



NEWSLETTER

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

Many thanks to all who have already paid £16 for the autumn term workshops. The new timing of 6.30 start is working well. Welcome to our two new members: Mike and Jax.

As you know, our evening workshops are a vital part of our club. The committee is keen to keep these workshops in just one room, to maintain the great social side and exchange of ideas that takes place. In recent months, our membership has grown to over 40 people. Although not everyone attends, this creates the potential for overcrowding at our workshops, which would make it difficult for everyone to mix, participate and enjoy themselves. So the committee has decided that we will have a waiting list in future to avoid overcrowding at Noadswood School. This means that new members will be added to the list as existing members leave the club. We understand that this may be disappointing for some people, but we believe that it is necessary to ensure that our workshops remain a positive and inclusive experience for everyone.

It became apparent at the exhibition that several members have pyrography/wood burning tools but are unsure how to use them. So Maggie is planning to arrange a 'burning' workshop one Saturday at Mary's barn, to give you the opportunity to learn how to use them. Once a date is decided, information will be emailed around the membership.

Everyone signed up for the trip to Yandles on 7 Oct will be contacted separately with confirmation of details.

Look out also for more details of the Xmas social on 9th December at St Andrews, 2-5pm. There will be great food (free to members, £5 for guests), your woodblock creations to admire, a fab Xmas raffle, more fun and games and time to chat. We will need an idea of numbers in advance to help the catering. If you can help, please let Di or any of the committee know.

HEALTHY HAVEN

The Healthy Haven is the name given to an area of land behind the Waterside Health Centre in Dibden Purlieu which belongs to the Centre. Over recent years it has been gradually developed into a delightful garden containing trees, flowers, shrubs and also fruit and vegetables, many of which are in raised beds. It is open during surgery hours for the benefit of patients where they can sit and relax or maybe help by doing a spot of weeding or dead-heading. There is a group of enthusiastic volunteers who keep it going which, until recently, included our own Trish Sayers.

On the 24th June they held an open day to which we and several other local organisations were invited. So we took along a small gazebo and a selection of carvings and enjoyed a few hours in the sunshine carving and chatting to the visitors. Due to other local events happening on that day, we didn't see as many people as we would have liked but I'm sure we made our mark anyway.



SUMMER SOCIAL

On the events front we haven't had much luck this summer. On the 1st July we were due to exhibit at the Marchwood Fete and that had to be cancelled due to the mess left by a bunch of travellers and on the 5th August we were due to take part in the Hythe of Activity which had to be postponed due to the weather forecast of strong winds. Fortunately, in between on the 15th July, we did manage our summer social but even that was altered due to the strong winds forcing us to move the venue at short notice from Kaili's garden to St. Andrew's Hall.



Twenty six people showed up at the hall and although the weather was very blustery and showery, it wasn't bad enough to keep us indoors for carpet bowls and we were able to get out onto the lawn for the Molky game. The rules are a bit complicated but everybody eventually got the hang of it and after seven goes at knocking down the wooden skittles it was becoming apparent that reaching the target of 50 points was going to take several days, so we called a halt and it turned out that Barbara was the winner with 34 points. (Andy's wife Lynn managed to score 0 in all seven rounds!)

Since we had catered for the picnic at Kaili's place we had a lot of food to use up and so after the game we repaired to the pavilion for afternoon tea which was very enjoyable. There was also a quiz based on 'Famous Susans' to keep us occupied and, would you believe it, the winner was Lynn!



PURLIEU FLOWER SHOW

On the 29th July the Dibden Purlieu Flower Show was held at St. Andrew's and so we felt duty bound to enter the 'Small Woodcarving' section as usual. There were seven entries and, guess what, all seven were by members of our club. Even the judge was one of our own – Allan Mechen!



First - Pippa Smith. – Tea Service

Second - Dorothy Lockyer. – Bear on a Rock

Third - Mark Baker. – Coiled Snake

DONATION

We had a visit from former member Brian Grubb and his wife Christine. Brian no longer carves and decided to generously donate his tools and a couple of books to the club. As soon as these are sharpened they will become part of the kit for the Thursday club or put up for sale to club members. As I know he reads this newsletter – many thanks Brian.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Once again we held our annual exhibition in the main hall at St. Andrew's in Dibden Purlieu. This was on the 12th August between 10 and 4 with an hour either side for setting up and packing away.

As in previous years we had a fine exhibition of member's carvings but this year we limited it to 6 per member so that there was no risk of overcrowding, which I think was better for us and the viewing public (less is more). The other change we instituted was in the voting by the public for their favourite carving. Previously we had received comments that although it is only a bit of fun, there were simply too many to choose from. So this time, to simplify it, we asked members to put no more than two each onto the voting table. This resulted in a much more manageable show of 18 to choose from resulting in a win for Allan Mechen's "The Three Bears".



There was also a touch table where visitors were encouraged to handle with care and a sales table which brought in something over forty pounds towards club funds.

Something else which has become a feature of our exhibitions was the raffle for a carving. This year it was a kingfisher carved and donated by Paul and it raised more than enough to cover the cost of the hall hire so that is something well worth doing. Incidentally, the bird was won by one of our own, Mark Baker - congratulations to him.

Thanks must also go to Allan Mechen who was on hand to demonstrate actual carving and Maggie Port who set up a display of her carvings next to which she demonstrated the pyrography techniques that she uses to such skilful effect.

All in all another successful event that lets the Waterside know we're here and this is what we do.



SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

We did something a little different at the September social this year – we effectively handed it over to the membership. The idea was in two parts, the first being to share ideas on carving and the second to speak about your other hobbies.

Firstly, among others, we had tips on turning an electric toothbrush into a mini sander, achieving stitching effects on wood and using old hacksaw blades to make carving and whittling tools.

The second part included Quilting, orienteering, painting on MDF, Shire horses, pyrography and even Dorothy Lockyer reciting a couple of her poems.

Thanks to all of you who took part, you're all stars.



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

Thursday 21st.....Club night – Noadswood School
(Don't forget our times are now 6.30 – 8.30)

OCTOBER

Thursday 5th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Saturday 7th.....Trip to Yandles Sawmills
Minibus pick-up 9am in Oak Road car park
Food available but maybe bring
your own to avoid queues

Thursday 19th.....Club night – Noadswood School

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 16th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 30th.....Club night – Noadswood School

DECEMBER

Saturday 9th.....Christmas Social
Buffet, results of the woodblock challenge
(£5 refund for every entry), Grand Raffle
and possibly other items TBA.

Thursday 14th.....Club night – Noadswood School

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“As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see.”

Vincent Van Gogh