



NEWSLETTER

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk



COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

We've had a busy autumn and it has been lovely to see lots of you able to take part. Some have had a testing year, so it was especially pleasing to see so many enjoying themselves at the Xmas social.

With 2024 fast approaching, we would appreciate it if you would pay your annual Membership Fee of £10 in early January. If you intend to use the Noadswood workshop facilities next term, the additional workshop fee will be £12. Please make online payments to a/c 61264490 sort code 60-20-40 or make cheques payable to Waterside Woodcarvers or bring cash to a Noadswood workshop. Thank you.

Our next social, 2-5pm on Sat 16 March, will include our AGM. We will be collecting ideas for the Woodblock theme for 2024 over the next 3 months, then decide on the topic and buy our blocks at this meeting. This is also when we present the **Members Cup** to someone who has gone above and beyond for the club or achieved something special. Please send any nominations, with a brief explanation, to Di by the end of February.

Di Smith



"So how would you sum up the likely scenario this winter?"



YANDLES VISIT

On Saturday 7th October we arranged a minibus trip down to Yandles Sawmills in Martock. Some of you may remember visiting Yandles in bygone years when they used to have a big trade fair event in spring and autumn. Those events were discontinued a few years ago but recently they advertised the presence of a couple of companies on this particular date so we thought it would be a good time to pay a visit.



Fifteen of us turned up on a sunny morning at Oak Road car park in Purlieu and boarded the bus for the two hour journey to Somerset and when we got there we were joined by Dot, Mary and Yvonne who had gone under their own steam, and a little later by Chris and Sharon Challis.

On arrival it's fair to say that it wasn't exactly bustling and the only difference from a normal day was the presence of a Charnwood representative to answer technical questions. No matter,



we were not jostling for space in the wood shed, we were able to take things at our own pace and we also enjoyed a 10% discount on timber. Everyone seemed to be looking at everything and buying something and there were even a couple of trolleys being pushed round in the wood shed so some were doing some serious stocking up.

Of course Yandles isn't just about wood. Some of our members were very interested in the craft section and spent quite some time in there and there was a very nice café where most of us took the opportunity of tea and cake. Hopefully, at the end of the three hours we all got the material we wanted and the inspiration to do something with it.



BURN AT THE BARN

At the summer exhibition Maggie Port gave a demonstration of pyrography showing our visitors how she uses burning techniques to achieve the wonderful feather effects on her bird carvings. This has also generated a lot of interest among our own members and so Maggie suggested that she could give a tutorial to anyone who was keen to learn more.

After some discussion the date decided on was Saturday 18th November when Mary Manston very kindly offered the use of one of her barns to house the event and interest was such that it had to be divided into two sessions with half a dozen in the morning and another half dozen in the afternoon.

Most people had their own machines and we all had light coloured wood or ply on which to practice. Maggie provided photographs of a number of different subjects like birds, cats or small animals together with tracing paper and soon we had a design marked on our wood ready for burning.

Of course we had a number of different types of machine and there was a lot of discussion, experimentation and a few burnt fingers while we figured out the intricacies of each one but after a while we were good to go. Then under Maggie's expert guidance we were able to start producing the effects that we wanted. There was a lot of chat but also periods of complete silence as the concentration took over and all too soon the two and a half hours was gone and we took the opportunity to sit back and inspect our own and each other's work.

I'm sure I'm not alone in seeing that pyrography will be a useful addition to my woodcarving skills and so a big thank you to Maggie for her expertise, Mary for the use of the barn and Kaili and Debbie for the cakes. Who knows? – this could be something we do again in the future.



Morning



Afternoon



FESTIVE FACTS

If you're worried about over indulging during the coming season then ponder this:-

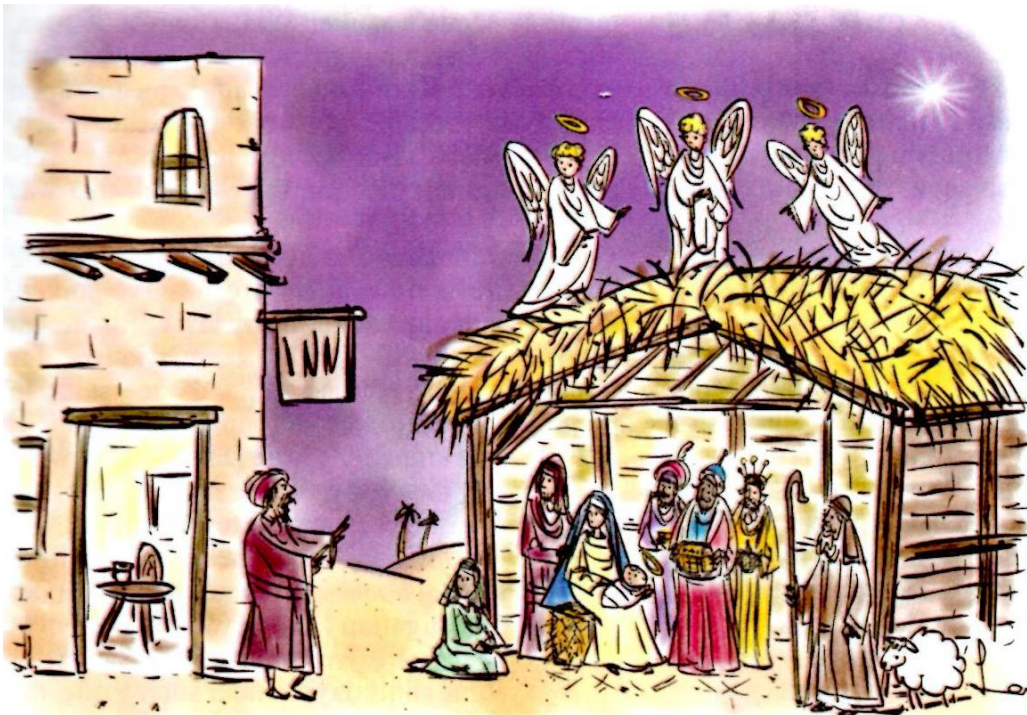
The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans

The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like; it's speaking English that kills you.



"Hey! When I agreed to let you stay, I didn't say you could have a party with all your mates"



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 9th December was the day chosen for this year's party and around thirty members and guests turned up in the afternoon to celebrate the festive season and another successful year for the Waterside Woodcarvers.

Chris Challis can usually be relied upon to come up with something different in the form of games and entertainment and he didn't disappoint this year when he suggested axe-throwing. Now I know as carvers we are used to dealing with sharp instruments but that seemed to be taking things a bit far, however he reassured us that it only involved plastic axes so we agreed to that. It turned out to be good fun with everyone having two goes at throwing four axes at a target similar to that used in archery. It was a little tricky in that it depended on throwing with just the right weight or the axe would tend to bounce out and some people got it while others didn't. At the end the scoreboard showed Mark to be the winner.



Chris explains the finer points of axe throwing to Jax and his mum.

Of course the Christmas party is the deadline for the Woodblock Challenge, the theme for which was "In the Garden" and this year we provided an extra incentive in that everyone who produced a carving on the day would have their £5 entry fee reimbursed. Well, we had ten in the experienced class and three in the novice class which



compared with a total of eleven in 2022 so I guess a marginal improvement. Nevertheless, the quality was top notch and after we all went through the difficult business of deciding who to vote for, the novice class was won by Andy Maccer and the experienced class by Maggie Port. Congratulations to them.



Party food and drink was provided free of charge but thanks must go to the ladies who bought it, laid it out and served it - it was delicious. Thanks also go to Trish who organised the raffle and after the usual shouts of 'put it back!' I think everyone went home with something. We also had

a sales table with a wide selection of wood, tools, abrasives and books which raised around £140 towards club funds.



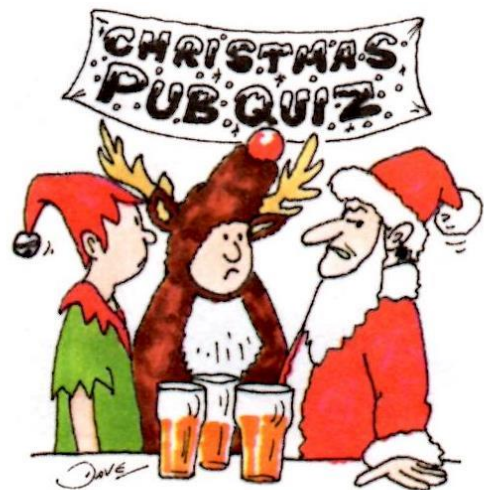
Andy receives the novice's cup



Maggie and her winning carving

While all the other activities were going on, Diane White had pinned a lot of pictures around the walls and given out answer sheets as part of the quiz she had devised. Half of them were famous 'Joes' that we had to identify and the other half were close-ups of everyday objects. Not an easy one to do but Mark and Julia came out on top so well done to them and thanks to Diane for her efforts.

Towards the end of the afternoon our chairman Di made a little presentation. This was to Mary as a thank you for allowing us the use of her barn for the pyrography tutorial in November. Mary had refused to take any money for the electricity used and so we bought her a pyrography set of her own.



"Remember, the only team we have to fear is The Three Wise Men"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary



DECEMBER

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

JANUARY 2024

Thursday 11th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 25th.....Club night – Noadswood School

FEBRUARY

Thursday 8th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 22nd.....Club night – Noadswood School

MARCH

Thursday 7th.....Club night – Noadswood School

Saturday 16th.....Annual General Meeting & Social
St Andrews Church Hall (Garden Lounge)
2 – 5pm

Thursday 21st.....Club night – Noadswood School



"There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus."

