This 'dogging down and stocking up' was hard work so, when creating boundaries, the ditch was often left out (unless drainage was needed). Bushes were still planted and called a hedge.



Main picture - 2007 winner  
Dick Pulleine puts the  
finishing touches to his  
winning hedge



A bee enjoying the flowering 2007  
competition hedge in the spring



Alan Ashby and Paul Sivell  
judging the 2007 competition

## PROGRAMME

9:30am	Registration
10:00am	Hedgelaying starts
3:00pm	Down tools
3:20pm	Presentations

## CATEGORIES

### OPEN

Any person may apply to enter the Open category.

**Prize: The AONB Cup**

### NOVICE

Entrants to the Novice category must not have won any hedgelaying cup or prize more than twice.

**Prize: The Mary Sitch Cup**

### TEAM

The Team category may consist of two or three persons, of whom one or more should be eligible for the Novice category.

**Prize: The Landscape Therapy Trophy**

### New for 2008 HAND TOOL PRIZE

This is a new prize to be awarded for the best laid hedge using only hand tools.

**Prize: The Hursts Challenge Cup**

### Plus THE WIGHT WILDLIFE AWARD

Given to a landowner in recognition of their valuable contribution to hedgerow conservation on the Island.

**Hedges need laying approximately once every 15 years and the sponsors are always looking for suitable sites for the competition.**

If you are interested in countryside matters please feel free to speak to any of the people overleaf. They are all actively working for the benefit of the Island's environment and have worked together to make this hedgelaying competition a success.

[www.iwhg.org](http://www.iwhg.org)

Isle of Wight

## HEDGEROW GROUP

### Landscape Therapy

Tony Ridd: Director Tel: 740067  
email: [tony@landscapetherapy.co.uk](mailto:tony@landscapetherapy.co.uk)

### Wight Wildlife

Richard Grogan: Conservation Manager  
Tel: 533180 email: [richardg@hwt.org.uk](mailto:richardg@hwt.org.uk)

### AONB Partnership

John Brownscombe: AONB Officer  
Tel: 823855 email: [unit@wightaonb.org.uk](mailto:unit@wightaonb.org.uk)

### Isle of Wight Council

Matthew Chatfield: Parks and Countryside Manager  
Tel: 823893 email: [countryside@iow.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@iow.gov.uk)

*The Isle of Wight Hedgelaying Competition 2008  
is brought to you by:*



LANDSCAPE  
THERAPY



and: Gift to Nature, W Hurst and Son, Island Hedgerows, J R Fencing, Malcolm Purcell, People's Trust for Endangered Species, NFU, The Carved Tree, Living Landscapes, Oz Hoskyns, Trumor Feeds, Brickfields Horse Country, Dunsbury Lamb, CLA, Mrs Mary Sitch

ENV255

### HEALTH and SAFETY

Please be aware that competitors are using chainsaws with personal protective clothing that you will not have. They will also be swinging sharp axes, billhooks and other handtools around and, when 'heathering', they cannot help but whip the ends of heathers around. For your own safety we ask you to respect their space and only approach the competitors when safe to do so.

16<sup>th</sup> annual Isle of Wight

FREE!

# HEDGELAYING COMPETITION

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008



By Fighting Cocks,  
Hale Common, Nr Arreton  
by kind permission of A E Brown Farms