



# NEWSLETTER

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

## COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

Well, a good number of you attended a very enjoyable carve in on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and optimistically we planned one in November and another in December. Oh dear. Covid restrictions prevented the November one taking place and we have just heard that Mary's barn is out of action so December is out as well. We will keep planning for monthly carve-ins next year and hope that circumstances will enable some of them to take place. Still no news from Applemore.

We hope that you are managing to make progress with your carving projects. If you have got stuck and need advice, please contact Paul (02380 891534) or Roger (02380 447166) or Pippa (02380 207717) who may be able to help. And of course now is a good time to let Santa know which extra tools you would like!

Looking further ahead, things are uncertain but we have booked St.Andrews main hall for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2-5pm and again provisionally for 17<sup>th</sup> April. These will appear on the website calendar. Whatever we do, we will find a way to vote for our woodblock creations, so keep going with your carvings.

Looking even further ahead, we have a date pencilled in for our annual Exhibition at Lymington (28 Aug). Either in addition or as an alternative, we are considering setting up a handicraft club fair at St Andrews in the autumn – the intent being to promote local Waterside clubs and groups which individuals can join and meet others with a common interest in handicrafts ( eg lace-making, quilting, art, photography..).By next autumn, we should be getting back to 'normal' and will be in a position to welcome new members. If you are a member of such a group (as well as the Woodcarvers of course), please get in touch with Di with your thoughts on the idea. (tel 02380 845787 or email

[dianasmith291@btinternet.com](mailto:dianasmith291@btinternet.com))

In case we don't meet in the next week or two, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and that we meet up again regularly as a club in 2021.



*A few more coats and fleeces in October*

Di Smith

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

A little look at what sort of things our members have been doing to stave off the boredom of lockdown.

This chap is the work of Allan Mechen and looking at it, I wonder if there is something of the self-portrait about it. I believe he's part of the next woodblock challenge so when it comes to the anonymous judging just pretend you haven't seen him.



This mother kangaroo and her joey is another one by Allan and I love the title he has given it:  
 "Tidy your room or find somewhere else to live!"

This delightful study of an acorn and leaf is by Di Smith



Some of you may remember Maggie Port working on this Lanner Falcon before lockdown. As you can see it's now finished and Maggie entered it for the virtual BDWCA 2020 championships where it came first in the "Advanced Bird of Prey" section making Maggie British Champion again!



Your editor has been up to something fishy: these two are burned pine which is then wire brushed before being sprayed silver. They are then rubbed back slightly to bring out the grain before receiving a gloss lacquer finish. The base is burr maple with the bark removed before being soaked in fabric dye. Hopefully it looks a bit coral-like.

Continuing the piscine theme; these mackerel are acrylic painted pine with fins made from 1.5mm plywood. They are mounted on dried driftwood from the beach.





*"You're too inward-looking, Wenceslas – try looking out"*



*"Thanks to my facial recognition software, I know the true identity of Father Christmas"*



*"Hold on – we're trying to work this out. You're from three different royal households and the baby counts as three people already..."*



*"Would you prefer something other than care homes for a change?"*



## MY LOCKDOWN PROJECT by Lesley Everitt

Just before lockdown Pippa kindly gave me a piece of chestnut off cut that was leading to be carved into a hand.

While sitting at the dining table, talking to my daughter, we were discussing what my carved hand could be used for. Various suggestions came up; jewellery holder, pen holder, then we realised that it held the cheese knife really well. As a family that loves cheese, this sent us off in a direction.

In the shed I found some balsa wood that was the shape of coasters. I think they are meant to be coasters, but they never inspired me to do anything with them...until now. Pop them together to make the base of the cheese board. And I can use a pyrography nib to decorate them into something cheese related, (yet to be designed).

I thought our cheese board needed a cheese wire, which I can purchase relatively cheaply from supermarkets. But the wire needs something to weigh it down and to hold while pulling it through the cheese....well, during our rather crazy conversations a logical answer came ...a mouse! Well that'll need a lathe to turn a mouse! (Other ideas to make use of the lathe also came up such as chess pieces and beads for macramé, which apparently are difficult to purchase).

So the hand...turned cheeseboard, turned mouse, turned lathe project as it is now, has been an ongoing lockdown project for me. But I am stuck.

Lathes traditionally are for metal turning. However, wood lathes are required for turning usually table legs, spindles, etc... and so they are usually over a meter long, and cost in excess of £300 for one with a motor 300watt. I have an old drill with a motor 650w, and I don't want it to be able to turn a table leg, it's a mouse, surely my drill can be adapted to do this. It makes perfect sense in my opinion....mmmmm?

So I set myself the challenge. Researched on Youtube, and there were loads of different suggestions, mostly American. I found a design that I thought I could do with the tools and skills I have. B&Q sold OSB board. OSB board is an external grade modern board used as an alternative to ply. It's as strong, cheaper, and gives a practical finish, but that's fine for my application. I've had to double up the thickness to give more stability, but that was fine because the original sheet was so big I had more than enough to do this. Using loads of PVA glue, a few screws and a few weekends in my shed, (perfect way to self isolate) I created my lathe frame. A simple lathe frame consists of a headstock, tailstock, and a base I even found some discarded wheels from a piece of Ikea furniture so the tailstock can slide along the base. I've put air holes in my version to allow air circulation to prevent the drill from overheating. Using a jigsaw and the drill, it was complete, and it fits perfectly on my collapsible workbench, which is portable! So all told, I think I've created the perfect lathe! (Please no sniggering!)

I then found in Machine Mart catalogue a tailstock screw chuck (its small so ideal for what I intend to create), and purchased a headstock ¾ inch 4 prong drive centre from a local lathe supplier. Their magazine is well over 500 pages long and by the time I waded through it I'm completely baffled by the options available. All together everything costing 10% of a lathe from the lathe supplier (but I'll keep quiet about that), however, there is a problem, which may explain why lathes are so expensive. This is where I need your help... Now if I approach the lathe supplier, they want to sell me a £300+ lathe (it's their business, why wouldn't they? some of them cost near £3000!). I think what I need costs about £20, but .....

The drill turns. The lathe supplier's chuck seems to cut into the wood. (It is attached to a drill & it is called a "drive centre" so there is no surprise with that) a lathe is meant to turn the wood. So my question to you all is ...do I need a dead centre, or a live centre? and which end of the lathe should it go, headstock end or tailstock end? Anybody know??? I'm sure for the person with the knowledge, it is an obvious answer. It's just finding that person.

Cont.

It would also benefit from a small piece of Perspex fixed to the tail stock and the head stock supports to prevent the wood shavings from flicking up at the user, (ultimately me) but that at the moment is a minor thing. But as I write this I thought I'd ask if anyone has a surplus piece, measuring no more than 500mm long please let me know. Again I can only find it in humongous sheets.

I am aware I could purchase a wooden mouse from a shop in Beaulieu, but me being me, wants to make my own :-> My brain now is muzzled, is yours?



Can anyone help Lesley with her queries?

lesley.everitt77@outlook.com



## SOLENT GUILD OF WOODCARVERS

As you probably know, we swap newsletters with the Solent Guild who are based in the Portsmouth area. So this is just a reminder that you may like to visit their website to see how similar groups to our own function and maybe get some ideas as to how we might improve the things that we do.

[Solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk](http://Solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk)

## WATERSIDE WOODCARVERS BECOMES THE REPAIR SHOP

This is an extract from a letter we received back in October from a local lady:-

“We have the silver lid of a small trinket box which belonged to my husband’s grandmother. We have never had the base to go with it. We would like to get a little wooden box base made for it for our daughter’s 21st birthday. I wondered if any of your members would be able to undertake a commission like this?”

Allan Mechen decided to take this on and you can see the result below. So well done Allan for granting this lady’s wish and raising the profile of Waterside Woodcarvers. Will Kirk of the Repair Shop couldn’t have done any better.



## SHIRTS

At the next carve-in (When ever that is) 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.

<b>Sweatshirts</b>		
	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
<b>Polo Shirts</b>		
	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



*"Do you need to borrow my bikini wax?"*



*"I miss the Christmas trees we had before the climate changed"*



*"It looks amazing, Granny – but you have no social media presence, so what's the point?"*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** – notes for your diary

As with the rest of this year, anything put in this section would probably turn out to be a work of fiction so I would just advise you to keep an eye on your emails and the website and hope for the best.

Your editor would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2021 (it's got to be better than 2020 surely!)

oOo

*"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."*

Marie Curie



