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 Spring Edition

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

EDITORIAL:- The Editor's thoughts by LP

Hello again to all our members, I hope everybody is in good health knowing what is going on in the world at this moment in time, the dreaded virus. George and I are in good health and hope to stay that way. It seems that this whole lock down situation has caused a massive disruption in all our lives and to our plans for this year so far. I think we managed the first 4 Carve-ins this year and then nothing, it's all been on hold since. Well hopefully there will be a future for all of us, god willing, so don't waste your precious moments on doing nothing, (bloody Cheek!.) to which I'm sure that you haven't. So this brings me back to how many of my unfinished carvings will I have finished! of course. Well you will just have to wait. Now I'm looking forward to getting back together to seeing everybody again. Well dreaming on people have been busy behind the scenes and given me lots for you to read, so enjoy!
newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk

Chairman's Musings by George Palmer

As we continue on this crazy merry-go-round of uncertainty I wonder how we are all doing? As you know I have kept in touch with you via email and have received many nice replies. Some of you are keeping up carving but many are using this enforced downtime to achieve tasks at home. I always try to achieve something, however small, every day. None of us know when things will return to normal or how much we will be able to do until they find an effective treatment for the virus. Until we find out I would like to continue to keep in touch with you all and ask for you to do the same. We will all get back together sometime, until then stay safe.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE MEETING

Due to the coronavirus the Committee Meeting scheduled for 15th April was cancelled.

PROGRAMME

Once the world gets back to normal, or as normal as it can, I (John) will update and reissue the Guild's programme.

SATURDAY CARVE-INS

Currently all Carve-Ins and Socials are cancelled until further notice.

THE BILL PINNEY COMPETITION for 2020

The competition for the 2020 Bill Pinney Trophy has the theme 'floral in relief' chosen by Sandra. The maximum size is A4 (297mm x 210mm) and up to 75mm (3") thick. As the AGM, when normally the competition is held, has been postponed this competition will be held at a later date. As you have lots of spare time on your hands you have no excuse for not carving an entry (or even two!).

FORTH COMING DEMONSTRATIONS

We have been informed that the South Downs Green Fair scheduled for 10th May has been postponed. It is hoped they may be able to hold the event on Sunday 6th September. But this clashes with the start of the winter session of Carve-Ins and another planned demonstration. The Committee will discuss our attendance in due course. We have not been informed of any other cancellations but unfortunately I'm sure there will be more.

AGM

The AGM was scheduled to be held at a Carve-In on 16th May. It is the intention for the Committee to prepare reports which will be sent to all Members for comment. Any comments received will be fed back to Members. The Committee have proposed to hold over elections (for Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Social Secretary and two other Members) until next year. All current holders of these positions are prepared to continue. If any Member objects to this proposal or is even willing to stand for one of the position due for election then please let the Secretary know. Please note the position of Social Secretary was not filled at the 2019 AGM so if anyone wishes to volunteer and fill this vacancy please let the Secretary know.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Treasurer would like to remind Members that subscriptions are now due. We appreciate that Carve-Ins, etc. have been cancelled for the foreseeable future but we do need to retain Members to ensure the continuation of the Guild. It has been agreed by Committee that a reduction of subscriptions will be made in 2021-22 for cancelled events. A reduction for this year cannot be made as we do not know how long the virus will continue. We hope that Members understand and will continue with their membership.

There are three ways in which payment can be made:

- 1) by cash to the treasurer – obviously not feasible in current climate
- 2) By cheque but please make cheque payable to SGWS or Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors.
NB: These are the only 2 formats which the bank will accept
- 3) By Bank Transfer. Please contact the Secretary or Treasurer by email (alwyn.brace@gmail.com) for the Sort Code and Account Number which will then be emailed by return should you wish to use this option.

The subscriptions for the year 2020/21 £21 for Full Membership and for Social Membership is £7*. The fee for Social Members has been reduced (prior to the coronavirus outbreak) because of the reduced social events programme for 2020/2021.

SOCIAL REPORT by George Palmer

12th Feb Guitar building by Jason Lindsey

What an enthusiastic speaker Jason was talking about his hobby. He took us through all the stages of guitar making from selecting the timber to tuning. I never realised the preciseness needed when constructing the guitar, like the distances between the frets and the height of the

strings above them and to the tensioning of the neck, to compensate for the tension of the strings. There were so many things that needed to be taken into consideration. He also chatted about guitarists and the relative merits of their playing. I learnt more about the guitar that night than I had picked up over 55 years of listening to them. I also learnt a greater respect for good guitar players for the complexity and mastery of their playing. Thank you, Barry for suggesting your son-in-law as a speaker. ROCK ON JASON



This is a selection of the instruments that Jason has built himself



This is Jason showing us how he shapes the instrument bodies to get the required shape and design that's unique to him.



ALEX JONES Artist and Woodsulptor.

The talk that was scheduled for 8th April when Alex Jones was going to talk about “Wood Sculpting” has been postponed provisionally until **9th September.**

FRANK LEACH by John Vardon

As you know Frank Leach passed away on 6th March 2020 at the age of 88. He joined the Guild before 2002 (that's the earliest record of membership I have). He joined the Committee in 2004 and was Chairman from 2011 to 2013. He carved many pieces including a five foot rocking horse. He also carved several pieces out of marine ply. This possibly accounts why he had so many micro-planes!





As well as a regular attendee at our Carve-Ins he attended many demonstrations. In particular he arranged for the Guild to demonstrate at the Alton Show. On one occasion we won third prize for our display. We were beaten to first place by another well-known group of woodcarvers! Frank, along with his wife Irene, who sadly passed away just over a year ago, also attended most of the socials.

At one stage in his early life he moved to Southall but he did not like it there as there was “Southall there”. Frank served in the Royal Navy for 38 years retiring as CPO Weapons. Among the ships he served on were HMS Vanguard, Victory and finally the destroyer Fife. After leaving the Navy Frank worked for Gosport Home Improvements and also helped to set up the Explosions Museum in Gosport. He also took up wood carving.

Eileen, his daughter, has kindly donated all his carving tools and storage box/trolley to the Guild so that they continue to be used. Most of the gouges were sold at our last Carve-In in February. There will be more tools, including his micro-planes (!), available once we can get back together at Carve-Ins. He also had an original Hobbies peddled-driven scroll saw but unfortunately this was given/sold to another organisation. Currently we have raised over £350 from the sale of his tools.

JOHN BOWEN by Lin Palmer

You may have heard from John and George that we were sorry to hear about John Bowen’s death. He was a very active member of the Guild in the past. He was also one of the earliest members of the Guild and gave a great deal of time and effort to it. He was chairman for 2 years from 1982 – 1984, then followed by Secretary for 3 years and then was the Treasurer for the following 9 years, and then John Vardon took over as Treasurer from him. That was definitely some commitment to the Guild; He was made an honorary member in 2000. It was just after this that he lost his wife Sylvia suddenly, in 2004, he then moved from Bognor Regis to Bristol into a Flat in a converted church in the centre of Bristol. His long time friends Alan and Shirley Crockford went to visit him there. They stayed overnight with him. Alan said they visited the Clifton suspension bridge and a country house just outside of Bristol belonging to the National Trust before making their way home again. Alan stayed in touch by phone as you did in those days, he was sad to hear from John’s daughter about John’s Death.



John is bottom right here, and propping up the Marwell Rider train is Alan Crockford.

Continuing on is this lovely group of carvers with John in the centre bottom



The top picture was taken when the guild went to Marwell Zoological Park for a trip out.

BY ANON.

Quote 1 on patient's note: on the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.

Quote 2 on patient's note: patient has two teenage children but no other abnormalities.

Martha's Thoughts by Martha Chippendale

Martha thought we would like these historical items to look at.

"...The church was built between 1751 and 1758 by José de la Borda (ca. 1700–1778), who had made a great fortune in the silver mines surrounding the town. Despite his wealth, however, the opulence of the church nearly bankrupted him. The construction of the church of Santa Prisca in Taxco lasted 15 years and was aimed at creating a space where the priest Manuel de la Borda--son of José de la Borda, benefactor and founder of the parish--could officiate mass. The architectural design was provided by the French architect Diego Durán and the Spanish Cayetano Sigüenza. The altars are work also of the Spanish [Isidro Vicente](#) and [Luis de Balbás](#)..."



View of the main entrance carved in stone

This is what I consider a very complicated ecclesiastical altarpiece - one starts looking from top to bottom, by the time one is looking at the last subjects at the bottom, one has forgotten how it all started.



This is the altar



A small section of the altarpiece



This image shows the church at night - it is such an interesting building and so very large that one could say it was a cathedral, but there again many a little town has one of these jewel that can be found whilst exploring the area of Guerrero

Tree Survival pictures sent to George by Peter Warren

Where there is hope and determination nature will prevail. The last two are of a tree that survived the Japanese tsunami





EMAILS

Obviously the Chairman and/or Secretary will be sending emails to Members providing latest information on Guild activities. However, as it appears that some Members have not received emails in the recent past, it is also important for you to check the Guild's web site for any latest information.

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

NEW MEMBER'S

I'm pleased to say that we are welcoming our latest member Mr Mervin Harfield to the Guild. And that we wish him a happy and enjoyable time with us.

SICKNESS

None

For Sale by Lin Palmer

I have a stock of Guild items, (They are new and for sale.) If you are interested, please ring me at home on 02392 250378, they are as follows

Polo Shirts sizes L cost £14. 22p x3

Polo Shirt size XL cost £14. 22p x1

Polo Shirt size M cost £14. 22p x1

I have 9 embroidered badges at £6 each

And 2 old style Guild knitted jumpers at £24 each sizes XL and L

And last but not least Alan Crockford sent me a couple of jokes one of which is Derek Duffs little jokes!

If you can't sleep lay on the edge of the bed and you'll soon drop off.

What's the difference between a weasel and stoat! A weasel is weasely weconised but a stoat is stoatally different.

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