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## NEWSLETTER No 135

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Winter Edition

Web site:

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

### **EDITORIAL the Editor's thoughts** By Lin Palmer

Well first things first, Happy New Year to you all. I hope that everybody had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and that you'll not to hung over. Also for those who are teetotal still enjoyed themselves as well, I had noticed that there's a rumour that it's supposed to be dry January for some, is that the weather they're talking about! It's nice to see that the New Year has already started for the Guild, with carve-ins and a committee meeting so far, so it looks like we are back to some sort of normality. There's been mixed blessings with covid but fortunately my family has managed to stay safe as I hope all of you have. A new feature in the news letter is going to be Articles on Tree facts of the wood world so if you have any knowledge about your favourite trees or facts you can impart to me and I will put them out there! The first will be facts about the magnificent Brazil nut tree, one of my favourites. Enjoy the read.

### **The Chairman's Bit** by George

The New Year has begun and the carve-ins, are becoming more populated. So far we have seen some 13-15 members attending and the sound of laughter amongst the chiselling of wood is a welcome sound. The committee have been hard at work organising with old favourites and new demo venues etc. The social calendar is sorted and we are back on track. John tells me we have received interest from two people who are interested in joining us. This will be a welcome addition to our membership which has dwindled somewhat over the last two years. It will be so nice to see the promise of this New Year fulfilled and I look forward to seeing you all at some point at one of the events. All the very best to you all.

### **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE**

The Committee met on 19th January primarily to finalise this year's programme. The Carve-Ins have been booked with PGS until June 2022. A programme of social events has been arranged. This includes a return to Southwick Golf Club for skittles but note it will be on a Thursday. The presentation dinner in October is only provisional as the College cannot confirm details until they know the student intake in September. Five demonstrations have been organised which includes a new one at Fort Purbrook over the Easter weekend. Details of all events are given in the programme. The list of tasks carried out by Committee Members has been reviewed; a summary is given in this Newsletter. The Constitution had been reviewed and various changes proposed; these will be discussed at the AGM in May. One suggestion made for social evening was for Members to give a short talk on a subject they are involved with, e.g. Coast Watch or Men's Shed; this will be considered for the 2023 programme.

## **COMMITTEE TASKS**

The Guild would not exist if it weren't for the Committee! Current Committee and responsibilities are as follows:

George Palmer, Chairman – lead and oversight, presentation dinner, competitions and Guild tools

John Vardon, Secretary – secretarial activities, meeting's agenda and minutes, programme sheet, membership list, risk register and Carve-In bookings

Alwyn Brace, Treasurer – finance, insurance bookings at PCC and demonstration coordination

Lin Palmer; Newsletter Editor – newsletter and archives - Clothing, Tea and coffee Supplier  
Social Secretary – social programme

Sandra Barnes and Peter Hallam, Committee Members – liaison with Members, publicity and ad hoc tasks

In addition, the Committee together with support from Jean and Gill volunteers to carry out other tasks, e.g. refreshments at Carve-Ins and socials, web master, storage and transport of tents & other demonstration equipment, raffles, engraving of trophies, etc.

Help from those Members not on the Committee would always be welcome.

## **PROGRAMME**

Version 1 of the 2022 programme is available on the Guild's web site and has been emailed to all Members.

## **CARVE-INS**

Carve-Ins re-started in September with a good attendance – an average of about 12. The dates of Carve-Ins up to June 2022 are given in the programme.

For those who need a reminder the dates are:

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May

## **DEMONSTRATIONS**

Our first demonstration in 2022 is (hopefully as it has not been confirmed at time of writing) a new one, Contemporary Craft Show at Fort Purbrook. It is over the Easter weekend (Saturday, Sunday and Monday). You can come along and demonstrate for one, two and three days, i.e. you are not committed to all three days. The show is run by Woodlands Craft who used to run the South Downs Show. John Vardon is the Guild organiser and further details will be available nearer the time.

## **SOCIALS** A reminder

Socials take place at Portchester Community Centre mostly on Wednesday's

From 7.30pm to 10.00pm at;

**Westlands Grove**

**Portchester**

**Fareham**

**Hants PO16 9AD**

## **SOCIAL REPORT** by John Vardon

### **Christmas American Supper**

Twenty-one Members enjoyed a night of quizzes and plenty of enjoyable food. 2 quizzes provided by Gill, were held and were won by Dora's table and George's table, and thanks to Lin for organising the event and to all those who provided the food.



George doing a bit of palm reading



I hope Gill is not telling Dora the answers!

### **The next 2 Socials will be**

On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Portchester Community Centre  
Quiz and Games Night (There will be a selection of new games to play as well as the usual games) by George and Lin Palmer

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Portchester Community Centre  
Cotton and Me A talk by Beryl Shepherd

### **Thought from an elderly lady** supplied by Jean Cripps

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I spoke to you last and some changes have come into my life. I'm quite a frivolous old girl. I'm seeing five gentlemen each day.

As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, Then I visit Lou. Next, its time for Mr Quaker to give me my oats. They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place for very long so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day I'm ready for bed with Earl Grey. What a life! And oh yes I'm flirting with Al Zymer

The minister called the other day and said, "at your age you should be thinking about the hereafter" I told him "Oh I do no matter where I am, in the lounge or in the kitchen, upstairs or in the yard, I ask my self- Now what am I here after???"



### **I can't remember**

1. Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
and mixed up in my head.

2. I've got used to my arthritis  
To my dentures I'm resigned  
I can manage my bi-focals  
But gosh I miss my mind

3. And there's the time when it is on  
With my nightcap on my head  
I don't know if I'm retiring  
Or have I just got out of bed

4. For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at the foot of the stairs  
If I must go up for something  
I'd have I just come down from there!

5. And before the fridge so often  
My poor mind is filled with doubt  
Have I just put some food away  
Or have I come to take some out

6. So, if it's my turn to write to you  
There's no need for getting sore  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore  
Here I stand beside the post box  
With a face so very red, Instead of  
Posting you my letter, I've opened it instead.

Do you have memories like this! Supplied by Jean Cripps

### **GUILD'S WEB SITE**

Have you completed any carvings over the last year or so? We have a gallery of carvings on the Guild's web site and it would be nice to include images of your carvings. Please send details (image, title and wood used) to the web master (John Vardon).

**Some Sad News** Guild member Pam Smith on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 passed away at the age of 92yrs. Pam was a member some 20years ago and her daughter Lindsey remembers her mother attending talks at Havant also with her fellow carvers demonstrating their skill at public demonstrations.

If you would like to attend her funeral it is to be held on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January at 11:30 at the Oaks Crematorium Havant. There will also be a memorial service at the Havant United Reform Church at 2.00 pm on the same day.

**SICKNESS** Sandra had covid and survived and is back carving, Gill had a nasty cold and is well again and now unfortunately Andy has contracted covid.

## TREE FACTS

Brazil Nut Facts, (courtesy of the internet)



The land in our care is home to many brazil nut trees – trees found predominantly in the Amazon rainforest. The brazil nut tree towers above the other trees and can reach heights of up to 61 meters (200 feet). They can live for 500 years or more. In fact some scientists think they can reach the age of 1000 years! In addition, this tree turns out to have a fascinating story.

### They Can Kill You!

The fruit pods of the brazil nut tree are the size of a coconut and can weigh up to 2.3 kg (5 pounds). On its descent to the ground, it can reach speeds of up to 80 km (50 mph) and comes down with the power of a cannonball. A human being can easily be killed if hit on the head and in fact fatal accidents by brazil nut harvesters are not uncommon. To avoid any accidents, ARC harvesters wait until the majority of the fruits have fallen to the ground, wear hard hats, and only collect the fruit pods on non-windy days!

### They Help Curb Deforestation!

The brazil nut harvest provides communities with an economically valuable alternative to forest destruction. Brazil nuts are harvested almost entirely from wild trees by local people and the collection of the fruit has little impact on the ecology of the forest. Human-designed plantations of brazil nut trees have not been successful as they have very low production. Brazil nut trees only produce good yields in undisturbed, pristine forests.

The fruit pod has a woody exterior containing 10 – 25 edible seeds (which we call the nuts). The number of fruit pods per tree varies but usually ranges between 63 and 216. One tree can produce 113 kg (250 pounds) of nuts. The nuts are a protein rich food and the extracted oils are used in many natural beauty products.

### They Rely On A Mammal, A Bee And A Flower.

The outer casing of the fruit pod is so hard that only one known animal can crack it open. The agouti is a large rodent with sharp, chisel like teeth that gnaws through the capsule, eating some of the nuts and burying others for later. Many of these nuts are forgotten and lay dormant in the soil for years, waiting for the perfect conditions to germinate and grow into new brazil nut trees.

Not only does the survival of brazil nut trees rely on the presence of a healthy agouti population, but there is also, only one type of bee that can pollinate these trees. The flower on the brazil nut tree has a unique shape and a large hood that only one type of bee can enter and have the strength to open to gather the pollen. This is the large-bodied or orchid bee. In order for these bees to survive, the males must attract mates. The males rely on the fragrance from a particular species of orchid only found in the rainforest to attract the females.

**They Have A Secret Weapon – Selenium.**

The results of several scientific studies suggest that brazil nuts can help prevent the development of cancer. The brazil nut is unique in that it is the densest food source of the compound selenium. Selenium enhances the effect of antioxidants, inhibiting cell growth and the formation of malignant tumours. A five-year study conducted at the University of Arizona and Cornell University showed that, “patients receiving selenium had a 63% decrease in cancer of the prostate, a 58% decrease in colon or rectal cancer and a 46% decrease in lung cancer.”

**DO YOURSELF AND THE RAINFOREST A GOOD DEED – EAT A FEW BRAZIL NUTS EVERY DAY!**



**The Brazil nut tree (*Bertholletia excelsa*)**

The next News Letter will be issued on the 30th of April 2022 ( Please make sure any submissions are received before the 25<sup>th</sup> of April so that I can process them in time, thank you, your editor Lin