



NEWSLETTER

No.100

JUNE 2018

www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

MARCH MEETING

Jonathan Dowe – Pole Lathe Turner.

What a fascinating chap Jonathan turned out to be. He arrived in plenty of time to erect his self built pole lathe, this being propelled, would you believe, by himself and a dog lead, which in itself was truly a work of art.

It must be said that this is a physically demanding hobby as the right foot works the lathe putting great strain on the hip.

This, plus all of his finished work including bowls, spoons and his bowl hooks (chisels) some of which he had forged himself, all arriving in a back of a Ford Fiesta car.

He explained that by 1956 with the advent of electricity and other propulsion methods pole lathe turning had become something of a dying art only to be rescued by Robin Wood who was mainly instrumental in bringing this craft back into being.

Another pioneer in the 'bowl world' was James Palfrey who accepted the challenge of turning a finished bowl in under thirty minutes and achieved his goal in just 23 minutes. James work is now on display at the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth.

Jonathan went on to explain the unusual technique of producing a handled mug on a lathe, this he explained was achieved by the mug turning almost full circle then back again, thus leaving a section protruding to be fashioned into a handle on completion of the turned item.

He also said that unlike woodcarving, for the purposes of his craft it was better to work with green rather than dry timber, on being asked his favoured material he came out very strongly in favour of beech.



Cont.

He explained in detail the art of turning handled bowls and touched on finishing techniques some of which we ourselves are familiar such as tung oil, beeswax and linseed oil.

When asked how many pole lathe turners there were now in the country he said about twenty and he was taught by the best, James Palfrey and had progressed to this excellent standard after just three years experience.

He finished his talk by praising a young man by the name of Sharis Adams who makes most of the tools for Jonathan, and briefly demonstrated the sharpening technique of the tools he had been using and also praising his wife for her tolerance of this somewhat messy hobby and promising her a hand-made Windsor Chair sometime in the future.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I am sure that we will be meeting Jonathan again at sometime in the future.



Roger Elliott

APRIL MEETING

Sadly, our speaker for the evening, Mike Roussel was ill at the last minute and so our meeting was reduced to not much more than a half-hour chat before turning for home again. We hope to see Mike fit and well at some time in the future.

BEAVERS – Apparently their presence in the UK is growing!



WEALD & DOWNLAND TRIP

On Saturday 12th May some fourteen members used a combination of their own vehicles to transport themselves to the Weald and Downland museum where they enjoyed a tour around all sorts of old buildings from all around the country and from all ages neatly set down in the rolling Sussex countryside.



Our intrepid travellers



Wooden bicycle anyone?

Fortunately their trip coincided with the Bodger's Ball; an annual festival of greenwood carving, pole-lathe turning and general rural timber crafts which added a woody dimension to what was already an interesting and informative day.

TROPHY NIGHT

One of the first items on the agenda was a very pleasant one for Roger and that was to announce that it had been decided to make Don and Joyce Andrew honorary life members of the Waterside Woodcarvers. Although Don is the couple's carving member, they have both been very active on the committee ever since they joined many years ago, with Don as treasurer and Joyce as secretary and their home often being the venue for the committee meetings. As well as free membership for life, they were also presented with a couple of potted plants to add to their garden. Every member of the club owes them a great debt of gratitude for all they have done behind the scenes over the years.



Don and Joyce Andrew

Cont.

Unusually for trophy night we had a visitor. His name was Denis Chorlton and he was a bird rescuer and even more unusually he had brought along a couple of live specimens; namely a Tawny Owl and a Mallard Duck. As he held the owl at the front of the room he told us all about its life and its behaviour and also what his all-consuming hobby/mission involves. He is obviously one of those extremely dedicated individuals who is always there to take on a sick or injured creature and nurse it back to health if at all possible, sometimes adopting the bird for life. He even brought along some dead specimens from his freezer for us to inspect and photograph for research purposes. From his description, his home is really a kind of menagerie that requires constant attention and one can only surmise that Mrs. Chorlton must be some kind of saint!



Denis and the Tawny Owl



The carvings to be judged were booked in and laid out at the beginning of the evening and they totalled seven which was a bit disappointing considering the number of members that we have, however, those seven were of the highest standard and as usual judging by all the members present was not an easy task.

When the votes were counted it turned out that your editor was in first place with his handbag (ahem!) and joint second were Maggie's Nuthatch and Andy's Stag. They will hold the shield for six months each. Congratulations on such a high standard to all who entered and let's hope we can see more carvings and less tablecloth at next year's event.

Of course, the other decision we need to make at the May meeting is the subject for the Woodblock Challenge. We were all given a slip of paper to remind us of the ten choices that members had put forward over recent months and on a show of hands it turned out to be "It Flies" which, I guess gives quite a large scope for our imaginations. So, come Christmas.....



Maggie



Andy

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - notes for your diary**JUNE**

Thursday 21st -----Carving Club – Oak Lodge School
Note! A week earlier than it should be.

JULY

Thursday 12th -----Carving Club – Oak Lodge School
Last one before the summer break.

Friday 20th -----Social – Paul Brockman
Managing a Woodland

Saturday 28th -----Dibden Purlieu Craft Show
As has become the custom, we will be putting
On a small exhibition/demonstration in St.Andrew's

AUGUST

Saturday 4th -----Countryside Education Trust at Beaulieu
Exhibition/demonstration but only if the weather's fine

Friday 17th -----Social – Trish Sayers
Our very own Trish is going to give a talk on her days as a
coach driver

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1st -----Annual Exhibition at Lymington
Please donate tombola prizes to Ann Elliott, make
plenty of goodies for the sales table, bake some cakes and
make a list of the carvings you wish to display and give to
Paul so that he can make up the programme. And please
come along yourselves – we need you.

Fri 7th/Sat 8th -----Yandles Woodworking Show
We have not organised a trip but just to let you know –
And because the spring show was cancelled it may be
busier than usual.

Thursday 13th -----Carving Club – Oak Lodge School
(To be confirmed)

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***We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us
by what we have done.***

Longfellow