



NEWSLETTER

No.118

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk



COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

I think we can safely say that we have settled in to regular fortnightly workshops at Noadswood School. The school staff have been very welcoming and helpful. They found space for our two storage units which contain our club tools, kettles and first aid kit. They kindly got our kettles and grinders PAT tested so that we can now sharpen our tools and enjoy a cuppa during the workshops.

Our membership has grown by 9 this term (welcome to Allan, Andy, Eamon, Glen, Helen, Lucy, Malcolm and Mark – and welcome back Gosia!), and our average attendance on Thursday evenings is around 20. That means we can all fit snugly into the one room, which means only one room hire fee and also has social benefits.



Dates for the next term have already been confirmed, starting January 12th, and are listed below and on the website. We have also booked our next social at St Andrews on Sat 18 March, 2-5pm. That will include a very useful talk by Allan Mechen on how to prepare before carving. This is also when we vote on the theme of the 2023 WoodBlock Challenge and buy our blocks. Our AGM will also take place during this social but fear not; it is brief and very informal. After the success of having a tools, books and timber stall at the Xmas social, we plan to have this at all of our 4 socials in future.

I'm delighted to report that Mary has agreed to make her barn at Rolleston Rd available for a carve-in (bring your own bench, chair, tools, etc) on Sat 15 April. That nicely bridges the 4 week gap between Noadswood workshops as a result of the Easter school holidays.

Looking even further ahead, we have booked the hall at St Andrews for our annual exhibition on Sat 12 August, so you can put these dates in your diary now.



Our new home at Noadswood

Di Smith



QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Following on from the last issue when we told you that we planned to plant a tree on Fawley Parish land as part of the QGC initiative, things have moved on apace.

The Council, having granted permission, came up with an area on the Gang Warily site on the land that used to be a Pitch & Putt green quite close to Rolleston crossroads where there are already a number of trees. We had already ordered a small-leaved lime (*Tilia Cordata*) from Landford Trees which is of course the most popular of all the woods we use for carving, and so very early this month that was delivered and the following day Paul went up there armed with pick and shovel and planted it.

The following week Di Smith and Paul met at Gang Warily with Councillor Barry Coyston and Grounds Manager Jason Mansbridge for a formal photograph and hopefully we will soon be featured in the Waterside Herald.

We also intend to get a small plaque to go alongside the tree with our name on it.



Paul and Di with Jason Mansbridge and Councillor Barry Coyston



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas came a little early for us woodcarvers this year as the only date in December we could secure for our get-together in St. Andrew's main hall was Saturday 3rd. Nevertheless there were approaching forty people who turned up at two o'clock to get this year's festivities underway.



We had a bit of a scare to begin with as all the other rooms in the centre were booked up with various groups who all wanted tables, meaning that we were left with plenty of chairs to sit *on* but scratching round for something to sit *at*. Thankfully the café came to our rescue as they were just packing up for the day which meant we were able to carry their furniture into the hall.

Waiting for us on each table as we sat down was a quiz devised by treasurer Diane which was fiendish enough to keep us puzzling for the whole afternoon and even though we were in teams of six I don't think any group got everything right. But after a tie-break, the winning chocolates were won by the team comprising Eamon, Mark, Andy and Andy's wife. Well done to them.

There are always silly games at our Christmas party and this year's was perhaps the silliest – inflatable Pass-The-Pigs. The idea was to grab a pig by the ear in each hand and throw them in the air with the position in which they landed (ears, legs, tails, snouts) determining the score. The different permutations was endless and many thanks to Di for managing to keep the score. The eventual winner after two goes was Mary Barton.



Pinky & Perky

As ever Trish Sayers did a great job with the mystery raffle with all sorts of interesting shapes hiding under Christmas wrapping. I think just about everybody went home with something – whether they wanted it or not!

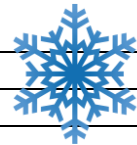
Since we had plenty of space in the main hall we thought we would take advantage of it this year by having a sale of wood, books, tools and other sundries that we have acquired over time. And it proved to be a popular attraction with over £100 being taken during the afternoon which will go towards club funds.





WOODBLOCK CHALLENGE

There were not many entries for the woodblock challenge this year with five in the experienced section and six in the novice but it was nice to see the different interpretations the carvers put on the theme of “Sea Creatures”. However, with all our recent new members, the novice section next year should be well subscribed.



Novice	Experienced
1 st Chris Challis	1 st Allan Mechen
2 nd Mary Manston	2 nd Paul Humphriss
3 rd Kaili Patel	3 rd Dot Woodland



All the entries



Allan's winner



A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

As we approach the New Year it is timely for me to confirm the fees for 2023. Membership is January to December, so the annual membership fee falls due at the beginning of January.

Although some of our costs have increased, the committee has confirmed that we will **maintain the membership fee at £10.00**. I am sure that you agree that this is very reasonable.

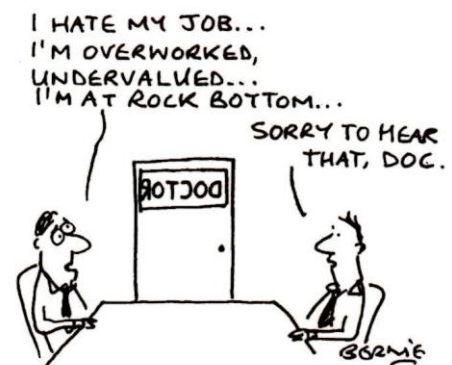
Similarly, the next term's workshop fees will be due at the beginning of January. We anticipate six workshops up until Easter. Again, we are maintaining the current cost (£3 per workshop payable in advance), so **£18.00** in total.

This means that for those of you who attend workshops the total due at the beginning of January is £28.00.

Wherever possible please make your payment direct via the bank, otherwise please have the £28 (cash or cheque) with you at the first workshop on January 12th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Diane



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary



DECEMBER

Thursday 15th.....Club night – Noadswood School

JANUARY 2023

Thursday 12th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 26th.....Club night – Noadswood School

FEBRUARY

Thursday 9th.....Club night – Noadswood School

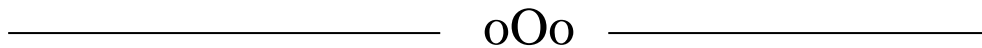
Thursday 23rd.....Club night – Noadswood School

MARCH

Thursday 9th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Saturday 18th.....Social Meeting/AGM – St Andrew’s
Talk by Allan Mechen and decision on the
Woodblock challenge

Thursday 23rd.....Club night – Noadswood School



Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Coolidge

