



NEWSLETTER

No.96

JUNE 2017

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MARCH MEETING

Rather a special one in March in that we had a talk and demonstration on a carving theme which doesn't happen very often and so it was good to see about twenty five members and guests in the hall. The speaker was Tony Foy who is a regular at Oaklands Woodcarving Club and has spent most of his life involved in Scouting in general and wood craft in particular; in fact his enthusiasm for all things wood has caused him to recently buy his very own eight-acre wood in which he can play all day long.

He brought along his portable chopping block along with a supply of hazel that had been cut in the previous couple of days and so was still very wet and therefore great for green carving (not at all what we usually like). He began by splitting the hazel logs into suitably sized pieces using an axe and then holding the work in his hand and using just knives he proceeded to shape a spoon. He used an ordinary straight knife for the majority of it and then moved onto a curved knife for the bowl of the spoon and in a surprisingly short time we saw a perfectly serviceable piece of rustic cutlery.

Of course this was not just a demonstration – there was to be audience participation too. So at Tony's behest most of us got up to have a go for ourselves and soon the hall was a hive of activity and flying woodchips and before long we all had something that would grace the finest of kitchens.



Pippa



Andy



Dorothy

YANDLES

Since we had had quite a few new members join us in the preceding months, it was felt that it would be good for them to have the opportunity to visit Yandle's spring show in order to get hold of some tools and wood and see just what other woodworkers make and sell. Knowing how difficult it usually is to fill a coach we decided to get together with Oaklands to share one but having got a total of twenty one bodies together we fell between a 16 seater and a 29 seater so we booked a 16 seat minibus and with private cars we managed the rest.

It turned out to be a lovely sunny day and on arrival we dived into the usual scrum in the woodstore to secure the best lime blocks and then wandered around the rest of the show in a more leisurely fashion. Listening to comments afterwards, I think most people got what they wanted and hopefully it added to the enthusiasm of our "apprentices".



Roy looks pleased with himself

APRIL MEETING

When they visited us in April last year, Mary and Peter York were extolling the beauty of their own garden in Hythe which they regularly open to the public under the "National Gardens Scheme" but on this visit it was beauty of a very different kind they were showing us in a talk entitled "White Villages of Andalusia".

After visiting the region of Andalusia in southern Spain over a number of years they wanted to share the unique charm of the place in a talk accompanied by photographs which illustrated just how attractive the country can be if you venture inland for a short distance to get away from the "costas" which have something of a grim reputation these days.

The white painted villages that we saw were so enticing that maybe it's not such a good idea to advertise them too much for fear that they become too popular and lose their essential character.



Frigiliana – one of the delightful white villages

CARVING POETRY

Dorothy Lockyer was able to display two of her talents together in April when she had a small exhibition in the library featuring both her carvings and her poetry in the form of the book which she recently had published. It was a fine display showing each poem next to the carving it concerned and while we all feel moved to produce our own particular carving, it takes a special talent to put that feeling into words and so I think we can all feel very proud of our carver/poet.



SKITTLES

Oh dear! We seem to have come away from the Bold Forester on the 4th of May with the dreaded “Loozers” trophy yet again. Despite the heroic efforts of our boys and girls we could only muster 185 points against the Oaklands outfit on 196. And yet again the most galling part was that while we had a full team with bodies to spare, they couldn’t summon up the numbers and so it was up to us to supplement their group. In fact one of our lady members, who shall remain nameless, put on such a dazzling display for them that we wonder just where her loyalties truly lie!

On a more serious note, we felt that the standard of the location this year was not really up to scratch to say the least. Therefore if you have any ideas for another skittle alley in the area then please let a member of the committee know.



Trish gives it her all



The offending article

TROPHY NIGHT

There were twenty one people at the May meeting so that meant we could be split into five teams of four (+ one) for a cryptic quiz devised by Roger and Ann which was on the theme of “shops”. The clues were pretty difficult and some of the shops in the answers went out of business years ago so you had to be both on the ball and of a certain age to do well. For example: “Switch mate” was Etam – who remembers them? Well actually Kathy, Trish, Roy and Di did since they were the winners with nineteen out of twenty, so well done that team.

As for the trophy, we had nine entries and the winner was Dorothy Lockyer with Roger Elliott and Di Smith tying for second place so well done to them. This year we also had a “Dolphin” competition. It was felt that since just about all of us over the years, have carved the obligatory dolphin as our first attempt, we should gather them together and vote on the one we liked best. After everyone had cast their eye over our eleven entries the winner turned out to be Vanessa with Pete Sayers coming in second. Again, well done to them.

Of course the trophy night is not complete until we have decided on the “Woodblock Challenge” and this year we had a long list of quite unusual subjects. And when the decision had been made on a show of hands we found we were to carve “Something from the Kitchen”. Thirteen blocks of lime were sold on the evening and so we shall expect to see thirteen entries come the end of the year.



The nine trophy entries



An entire "pod"



Dorothy receives the winner's trophy from Roger



Joint runners up Di and Roger

ROYDEN WOODFAIR



The wood fair at Royden Woods just outside Lymington has been a regular annual event for a number of years but 2017 was the first time we had attended and it was a great success.

Sunday 18th of June was a blazing hot day but we were sheltered from the heat by Pippa's marvellous marquee which was absolutely huge and able to cover the exhibition table, the sales table and quite a number of the many members who showed up to man the stall and demonstrate or chat. The event was run by The

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in association with the National Park Authority and set in an un-mowed field adjoining woodland. There were all sorts of activities associated with wood including stickmakers, turners, pyrography, timber for sale, tools for self-reliance and any number of activities for children. Apparently there were over 1200 visitors during the day which was quite an achievement since a lot of people would have been tempted by the beach on such a warm day.

This was the sort of activity that we used to enjoy on a regular basis so let's hope it becomes an annual fixture for us.



Pete, Steph, Di and Roger



Roll up! Roll up!



Pete & Cecil do the Carver's Boogie