



Issued on the 31.oct. 2018.

NEWSLETTER No 122

August September and October 2018

Autumn Edition

Web site:

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

EDITORIAL

The Newsletter Editor's report newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk

Dear all I hope everybody has had an amazing summer this year, the hottest on record. It has been a very busy time again through the summer, with some very nice demonstration show's that we have attended. Where the public always tell us how clever we are, saying how nice it is to see that our craft and skills are not disappearing like some crafts are. It just goes to show how your efforts can be rewarded. The annual dinner and awards ceremony at South Downs College turned out to be amazing this year. Well apart from all the lovely news items in this newsletter this time, that there's only one thing left to say "well done" and I hope that the rest of the year is as successful as well, for everyone in what ever your enterprise is.

Chairman's Musings by George Palmer

Well as the memories of a glorious summer fade and are replaced by a lovely autumn I look back over what has been a good year. Ok I know we still have a couple of months to go and we never got to see Michael Painter but these things will come to pass.

The show season went well and we saw plenty of interest and hopefully even if just some of those we come in contact with see fit to join us it will all be worth it.

Outside in the sunshine the trees are putting on a good display for us and remind us of another reason to enjoy the medium we all like to play with.

I hope and look forward to see more of you at our upcoming socials especially the Christmas one, I know I mentioned the dreaded "C" word.

I would also like to see greater participation in the competitions. I see a great deal of fine work that never gets showcased at our competitions or gets seen by the public. Remember that the Bill Pinney competition at the AGM is all about the sea, on it or in it. So remember you only have 6 months to get it completed in.

THE BILL PINNEY COMPETITION for 2019

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING held on 10th October 2018

The Committee met on the 10th July. The main items discussed was the programme for 2019. A couple of our regular demonstrations are not happening in 2019 so the demonstrations programme is a little thin especially in June and July. If anyone has any ideas for demonstrations please let the Secretary know so it can be considered. One new event being considered is the South Downs Green Fair at the Sustainability Centre in May. Gill is busy planning an interesting series of talks for next year and hoping the number of attendees will increase. The cost of each talk (and venue hire) is quite high to the extent that having talks in the future will need to be monitored. The Committee continue to ask for ideas for speakers so if anyone has any ideas let Gill or any Committee Member know.

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS (John Vardon)

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

Following the information given in the last Newsletter on the proposed Offensive Weapons Bill (HC Bill 232) the following response has been provided following a petition that was set up:

“Retailers online and offline are prohibited from selling knives to under 18s. Evidence from online test common, shows that the majority of sampled online retailers failed to have effective age verification procedures in place. The failure rate for online test purchases of knives has not significantly improved over this period. The Government has therefore sought to improve these outcomes by conducting a public consultation and introducing legislation that will place more stringent controls on online sellers of knives.

Following concerns expressed in the consultation, certain defenses were introduced into the Bill that has been published. The prohibition on the delivery of knives to residential addresses is now limited to those knives that can cause serious injury. If ordered online these knives will need to be collected from a place where age verification can take place, either by the purchaser or their representative.

In respect of other bladed items and knives, the Bill provides a number of defenses around the prohibition of delivery to a residential address. For example, deliveries to business premises, including where a business is run from home, would not be affected by the prohibition placed in the Bill on delivery to a residential address. Other items that would be exempt from the prohibition on delivery to a residential address would include encased razor blades; knives with a blade of less than 3 inches; knives that cannot cause serious injury, for example table knives; bladed products designed or manufactured to specifications from the buyer such as bespoke knives. There are also exemptions for bladed products that are used for sporting purposes, such as fencing swords and bladed products that would be used for re-enactment activities.”

One comment – it refers to ‘a blade of less than 3 inches’. Does this mean the length or the width of a gouge? If the latter then there should not be any problem, purchase operations conducted over the last decade, where online shopping has become increasingly popular.

The next committee meeting will be on the 16th January 2019 at Portchester Community Centre

SATURDAY CARVE-INS

We regret the Carve-In on 29th September had to be cancelled as the School decided to have an Open Day. Obviously we had to postpone the visit of Mike Painter. We hope to rearrange the visit for next year. Please the next dates are the 3rd and 17th November and 1st and 15th December, then January the 12th 2019 and then February the 2nd followed by the 16th of Feb 2019. Apologies for the change of Saturday's from the normal first and third; this is due to the clashes with demonstrations. Welcome back to John Horn who was been unable to attend over the last couple of years.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Priory Park 100 (by John Vardon)

Due to the forecast for severe weather on both days and considering the safety of Members and the tents it was decided to cancel our attendance. In the end the weather was wet and cold but the wind not as bad as forecasted. However several events had to be cancelled due to the weather. A check on the Friday was made to see if there was any space indoors; there was none. I went along mid-morning on the Saturday to support the event and was informed that one exhibitor had cancelled attendance that morning and there was limited indoor space. I was persuaded to stay and whittle away and discuss the plaques. There was a reasonable attendance by the public despite the weather.

Autumn Countryside Show (by John Vardon)

There was good attendance (in the end) by Members – 7 on Saturday and on 9 on Sunday. On Saturday the weather was very wet and cold and only around 700 public attended. Even with the low number we still had plenty of interest; probably because we were in the dry and warmth. Due to the weather and a couple of power cuts the show was closed at 1500. Unfortunately no one told us; we only found out at 1600 when the Warden came to lock up! On Sunday the sun came out, the temperature started to rise and which encouraged over 5000 members of the public to attend with a continuous stream visiting us in the Lavant Building. Thank you to the Members who came along.

Southdowns Show by George Palmer

This turned out to be a very busy and eventful show.

It started on Saturday with confusion over the siting of our pitch. We were told where it was by security so we duly set up. We then had a heated discussion with the coppice stall next door who told us we were wrong and should move only trouble was the police cadets had set up the other side of us. It transpired that there was a charcoal burners to set up between us and the coppice group. In the end the cadets moved and we shifted one of our erected gazebos to the opposite side and peace reined.

The only downside was the smoke from the charcoal burner which Lin had to endure and watching out in case any sparks did not damage the gazebos, fortunately not.



Awaiting the crowds

Sunday proved to be a better day as far as the weather was concerned with plenty of interest from the burgeoning crowd. I won't say it was quiet as we had the Sally Army band pitch up right in front of us. We were serenaded with old favourites such as "onwards Christian soldiers". The highlight was the Sally Army cheerleaders, two older women with their tambourines and ribbons waving and banging them together in tune to the band. All in all an entertaining weekend. We even managed to beat a hasty retreat before the rain came down. Well done and thanks to all those who attended.



It's no good hiding Barry we know it's you

Stubbington Fair (by Jean Cripps)

August Bank Holiday Monday was bright and sunny, weather, and the carvers who turned up to demonstrate. It is always a fun day when you get together with like minded people, the 27th of August at Stubbington Fair was no exception. We had a good number of carvers and lots of interest, there is always a lot of fair weather fair goers who attend. It is held on the village recreation ground, so no entrance charge that always helps to draw in the crowds. Not sure we gained any new members, but an enjoyable time was had by all.

Post Script

This was the last demonstration for this year. Overall it has been quite successful even though we had to cancel one event and another was cut short due to the bad weather and power cuts. The attendance has averaged about eight but it is the same carvers that attend. Please consider coming along next year regardless of your experience. It is great fun and you get to see the event free of charge! Thank you to those who came along this year.

Annual Dinner and awards night by George Palmer

It was a delightful evening attended by 32 members and guests. It was nice to see Andrew and Doreen there, thanks to Dave Owen for bringing them. They and all enjoyed themselves and we were all well looked after by the staff and students of the college. Roll on next year.



A round robin of all the people enjoying themselves

We had a good raffle that raised £78 for our chosen charity Help4specialchildren a local charity based in Portsmouth, so thanks to you all for that support. The CEO will attend on November the 14th to give a short talk and receive the cheque.

Well done also to all those who won awards at this years competitions. It was a shame that due to other commitments etc not all recipients of the awards were able to attend.

Thank you to all those who attended and made it such an enjoyable evening and John for the photographs.

ANNUAL COMPETITION Results

The winners(first, seconds and thirds) of the Annual Competition was announced at the Presentation Dinner on 17th October.

General Class (James Bell Shield)

1 st	John Vardon	Feather
2 nd	Gill Sadler	Bananas
3 rd	Sandra Barnes	The Lovers

Relief Class (Vic Flower Trophy)

1 st	John Vardon	Green Man
2 nd	Alan Crockford	Thoughts
3 rd	Sandra Barnes	Barack Obama

Human Form Class (Harry Wareham Trophy)

1 st	Andy Banger	Aglaea
2 nd	George Palmer	The Look

There was a third entry but was disqualified as it was entered the previous year

Wildlife Class (President's Trophy)

1 st	John Vardon	Tortoise
2 nd	George Palmer	Insect Bowl
3 rd	Sandra Barnes	Panther

Novice Class (Derek Duff Trophy)

1 st	David Davis	Lily
2 nd	Nicola Sadler	Leaf Bowl



John receiving one of many prizes,
Very well done John



Alan receiving his certificate for his plaque

Social Events

**IF ANYONE KNOWS OF ANY GOOD SPEAKERS OF INTERESTING SUBJECTS,
PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN CONSIDER IT AND BOOK IF WE REQUIRE IT.**

Gill

SOCIAL REPORT By Gill Sadler

In September Natalie Hands from 'Bird Aware' came to tell us about their work. Bird Aware Solent is a partnership with RSPB, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, H & IOW Wildlife Trust, Natural England and 15 local councils. Their aim is to show people how to enjoy the coast without disturbing the migratory birds. Every year up to 125,000 waders and wild fowl fly thousands of miles from as far away as the Arctic to feed on the plentiful food of the Solent before flying back for the summer. It is important they can feed without being disturbed as many birds can only feed at low tide and the short winter daylight hours makes feeding time limited. Natalie is one of only two full time Rangers covering the coast from Calshot to Chichester Harbour with the help of volunteers. She quizzed us on different wildfowl pictures of migratory birds that spend their time here. Her passion for her work as a Ranger showed in her lively and enthusiastic talk and surprisingly her first in public. It was an interesting evening enjoyed by all who came.

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENINGS

'Life below Decks on the Royal Yacht'

In November on the 13th, Lt. Com. Mike Hill is coming to give his talk 'Life below Decks on the Royal Yacht'. He joined the Navy in 1954 and during the following 30 years visited most places in the world. He has been to us many years ago and is known to several of our members through his interest in the allotment. He is also keen Philatelist and written booklets on Hampshire Postal Service. This should be an interesting evening so do come along and hear about the Royal Yacht.

Christmas American supper by Lin Palmer

Then the following event will be the Christmas American Supper on December the 11th.

I will be putting out the list of food choices for the Christmas American supper, around about the middle of November the 15th ish so that you can make your choices and let me know by any means, you like, as before you know it, time will have caught up with us and well be rushed of our feet getting ready for the Christmas season as most of us do.

Then Christmas, where we wish all a merry Christmas and prosperous new year

'Stairway to Heaven'

In January on the 9th, a film will be shown 'Stairway to Heaven – Rebuilding “The Minbar Of Saladin”'. This shows the efforts by the Jordanian Royal family to find the craftsmen with the requisite skills to build a copy of the 12th century staircase after it had been severely damaged in an arson attack in 1969. There were no plans for the construction which was made out of thousands of shaped and carved pieces that were assembled with out any glue or fixings. This should an interesting evening related to our skills.

Alans Funnies by Alan Crockford

1.

We used to have a member named Derek Duff he was a retired Doctor. He had a memory for laughs!

So Lin I thought that you might like this one!

As Derek used to say 'What is the difference between a Weasel and a Stoat?

1. Answer: A weasel is weasily wecognised but a stoat is stoatally different!

2

I remembered this. It was passed to me by Derek Duff some years ago!

In a field in Huddersfield,

Stood a cow who wouldn't yield.

The reason why she wouldn't yield,

She didn't like her udders feeled.

3

1st man: 'My wife's gone to the West Indies'

2nd man: 'Jamaica'.

1st man: 'No she went on her own'

Alan

Carvers Travels

Woodcarvers on the Isle of Arran by Andy Banger

Travelling through the small village of Corrie during a recent visit to Arran in the Firth of Clyde, we came across a sign 'Woodcarver' so naturally some investigation was needed.

From the outside what appeared to be a garage tucked into the hillside was in fact a compact showroom space with an enclosed workshop behind.



The carver, Marvin Elliot, can be viewed through a window in the showroom wall. At the time of my visit he was working on a life size figure of a setter type dog.

The walls of the showroom are adorned with drawings and patterns of carvings amongst pieces of finished work which was all very interesting and inspiring to see.

There wasn't much time for us to talk because Marvin was busy and I had parked my motor home in an awkward place. He did however tell me he worked in various timbers some

obtained locally. He showed me his extensive store of material, a lot of which was in log form. He said I was welcome to help myself to some but sadly I had to decline due to lack of space. **Marvin's extensive work and impressive CV can be found at www.sculptorcarver.com**



The Boys go on a Michael Painters Carving Course by Barry Williams

A visit to Michael Painter's in late August Jess Jay, Andy Banger and myself spent an enjoyable couple of days with Mike Painter at his workshop in Austrey.

Once again we all picked up plenty of tips. I just wish I could see/hear what Mike is thinking when he is working on my carving because he sees things differently to me, although he does explain why he is working on the carving the way he does.

There was another guy there at the same time, he was new to carving. Mike explained the safety aspects of holding chisels when working and when laying them on the bench, having chisels all pointing the same way, either points towards you or away which ever you prefer, every now and then you would hear "hold that chisel right" even if Mike was not looking at the new carver he could tell by the way he was working that he was holding the chisel and working incorrectly (it made me think as well).

We were also treated to a 5 minute rendition on a didgeridoo as the new guy was in to playing and making didgeridoos. You do meet some interesting people.

I enjoy just looking around Mike's workshop at all the carvings and maquettes, it is like an Aladdin's cave for carvers, even in the loo there are carvings and works-in-progress, so you don't get bored when you go to spend a penny!

Mike was showing the new carver sharpening techniques and that is always handy for me to refresh my memory.

Once again an enjoyable couple of days, but the time seems to go so quickly.



Jess and Mike



Andy and Mike



Above a project that Mike is carving for himself (The Sistine Chapel ceiling)Wow!!



Some of the many interesting carvings and maquettes Mike has around his workshop come studio.



And by no means least it's Barry's turn with Mike and that's how you do it.!

Sickness

As I have mentioned before one of our members Pat Kyari is now back at home in Waterlooville. Pat is coping extremely well in her new situation, as I have said before she would welcome visitors or a phone call, I'm visiting her myself regularly to help look after her cactus, as she has a small collection. She is now learning to use a prosthetic limb at the hospital clinic on a weekly basis. If you have any question you can also phone me that's Lin on 02392 250378 about Pat.

From your Newsletter Editor and the Committee Members, Christmas will have been and gone before the next edition so this is where we wish you all **a merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2018.**

Next issue January 31st 2019 (Please make sure that any submissions for the Newsletter, are received by no later than the 21st of January 2019)

