



# NEWSLETTER

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[www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk](http://www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk)

## JUNE MEETING

We were mentioned three times in the Waterside Herald prior to our June meeting so surely we could expect a queue at the door on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> for our all-day meeting.....er, no. I think we had just a handful of people come in to see our little exhibition and have a chat but hey ho, we didn't care. We just got on and had a friendly relaxed carve in for a couple of hours and worked up an appetite for the traditional fish and chips which was followed by some cracking cakes, all home made by our ladies.

In the afternoon we were joined by several others and with the weather being kind to us we had our usual boules tournament, with I think, six teams of two. So after each team had played every other team once, we totted up the points and the winners were Di and Trish who went off with a chocolatey prize.



*Laid back.....as usual*



*Half eaten before I could get the camera out*



*Concentrate!*

## JULY MEETING



In July we had a visit from Peter Dudley who was there to give a talk on illuminated manuscripts. We have all seen pictures of the extravagantly illustrated manuscripts that have survived since the Middle Ages and Peter gave us some of the history behind them. They were chiefly done between about 500 and 1500 A.D. and mostly by monks who drew them on parchment or even better, vellum if it could be procured. As well as being aesthetically pleasing, they also turned out to be very important historical documents since that thousand year period was between the fall of the Roman empire and the renaissance when just about everybody except the monks had forgotten how to read and write. So if it weren't for them we would know very little about the ancient world. Of course, with the coming of the renaissance came printing and so the need for these sort of laboriously produced works of art pretty much died out, but thanks to people like Peter the art is kept alive.

After his talk he produced a collection of many different types of writing pens of varying nib widths together with some paper (not vellum) and asked us to have a go at producing our own manuscripts. Since most of us hadn't used equipment like that since our school days, there was a bit of blotting going on but we did seem to get the hang of it and came up with some neat lettering.



*Some enthusiastic pupils*

## AUGUST MEETING

One of those unusual meetings where we actually had someone to speak on a carving theme. This time it was one of our own members, Allan Mechen who had come along to tell us about his carving of the figurehead of HMS Star, which was a vessel from the long-ago days of sail.

Actually there is no longer an HMS Star and Allan's carving was never intended to go to sea. It was a commission for a man who was having a house built and wanted a full size ship's figurehead to occupy a space on the first floor in a purely decorative capacity; the only brief was that it needed to be a "she" and she needed to be good-looking!

Allan did a bit of research and found out about a figurehead kept at Chatham dockyard and got the staff there to photograph it and take dimensions so that he could produce drawings from which to design the carving. He explained the whole process right from the working drawings right up to the painting and finishing and basically it was very similar to the system we use on our own carvings but on a much grander scale.



*From this.....*

*.....To this*

## LYMINGTON EXHIBITION

On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> August (Bank holiday weekend) we held our annual fundraising exhibition at St. Thomas' Church hall, Lymington as we do every year and thankfully there were lots of people out and about on the high street strolling up and down looking at the market stalls and hopefully ready for half an hour's diversion into our attractive display of over two hundred carvings. We had put out plenty of advertising but just to make sure nobody missed us we set out our Pudsey stall on the pavement to pull in the passers-by.

On the door we took just over £150 which was almost the same as last year. Tombola was slightly up, kitchen a bit down and sales up a bit with the result that we made a profit of £235 which was not as much as last year but we won't be calling in the receivers just yet. We also got £17.62 in Pudsey's box which will be going to "Children In Need".

We were joined on the day by plenty of other carvers from Oaklands, Mudeford and Alan Leagas's Lymington carvers who since they moved to new premises in Sway are now known as "Al's wood and craft club". Our thanks to them and all our members who helped and contributed in so many ways to make it such an enjoyable day for carvers and visitors alike.



*The seaside woodblock challenge*

As always we ask visitors to vote for the carving that they like best and this year the winner was Lymington's Bob Young who carved that impressive peacock. Second place went to our own Dorothy Lockyer with her Old Violin and third was Pippa Smith with Mother & Child.



*Dave Nessling's Ark*



*Someone looks happy*