



NEWSLETTER

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COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

Following the AGM, your committee for the year is now Di Smith (Chair), Malcolm Collins (Treasurer), Andy McCaffrey (Secretary), Paul Humphriss and Maggie Port.

Workshops at Noadswood are now every fortnight throughout the year, including school holidays. Payment for these is now £15 per Quarter, and the next quarter runs April to end of June. As usual, you can make your payment online to the club account (Waterside Woodcarvers, 61264490, sort code 60-20-40) or pay by cash or cheque at a workshop.

We are planning an outing to Christchurch Priory on the morning of Saturday 3rd May with a specially arranged guided tour of the amazing wood and stone carvings. We will travel in shared cars to minimise parking needs. If you have not expressed your interest in this yet, please get in touch with Di (dianasmith291@btinternet.com).

Looking further ahead, we will be hoping to hold a club picnic in the summer – offers or suggestions for a venue are warmly welcomed. The club will have a marquee and display at both the Marchwood fete on Sat 5th July and the Exbury Fete on Sat 2nd August to help promote the club and our annual exhibition on Sat 9 August.

Our next Social - on Friday 20 June – includes competition for the main club trophies in Novice, Intermediate and Experienced categories. We hope that many of you will enter a carving. Traditionally this event also includes a team game of boules in the garden or indoor skittles if wet. There will also be a sales table of tools, timber and books.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL

The first social meeting of the year was held on the 15th March at St. Andrews and was reasonably well attended with some twenty or so people in the room. The first thing as always was the formal part of the AGM with the approval of the previous year's minutes and a report from the Chairman and the Treasurer. Nothing dramatic was announced and suffice to say that we are in good shape both financially and in terms of membership and the annual membership fee will remain at £10. The committee is now down to five members as Diane White has decided to stand down; many thanks to Diane for her service over recent years including a spell as Treasurer.

Over recent months at our fortnightly carve-ins we had been asked to think about a subject for the Woodblock Challenge. This year we have managed to secure some pieces of Jelutong of 3"x 4 ½" x 9" so a bit larger than last year. As usual the ideas were many and varied but on a show of hands we decided on "A Toy", so come Christmas expect to see a dozen or so oversized Lego bricks!

The main attraction of this year's meeting was a talk by our old friend Allan Mechen who has quite a repertoire of subjects associated with carving and this time it was Staining, Bleaching and Finishing. We all like to get our work as smooth as possible but the method we use to actually finish it can be the icing on the cake and Allan showed us a number of ways of colouring from ebonizing at one end of the scale to bleaching at the other. Thanks Allan for once again sharing your knowledge with your fellow club members.

Something else Allan has done for the club is to carve the Member's Cup and it is at the Spring meeting that we award it to the member who has put in that little extra effort on behalf of the club over the previous year. So for 2024/25 the committee decided to award it to Mark Baker who has provided games at social events, been first-aid trained for the club, fixed broken marquee poles and done several other good deeds over the course of the year.

Another fixture of our social meetings is the sale of wood, tools and books which adds a little to our coffers and on this occasion we also had a chocolate cake and Sharon's apple cake to go with our refreshments.



*Allan and his mysterious
potions*



*Di presents Mark with the Members cup at the
following Thursday club meeting.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary

APRIL

Thursday 3rd.....Club night – Noadswood School

Thursday 17th.....Club night – Noadswood School

MAY

Thursday 1st.....Club night – Noadswood School

Saturday 3rd.....Outing – Christchurch Priory

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

Thursday 29th.....Club night – Noadswood School

JUNE

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

Friday 20th.....Social and Trophy Night
St. Andrews church hall

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

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“The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size.”

Gertrude S. Wister