



NEWSLETTER

No.109

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

Thank you to all our members.

Without our regular workshops at Applemore, quarterly socials and summer events, carving has been a singular affair and we missed out on our annual AGM, Wood block issue and Trophy night. However, with a combination of phone and email, you have voted for the Woodblock topic and taken part in a remote AGM. A request for ideas for carve-in venues produced a number of ideas, including a wonderful offer from Mary Manston to make use of large outbuildings on her farm. We are keeping a list of all your great ideas. Thank you for supporting the club.

Di Smith

Committee Chippings

At the recent committee meeting on 8 Sept, the following was confirmed:

Chair: Di Smith, Treasurer: Kathy Hammond, plus Roger Elliott, Pippa Smith, Trish Sayers, Paul Humphriss, Kaili Patel, Maggie Port and Lesley Everitt.

- We have no news on when we may be able to return to Applemore College.
- The room we usually hire at St Andrews for socials will be limited to 12 people and require a formal risk assessment. We will consider options for our Christmas event on 19 Dec.
- Following the offer from Mary Manston, we decided to try two carve-ins on Saturday 12 and 26 Sept. Paul had visited the site and confirmed its suitability and capacity for up to 16 carvers, allowing for social distancing rules at the time. Members will be asked to book their places. Anything borrowed must be correctly sanitised after use. Other venues may have to be considered as winter weather sets in.
- In 2021 we would normally have an exhibition in Hythe Library in February. This may be postponed until later in the year to allow us to include the latest woodblock carvings which we expect/hope to judge at a social/AGM in March. Other events – Roydon Woodfair, Marchwood Fete, Beaulieu Tractor Club Show may be possible. We may try to arrange a trip to Yandles annual Woodworking and Craft Show next September (in Somerset).

Cont.

- The Woodblock Challenge topic has been chosen by members (In the Woods). A record 29 have expressed interest in taking part. Blocks will be distributed via carve-ins or delivered by committee members. Judging the woodblocks is usually at Christmas but has been deferred to the March AGM to give everyone more time. This will also be Trophy Night, including everything we have produced since 2019 as no Trophy Night occurred in 2020. Di suggested two categories (eg those carving for 2 years and those carving for 3 or more years- to be confirmed), to encourage newer members. We may also hire the main St Andrews hall if available.
- Lymington Show 2021: Kathy has provisionally booked St Thomas' Hall for Sat 28 August. Roger suggested we include a display of wood block carvings produced over the last 10 years and maybe a special display of Don Andrew's carvings if available. Lesley also suggested a display of carvings using a different medium.

At the committee meeting referred to above, the first item on the agenda was to replace our long-serving chairman Roger.

Roger our Leader of Ten Years

It is not often that someone will commit themselves to a ten year stint of responsibility, in their retirement! but Roger did and I think saved our club from the slippery slope to extinction. We needed inspiration and he certainly gave us that and it didn't happen without hard work and some serious lateral thinking.

He reorganised the Thursday club nights, making them the heart of the club and simplified the finances which had become complicated and difficult to explain to new members. Brilliant ideas for projects began appearing along with the necessary wood, often in short supply. The Wood block Challenge took on a new life and he organised the Lymington Exhibition with military precision, including the ever thinning Pudsey Bear. I always thought it sad that he arrived and left in a coffin, not much of a life for a bear!

I'm not going to forget the 'Losers Trophy' night with Oaklands Club, a rather typical example of his lateral sense of humour. I can't remember how many times we 'won' it, but it was good fun while it lasted.

He introduced dozens of speakers, missed the one when the speakers wife broke her leg!

Steered the committee and travelled miles and miles to get to us. That is why he and Ann, a long time supporter of our club, have been made honorary members. I had planned a super chocolate cake for you Roger at the 2020 AGM – no chance! and Dorothy was moved to write a poem for you.

Apologies for all the other things you have done over the years that I have forgotten.

Always the gentleman, always a friend.

Thank you from us all Roger.

Pippa

To Roger!

Farewell to our Chairman of many years
 No more the gavel, saying "lend me your ears!"
 Us carvers have been directed by him
 But alas the desire to retire has stepped in!
 As chair of the committee he has been
 A leader to emulate, quietly serene.
 Not only the qualities of leadership
 He's taken lumps of wood to saw and chip!
 Styled a shoe, high heeled, with open toes
 Rummaged through charity shops for buckles and bows.
 Fashioned a lock with a bunch of keys
 That actually work with precision and ease!
 Not to mention the tortoise with lettuce leaf
 Which has stayed fresh and green beyond belief!
 What more can I say? Actually, quite a lot
 But I won't embarrass you Roger, not one jot!
 Except to say "Thank You" and wish you the best
 And hope you find that retirement rest!.

Dorothy.

SHIRTS

At the next carve-in on the 10th October we will be bringing along some of the club shirts.
 The club subsidises the cost of each item by £4.00 therefore the cost to you would be sweatshirts
 £13.00 and polo shirts £10.00. The chart below will give you an idea of the measurements.

Sweatshirts		
	Chest	Length
Small	19.5 ins. 50cm	26.5 ins. 67cm
Medium	22.5 ins. 57cm	27.5 ins. 69cm
Large	24.5 ins. 61cm	28.5 ins. 72cm
Polo Shirts		
	Chest	Length
Small	21 ins. 53cm	27 ins. 69cm
Medium	22.5 ins 56cm	28 ins. 71.5cm
Large	24 ins. 60cm	29 ins. 74cm
X Large	25 ins. 63cm	31 ins. 79cm



CARVE-IN (at last)

Until recently it looked as though any kind of meeting-up for us woodcarvers would not be happening for a very long time as we were in the same boat as everyone else in not being able to congregate indoors in any great number due to the virus. However your committee started thinking outside the box and decided to explore the idea of meeting either outside or in a venue large enough to allow suitable social distancing.

This is where new member Mary Manston came riding to the rescue. Mary lives on a farm in Holbury with extensive land and a number of large barns and outbuildings with plenty of space for us to gather safely and she kindly invited us over for a carve-in.

So it was that sixteen of us turned up on the morning of Saturday 12th September with the intention of dividing ourselves up between the upstairs and the downstairs of one of the barns so that we were suitably spaced out. In the event it didn't turn out as planned since the weather gods smiled on us with a warm sunny day which meant we could use the grassy area outside the barn. We had managed to get into Applemore School to retrieve a lot of our tools and all those who had spare Workmates had brought them along so we were good to go and pretty soon everyone was catching up on news and comparing what they had been doing and carving over the long months of restrictions and it soon seemed like old times. Lunch was a bring-your-own affair and while some drifted off afterwards, another two members turned up for the afternoon.

All in all it was a very enjoyable day and well worth doing especially for the newer members who were able to get the help and advice from the older hands that they had been lacking during the lockdown.





Kaili gets to grips



This is how you do it.....



Diane and Yvonne find a shady spot



Admiring the prize bull



Di and Mary chew the fat



Dot deep in concentration

CARVE-IN No.2

Following the success of the first carve-in, we did it all again on the 26th of the month. Of course we were concerned that the weather might be somewhat cooler but our fears were largely unfounded when we turned up to a bright but breezy day at Mary's farm. She had suggested that we use one of the other barns which might be a touch more cosy but most of us preferred to be in the sunshine.

Again it was well attended with fourteen members in the morning and another four turning up in the afternoon. I look at all these photographs and not for the first time I find myself wondering if we are turning into a ladies woodcarving club with a few token blokes!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary

Not much to say so I'll just remind you of the email sent out by Di on Monday 28th September :-

Mary has very kindly offered us the use of a large outbuilding (the one with the toilet) for another carve-in at 123 Rolleston Rd, Holbury on Sat 10 Oct. This building can be closed to the weather but has no heating. So far we have had dry sunny weather and members have been able to carve, socially distanced, outdoors; as we progress into autumn, this option is going to be less likely. Experience suggests that if you are busy carving, you will keep warm.

As things stand with Covid 19 rules, we can meet in groups of up to 6 so long as the groups do not mingle. Working with sharp tools and a bench should automatically separate us by 2 metres! The barn has space for 3 or 4 small groups indoors, so **please book your place for morning (9-12), afternoon (1-4) or all day by contacting Roger on ann52@annelliott.plus.com or phone 02380 447166.**

Please bring your own chair, bench and tools if you have them and refreshments. Club tools will be available to borrow on the day - by one person only per day. There are also pieces of Abranet to buy (cash please) and odd bits of wood.

Obviously, if circumstances/rules change, we will act accordingly and keep you informed.

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If you think things are bad now, just remember that in twenty five years time we will be ruled over by people who were home-schooled by daytime drinkers.

