



NEWSLETTER

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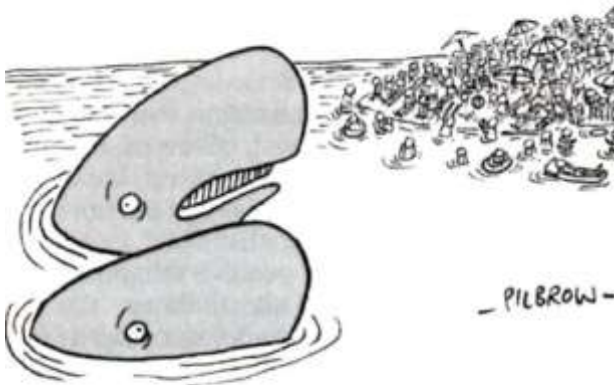
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**** SPECIAL VIRUS EDITION! ****

Hi Boys & Girls,

Do you remember in the last issue there was a list of all the things we were going to do over the summer?yeah right - seems like another world now doesn't it. Well, Di Smith contacted me and said just because we can't be together it doesn't mean we can't stay in touch; this is the digital age after all. And so here we have an electronic only issue of the newsletter (with a few paper copies for those that aren't online). It seems that many of you have caught the national mood of creativity under lockdown and been coming up with new ideas or completing work already started. But from various contacts I can report that several members have continued working so have limited time to do much else, although that never seems to stop Andy W! Some have replaced carving with gardening, especially growing veggies. Quite a few of our newer members are missing the use of club tools and advice. Lesley is finishing her tower of books and really keen to create a Wood Block masterpiece, once we can get them distributed and a topic chosen. Maggie is being her usual creative self, working on another hare and at risk of running out of jelutong! Dorothy L and Gosia are busy decorating but above all everyone is looking forward to getting back to regular workshops. So until we can do that, let's have a look at what some of us have been up to.....

oOo



"Nobody knows why they risk death by beaching themselves"



"We might have to go back to growing things"

This is from your Chairman:

Hi! How are you all?

Remember me? I am Roger, so wakey, wakey from that long slumber.

How are those woodcarvings that you promised to finish? no excuses now!!!

Jake and myself have been in lockdown at my workshop some two miles from home (when he is not at his new allotment).

You may recall that he was well underway with his guinea pig, look on the website and

you will now see the finished item in all its glory, added to which he has completed other carvings and we now have some of the sharpest tools on the planet.



Roger in his workshop with what appears to be a huge paintbrush

For myself I have completed seven new carvings suitable for the Lymington Show?? And I am now in the process of building a glass fronted display cabinet to house some of them. (No peace for the wicked).

Hope to see you all sooner rather than later...

Keep well, stay safe.

Roger

PS Don't forget the Woodblock Challenge, so get your thinking heads on and come up with a suitable subject. I have forty woodblocks cut and ready to go.

And Jake himself writes:

“I have been busy doing some wood carving with my Grandad and I have finished my guinea pig and given it to my mum for her birthday. I also finished my pirate boat and a balloon dog for my aunty’s birthday present and I’m now carving a small beagle dog and the spoon character from the film Toy Story 4. I can’t wait to get back to the club. I have been missing you all.”

This photo is from Di Smith. She says:

“I have finally completed the ‘confused octopus’ with the addition of over 170 bamboo suckers. Lessons learned: oak burr is very variable to work and bamboo is very hard! Now I’m experimenting with a holly log.”



Di also informs us that since we all last met the committee has taken the opportunity to buy some useful books that members can use for ideas/instructions. They cover birds and beasts, decorative home accessories, period carving styles, the human figure and carving on turned objects. They will be available at the Applemore workshops. Di also says that she has recently had an apple tree cut down and so there will be some wood from that available to us in due course.

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And from Diane White:

“Carvings still very much in progress but have bought some sand and seal. I am trying to preserve an interesting ivy bough. Missing the group and need the advice I normally get!”



There is a bit of a story behind this one from Allan Mechen:

“This is an elephant ring box. I carved it for my grandson when he had to cut short a holiday in Thailand with his girlfriend where they were celebrating their 21st birthdays. Being locked down, he could not buy her a present so asked me to carve what he was hoping to buy in Thailand. They both ended up in bed with mumps for their birthdays. Better than the virus though!”



Stanstill Airport



A lovely picture of Pippa's garden:

"I have turned into a gardener for the summer so I have started on my future carving of a stump (not available for exhibitions – probably a good job!)"



The Seven Dwarves have been told that from Monday, they can meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy.



"Are you sure you're all one household?"



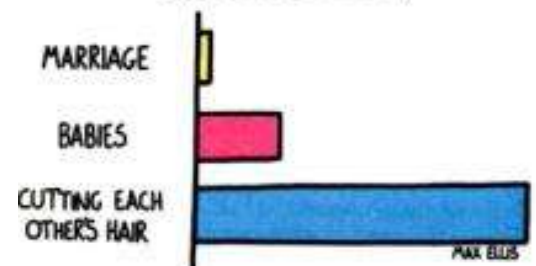
"Can you stay inside your home, please, sir?"

Brian Butcher has certainly been busy what with finishing off two of the club's bowl designs and also some whittling work.



"How am I coping? OK... you know...catching up on my reading... learning a new language"

CHALLENGING TIMES IN A RELATIONSHIP



Here's something from your editor, Paul:-

“Just a selection of some of the things I've been doing lately, starting with the standard dolphin that we all know so well; this one had a split in the wood and so the only way to make it look presentable was to paint it – doesn't look too bad I think.

Next was a commission from the daughter of a friend who wanted something to go over her horse's stable door. Letter carving is not something I have done much of, but I have a good book on the subject which you are all free to borrow if you feel like having a go.

Then I did the four fish which started out as rectangles of purple heart, maple, cherry and something else. These were laid on top of each other and then bandsawed together. After that the various pieces were mixed up and glued together. I now just need to come up with something to mount them on.”



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And a couple from Greg:



“Thought you might like to see the two draw knives I have refurbished ready for some larger carvings. The straight one is a Swedish design and the curved one is 100 + years old and I believe was used for shaping the spokes on wooden cart wheels and/or by coopers for shaping the outside of barrel Staves.....both like giant razors now !”

“I added my own interpretation to the basic leaf shape to see what I was capable of.”



This is the latest from Tom (and Mary)

Hi all, a little update from Dibden.

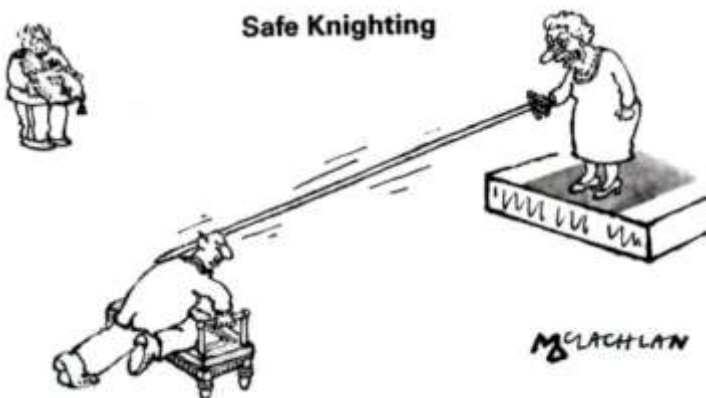
The glorious sunshine has made for some rather hot days at work for me as I have been fortunate enough to continue working throughout this period. I'm working on a garden/patio re-do at the moment which is something I've not done in a while and I must say it's been good to get back on the tools, although there's a little left to do so no rest just yet.

Woodwork and hobbies in general have taken a bit of a backseat too as my son has become rather demanding of time and attention after recently turning one. His energy is boundless although perhaps we would prefer if he knew that when he gets tired he should slow down and sleep! We have been testing him out cycling recently.... I think he enjoyed it.

Mary has unfortunately been stuck in paradise with friends on Australia's east coast for several months due to cancelled flights but has returned at last at the end of May. It has been hard not having her around but if there was anywhere to get stuck I think she picked the right place.

Other than that we've been fortunate enough that we are all well and have found ways of keeping in touch with those we can't see as we once did. I hope all of you guys and your families are keeping safe and doing ok.

Best wishes to all
Tom
(and Mary)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary

For obvious reasons this page is pretty much redundant. I can only refer you to the general email that Di sent out to us all on the 21st May and to tell you that Pippa has been in touch with Fernando at Applemore who says that the school is waiting for a directive from the government. Needless to say we will keep you informed as and when we know anything.

oOo

“A hospital is no place to be sick”

Samuel Goldwyn

