



NEWSLETTER

No.131

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www.watersidewoodcarvers.co.uk

COMMITTEE CHIPPINGS

It was good to see so many members at the AGM, and good to know that our funds are well managed and in good health. Andy has stood down from the committee and Annette was voted in as his replacement as club Secretary. So, your committee now consists of **Di Smith, Malcolm Collins, Annette Threlfall, Paul Humphriss and Maggie Port.**

We agreed a small change to the constitution regarding number of committee members required to attend committee meetings: now 3 or 50%, whichever is greater.

The **Member's Cup** was awarded for 2025 to Andy McCaffrey for going above and beyond in his support for the club.

Andy has sourced **workwear aprons** that can have our club logo embroidered on. There is a purple (club colours) poly cotton one for £15.60 and a grey all-cotton one for £26.40. We will be placing an order soon, so if you would like one, please let Di or Andy know.

Andy also has a small stock of club polo shirts and sweatshirts priced around £14 ish.



Di is also collecting names for the **spring walk at Pondhead, Lyndhurst on Sat 25 April.** Meeting about 10.15 at the Crown & Stirrup pub for the walk, followed by lunch at 12.30 at the pub. You don't have to do both! If we have more than 8 eating, the pub will want your choice of lunch in advance: I will send round the menu one week before for you to let me have your choices. Pay individually on the day.

There was a consensus at the meeting for **mini teach-ins** to take place at Noadswood, maybe for 10-15 mins when we have a tea break. This is likely to happen once a month and will need to be

planned out. Topics might include: choice of wood for carving projects, how to sharpen a chisel/knife, types of abrasives and rasps, how to use a hook knife, different finishes... If you have any suggestions/requests, please share them with anyone on the committee.

The committee have identified a possible **club outing on the weekend of 20/21 June** – immediately after our June social/Trophy night on 19 June – to Wests Wood Fair at East Dean near Chichester (westswoodfair.co.uk). It looks really good fun, including pole lathes, chainsaw carving, axe work, sales of timber and lawnmower racing(!). Please let Di know if you are interested and which days work for you. If there is enough interest, we may be able to borrow a minibus for the day.

MARCH SOCIAL AND AGM

Contrary to the usual order of things, we started our meeting with the guest speaker rather than have him on after the formal proceedings and this was because he was on his way to catch a ferry to his holiday home on the Island – lucky chap. The man in question was Roger Plant who was making his second visit to us to talk about his interest in rabology (no, me neither). It means the study and collecting of walking sticks and canes and comes from the Greek word “rabdi” meaning stick. He told us about the importance of sticks to man going back thousands of years not just as weapons but as items of ceremony and status from a shepherd’s crook to a bishop’s crozier and he even produced a picture of a chimpanzee holding a stick in much the same way as we do, giving an indication of just how long we have wielded these essential items. He brought

along several sticks including some that he had made himself and an old short shillelagh with iron nails driven into the head to make it even more fearsome. There were even a couple of “twisties” which are sticks (usually hazel) that have been given a spiral appearance by being in contact with ivy or honeysuckle while growing.



After Rogers’s talk came a tea and coffee break followed by the formal part of the AGM. After that it was time to decide on the theme for the woodblock challenge, the choices for which were read out a couple of times by Di before voting on each by a show of hands. There was a varied list including “Food” and “A flying object” but the winner by a large majority was “Abstract” so that is what you need to come up with by the Christmas meeting.

Our thanks go to Mark Baker who made a trip down to Yandles in Somerset to get the pieces of Lime from which we made the blocks.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – notes for your diary

APRIL

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

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

Saturday 25th.....Club Outing – Pondhead Inclosure

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

MAY

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

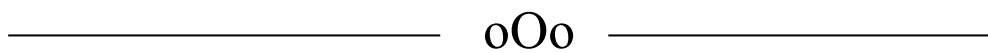
Thursday 28th.....Club night – Noadswood School

JUNE

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

Friday 19th.....Social & Trophy Night

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



“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’”

Robin Williams