



Issued on the 31st of October 2019
NEWSLETTER No 126
August, September, October, 2019
Autumn Edition

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

EDITORIAL The Editor's thought's By LP

Hello folks, its that time again, before you know it, the Christmas American supper will be here again, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again this year, but before we get there it has been a busy summer with all the shows etc. We have had a varied selection of weather to deal with, so we've lots of things to tell you about. By the way if you have any interesting stories or items that you would like to see in print then please get in touch with me, 'but no brexit thanks'
newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk

Chairman's Musings by George Palmer

Where do you start is a question that always crosses my mind. Do you start with a nice piece of wood, and then spend ages trying to justify its use, I do. Or do you come up with a design or an idea you like and then find a piece of wood to execute it in. This has to be the right way around but what do you do with all those nice pieces of wood you have collected? New or old that is another question that people debate. Is it better to buy new chisels from a good maker, expensive, or do you seek out old chisels from well known makers, cheaper? As you know I tend to use and collect old chisels it is not just the quality of the steel that has been tried, tested and survived over 100 years of use and may be abuse I like. I recently paid very little for an old Frost chisel that was over 100yrs old but the handle has the initials and names of 12 different owners on the handle. For me it is the continuity of use and the thought of all those that have gone before me and the thought of what they may have produced with it.

What are your thoughts?

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING held on 9th October 2019

The position of Social Secretary remains unfilled. The Chairman circulated an email asking for comments – six Members responded. The Committee has therefore decided to reduce the Social programme for 2020. There will probably be only two talks together with Skittles, Boules, Presentation Dinner and American Supper (with a quiz). This means a social event every other month. It has also been decided to hold the AGM at a Carve-In in May; it is planned this will only take about 30 minutes. Obviously Social Members can come along. Demonstrations will continue as normal but with some changes – dropping Solent Gardeners Fayre and possibly Stubbington Show. We will have West's Wood Show and a Historic Weekend with the theme Wood at the Weald & Downland Living Museum. The programme is still being developed.

SATURDAY CARVE-INS

CARVE-INS continue on the 2nd & 16th November 2019, 7th December 2019 and the 11th January 2020 at PGS from 0930 until around 1530/1600.

DEMONSTRATION REPORTS (by John Vardon)

Autumn Countryside Show (by John Vardon)

There was good attendance by Members – 9 on Saturday and on 7 on Sunday. The weather was good over the weekend compared to last year when on Saturday the show was closed early due to heavy rain and power cuts. Over 6000 attended the show and we had a continuous stream of visitors from the start coming along to the Lavant building to see us carving and display of completed carvings. Thanks to the Members who came along.

Post Script

This is the last demonstration for this year. Overall it has been successful with an average of about eight Members attending including some new faces. The Chairman and Committee thank all those Members who came along to the demonstrations.

SOCIAL REPORTS

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.

Portchester Petanque Club by George Palmer

When we had our social there in June I was approached by Nick Hall and asked if we could produce a plaque for them. I decided to take on this challenge using a 1.25in piece of mahogany. I then presented this to them during the summer to the delight of the club.



Skittles evening by George

A new venue was tried this year at the Crofton pub. We were in the function room which is where the skittle alley is. The food was good we were well looked after.

We had a good turnout and the skittles was well fought out. We were playing as individuals for men and women's prizes. Jean secured the overall women's prize beating Sue into second place. The men's was won on the last ball by myself beating Alwyn into second place, sorry Alwyn.

In all a great evening enjoyed by all so much so that we have already booked the venue for next years skittles night.



Jess in action



A chat after the meal

Why Manage Woodlands by Gill Sadler

In September Chris Westcott came to give us a talk, entitled 'Why Manage Woodlands'

We often see Chris and her family at shows where they demonstrate pole lathing and sell their products that they have produced from the wood of their woodland. Chris and her husband and son together with volunteers manage the Bluebell Woods in Clanfield. The woodland covers 56 acres and is privately owned although there is public access over most of the woodland. Her talk covered a wide range of topics including what makes a woodland, sustainable management of habitats, history of the wild wood, archaeology and ecology of woodlands, the flora and fauna and field layers and soil. Ancient woodland markers include wood anemones and bluebells. This was a very informative and interesting talk and was enjoyed by all.

The forth coming socials will be

On the 13th of November 2019 we are having a talk on the Mary rose, a 'Tudor Time Capsule' at Porchester. by Mike Hill, organised by Gill Saddler

And on the 9th of December it will be The American Supper. Organised by Lin Palmer.

Annual Dinner and awards by George



Lin



Jean



Myself



Sandra



Awards and Display table

So as not to miss out John, Tony and Andy were presented their awards at our carve-in. Well done to the three of you.



Not only was the food well presented but we were also well looked after by the students who were supported by the college staff.



Alf and Pam Hallam



Barry and Clare



Dave and Sue

The raffle was well supported with many good prizes donated by members including a painting from Eve White and a Chinese Kettle from Beryl Shepherd and a bottle from Jess Jay all of whom were unable to attend. Given the amount of people attending we still raised over £70 for our chosen charity "Second Chance"

The Raffle



A dapper Alf



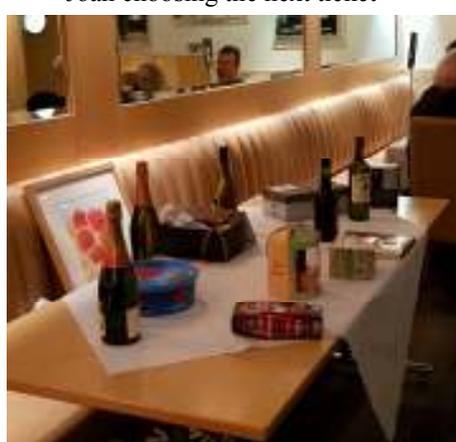
Joan choosing the next ticket



Lin getting instructions



Pam's turn



The prizes on offer



the ticket seller

ANNUAL COMPETITION

The annual competition details are as follows:-

The winners (first, seconds and thirds) of the Annual Competition was announced at the Presentation Dinner on 16th October.

General Class (James Bell Shield)

1 st	Jess Jay	Fishing Boy
2 nd	Andy Banger	Pear
3 rd	Lin Palmer	Green Man

Relief Class (Vic Flower Trophy)

1 st	John Vardon	Fruit/Flower Drop
2 nd	Jess Jay	Thoughts
3 rd	Jean Cripps	Goat

Human Form Class (Harry Wareham Trophy)

1 st	Andy Banger	Old Geezer
2 nd	Jess Jay	Massia Warrior
3 rd	Tony Cross	Jesus

Wildlife Class (President's Trophy)

1 st	Jess Jay	Otter
2 nd	George Palmer	Bald Eagle
3 rd	Tony Cross	Boomer

Non-Wood Class (Jess Jay Trophy)

1 st	George Palmer	Green Man
2 nd	John Vardon	Green Man

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENINGS

Historical Interests by John Vardon

Did You Know ...Lime is not only used for carvings but also for rope!

A thousand years ago, there was no Amazon.com with overnight shipping. In most cases, there wasn't even any pre-made rope to buy. Want some cordage? You'd be harvesting the materials and making it yourself. And you'd better have a good teacher to literally show you the ropes, because there'd be no internet to Google it on. Even if there was, it'd be useless because you'd almost certainly be illiterate. Archaeological records show that ancient ropes were often constructed from bast. This material is a tough fiber found in the inner bark layer of certain plants. Jute, hemp, and flax are examples of bast fiber which are still used for rope-making today. Since at least AD 800, vikings in Norway were known to use bast from the lime tree to make rope. We know what you're thinking — this tree is unrelated to the green citrus fruit, and is also known as linden or basswood. Lime bast rope is still made today in Norway using the same traditional methods: stripping bark from lime (linden) trees, soaking the strips in seawater to separate the layers, twisting the bast fibers into strands, and braiding the strands into a three-ply rope. The following 5-minute short film by Silje Ensby documents the process in an artistic manner - <https://vimeo.com/195692949>.

EXAMPLES OF TRADITIONAL CARVINGS

Some Pictures from Sicily (John Vardon)

Below are some interesting photos of carvings found on a recent trip to Sicily.



(Part) of carving commemorating reconstruction of Ragusa after earthquake in 1698.
The style is interesting with
'in-the-round' at the bottom and becoming a shallow relief at the top and done in segments.



Elaborate balconies in Noto



End and side views of a heavily carved 2nd C sarcophagus depicting the birth and short life of a child
(in the Archaeological Museum in the Valley of Temples in Agrigento)



Squat dwarf with heavily caricatured features in a rude posture on short bowed legs
(in the Archaeological Museum in the Valley of Temples in Agrigento)



Stone pillar in the form of 'a man' – note piano in bottom LH corner (in the Archaeological Museum in the Valley of Temples in Agrigento)

WEB SITE <http://www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk/> by John Vardon

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

And now would you please welcome our newest member, a retired fireman Mr Mike Charlton to the Guild. He enjoyed his 1st Saturday carving at the previous carve-in just gone.

Ironic Comments This one supplied by, 'The little book of senior moments.'

A man walks into a bar and has a couple of beers. When he's finished the barman says that will be £6, you owe for the drinks, but I've already paid he said 'don't you remember' the customer says. Ok the barman agrees if you say you've paid, you've paid. The man goes outside and tells a friend that the barman can't keep track of when a customer has paid or not. His friend then rushes in to the bar and orders a beer, he then tries the same trick on the bartender who replies, 'if you say you've paid, I'll take your word for it.' The customer then goes into the street and sees another old friend and tells him how he can get a free drink, the friend rushes into the bar and orders three pints and begins to drink them quickly, when suddenly the bartender leans over and says, did you know two men were drinking in here earlier today, and neither paid, and both claimed that they had paid. The bartender then said that the next person to try it will be sorry. I'm sorry to hear that says the patron, but if you will give me my change I'll be on my way sir!

This must be truly a senior moment.

Sickness

We hope that all you poorly members and friends out there are getting better or have recovered from what ever ailed you in the first place. We always feel that staying well is a major achievement these days.

With regards from the guilds editor

Apologies to

To Alan Crockford, here should have been an article on the Bayeux Tapestry about how Alan and some of the carvers came across a French carver who had done a carving of this historical tapestry, but I was unable to get enough to put together all of the information to give you all a good read, so if anyone out there remembers the event please contact me and I will share it with you all.

Next issue January 31st 2020 (Please make sure that any submissions for the next newsletter, are received by no later than the 25th of January 2020) Lin Palmer.