



# NEWSLETTER

No.99

MARCH 2018

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## CHRISTMAS MEETING

Another year drew to a close with our December meeting and a very entertaining event it was too. There were about twenty people present for whom Roger and the team had put together several fun activities to put us in the mood for the festive season.

“Jenga” is something usually associated with fine weather – it being a game similar to Jack Straws but on a large scale made to be played in the garden, but we re-created a little bit of summer by playing it in the middle of the floor in the Garden Room. The tension it generated really was nerve-racking as the tower wobbled and swayed and there were huge sighs of relief whenever a piece was removed successfully. We had two games of boys versus girls and, would you believe it, the girls came second on both occasions! – see evidence below.



*Going.....*



*Going.....*



*Gone!*

We also had a Christmas anagram quiz which got the old grey matter going a bit and it was Sue Newman’s powers of logic that eventually won the day, so lewl noed to her.

The main event was the voting on the woodblock challenge set way back in May when the theme decided on was “Something from the kitchen”. We had nine entries of a very high standard and the result was a three-way tie between Pippa, Di and Allan with Pippa eventually triumphing on a show of hands. Congratulations to her and thanks to all the entrants for a delightful display of imaginative carving.



*The winning entry*



*Pippa receives the Fountain Trophy*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The A.G.M. on the 20<sup>th</sup> January took the usual form with the reading of the previous year's minutes followed by reports from the officers and Roger finally handing the meeting over to Paul so that he could oversee the election of the new committee. This was a very simple task since the seven members from 2017 were all happy to continue so there was no need for a vote. The only point of note was that Don and Joyce Andrew are to take more of a back seat role as time progresses and at the same time two new bodies, Dorothy Lockyer and Andy Wainman will move to the fore.

So the 2018 committee officially looks like this:-

Joyce Andrew	Don Andrew	Kathy Hammond	Trish Sayers
Roger Elliott	Pippa Smith	Di Smith	

.....but will probably morph into something a bit different by the end of the year.

After the formal business was over we relaxed with a few games of High-Stakes Church Hall Card Bingo where tense, sweaty-browed people can be seen in silent, lip-biting anticipation as large sums of money are won or lost on the turn of a card. It's rumoured that some individuals went home at least 40 pence richer than when they arrived.

And after a tasty afternoon tea and a raffle, that was it for another year.

## **HYTHE LIBRARY**

There we were again..... showing off in the library for the whole of February.



## FEBRUARY MEETING

Normally we would have a simple afternoon meeting in February but it was felt that as our all-day meetings at other times of the year are always well-liked, we might as well fit in another one and so we turned up bright and early on the Saturday for a couple of hours of carving and chit-chat. It proved to be popular as we soon had more than a dozen members setting up their workmates and laying out their tools. We hadn't advertised it to the general public but there were still one or two people who popped in to see what we were about and indeed they were so interested that they came back in the afternoon for the talk.

Lunch was attended by a dozen of us and was the usual tasty fish 'n' chips from the Dibden Purlieu chippy who always comes up trumps. Afters was chocolate or lemon cake supplied by our very own Pippa who likewise never lets us down.

In the afternoon we moved into the Garden Lounge for a talk and demonstration of woodturning by Mike Haselden. We had arranged plenty of seating in a sort of semi-circle around Mike's lathe which was just as well since our numbers had swelled to about twenty five which was probably something to do with the popularity of Mike's visit the previous year.

As he spoke about the various aspects of turning and all the tricks of the trade, he gradually produced for us firstly a sphere and then a serviette ring which he finished right up to the polished stage. As before, he talked with interest and enthusiasm and answered any questions that we had. He had also brought along a collection of his work which went from very small wooden puzzles to enormous vases turned from monkey puzzle. A very enjoyable day.



*Andy does it by the book*



*Plenty of interest*



## **BRIAN WILLIAMS**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January we lost Brian who finally succumbed to a succession of ailments not least of which was the vascular dementia which gradually robbed him of his speech over the last couple of years. The funeral was held at the new Test Valley crematorium on the 19<sup>th</sup> February and was attended by what was estimated to be over two hundred people. Not really surprising when you think of all Brian's interests in addition to his woodcarving. The wake was held at Colbury Village Hall and again it was all seats taken.



Brian was one of the original members of what was known back in 1983 as the Waterside Guild of Woodcarvers. Having always been a practical man and after attending a carving course at Great Missenden with a group of friends, he was one of a small band of people, mostly attendees of Ivor Fountain's Hardley school evening classes, who felt that there was a need for a formal carving organisation in the area and thus the Guild was born which eventually became the Waterside Woodcarvers of which we are all proud to be members today.

Brian was not content to sit back; he was always a hands-on member who, if something couldn't be found or bought, would soon knock it up in one of his many sheds. If a new member came looking for wood, tools or guidance we knew to point them in the direction of Brian who would soon sort them out and his sharpening skills were legendary. You may have heard of the "Bottlenose Dolphin" or the "Common Dolphin" but around these parts there is an enormous school of the "Brian's Dolphin" which is the beginner's project that Brian always got people started on and is still going strong. Not only did he play a large part in the Waterside group but he also established Oaklands Woodcarvers in Lordshill and ran it for over twenty years. Many of us are still members of both groups.

On one occasion he made us known to a wider audience when he was interviewed by Sandi Jones of Radio Solent and cheekily asked her to open our annual exhibition which she did. He also arranged a number of carve-ins on board the Shieldhall, the restored steamship that operates out of Southampton. He also formed a friendship with the Purbeck Carvers which resulted in a number of carve-ins at Leeson House near Swanage.

All in all Brian Williams has done an enormous amount to promote the art of woodcarving in this area and the fact that there is so much interest in it locally is very much down to him. He will be very much missed. We all have our own memories but he is probably best summed up in the poem written and read out at the funeral by his daughter Sandra:

*He was never the Dad that got down to play  
But want something made - it was ready next day!  
Family was everything (apart from the wood!)  
And friends were next - they knew where they stood.  
Now he's not here and we're rocked to the core  
How will Mum cope? Admirably, I'm sure,  
Though she may withdraw into her shell  
And we might join her in there, as well!  
But not for long - just for a while  
'Cause Dad wouldn't want that - he'd want us to smile  
He'd want us to tell jokes and laugh as before.  
No doubt, one day, we'll do that once more  
And he will stay with us (whether we like it or not)  
Because he was loyal and loved us a lot.  
His laughter, his jokes, will remain with us still  
The determined man - focused and so strong of will  
But it was your time, a happy release  
It's good to know you're finally at peace.*