



NEWSLETTER

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

As members come and go, it is vital that we keep publicising that we exist, particularly using stands at public events, which is why we decided to invest in two lovely table cloths (see photos below) that help to identify us. We hope you like them.

On the topic of coming and going, we have recently welcomed Jack and Lynne, and we are saying farewell to Ces, who is moving to the far east (of Hampshire). We shall miss you Ces.

After our Xmas break, regular fortnightly workshops at Noadswood School resume on Thurs Jan 8th, 6.30-8.30pm. Annual membership of £10 for 2026 is due at the start of January for all members, plus £15 for the first quarter of the year if you are attending Noadswood workshops. You can pay by bank transfer to Waterside Woodcarvers, Sort code 60 – 20 – 40, account no 61264490.

Andy has reworked our club registration forms and will be asking everyone to check contact details and sign them each year, starting January 2026. The form now includes a risk assessment on the reverse which we ask you to read if you are attending workshops at Noadswood. It's only one page and is generally common sense but it is important. We are also going to ask if you are 16 years or over (a requirement of our insurance) and for you to let us know if you have a medical condition that would be significant if you were to have an accident during one of our sessions. Any such information would be treated in confidence and is only for emergency use. If you have any concerns, please contact one of the committee (Di, Malcolm, Andy, Paul and Maggie).

It's been a busy year with outings and events on top of workshops and quarterly socials. 2026 is looking good already with a possible spring walk at Pondhead. If you have any other ideas for outings or socials, your committee would be delighted to hear about them.

VISIT TO PONDHEAD INCLOSURE



On Saturday 1st November, following the visit of Dave Dibden in September to give us a talk about his work at Pondhead Inclosure near Lyndhurst, we took him up on his kind offer to give us a guided walk around the area.

It was a lovely sunny morning with just the

threat of a few showers when fourteen of us turned up bright and early in the car park of the Crown & Stirrup pub on the Brockenhurst road just outside the village and met up with Dave and his two terriers. And so off we went, fifteen people and six dogs through the pub garden and into the inclosure.

As we wandered along, Dave made frequent stops to explain how the Pondhead Conservation Trust which is made up entirely of volunteers, have made big changes to the area over the last decade or so. The area has not been grazed for centuries meaning it has very different trees and plants than the surrounding forest but prior to the formation of the Trust, had become neglected and overgrown. So, over time, the volunteers have used old maps to identify the tracks and cleared them making them accessible to everyone. They have also brought the old hazel coppices back into use to provide material for all sorts of things like wattles and bean poles and also to provide the raw material for charcoal.

And speaking of charcoal, we soon arrived at the production area where we were shown the large steel container where the burning takes place. The various stages were explained including the fact that the gases given off by the process are used to provide fuel to continue the process meaning that it is a very efficient way of producing that lovely stuff that we all crave when the barbecue season is upon us.



After an hour and a half or so we found ourselves having completed a more or less circular route and were back at the pub garden. Unfortunately, Dave was unable to join us for lunch but we thanked him for all his entertaining knowledge and said goodbye as we went into the Crown & Stirrup for a well-earned bite to eat.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Around thirty members and guests turned up on the 6th December for our annual festive get-together at St. Andrews but any thoughts of sitting down and relaxing were soon dispelled as we were all given answer sheets for the quiz that Paul had devised. The questions were written on sheets dotted around the walls of the main hall so people had to wander around to see them (apologies to Pippa who was using her stroller). As quizzes go, it's fair to say that it was a bit of a stiff one but everyone gave their all and the eventual winner was Diane with a score of 46/68 closely followed by Annette's husband Graham on 44. Well done and chocolate Santas to them.



This year's game was our old favourite Corn Hole supplied by Mark where we chuck bean bags at the hole in the board to score points. We played in pairs and each threw five lots of four bags. Thanks to Andy who kept a close eye on proceedings and added up the scores with the winner turning out to be Pat Passfield. Another chocolate Santa to her.



Andy lays down the law



Cont.

Christmas of course is the culmination of the Woodblock Challenge and this year we had been beavering away since the spring on our lumps of Jelutong to come up with “A Toy”. Entries were up on last year with six in the experienced section, three in the intermediate and one in the novice.



After a vote by all present the results were as follows:-

Experienced : Maggie Port

Intermediate : Dot Woodland

Novice : Annette Threlfall

Well done to them and to everyone who entered.



Maggie with her cup and winning entry

All the activity of the afternoon gave us quite an appetite and thanks to the efforts of Kailli, Mary and Maggie we enjoyed a gorgeous buffet afternoon tea. The event was then rounded off with the raffle of all the anonymously wrapped gifts brought along. I think everyone went away with something.



A chance to show off our new table cloths

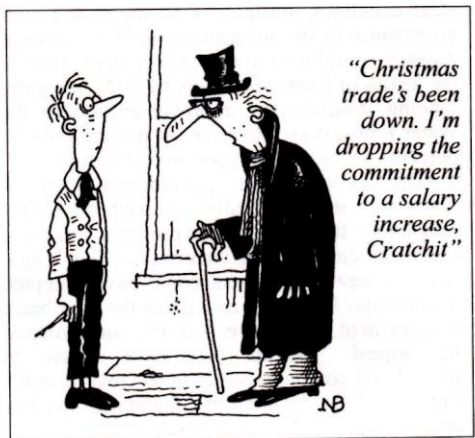


"Even fewer branches than last year"

*"Yeah,
about that
ambulance
to take me
to the
maternity
unit..."*



*"I'm switching to electric next year unless
you lot cut your methane emissions"*



*"Christmas
trade's been
down. I'm
dropping the
commitment
to a salary
increase,
Cratchit"*



"Is it me, or are the fish getting into the festive spirit?"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary

JANUARY

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

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

FEBRUARY

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

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

MARCH

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

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

Saturday 21st..... Annual General Meeting
St Andrews Church Hall (Garden Lounge)
Details TBA

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*“Bloody Christmas, here again, let us raise a loving cup,
peace on earth, goodwill to men and make them do the washing up.”*

Wendy Cope