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**NEWSLETTER No 125**

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Summer Edition

Web site:

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

## **EDITORIAL**

### **The Editor's thought's** By LP

Hello again, I know we said it may be late this time, but having just lost my mum, it gave me something else to distract me from her loss. During this past quarter it's been very busy with visits and events popping up everywhere, with a visit from Master Carver Michael Painter giving us an excellent day, well worth the wait. The Petanque was great yet again. It's amazing how everyone loves to join in, good for our souls, I say.

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### **Chairman's Musings** by George Palmer

Another year over, our 40<sup>th</sup>, was rounded off nicely with the long awaited visit by Michael Painter. It was nice to be able to fit him into our last carve-in.

As time moves on so do our carvers, we seem to have lost so many over the last year or so. We are recruiting new members but not at the same rate. It is increasingly apparent that the socials are becoming less well attended this despite the hard work of the social sec, vacant post, and the committee. This is a big shame as it gives us all a chance along with our partners and older members a chance to get together outside of the workshop. I know it isn't for everyone but surely we get on well enough to enable us to socialise together now and then. I *DO NOT* want to stop the socials but maybe we need to rethink some of them, ideas please?

I have been in contact with Alex Jones, the wood sculptor not the TV Presenter, who would like to come and talk about his work. He has a couple of pieces on show at the Rococo gardens in Painswick in the Cotswolds at the moment. One of them is of a death's head hawk moth with an 11ft wingspan, so if you are up that way. They are part of a big exhibition on until the end of the first week of September.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next committee meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. 7.30 pm at Portchester C.C.

### **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The Programme for the remainder of 2019 was confirmed. The position of Social Secretary remains unfilled. The question is 'do we still want a social programme' was discussed. Several Guild Members have stated they are having difficulty attending in the evenings as well as 'ageing'. The Chairman will be circulating an email to Members to seek their views. The 'work load and spreading the experience of the Committee' was highlighted in the previous meeting. This was further discussed and some tasks were reallocated; however further discussions need to be held. For interest a copy of the tasks carried out by Members of the Committee and others is attached.

## **SATURDAY CARVE-INS**

Carve-Ins start again on:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> of September
- The 21<sup>st</sup> of September
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> of October note this is the second Saturday
- The 16<sup>th</sup> of October note this is the fourth Saturday

## **DONATIONS**

We have had various donations since the last Newsletter. All the donations have helped new, as well as established (I was going to say old), carvers to increase their range of tools.

Eve White, wife of the late Ray White who was founding Member of the Guild, kindly donated a number of Ray's carving related books. The money from the sale of the books of £28 was donated to the Guild.

Alan Crockford, who is an Honorary Member and Past President of the Guild, has recently given up carving at the age of 88yrs young. He has kindly donated his tools to the Guild which has raised £200. Many thanks, Alan. Alan, and his wife Shirley, continue to attend and support the social evenings.

We also were asked by Barry Williams to sell the carving tools of the late David Savage. The monies received have been given to the family.

## **DEMONSTRATION REPORTS (by John Vardon)**

### **South Downs Green Fair**

This fair was held in May at the Sustainability Centre in East Meon and it's the first time we have attended. We had a prime location in the sun and near the entrance. There were nearly one hundred other stands covering all sustainable activities. We don't know the actual footfall but we reckon it to be several thousand; in fact it exceeded the organiser's expectations. Eight Members of the Guild put on a good display and demonstration and were occupied throughout the day with the large number of visitors. I say 'demonstration' but not much was done due to the interest. Around twenty visitors showed interest in carving and possibly joining the Guild and were invited to visit us at PGS. One person Gus Angus has since joined. Others may come along in September.

### **Solent Gardeners Fayre**

We returned to the Gardeners Fayre at Eastleigh for the third year. We felt the fayre was smaller than previous years and wonder if it has got to the 'sell by date'. The space allocated was smaller than requested but luckily there was space to one side. Ten carvers attended and were occupied most of the day talking and demonstrating to the public. The weather was good but there was a bit of worry late in the afternoon when we had a short shower but the tents soon dried before the show end.

### **Report on Rustic Sunday** By John Vardon

Rustic Sunday was held at the end of July at the Rural Life Centre near Tilford and is the first time we have attended. We had a good position under an oak tree and sheltered from the sun. As well as the usual 27 or so exhibits at the Centre there were 90 other exhibitors. Six Members and one Social Member of the Guild It's the first time I have been to the Centre and found it quite interesting and well worth a visit if you have not been. Rustic Sunday is their biggest event of the year but they have other events nearly every Sunday (March to December). At the end of the show we were given a brass badge as shown below.





### **Forth coming Demonstations**

On 5/6th October we return to the Weald & Downland Living Museum for their Autumn & Countryside Show: Farming, Food & Horticulture. Arrival time is 0900, with cars off-site by 1000, and finish is at 1700. Passes will be required.

Please let John Vardon know if you wish to attend. Within the show is the horticultural competition where you can enter your cakes, preserves, etc. for wonderful certificates and maybe rosettes! There is a craft section which includes a class for any item of woodwork. Entry is free. "How about entering a carving" I (John) did last year and won; mind you there were only three entries! Perhaps there could be a precedence here, John! The Editor

### **Michael Painter visit** by George

Well third time lucky, we finally got in the visit by Master wood/stone carver Michael Painter. He spent the first hour telling of his life working for linford-Bridgemans of Lichfield. How he was sent along to them from the job centre with no experience and was basically on a rolling trial until they eventually gave in and apprenticed him. He showed us photos of the old workplace that had up to 40 woodcarvers and nearly as many stone carvers. All the carvers in lines at their benches, a sight now long gone. He gave a very good account of their work practices. He then went onto talk about his work and commissions, how they were designed and constructed. It was a very informative insight into how a successful carver works.



The old firm



describing the design



Not looking for inspiration just the right words Why NOT to do family members as a commission  
 He then spent the rest of the day going round to individual members discussing, advising and helping with their carvings. He helped me out but started by asking if I had taken my tranquilisers. He then proceeded to recarve one of the eyes and to discuss the other proportions of the face I was carving. In all it was a very instructive day and I know that there were many who were unable to attend that were sorry about that.



And that's how you do it with a smile and a laugh

## **SOCIAL REPORTS**

### **AGM**

The Guild's AGM was held on 8th May at the Portchester Community Centre. 17 Members attended. The Chairman, George Palmer, thanked the Members who make up the Guild and in particular the committee and their commitment. Without all the support given there would be no Guild. In particular, the Chairman thanked Gill Sadler who is stepping down as Social Secretary after eight years. Over the years she had produced a varied social calendar. The Chairman concluded by looking forward to another good year with the Guild and the friendship of its Members.

The Secretary presented an overview of the year. Attendance at Carve-Ins continues to average 14 despite a large fall in Membership. As of 31st March 2019 the membership stood at 3 Honorary Members, 28 Full Members (10 down on last year), 16 Social Members (same as last year) and no juniors. (Since April we have gained two new Members).

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year. This showed a deficit of just over £300 mainly due to one off items. The balance in the bank at the end of the financial year stood at £4345. It was pointed out that there will be a further loss this year with the visit by Mike Painter and purchase of 'Guild badges'. (This loss has already been partly eroded with various donations).

Gill Sadler, on her retirement as Social Secretary, thanked everyone for their support during her eight years in the role.

George Palmer and John Vardon were respectively re-elected as Chairman and Secretary to serve another two years. Sandra Barnes and Peter Hallam were elected as Members of the Committee for one year. The position of Social Secretary was NOT filled. It was stated that without one we would have to seriously reconsider social events so please consider volunteering. In the meantime Lin Palmer has agreed to become Acting Social Secretary in addition to her roles as Newsletter Editor, Tea Lady, and Wardrobe Mistress, etc.

## BILL PINNEY TROPHY

Sandra, who won the trophy this year, has chosen the theme 'Floral Relief' for the 2020 competition. The maximum size is A4 (297mm x 210mm) by 75mm thick and in any wood.

## **Social Report on the Boule/ Petanque in June** by George Palmer

Once again we were ably hosted by The Portchester Petanque Club. We had a lovely evening of games and chatter egging each other on as we attempted to throw giant ball bearings at a poor unsuspecting jack to see who could get closest. The expected rain didn't appear until we were safely indoors so that was good. We finished the evening by inviting back the petanque club members for tea and biccies and a good natter. We look forward to the rematch next year. It has become a very popular part of our social calendar.



## **Talk on Royal Hospital Haslar**

The speaker Mr David Gary, came and gave us an interesting talk on the more modern and social history, of the Royal Hospital Haslar, up and until its closure. It was a very enlightening evening, with lots of local history about the hospital, and what is happening to it now. He was also advertising this latest publication on the subject as well,

## **FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENINGS**

### **The next social will be the skittles and evening meal**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August it will be the skittles evening at the Crofton Pub  
In Crofton Lane, Stubbington, Hants. PO14 3QF.

Please arrive there by 1900 for 1930

Payment for the meal will be paid on the night, thank you.

Any other concerns please contact the organiser, George Palmer.

### **The following social will be "Why Manage Woodlands** by Gill Sadler

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, at Portchester Communittee Centre, Speaker Christine Wescot

Will be giving us a talk on knowledge she has acquired on managing the woodlands for future generations to come,

### **The next will be the Annual Dinner and Awards**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, It will be the Annual Dinner, and Awards from this years Annual Competition.  
Organiser George Palmer

Location: at the Havant & Southdowns College, Waterlooville PO7 8AA

Please arrive by 1900 for 1930 and don't forget your raffle prizes thank you.

## **Historical Interests** by John Vardon

### **EMAIL**

In March we received an email from Alan Broadway. Apparently he was a full time carver prior to the formation of the Guild and James Bell, a founding Member of the Guild, was a student of his. He was running four or five woodcarving classes at the time and did not have time to be involved with the Guild. He says he had pleasure seeing how the Guild has survived and thrived since, for the benefit of all concerned.

He wishes the Guild every success as we have gone from strength to strength! He also attached a photo which is quite comical.



## **EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL CARVINGS**

Earlier this year Norman March kindly donated a number of books to the Guild. He is now having a further clear-out! During his travels he has collected numerous examples of traditional carvings – photographic and architectural mainly. Although rather specialised they are stimulating all the same. He states if any one of the Guild have leanings for that area of study, they are welcome to have them. If anyone is interested please contact

John Vardon ([secretary@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk)) and I will put you in touch with him.

## **EXHIBITION AT FAREHAM LIBRARY**

Norman March hopes to exhibit at Fareham Library from 3rd September for a month, two aspects of applied 3-Dimensional art by Technician and Design students from the Portsmouth College of Art and Media Studies. One specialist subject is Restoration and Decorative Studies in preserving our heritage – all related to the skills of the past – Wood carving, Stone cutting, modelling of detail for Stucco, casting in plaster and water & oil gilding. An emphasis also on the prototyping of products gives visual evidence assembly in different materials and substances. (Please check with the library that the exhibition is on before attending)

## **WEB SITE** <http://www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk/>

I would like to remind Members that the Guild Programme and any latest news, as well as other information, are available on the Guild web site at <http://solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk/>. They include times of meetings, post codes of demonstration venues and if passes are required, etc.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Can you please welcome Gus Angus.

### **Ironic Comments** supplied by Members

Not so much ironic, Trees of knowledge, reference to a poem about different woods and their suitability to burn, was suggested

*Beechwood fires are bright and clear, if the logs are kept for a year;*

*Chestnut only good they say if for long it's laid away;*

*Make a fire of Elder tree, death within your house shall be;*

*But ash new or ash old is fit for queen with crown of gold.*

*Birch and fir logs burn to fast, Blaze up bright and do not last;*

*It is by the Irish said, hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread;*

*Elmwood burns like churchyard mould, E'en the very flames are cold;*

*But the ash green or ash brown is fit for queen with golden crown.*

*Poplar gives a better smoke, Fill your eyes and make you choke;*

*Apple wood will scent your room with an incense-like perfume;*

*Oaken logs, if dry and old, keep away the winter's cold;*

*But ash wet or ash dry A king shall warm his slippers by.*

John. A. Meldrum.

### **Sickness**

Ill health is something that bothers us from time to time, so for all those folks with various issues, sniffles, broken nail syndrome etc, "We hope you are getting better now."

Next issue October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 (Please make sure that any submissions for the newsletter, are received by no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2019)