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NEWSLETTER No 134

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Autumn Edition

Web site:

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

EDITORIAL the Editor's thoughts By Lin Palmer

Dear members and friends of the Guild, this newsletter greets you with a sense of normality again, things are starting to move back in the direction of the past, when we achieved good experiences and entertainment to keep the guild going on the right tracks, it gave us a sense of purpose. So without further ado, I bring you up to date with the latest events that have been happening and events to come, as well as the usual information that keep us going. I will also take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year for 2022, as the next Newsletter won't arrive until next year.

CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS.

Hello to one and all. It has been so nice to get back to some sense of normality. We have enjoyed several get togethers over these last few months and more and more people are appearing out of the woodwork. There are still a few people for one reason or another who haven't been able to attend and I hope that at some point they will feel able to rejoin us. Our numbers are a bit low but I hope that we can get the word out that we are up and running and people like Graeme who are just starting out feel able to join us. It is nice to see that members are back getting stuck into their carving once again. I have just completed a commission for a plaque for the Brighton Pheonix running club to celebrate one of their races. It contains apple, green lignum and a little piece of oak based on Lime. The design was based on the race which is a 5 mile handicap up to the blackcap trig point, in the distance, and back.



On a different note we still have not had any volunteers to take over the post of secretary from John, who is finding it increasingly difficult to concentrate or see properly on the computer. If no one is forthcoming this will most probably result in an interim reshuffle of the committee; we will keep you posted on the outcome.

I look forward to seeing you all at a carve-in or social over the coming months so keep your chisels sharp, your eyes open and concentrate on what you are doing.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 7th October primarily to discuss next year's programme. Carve-Ins have been booked with PGS until June 2022. A reduced social programme has been drafted. A quiz/games evening will be held in February and hopefully a talk in April. However, ideas for the talk would be appreciated. Although to be confirmed it is hoped have a Petanque/Boules competition in June, Skittles in August and a Presentation Dinner in October. We will then finish the year with a Christmas Supper in December. There was concern that nobody had come forward to take on the Secretary's role (and even the Social Secretary position which is still vacant). Several scenarios were discussed and will be developed. Subscriptions for Social Members was discussed – see below for more details. Several demonstrations have also been 'pencilled-in'.

SECRETARY (by John Vardon)

As mentioned in the Committee report we are still looking for a new Secretary. Often it's thought that the Secretary tasks take up a lot of time. In fact, for the Guild, it does not take up a lot of time. The key tasks are:

- General administration – very little
- Committee meetings – four times a year – agenda, attend and minutes.
- AGM – once a year – agenda, attend and minutes.
- Programme – draft for discussion and update as required
- Carve-Ins – liaise with PGS
- Membership List – maintain
- Risk Register – reviewed once a year
- Input to the Newsletter

Again, I would therefore ask for another Member to take on this important role. If any more information is required, please let me know.

PROGRAMME

Version 6 of the 2021 programme is available on the Guild's web site. If anyone wants a copy emailed to them, or even given a hard copy, please let the Secretary know. A draft programme for 2022 is also available on the web site.

CARVE-INS

Carve-Ins started again in September with a good attendance. The dates of Carve-Ins up to June 2022 are given in the programme. There is one change – due to the two-day bank holiday the 4th June has been put back a week to the 11th.

The Next Carve-ins will be on the following dates

November 6th and the 20th

December 4th and the 18th

January 8th and the 22nd 2022

SOCIAL MEMBER'S SUBSCRIPTIONS

We only have about nine Social Members and not all attend meetings. It has therefore been agreed to temporarily waive subscriptions and for them to make a donation at meetings and events attended. Obviously if any Social Members wishes to pay a year's subscription (£7) they can do.

Firsts By George

1st carve-in

At last after 18 months we finally get to go to school and have a carve-in on the 16th sep. it was great to see people and their work and have a natter about what if anything they have been up to. We followed the guidelines expressed by the school for hand cleanser as we entered and wiping down surfaces when we left. Everything went well and we had 13 people attend a number that has also attended the next two. I hope that we are able to continue with the PGS over the coming months and that we don't get put on hold because of a surge in covid numbers.



Some of the members at work, the concentration is palpable.

1st demo

Our first outing for two years was to be at the Farnham Rural Life Centre but the weather report for the day was dire so we cancelled it. This made our trip to the Green Fair at the Sustainability Centre outside Clanfield the first on the 5th sep. It was a lovely day, good weather and many interested people. There were eight of us representing the Guild and we had a good time chatting with interested people and explaining our work, and that of the Guild. The ice cream was great and very welcome as the day and temperature increased. Well done to all of you that turned out to represent the guild.



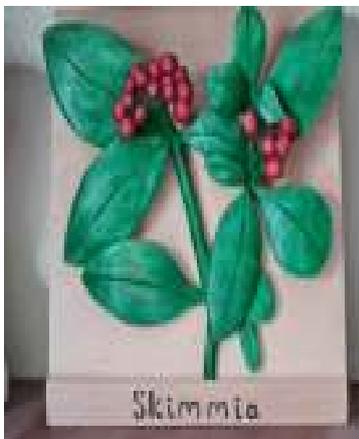
1st social

It is so good to be finally back together once again. We started by having our first social, skittles at the Crofton on the 11th of August. Although the meal wasn't great we all had a great time. Jess and Heather had to make a hasty run from home to be with us, Jess forgot. What made it worse for them was that they had already had dinner with relatives. We all had a good chat and rolled a few balls



What a cheerful bunch, especially Peter and Alwyn who won 1st and 2nd prize for the highest scores.

Then we had the long awaited Bill Pinney competition which was won by Jean with her vase of flowers.



George



Jean



John



Sandra

CARVINGS IN CORNWALL (John Vardon)

While in Cornwall recently we visited the Lost Gardens of Heligan. In a bird hide they have there (as well as the gardens!) were some bird relief carvings carved by Members of The Cornwall Woodcarvers. Some photos are given below:



Alex Jones by George



Alex talking about his life

Well for nigh on two years I have been trying to get Alex to come and give us a talk about his work but was hampered by Covid and other problems but at last it's happened. Alex is a local man working and living in Winchester. There are examples of his work in the city and he also runs some courses at West Dean College. He was very infectiously enthusiastic about his work and discussed many aspects of it from when he started in 1992 producing commissions for people and institutions around the world. Although he specialises in the microscopic

world of insects his portfolio is very varied. He was ably supported by his son Wolfie, named after the wolf spider, who looked after the slide show on the computer.



Spider



Alex with death's head hawk moth

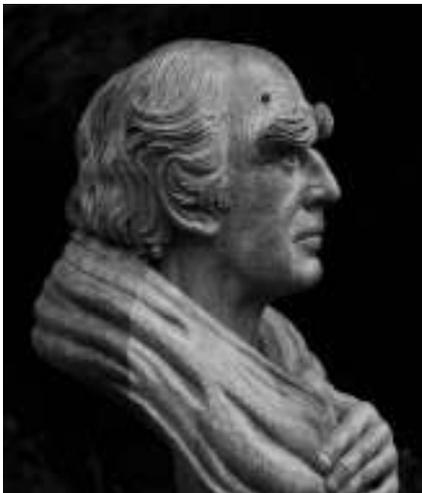


butterfly



Silvered fleas

He also does busts of people including his father, life size models and other topics as well.



Alex's father



Stanley



Peter

Stanley is a full size figure that was cast in bronze for the sitter that is in his garden. The original sits in Alex's studio keeping a watchful eye on him. Peter was a commission for a millionaire in Australia. Alex had a few days to take photos and also a plaster cast of the face before he returned to Australia.

Alex has tackled many topics and whilst talking to us he explained how he models and enlarges his creations especially to cut down on the weight of an item. He chatted with members discussing aspects of his work. In all he was a delight to have and I have invited him to come to a carve-in at some point.

To end the session I asked him to join us for a photo, here is the result.



As you can see the only person that heard me was Chris. Everyone else was more interested in what Sue won in the raffle. Ah well at least Alex was smiling. Many thanks Alex from us all for an excellent evening and Wolfie too.

The next coming Socials by Lin palmer

The Christmas American Supper which will on the 8th of December, 7.30pm

At the Portchester Community Centre. I will be sending out an email with the Food choices on as usual. Can let me know what you would like to bring. There will be a few changes to the usual routine because of Covid, we will be using Plastic or Paper plates and bowls, plastic Knives forks and Spoons. I will also be supplying Serving Spoons, Knives and any other items ie serving plates and dishes for dealing with and serving of the food, the exceptions are things that you have made or cooked the food in yourselves. Also as we have only a small number of guild cups to use, it would be advisable to bring your own cups.

Grinling Gibbons by Jean Cripps



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On the first of October I visited the Grinling Gibbons exhibition at Compton Verney Art Gallery with my son. We both knew the area as family had lived within 4 miles, but didn't know there was an Art Gallery so close. We found out it didn't open until 2004, family had moved long before then.

The exhibition in my opinion was disappointing, not many examples, but I had been to Petworth House. The information posts by each carving were in small print, added to that the lighting which was very poor. Mask wearing made glasses steam up so it was a good thing I knew what was looking at. So except for seeing the cravat which is only about 6-7 inches tall it was a waste of time. I enjoyed the day with my son and the grounds and restaurant more than made up for the disappointment of the exhibition. These are some of the photos I have taken to give you examples of his carvings that were there.



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1.The cherub and crown. 2. Cravat once owned by Horace Walpole (post 1682) 3. and 4. Baby's cradle side on, and End on. 5. Floral garland in very fine detail. 6. Showing you examples of some of his carving tools. There is a host of information on the subject of Grinling Gibbons. In Petworth House are examples of his work and for further reading there is a very informative book all about his life and times as a carver, called "GRINLING GIBBONS AND THE ART OF CARVING" by David Esterly.

NEW MEMBER

Please welcome Graeme Swain who has recently joined. He has just taken up wood carving and hopes to carve African type sculptures.

ROBERT SORBY, John Vardon

No! This is not another new member! Following a query I had raised with Robert Sorby I was informed that they have stopped making 'standard size' carving gouges. They continue to sell turning tools and other wood related equipment.

GUILD'S WEB SITE

The Guild's web site has been updated to make it more user friendly on mobile devices. Please have a look at it and let the Secretary know what you think of it and also send any errors or improvements. It should more or less replicate the same content as the desktop version but some minor changes have had to be made.

SICKNESS

For all those people who have been poorly with Covid or other ailments, we hope you are recovering or have recovered now.

The next News Letter will be issued on the 31st of January 2022 (Please make sure any submissions are received before the 25th of January so that I can process them in time, thank you your editor Lin