



# NEWSLETTER

**No.104**

**JUNE 2019**

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

## MARCH - AGM

The recent changes to the way the club runs means that our AGM has moved from a Saturday afternoon in January to a Friday evening in March.

It was great to see our chairman Roger back again with Ann who seems to have made a remarkable recovery from her stroke and looked like her old self once again, but it was Pippa who led the proceedings by reading out a report of the previous year's activities. This was followed by Treasurer Kathy giving us the financial details and finishing up by confirming that we are more than comfortable on the money front.

All the committee members were happy to stand again and so that was dealt with by a proposer and a seconder. The only change was that Cec Clarke was brought on to the committee as an additional member – again following a proposer and a seconder.

There was then another change to the way we do things in that the blocks for the woodblock challenge were laid out for us to choose. This is something that has always happened on the trophy night in May and so we now have an additional couple of months to the climax in December – so even less of an excuse not to finish it!

As for the subject; we had been asked to think about that for the last few months and come up with ideas enabling Pippa to write down a list of eleven on the whiteboard for our perusal. Lots of suggestions, some easier than others and the voting by a show of hands didn't surge for any particular one but the eventual winner was "Something In A Band". So I think lots of scope there for a varied selection of entries come Christmas.

We finished the evening with a couple of short videos showing a brief history of the life and work of Ian Brennan. Ian is of course the woodcarver who produces the heraldic carvings that are placed in Windsor Castle when a new knight of the garter is installed. He has also produced many other beautiful carvings and restoration pieces, notably much of the repair work to HMS Victory in Portsmouth. He has also had to overcome some serious difficulties including the destruction of his workshop by fire and a nasty injury to his hand from a chain saw.

## ROYDEN LUNCH

On a bright breezy day in late April at the height of storm Hannah, a dozen hardy woodcarvers made the trip over to Royden Woods between Brockenhurst and Lymington for a gentle stroll through the forest and to collect some wood.

The first stop however, was at the Red Lion in Boldre where we had booked a table for lunch. We enjoyed a hearty meal in very convivial surroundings including a log fire in the adjacent bar which seemed a little odd coming just a week after one of the warmest Easters on record. But such are the vagaries of the British weather.



*About to be fed*

We then jumped back in the cars and set off just a short distance to the Filly Inn (no it wasn't a pub crawl). The entrance to Royden woods is just next to the Filly and so we parked up and due to lack of space at our destination we crammed into just three cars for the short journey to the wood yard. It was here that Di Smith had arranged with one of the foresters for us to collect some pieces of wood that he had cut in exchange for a small donation to the wildlife reserve. There was no-one there to meet us so we helped ourselves to a few pieces each of ash, oak and some unidentified lumps which we loaded into the cars before setting off on our walk.

Despite the stormy winds, we were sheltered in the trees and most of the time the sun was out so it really was a pleasant amble along one of the marked routes through the reserve where we were able to see and photograph some fantastic carpets of bluebells on the forest floor. It was also an educational trip since Di was able to point out and name many of the flowers and plants that we came across – things that we had always seen but never knew the name of. Just don't test us on it Di, the memory's not what it used to be!



*Hope the bridge can take it!*

p.s.

A few days later Di was contacted by the forester in question and told that we had actually taken the wrong wood – oops! The stuff we took had been intended for someone else and he had assumed that we wanted the very large lumps. Oh dear, never mind – I think it has all been smoothed over now.

## TROPHY NIGHT

Fifteen members turned up for the May competition evening and there were nine carvings put out on the table for judging but before we got down to that there was the carpet skittles to consider. Since we were as equal as possible with seven boys and eight girls, we had a battle of the sexes which was staged over three rounds each accompanied by a lot of cat-calling and wise cracks. Some of the bowling was pretty dire and your editor was particularly bad which no doubt went a long way to ensuring a defeat for the lads with a score of 97 as against 102 for the lasses, so congratulations to them. However our captain Don Andrew (oldest member in his nineties and with bad eyesight) had the top score of 20, so what does that say about the rest of us?



*Steely determination from Margaret*

The carvings on display were each very good but particularly varied in their style this year I thought, which always makes it difficult to choose a favourite since you are not comparing like with like. But we each had to make a choice and the results were:

First (Premier Cup) - Pippa Smith with her mobius strip

Joint second (Shield) - Dorothy Lockyer with her harp  
- Andy Wainman with his barn owl

Congratulations to those three and well-done to all who entered



*Now, which is it to be?*



*Roger presents the cup to Pippa*

## ROYDEN WOODFAIR

Tipping down on the Friday, blowing a gale on the Saturday but on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> it was a beautiful day for our jaunt to the biennial Royden Woodfair. About a dozen of us turned up bright and early to help put up the marquee and it was a good job we were mob-handed since it's a big old tent with eight legs and you need to know what you're doing – just as well Pippa had colour-coded or numbered everything; she really is *so* organised.

We all had our new purple shirts on which made us look rather splendid especially since every other organisation at the event seemed to be in various shades of green – *so* last year! There were stick makers, wooden kitchen items, honey producers, ornithologists, Tools for self-reliance, chain-saw carving, a spit-roasted deer and even a New Forest Tartan producer (who knew?). In short, it was all about country crafts in general and wood in particular.



*Sanding Andy*



Thanks to the fine weather, come eleven o'clock and the official start of the event there were soon a good number of visitors wandering in and stopping at our tent to admire our display and chat or ask questions (No, I don't know how long it's taken me to carve it!). We even had some of our own members drop by to see how we were doing which is always nice.

Pretty soon it was four o'clock and time to start packing away and having been such a good day weather-wise it seemed a shame that we would have to wait two years to do it all again but hey, it'll soon come round.



*Editor's lunch break*



*A vision in purple*

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

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

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

Saturday 27th -----Dibden Purlieu Horticultural Society Show  
 Small exhibition/demonstration and don't forget there's a  
 Woodcarving class that we can enter.

**AUGUST**

Saturday 17th -----Beaulieu Tractor Club Show  
 We will do an exhibition/demonstration as before

Saturday 24th -----Lymington Exhibition  
 Please let Paul know what you will be exhibiting so that  
 he can put together the programme. We also need cakes,  
 tombola prizes, items for the sales table and most of all  
 yourselves.

**SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 5th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 19th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Friday 20th -----Social - Roger Plant  
 The History of Sticks & Staffs

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“The carver is not the best who makes more chips than all the rest”

*anon*

