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Summer Edition

Web site:

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

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EDITORIAL the Editor's thoughts By Lin Palmer

Dear Members, friends and associates of the Guild, hopefully having escaped covid at least most of us and been jabbed twice because it's the best way to go we can look forward instead of going backwards into the future of normality, or as near damn it as possible. I'm looking forward to getting into the swing of things such as the Carve-ins, Socials, Demonstrations, Meetings and any other activities you care to think of. We've actually had our first committee meeting for over nearly a year and a half. It was very good; the cake was excellent and present company to. Well I'm guessing what I need to do is address a few issues with my carving, I'm desperate for the Carve-ins to start again and I'm missing the social interaction that goes with it. It feels like a crime not being there as I'm sure it does for others to. Well here's wishing for a small miracle to happen and it starts again soon for everyone.

Chairmans Thoughts by George Palmer

Hello one and all. The year continues to slow us down with no decision yet on our Carve-ins at the PGS and a slow start to the socials. Finally a chance for us all to have a get together at the skittles evening at the Crofton on the 11th of August. Even if you don't want to play it is a chance for us to have a chat and the meal is FREE.

After that in October we have a talk by wood sculptor Alex Jones. If you haven't already, take a look at his website, his work especially the giant insects are amazing. He is really looking forward to finally meeting us and discussing his work. Then we have the Xmas get together in December. I don't know about you but I still find it hard to settle down and get stuck into carving without other peoples input and friendly conversation.

On the sad side you will have read my email about Shirley Crockfords' passing. She had been alongside Alan in life for some 66 years and supported him in the Guild for 40 years since its inception in 1978. We wish Alan and the family all our very best wishes and condolences for their loss.

I look forward to seeing you all at some point in the near future.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met, for the first time since January 2020, on the 12th July to discuss the remainder of the programme for 2021, finances and other items. Due to Covid only two demonstrations were being held this year – one at the Rural Life Centre, this was cancelled due to bad weather. Even after 19th July when most (government) restrictions will be lifted it is still difficult to finalise a programme. Three socials were agreed to go ahead – skittles, talk by Alex Jones and a Christmas supper, all subject to any Covid restrictions. It is hoped that

Carve-Ins will re-commence in September but PGS are unable to confirm this. See later for more details.

The Treasurer reported the finances were in good health. He had recently renewed our public liability insurance ready for the first demonstration of 2021; this was with a new company and over £100 cheaper than previously. It was agreed to continue for a further two years the advert-free hosting of the Guild's web site. Member's subscriptions for 2021/22 and 2022/23 were discussed. Again, more details are given later in the Newsletter.

SECRETARY (by John Vardon)

We also discussed at the Committee Meeting. Some of you already know about my eye sight had already deteriorated over the past year to the extent I have had to give up driving. It is also difficult to view text on the computer screen. I'm told I will not need a white stick! I would therefore find it difficult to attend Carve-Ins, Demonstrations and fully participate in the Guild's activities. I have been on the Committee (as Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Chairman and Secretary) for 20 of the past 21 years. I therefore feel now is the time to retire from the Committee at the next AGM (or before). I will not be leaving the Guild and will continue carving for as long as possible. I've recently done some band sawing and still have ten fingers! I will obviously support my replacement, who I'm sure will come along with fresh ideas, and am happy to continue as web master (as it does require certain software). I would therefore ask for another Member to take on this important role. It doesn't take up much time. If any more information is required, please let me know.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are normally due end of March but collection was postponed. For the remainder of 2021/22, it was agreed by the Committee, subscriptions would not be collected this year. Members may still be hesitant attending Carve-Ins (until later) so it as agreed, instead of an annual subscription, Members would pay for each Carve-In session attended. The amount suggested was £2.50, but this may be amended (down) depending on the number of carvers attending. If any Member prefers, they could pay (by end October) normal Subscriptions for the year; this would be cheaper for those attending on a regular basis.

PROGRAMME

Version 4 of the 2021 programme was put on the Guild's web site. The following will bring you up to date but note it is still very fluid and subject to change.

SOCIALS

The Skittles evening on 11th August is scheduled to go ahead at the Crofton Pub in Stubbington. We would treat the Skittles as a 'welcome back event' and the Committee have agreed the Guild would subsidise the meal 100% for both Members and Guests. This is to encourage you to attend, play a few rounds of skittles (if they so wish) and socialise. We will be holding the Bill Pinney Trophy competition at the skittles event. So, dust off your floral relief carvings and bring them along.

It is hoped to have two other socials at the Portchester Community Centre. Although the Centre has reopened access to the kitchen area is not allowed and masks will need to be worn when walking around the centre. Rooms are 'fogged' after each meeting. It is planned to have a talk by Alex Jones on 'Wood Sculpting' on 13th October and a Christmas Supper on 8th December.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Despite the very hot weather at the time of writing this, the weather on the Sunday was forecast as wet and with thunder storms. It was thus decided partly on safety grounds to cancel our attendance. In lieu of our attendance a donation will be made to the Centre. The final demonstration planned for 2021 will be the South Downs Green Fair at the Sustainability Centre, East Meon on 5th September. More details of the fair can be found on the web site <http://www.southdownsgreenfair.org>. John will be asking for demonstrators nearer the time.

CARVE-INS

We still hope that Carve-Ins may recommence in September. However, the PGS have not yet made any decision on third party bookings (as of 19th July).

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The current risk assessments we have in place for PGS, socials and demonstrations will be reviewed and updated to reflect Covid-19 requirements at the time.

It has been agreed that

- a. The Guild will provide hand gel**
- b. Face covering would be optional**
- c. Doors and windows will be opened (if conditions permit)**
- d. Members to bring own tea/coffee cups**

Carving Intentions by Lin Palmer



These are just some of my unfinished carvings, I've broken my promise to get on with it, and that's if it doesn't get any worse or I will lose the will to live, just joking". Seriously I have run out of ideas to motivate myself. At the moment there are 19 projects here, but I have had a go at 3 or 4, and feel very ashamed at the amount accumulating in the depths of storage indoors. I could make all sorts of excuses for not getting on with it, so is there anyone out there that understands my plight, I'm willing to try! I know I have been there before and I'm sorry for repeating myself, I hope it can only get better.

This is a finished one. My version of Chichester's Motte and Bailey castle in priory Park and Jane Cripps carved Crest



These plaques are carved by some of the members of the Guild for the priory park celebrations in Chichester a couple of years ago, that's my finished Motte and Bailey plaque which was a part of its history.



They can be seen in the cafe in the park in Chichester's Priory Park, denoting a thousand years of its history. I have also carved a nice flower and hearts spoon, and some leaf bowls that are finished.

This is a lovely red sycamore leaf one of my early carvings.



This is another finished one, my Green man.



My Green man took me two and a half years to carve, it was started off on a Michael Painter carving course, he helped me get it started. It was a very enjoyable experience and I got on well. I enjoyed the execution of it, but only doing small amounts at a time, hence why it took me such a long time. It achieved a third in our annual completion, I was pleased as I could still see some improvements to be had. I love starting the carving it's just seeing it through to the end!

THE END

Guild History by Lin Palmer

This leads me on to a discovery when a couple of weeks ago I was going through the Guild's archives that I came across, lots and lots of carving photos done by passed members of the Guild, so I decided to give some an airing and put together a compilation of bird carvings for you to enjoy.

Some early guild members bird carvings. Sea Birds

Cormorant by Roger Bennett
In Lime



Herring Gulls by John Duddell
Gulls carved in Lime, Fish in Wenge and base in Ash



This is a splendid looking sea bird is a

Black Backed Gull and is carved
by Bill Corrigan.



Still under the heading sea birds, are the more unusual specimens is this lovely bird

Puffin by Pax Benger
Puffin carved in Lime and painted in acrylics



Continuing with the bird theme here are some raptors to look at starting with

A pair of **Raptors** by Norman Coward carved in Douglas Fir



A more dramatic carving is this one

A **Bald Eagle** and **Hare** being chased by Gordon Hoare

Eagle and Hare carved in Lime and base carved in Mahogany.



What has this poor hare done to you.
Except to be on your dinner menu!

Owl by Ken Malcolm

Carved in Lime



These are some of the interesting carving hidden in our archives. I will be putting another selection for the next issue of the newsletter, as it saves me pleading with folks for articles to fill the news letter.

The next newsletter will be issued on the 31st October 2021
Please make sure any admissions for the next newsletter are submitted before the 25th October 2021