

## The Custody Code

A Moving Art installation at the Alice Holt Forest near Farnham created for and celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Forestry Commission.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 25 members of The Arts Society - West Surrey Area attended an Exclusive Preview of an installation commissioned by The Forestry Commission England and created by Photo graphics Artist – Amanda Loomes.

We gathered at the Visitor Centre in the Forest listening firstly to an overview by Bruce Rothnie, a Regional Director for The Forestry Commission, about the Commission's structure and its work today. This was a fascinating, and topical, insight into the importance of their work towards managing their estate for the benefit of the UK, its people and, ultimately, tackling climate change. The Forestry Commission has had a long association with the Arts community in the UK by placing "Sculpture for All" in their Forests. The Grizedale Forest in The Lake District, notably, now has some fifty installations including important works by Andy Goldsworthy.



**Custody Code** is the latest in the series and will start its life in The Alice Holt Forest. Amanda Loomes specializes in making Art Photography, primarily in the workplace. This installation captures scenes throughout the Commission's UK Estate and records the process from seeds to the sawmill, its people and places. The rolling images are projected onto two adjacent screens, mixing mirror and different images simultaneously. Amanda told the audience about her career and how she has developed her works.

The Custody Code is observed through peepholes fitted into a specially built cabin. The cabin is located about 10 minutes' walk into the Forest. The cabin maintains its green credentials by being attractively built in pine and the technology is solar powered. Concealed speakers provide a narrative and, by peeping into the hut, you get close and personal to the sweet smell of newly cut timber!

Our visit was enhanced by perfect summer weather and a very peaceful walk through the woods to get to the cabin. We didn't know what to expect; but everybody agreed we got more than we expected! A thoroughly enjoyable experience.

The project is available for anybody to visit until 1<sup>st</sup> September when it will be relocated to the Kielder Forest.

There is another opportunity to hear Amanda Loomes "In Conversation" at Alice Holt Forest on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Tickets are available at Evenbrite on this address: <http://tinyurl.com/y2vuxy8h>

Refreshments were provided by members of The Arts Society Farnham. Thank you.

Alice Holt Forest, Farnham, GU10 4LS

