



NEWSLETTER

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

JUNE MEETING

We had one of our all-day meetings on the 16th of June and to say it started off quietly would be an understatement. During the morning carving session we had a grand total of *one* visitor and I think she was just lost and looking for something else in the building. Never mind, the six carvers who showed up were there to carve and gossip, not show off their work and we had an enjoyable, relaxing time as we always do.



Pippa concentrates



Yum!

Come lunch time there were some comings and goings so that when we sat down for the traditional cod & chips followed by home-made cake there were nine of us and a lovely feast it was too.

In the afternoon numbers increased yet again so that the boules tournament outside on the lawn saw six teams of two doing battle for the Mars Bar trophy. The weather was a bit dodgy with bands of drizzle threatening to put an end to proceedings but we got there in the end with the blue team made up of Sue and Dorothy having the highest score.

Back inside the hall we finished off the cake with a cup of tea and then your editor was taken aback to be presented with a gift voucher and a framed poem by our resident rhymers Dorothy in recognition of the one hundredth edition of the newsletter which had been issued that very day. It was a very pleasant surprise for me and I would like to thank all of you for thinking of me in that way. I would however like to say that it is a pleasure for me to put together the newsletter and record the life of the club but I am always open to contributions from any member who has anything they wish to be included in it.



Boules - it's all about tactics

DOROTHY'S ODE TO PAUL

*A talented man to be sure
His achievements leave us in awe
His carvings in wood
Unique and so good
His gouge and skew
Razor sharp as new.
He makes shittles fly
With the blink of an eye
As he lobs the ball
None left standing at all!
On the night of a quiz
An absolute whiz.*

BUT

*Today is a special celebration
One hundred is the calculation
No! No! Not his age, we must be clear
Not even his many pints of beer!*

*The hundredth edition of Woodcarvers News
With information and jokes to amuse
Photos of cup winners; lists of dates
Exhibitions and upcoming fetes
We're so well informed, the production great
We think it worthy of a place in the Tate!*

Dorothy Lockyer

JULY MEETING

It was a hot and sultry evening in the middle of the heatwave and it looked as though numbers were going to be depleted with everyone staying home to water the garden, but thankfully as seven-thirty approached we had quite a few last minute arrivals to make a reasonable audience for our speaker.

That speaker's name was Paul Brockman whose title was 'Woodland Manager' for an organisation called Hoburne at Bashley in the New Forest. Hoburne are a holiday company with a number of caravan/camping sites all over the country but their operation at Bashley includes a large area of woodland for the education and entertainment of young holidaymakers and Paul's job is to look after it.

He is a very knowledgeable man when it comes to all things woody which is not surprising when you consider that he was taught bushcraft by the same man who taught TV's Ray Mears and his tutor for woodland management was a chap by the name of Ben Law who you may remember was the man responsible for the cruck-framed house in the wood that so impressed Kevin McCloud on Grand Designs a few years ago.

DIBDEN PURLIEU SHOW

Saturday 28th July saw a number of us up at St. Andrew's for what has become a regular feature for us at the Purlieu flower show where we set out a little exhibition in one of the side rooms while the main hall is devoted to the flower, vegetable and craft competition. We had intended to do a bit of demonstrating but in the event there was such little space and so many people that it was impossible (see picture) But never mind, we got to speak to many people and maybe some of them will come along and join us come the new term. In the aforementioned competition there was a section for wooden crafts which some of our members entered and I'm pleased to say that Pippa got first prize with her angel.



Yak, Yak, Yak

VINTAGE TRACTOR EVENT

The early morning of Saturday August 5th found Pippa, Kathy and Dorothy in a field at the Out of Town Centre, Beaulieu. A car stacked with tools and gadgets on a grass pitch. Not easily daunted, we unloaded the car and set to.

Putting up the Gazebo was the first challenge of the day but with Pippa's easy-to-follow chart and the poles being numbered and colour coded we had the frame up in no time at all! Putting the tent over the frame was strenuous to say the least!

With the Gazebo in place and pegged down, up went the table, chairs and workmates. A good display of carvings, we were set for the day.

It was a good day with a continuous flow of people showing curiosity in the carvings and interesting conversations were had as we tried to encourage them to come and try carving for themselves.

It was nice that Vanessa was able to join us later in the day and add her carvings to the display. Through the day we were entertained by parading tractors, a tractor obstacle course, tug of war, good music and Shaun the sheep keeping people cool with his water pistol!

Before we knew it, the time came to pack away, reload the car and head for home. The day had passed without a hitch - well nearly - the last job was to dismantle the gazebo. Having lowered it to half height, a gust of wind made it take flight, four woodcarvers turned athletes as we jumped and grabbed and brought things back under control! Back in its box, we head for home.

Dorothy Lockyer

AUGUST MEETING

Not sure that we've ever had a double act at one of our meetings before but that was the order of the day at this month's meeting. The double in question were Di Smith and Dorothy Lockyer. Dorothy kicked off the proceedings with a few of her quirky poems which never fail to amuse and although some people have compared her to Pam Ayers, I am reminded more of John Betjeman. I particularly liked the one written from the point of view of the squirrel that was unfortunate enough to be captured by her neighbours and "re-homed" many miles away – on reading it those poor neighbours must have felt about as low as you can get!

Then it was Di's turn and she took it upon herself to make us all think more about design in nature. To that end she laid out many different types of plants, leaves, branches etc and invited us to look beyond the apparent randomness and note how efficiently each plant had evolved to enable it to capture sunlight and therefore survive in the competitive natural world. She also demonstrated that every leaf is unique by asking us to take one from the pile and study it closely before throwing it back in, jumbling everything up and getting us to find our leaf again – surprisingly easy.

Then Dorothy treated us to a few more odd odes before Di returned with some pine cones and introduced us to the world of Fibonacci numbers. All too complicated to go into here but if you want to find out more then google it – it's fascinating.

Our thanks to the two girls for providing us with a great evening's entertainment. Once again our members show that there's much more to them than just whittling.



Every day's a school day

HOLIDAY SNAPS



Italian Lacewood, Garda



Life-size Seals at Blakeney, Norfolk

LYMINGTON EXHIBITION

Unavoidably we had to change the date of this year's exhibition from the bank holiday weekend to the following Saturday taking us into September. Not sure if this was why there seemed to be fewer people about when we turned up or whether the Beaulieu Autojumble and the Bournemouth Air Show had depleted the numbers but the town was definitely less bustling than usual.

Nevertheless we got to work along with Al's Wood and Craft Club in setting out the carvings on the cloth covered stands that we had set up the previous evening and pretty soon there were something approaching 200 carvings looking marvellous under the newly installed lighting in the church hall.

We even had a special exhibition of "Clothing & Accessories". So along with a fully stocked sales table, a tempting tombola and some gorgeous cakes in the kitchen we were ready to go.



Hilarity at the sales table



Maggie's birds including the winning mallard

It was a bit of a slow start but people arrived in a reasonably steady stream throughout the day and we were never short of someone to chat to so it turned out to be a successful day in the end. But the final figures showed that we had almost a hundred less people through the door and there were comments that we should have had someone out on the pavement as we usually do which acts as a magnet, so we will bear that in mind for the future. Once inside though, our visitors were ready to splash the cash which resulted in over £100 each for the tombola and the kitchen and a good result for the sales table so that the final profit of £237 was actually a couple of quid more than last year. We even raised a fiver for Children In Need.

It's always funny to see how seriously some visitors take the "favourite carving" vote. They puzzle over their choice for ages, seemingly frightened of getting it wrong but I think it adds to their enjoyment to be taking part in the show rather than just viewing. Anyway they picked a clear winner in Maggie Fort's "Flying Mallard" and also chose Maggie for the second spot with her "Buzzard". Third place was split three ways with Paul Humphriss' "Handbag", Bob Young's "Garden Birds" and Moira Powell's "Stingray" so well done to them.



Clothing and Accessories

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

Thursday 4th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 18th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Friday 19th -----Social - Birthday Party
Skittles and American supper at St. Andrews

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1st -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 15th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Saturday 17th -----Social
Morning : Carve-in
Afternoon : Alan Frampton – English Folk Traditions

Thursday 29th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

DECEMBER

Thursday 13th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Saturday 15th -----Social – Christmas Party
And judging of the woodblock challenge

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Every child is an artist. The problem is staying an artist when you grow up.

Picasso