



# NEWSLETTER

No.102

DECEMBER 2018

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

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Hands up all those who thought the Head Gardener at Exbury would be a cross between Percy Thrower and Methuselah? – yeah, me too. So what a surprise to find that Thomas Clarke was about the only person in the room without any grey hair. Young Thomas came along with one of his even younger assistants to talk about the joys and challenges of keeping Exbury Gardens at the forefront of horticultural and arboricultural centres in this country and indeed abroad.



He told us about the history of the place since its beginning with Lionel de Rothschild in 1919 and how plants and trees were not only collected from distant places, but then used in hybridisation experiments which continue to this day and have produced many show winners at RHS events and suchlike. He also spoke of some of the problems encountered with pests and diseases, much like us ordinary gardeners but on a grander scale. One interesting fact was that he heads a team of only seven people; a huge reduction since the

early days which no doubt comes down to mechanisation.

Obviously there are many more people employed at Exbury on all the other attractions like the steam train, which are of course necessary when competing for business against other tourist attractions.

It's always a pleasure to listen to someone who is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their subject and so it would seem that Exbury is in good hands for the foreseeable future.



## **BIRTHDAY PARTY**

Thirty five years we have been going now - at least that's what it said on the cake so it must be right. About twenty of us gathered at St. Andrews for our birthday party this year and we did as we did last year which is skittles on the carpet and as before, many of us found it surprisingly difficult to roll a plastic ball about fifteen feet and actually hit something. Never mind, we persevered for four rounds and at the end of it when the scores were totted up the winner with 29 turned out to be Terry Smith who did the very same thing last year, so well done to him. At the other end of the scale was Viv on 12 points – well at least she was into double figures. We then enjoyed a well-earned American supper rounded off with the aforementioned lemon drizzle birthday cake.



-----o0o-----



*"I don't think we'll get one of these again"*



## NOVEMBER MEETING

After an informative piece in the Waterside Herald about us, our move to Applemore College and what to expect at our November meeting, you would have thought that we would have been a major attraction in Dibden Purlieu on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> but suffice to say they weren't exactly queuing at the door when we opened at 10.

Never mind, the five of us who were actually carving just got on with it and enjoyed ourselves doing what we do best (talking not carving) and one of our newer members Kaili, came along to do the "Roger's Reindeer Course" which is where Roger guides you through the steps of making a delightful Christmas decoration guaranteeing that you will walk away with a finished piece on the day (see photo).



*Cec gets creative with a Christmas tree*

We did get some visitors and they stayed for quite a while showing a genuine interest in our craft and, who knows? We might get one or two new recruits. One visitor was particularly welcome and that was Ted Cantrell. Ted was a member of the club for many years back in the eighties and nineties and although he didn't show up very often, it was always fascinating when he did because he specialised in abstract carving. Not for him the otters, owls and dolphins; he would produce large fantastical pieces based on things like Maori art or just the products of his imagination and hopefully he says he may exhibit at our big show next year, so something to look forward to. He also kindly brought along for us about a dozen chisels and gouges that had been given to him, so that was very kind.

Seven of us sat down to the fish and chip lunch and enjoyed two lovely cakes afterwards; one from Ann and one from Pippa.

Numbers swelled in the afternoon to about fifteen for a talk by one of our own, Alan Frampton. You will remember that a while ago Alan came along and spoke about one of his other interests, namely Morris Dancing, and this was really an extension of that entitled "English Folk Traditions". He told us about Wassailing, Mummer's plays and the Hobby Horse or 'Obby 'Oss who carouses his way through the streets of Padstow in a most dangerous manner. And speaking of danger, he talked of the frankly suicidal sport of cheese-rolling in Gloucestershire. Some of these things may be traditional but they're certainly not gentle.



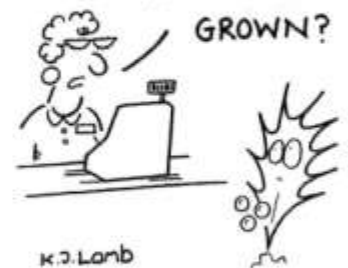
*Aah! aren't they cute*



"It started out as good-natured singing, but then the atmosphere turned..."



DO YOU HAVE PROOF THAT YOU'RE FULL-GROWN?



The Holly and the ID

## **GET WELL SOON**

In late November Ann Elliot suffered a stroke. At the time of writing she is still very poorly in hospital but making a little progress, with Roger and their daughters doing everything they can. We all send the family our best wishes and hope for Ann's speedy recovery in the New Year.

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

### **JANUARY**

Thursday 10th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 24th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> -----Library display starts

### **FEBRUARY**

Thursday 7th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 21st -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Monday 25th -----Library display ends

### **MARCH**

Thursday 7th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 21st -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Friday 22nd -----Annual General Meeting

Speaker : T.B.A'

Wood block choice

————— oOo —————

*He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree* Roy L. Smith

