



NEWSLETTER

No.106

DECEMBER 2019

www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL MEETING

Roger Plant who is a member of the Oaklands woodcarving group paid us a visit in September to talk about his speciality which is stick-making.

Roger gave a fascinating presentation about the history and significance of sticks and staffs. From the wielding of power to defence and weapons, it made a thought-provoking talk. We saw pictures of Egyptian pharaohs, kings and gentry holding 'sticks' as symbols of power: one small person of power felt the need for two very long staffs! Lower classes then copied the notion of carrying sticks, but not in the presence of the ruler. Roger pointed out the significance of a long ferrule on the bottom of a stick - to cope with the muddy streets in days gone by - a sign of an old stick. We also learned about sticks designed to conceal weapons and illicit alcohol. It will certainly make me look harder at old paintings and rituals involving sticks of any kind in future.

Di Smith



Roger wields a fearsome shillelagh

NOVEMBER MEETING

It was a busy morning at St Andrews on 30 Nov (St Andrews Day) and well attended by club Members. The banner and purple club tops made us very easily identifiable. Six club members demonstrated (mostly) sanding and chatted to visitors. Roger provided the entertainment with his self-assembly reindeer kits, ably assisted by Ces who had 'made some earlier'. This was so popular that we started to run out of kits. There was lots of interest and admiration from the many visitors, and one or two prospective new members. All this was to a backdrop of excellent music from the band, numerous other stalls to visit and a demonstration by the local school of ballet.

Di Smith



Is this the first time we've carved in the foyer?



The chief elf making reindeer

CHRISTMAS STORY

It was the day after Christmas outside the church. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Susie with a red pram, and in the pram was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John approached Susie and asked her, 'Well, Susie, where did you get the little infant?'

Susie looked up, smiled and replied, 'I took him from the church.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish grin, Susie said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red pram for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'



"You must contact everyone who's ever been on your naughty/nice list"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - notes for your diary

JANUARY

Thursday 9th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 23rd -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Monday 27th -----Library Display starts

FEBRUARY

Thursday 6th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Thursday 20th -----Club Night – Applemore Technology College

Monday 24th -----Library Display ends

MARCH

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

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

Friday 20th -----Social – Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Allan Mechen, “Before You Carve”
Wood block choice



Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

G. K. Chesterton

