



Issued on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018.

## NEWSLETTER No 121

May, Jun and July 2018

Summer Edition

Web site:

<http://www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk/>

### EDITORIAL

**The Newsletter Editor's report** [newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk)

**Dear all** Well when they said it could be another 76 I thought they were joking, because of those lovely few sunny days we had back in May, that it wasn't going to get any better, and that this will be the best we might get, because of knowing our track record for the weather some years. But what can I say, how wrong I was, well it's only nearly 1976! Not yet though! Now the weather has broken a few records I must get back with this news letter, as lovely as it might be outside.

Well after all that, welcome to the Summer Edition of the Newsletter. It's been a good season so far with plenty of activities and a great AGM we are looking forward to the resorts of the Annual competition at the Annual Dinner at the South Downs College in October, as well. My apologies have to go to Andy Banger. He sent me a Lovely Newsletter Item on wood carving on the Isle of Arran, but I haven't been unable to get the pictures to transfer across, so I will be putting it in the next issue. Sorry Andy.

**Chairman's Musings** by George Palmer

Well summer has well and truly descended upon us. I don't know about you but it has stopped me from working in the workshop as it is too hot. It is alright if you have a cool garage to hunker down in. Lin and I have been away to Michael Painters for an intensive two day course that was both very instructive and helpful. He is looking forward to seeing us in September after the earlier visit was put off due to snow.

The show season kicked off well with the Gardeners Fayre, and Wests with a small one at the Green Meadows care home. The next one is the Southdowns show so if you are interested contact me. I am looking forward to seeing you all as the summer continues, so stay cool.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Guild's AGM was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Portchester Community Centre.

The meeting was chaired by our Chairman, George Palmer. In his report he thanked the Committee for all their hard work. He then talked about the formation of the Guild forty years ago. The idea behind the club was to further the aims and interests of woodcarvers and sculptors in the Solent area by means of talks, discussions, exhibitions, etc. as well as encouragement of beginners in the art. This we still do by ways of demonstrations at shows and events, poster campaigns and occasionally talks. Volunteers are always welcome to participate in these events. Over the years social events were introduced to enable topics of interest to be

talked about and also so that we could involve family and friends and as well as less able caring members, and an opportunity to keep in touch with Members of the Guild at large.

The Secretary, John Vardon, presented details of the various Guild events over the year. Membership had fallen slightly over the year and now stands at 38 Full Members and 16 Social Members. There had been six demonstrations – Solent Gardeners Fayre, W&D Wood Fair, Fareham Model Engineers, QE Country Park, Stubbington Fair and W&D Autumn Countryside Show. We have had two or three new Members attending but there is continuing concern on the low number of carvers attending often comprising only Members of the Committee. (Note attendance has improved this year 2018). Social evenings are another concern with a 25% drop in attendance. The Presentation Dinner and Skittles continued to be successful.

Full details of the Chairman's and Secretary's reports are in the AGM Minutes which can be obtained from the Secretary.

The Treasurer, Jean Cripps, stated the Guild's funds were very healthy with nearly £4,700 in the bank, most of which is from donations. There was a deficit over the year of just over £675; this was mainly due to the purchase of a new roof tent, posters, pop-up banner and a donation to the Da Vinci Robot.

The following Members were elected to the Committee: Treasurer – no nominations (however Alwyn Brace has since volunteered), Newsletter Editor – Lin Palmer, and Other Members – Sandra Barnes and Martha Chippendale.

Under Any Other Business, the Chairman proposed the Guild supported a local charity Help for Special Children which would receive monies from this year Presentation Dinner raffle. This was accepted. It was also mentioned that John Vardon had compiled 'A Brief History of the Guild' and electronic copies were available if required.

After the AGM Members and guests celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Guild with an American Supper during which time those present voted in the Bill Pinney competition. The theme was 'anything you can buy from a supermarket' and was won by George Palmer with his carving of 'an oven-ready quail'.

### **THE BILL PINNEY COMPETITION for 2019**

The winner of the 2018 Bill Pinney competition, George Palmer, has chosen the theme "Anything to do with the Sea" for the 2019 competition. The carving can be in relief or the round with a maximum size of 9" x 9" x 9" (230mm x 230mm 230mm). Closing date is the 2019 AGM.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The Committee met on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Committee meetings are now held at the Portchester Community Centre. The cost for each meeting is around £15. Two new Members, Alwyn Brace and Martha Chippendale were welcome. Concern was expressed on the quality of speakers and content of talks. May be some talks should be orientated to wood related topics. Another concern was proposed amendments to the existing Offensive Weapons Act. One inclusion may prevent the supply of gouges.

## **OFFENSIVE WEAPONS (John Vardon)**

Please note the Guild is only passing the following information to Members as it may impact Members supply of tools.

Currently under discussion by Parliament is the Offensive Weapons Bill (HC Bill 232). The Bill covers corrosive and bladed products resulting from the increase in crime which involve these items. Measures which the Home Office intends to bring forward include:

- possession of corrosive substances
- possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private
- **stopping knives being sent to residential addresses after they are bought online**
- changing the legal definition for threatening with an offensive weapon to make prosecutions easier
- banning the possession of a knife on a further education premises
- banning rapid firing rifles, and certain powerful firearms and bump stocks, which increase a rifle's rate of fire
- updating the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapon designs

The area that concerns us is about 'bladed products'. What is a 'bladed product'? The definition in the draft Bill states (a) it has a blade and (b) is capable of causing serious injury to a person which involves cutting a person's skin. Does this mean just a knife (over three inches) or does it include items like carving gouges? **Included in the Bill is a clause (15) which deals with the delivery of 'bladed products' and basically will prevent delivery of 'bladed products' to residential premises.** If gouges (and similar items) are included how will we (and other self-employed workman) get our tools? The Bill is in the usual legal jargon so one may have misunderstood the content. It is also an extension

to existing Offensive Weapons Acts. Details of the Bill can be found at

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/offensiveweapons.html> and you can have your say at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2018/june/have-your-say-on-the-offensive-weapons-bill/> and/or you can email your MP. A petition has been set up to remove clause 15 and can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/222776>.

I have emailed my MP and with reference to clause 15. In his reply he states that he has been "assured by Ministers that the Bill will allow bladed products to be sent to a residential address where it is used as a business. This means that a self-employed person operating from their home would still be able to have items delivered". This still does not help us. He also states "the measures in the Bill will not apply to table knives, screwdrivers, folding knives with a blade less than three inches in length and encased razor blades. I understand there are defences for bespoke knives, such as handmade chef knives and bladed products for sporting or re-enactment purposes. You may also be pleased to know that the Bill includes a power to add further defences by secondary legislation if needed".

The next committee meeting will be at Portchester community centre on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October at 1930 for 1945start.

## **SATURDAY CARVE-INS**

The first Carve-In of the autumn session is on 8<sup>th</sup> September (note this is the second Saturday). The following dates are 29<sup>th</sup> September (the fifth Saturday), 13<sup>th</sup> October (note this is the second Saturday) and the

27<sup>th</sup> (fourth Saturday),

These dates are for the rest of the year 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December. Apologies for the change of Saturday from the normal first and third; this is due to the start of the term at PGS and clashes with demonstrations. Please note the carve-ins start at 0930 and finishes at 1600hrs.

### **POP-UP BANNER**

As you know we have a new pop up banner now and it appears to be very successful, from the comments from members alike it seem to be doing the job, thank you to all those involved. LP

### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

#### **Solent Gardeners Fayre**

by John Vardon

This is the second time we have attended this event and as before we were made very welcome and given a prominent position. Entry was a little chaotic especially for those who went to the wrong part of the field! The weather was kind to us; in fact it was probably too hot especially for the plant sellers who had to continually water the plants. Nine Members attended; thank you. We were thanked for attending at the end by the organizers.

#### **Wests wood fair 8<sup>th</sup>,9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Report by George Palmer

We decided to participate in all three days of this years show and to run our annual competition on the Saturday.



**Views around the field**

We set up on the Friday and the weather was good for a change and this time I didn't miss the turning in the village and arrived without a hitch. We then settled down to some quiet carving and people watching. We were situated in what was basically the middle ground and away from the general flow of people coming in. This was a shame as visitors just wandered past us some 50 to 100 metres away.

Friday was a quiet affair with a few people drifting over to see and chat to us. There were quite a few empty trading spaces around.

It was obvious that others realised that being there was going to be a waste of time and money for them.



### **Competition day**

Saturday was competition day. With the table set up and entries labelled we sat in wait to ensnare the unwary and get them to vote in the competition. Because of our position we had to hope that the visitors were interested enough to drift over and see what we were up to. If they tried to avoid us we went out and ensnared them encouraging them to come over. Barry was good at encouraging the older generation but to his disdain I was able to pull in the young. In all we managed to garner some 250 voting slips so well done to all those who helped out that day. Sunday continued in the same unhurried way with a steady drift of people visiting us. It also gave us plenty of opportunity to wander about ourselves looking at other stalls and to buy the odd thing.

My thanks go to all that took part over the weekend especially those who took part on Saturday. In future I would like to see us in a better position especially if we do the competition there again.

Tip of the weekend came from a semi retired professional carver in the marquee. When setting out carving the outline of your work have a pot of beeswax on the bench. Before you knock the chisel into the wood just touch the edge of it in the beeswax this will help stop the chisel from sticking in the wood.

## **FORTH COMING DEMONSTRATIONS**

### **The South Downs Show**

Organised by George Palmer

Takes place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park ,  
Carvers need to be there for (08.30 finish at 1700hrs) on Saturday and (09.00 finish at 1700hrs) on Sunday , passes are required and will be emailed to those attending.

If you would like to carve please contact, George Palmer

### **Stubbington Fair**

Organised by Jean Cripps

On the bank holiday Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August  
Starts at 0900- 16.30 ish!. Passes are required see Jean.

### **Priory Park 100**

Organised by John Vardon

It takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September at the Priory Park in Chichester.  
Carvers need to get there for 0900 start and finish at 1630hrs.  
Please contact John for details.

## **The Autumn Countryside Show**

Organised by John Vardon

It take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of October

It will be at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, at Singleton.

Starts 0900 and will finish at 1700 Passes are required

For details please contact John

There is always a need for more carvers to join us on the demonstrations, because it gives the regulars, a chance to know that they are supported in this activity, and so you can enjoy the experience to, you don't have to be brilliant to show that carving can be a wonderful pastime to share with others. Please think about it, thank you.

## **SOCIAL REPORTS** By Gill Sadler

### **Petanque evening**

In June, fifteen members enjoyed another fun evening with the Portchester Petanque Club. It was a lovely warm sunny evening (another year when we have been lucky with the weather) when one of their members teamed up with each of us to compete with each other. Despite being an annual event some of us still find it difficult to remember the rules and scoring. After playing until the light faded their members joined us for tea and coffee and a chance to chat and get to know one another. We also allowed them to join in the raffle, which one of there members won the booby raffle prize they really enjoyed it and have asked, if we would be interested in going along to play, if and when we would like to. This annual event proves to be popular and enjoyed by all.

### **Ray Harding Talks on 'Lee On The Solent'**

In July Ray Harding from Lee-on-the-Solent Residents Association came to give us a talk on the Historic Waterfront of Lee-on-the-Solent. Although he was knowledgeable on the subject there was not much visual display making the presentation a little disappointing. This was because normally these talks are done on the walks that he takes people on hence why it it was not as interesting as it could have been. He told us about HMS Daedelas being a Royal Naval Air Station established in 1917 as a sea-plane base and primary shore airfield for Fleet Air Arm. The Solent Fleet Reviews, they date back to the 14th century, to show the naval strength before battle and since the 19th century have been held for the coronation of the Monarchs and special royal jubilees. In 1935 the Lee Tower complex was built as a leisure facility with a 120 ft clock tower and viewing platform. There was a cinema, ballroom, lounge and saloon bar. It was designed in white art deco appearance and was situated next to the pier and conveniently the railway station making it an attractive tourist attraction until it was finally demolished in 1971. There are Lee Heritage Waterfront guided walks held regularly which would be of interest to those in the area. The details are on their website.

**IF ANYONE KNOWS OF ANY GOOD SPEAKERS OF INTERESTING SUBJECTS,  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Gill**

## **FORTH COMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

**The Skittles evening** is the next entertainment on the list for your enjoyment on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. It's at the Kings Head in Wickham Square, Please arrive at 1900 so we can start at 1930hrs. Please remember that you can invite your friends to the socials if you wish.

Organiser George Palmer

### **Migratory birds in the solent**

In September, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, Karima Englefield from 'Bird Aware' Group is coming to talk to us about 'Migratory birds in the Solent'. 'Birds Aware Solent' is a partnership of the RSPB, Chichester Conservancy, H. & IOW wildlife trust and several councils to raise awareness of the migratory birds that spend the Winter in the Solent. The name of this organisation was passed to my Wez Smith, the ranger at Farlington Marshes when I asked whether he could talk to us so hope it will be a good presentation.

Organiser Gill Sadler

### **Annual Dinner & Awards**

This will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at South Downs College Restaurant

Arrival time 1800 for 1830

Please arrive in plenty of time to get seated. We will be looking forward to this years annual dinner with the raffle money that is raised will be going to a charity for disadvantage children or childrens Hospice type charity. The awards will be distributed to the winners of the competition.

So get your gladrags on and enjoy the party.

Organiser George Palmer

### **Members Visits**

By Andy Banger

This will be in the next issue

### **Sickness**

As I have mentioned before one of our members Pat Kyari is now back at her home in Waterlooville. She would welcome any of the members who wish to pop in for a cup of tea and a chat. As she is learning to cope with one leg just to be different love you lots Pat, regards Lin

If you have any Stories, Jokes or Ditties to pass on to the readers, don't be shy let me know  
Lin The Editor.

Have you heard the one about the, I'm hopeless at remembering jokes because I always either  
Get the punch line in the wrong place or I cant stop laughing before I've finished the joke.



## Guild History

In 1981 the Guild hosted the first Portsmouth Young People Sculpture competition. It appears this was for sculptures in all media and not just wood. The overall winner was awarded with a trophy carved by George Rockey. Later this trophy was renamed the 'Harry Wareham Trophy'.

### Invitation to sculptors

Organizers of Portsmouth's first sculpture competition for young people will be playing host at a cheese and wine evening at All Saints Church, Commercial Road, tomorrow at 7.30 p.m.

The prize-winner's trophy carved by Cosham sculptor Mr. George Rockey, will be on display during the evening, which is aimed at raising funds to cover the cost of the competition.

Entry forms for the competition, which is open to young people aged between 12 and 17, are available from all branches of the Trustee Savings Bank in Portsmouth and Cosham.

Completed entries will also be accepted at the banks until May 9.

All entries will be exhibited at the Mountbatten Gallery, Guildhall Square, from Saturday, May 30, to Friday, June 5. Judging will be on May 29.



**Mr. George Rockey, vice-chairman of Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors, holding the new trophy.**

The following year, 1982, the Guild together with the Portsmouth Rotary Club organised the 2nd Portsmouth Young People Sculpture competition. As well as the trophy carved by George Rockey for the overall winner, there was another trophy, the Bell Trophy, awarded for the best wood carving. Note there were eighty entries. Were there any more after this one?

### Successes carved out 21.6.82

About 200 children and adults crowded into Portsmouth's Mountbatten Gallery to see the prize-giving in the Young People's Sculpture competition.

They were also able to see the entries — 80 in all — and a display by the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors.

The Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth (Mrs. Carol Fisher) presented the prizes.

Seven entries were commended, six highly commended and five won £10 best of group awards.

The George Rockey Trophy and £25 for the best entry went to Sophia Taylor (15), of Priory School, Southsea.

Andrew Dredge (17), of Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, won the James Bell Trophy, and £15 for the best woodcarving.

Anthony Parham, of

Portsmouth College of Art, won the T.S.B. Trophy and £15 for the best entry from a 16 to 18-year-old.

Susan Chadwick (11), of

Morelands Middle School, Purbrook, won the Portsmouth North Rotary Trophy and £15 for the best junior entry.



Trophy winners pictured from left, Anthony Parham from Portsmouth College of Art, Sophia Taylor from Priory School, Southsea, and Susan Chadwick, from Morelands Middle School, Purbrook. — Picture 1767-1

Well as we say here, "where are they now"! If you know any of these clever folks, tell us what you remember about them, it would be good to see what they make of us now and where they are.



