



## NEWSLETTER No 120

Feb, Mar and Apr 2018

Spring /Summer Edition

Web site:

<http://www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk/>

### EDITORIAL

**The Newsletter Editor's report** [newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk)

Welcome to our latest News Letter, it's been a difficult start to the year, what with the weather misbehaving itself with a visit from Siberia, which caused a disruption to our schedule and various other things that had to be cancelled, and then to top it all last week we had a taster 2 days of summer just to through a spanner into the mix, I hope that wasn't it for the nice weather. I think for our fortieth anniversary year I would have expected a better start. Well hopefully the rest of the year will get better as time goes on.

**Chairman's Musings** by George

As we fast approach our 40th anniversary I firstly hope that we have as many members as possible attend the AGM. Even if socials are not your thing it would be very nice to see you attend in support of the Guild and those who keep it running for the benefit of you all and to enjoy the celebration. Thanks to John and with input from Trevor Masters we know that we owe the formation of the Guild to a few forward thinking members of Percy Durrant's carving class especially Jim Bell, Trevor and Percy himself. In fact the class members became the initial members of the Guild. Our aim is not just to provide facilities for woodcarving but to promote it to the wider public. This aim was set out in the very first meeting of the Guild which stated "**To further the aims and interests of woodcarvers and sculptors in the Solent area by means of talks, discussions and exhibitions etc as well as the encouragement of beginners in this art**". This we do through demos and exhibitions and posters. To achieve this we need a continuous supply of volunteers who are willing to give up a day or two at one of the events.

I hope that the guild goes on for many years to come to the benefit of us all. And I look forward to seeing you on the 9th of May at Portchester community centre at the AGM.

**Visits** by George Palmer

Now is the start of the holiday season with members off not just abroad but all over the country. I thought it would be nice to give people the heads up of places to visit where they can see good woodcarving so here are a few that Lin and I have visited.

If you are visiting Michael Painter, or just in the Midlands how about visiting Sudbury Hall.



This is a National Trust property that was built in the 1660s by Lord Vernon. It contains many carvings by Edward Pierce including a rather spectacular staircase. He was one of the principle wood carvers employed by Sir Christopher Wren after the great fire of London. There is also an early overmantle by Grinling Gibbons. The place is stripped back so there is no furniture etc to distract the eye. If you want to reminisce then there is also a museum of childhood there so you see the games you played when you were a child, if you can remember back that far.

If you go to south Devon then pop into Cockington church.



Everyone visits the village etc but you miss something if you don't pop into the church. There you will see a lovely carved and restored chancel/rood screen and angel pews carved in Victorian times. It also contains a rather unusual armada pulpit that was moved from Torre abbey.

What about Norfolk which is awash with lovely villages and Saxon churches.



There is Attleborough which has the finest 15<sup>th</sup> century rood screen in the country and a very unusual and imposing poor box.



A bit further afield is Blythbrough church known as the “Cathedral of the Fens” with its 36 carved angels in the roof space and old carved pews.

What places do you know of that others might enjoy visiting?

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Committee met on the 18th April. Time-1930 hrs

The programme for this year has been completed. Preparation for the AGM and American Supper were discussed.

Concerns were expressed on the 25% drop in attendance at Social Evenings; the Committee agreed to monitor this. Traditionally Committee meetings have been held in Committee Members houses. This is becoming more difficult and alternative venues, e.g. Portchester Community Centre, are being explored; this may involve a small cost.

**The next committee meeting** is to be held at Gill Sadlers on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July Time-1930 hrs. This could possibly change due to us the committee finding an alternative venue.

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

The new General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 28th May and this has required Members to confirm they are happy to receive communication by email. A form has been sent to all Members. It would be appreciated if any Member who has not completed and returned the form to the Secretary please would they do so, otherwise you may not receive the Guild's Newsletter and other information.

### **POP-UP BANNER**

The Guild has a very nice looking new banner to help the public see and understand what we are about.

It will be on display at the AGM.

## **FORTH COMING DEMONSTRATIONS**

### **The first demonstration of the year for 2018 will be**

#### **Solent Gardeners Fayre**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018

The fayre is at Eastleigh, starts at 0900 and finishes at 1700 hrs, we look forward to lots of interest and lots of wonderful plants for sale,

For any inquiries please contact the organiser John Vardon

### **The next demonstration will be**

West's Wood Fair on The 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 this is a three day event

West's Wood Fair will be where we are holding our annual competition on the Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> this is when we get the public to do our voting, and a chance for you to show off all the carvings you want to enter.

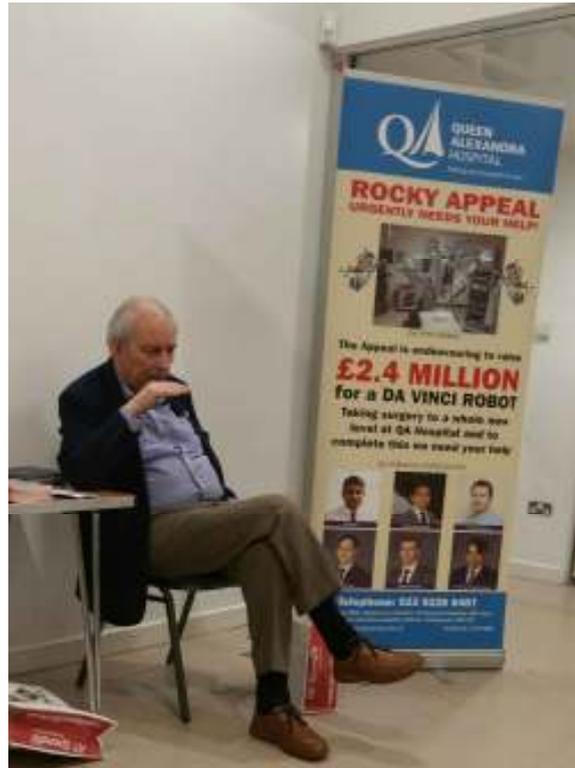
Anybody who can't make it to the show and would like to enter their carvings, speak to John or George about getting your entries taken for you.

The wood fair is located at East Dean, near Chichester, PO18 0NJ. Arrival: 0830-Finish:1730 hrs

For Any inquiries please contact the Organiser John Vardon

### **SOCIAL REPORTS** By Gill Sadler

On a cold wet windy evening eight of us braved the elements to come to the games evening. As well as the usual dominoes, cribbage, etc, George also brought along some vintage games which was interesting seeing and playing something different. Ros was taught Cribbage by John and George. Those who came had fun at this annual event.



In March Mick Lyons, Appeals Organiser for the Rocky Appeal, came to tell us about the Da Vinci Robot. The machine was developed in the States for military use to enable Consultants to conduct robotic surgery from home base to field hospitals. The robot's four arms and manoeuvrable hands, which can twist 360 degrees, can perform keyhole surgery with precision and care on difficult to reach parts of the body. Removal of cancers in prostate, womb, cervix, bladder, bowel, neck and head means that recovery is in a fraction of the time compared to conventional surgery. Portsmouth is a leading European Centre for training doctors, their fee covers the £168,000 a year for maintaining this machine. The cost of the machine was £2.4 million and fund raising means there is now just a small amount left to raise. Mick has raised £17.5million for various projects for Q.A.Hospital over the years. It was an interesting informative evening and we are lucky to have this facility on our doorstep though hopefully we will not be the ones that need it!

### **The Quiz evening** By Gill and Jean

In April we had our annual quiz night. This time we had to guess the types of woods from 24 samples. We did have some help having the names supplied but it help some of us with the challenging exotic foreign woods. George and John were the winners and tied by naming 13 of them. There was a quiz to find 60 song titles hidden in a 'love letter' which was frustrating but fun. There was another on road signs and on pictures of popular celebrities, despite less members than usual it was a fun evening with much hilarity with some of our answers and was enjoyed by all.

## **FORTH COMING SOCIAL EVENTS** by Gill Sadler

### **Petanque evening**

In June we have an annual Petanque evening when Nick Hall and his colleagues' will instruct us on how to play the game and beginners are particularly welcome. After several games they join us in the centre for tea coffee and biscuits.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

In the merry month of May on the 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 sees the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM at Portchester Community Centre the meeting starts 1730.

The calling notice with Agenda is attached with this Newsletter.

Minutes of last year's AGM are available from the Secretary and will be available to peruse on the night.

As well as the usual reports, we will need nominations for a number of Council positions namely Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and two ordinary committee members. Please would all members consider volunteering for one of these positions; It is also important that anyone who would like to have a go at doing any of the jobs that the committee does, would be most welcome there would be plenty of support for any person volunteering. So don't be shy to ask! The Guild can't function effectively if they are not filled. Nomination forms are included in the AGM Agenda.

We are going to celebrating with a special American anniversary supper.

A special cake is being made for us and we would like members to bring an article of food towards it, like we do at Christmas, this would be most welcome. Sandra and Lin will be organizing it. The teaboat will be supplying refreshments and the setting it all up.

There will also be the Bill Pinney competition and here are the competition details again. An item found in any supermarket i.e. vegetables, fruit, cans of beans whatever. The carving must be no bigger than 9inches by 9inches, lime wood was mentioned, but remember wood is wood so good luck. And now while the proceedings are happening and everybody is enjoying the food and voting for the best carving, the raffle will take place at the end of the evening. We do hope everyone has a lovely time and looking forward to a good turn out.

Three reasons why you should attend the AGM:

- \* It is your Guild and without a Committee it would not function
- \* You can vote in the Bill Pinney competition, which this year has the theme "what you may find in a supermarket".
- \* Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Guild

### **Ray Harding Talks on 'Lee On The Solent'**

In July Ray Harding will give us a talk entitled 'Lee Historic Heritage Waterfront'. Ray is an enthusiastic experienced speaker, a member of Lee on the Solent residents association who will tell us about the history from 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. He also organizes the regular guided walks pointing out buildings and happenings in the area. This should be an interesting evening.

### **SATURDAY CARVE-INS**

This carve-in the 7<sup>th</sup> of April was a good one although the numbers seemed quiet Every body seemed to enjoy themselves.

The 21<sup>st</sup> of April carve-in seemed even quieter, than the last, with the men outnumbering the women, normally it's about on half in half. Noodles and chopsticks was the booby prize.

The Next 3 Carve-ins are:-

5<sup>th</sup> May and the 19<sup>th</sup> May with the last carve-in being on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June before the autumn Carvings start again.

### The History of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and sculptors

John Vardon has generated a 'Brief History of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers & Sculptors' including the appendices it is over 60 pages. If anyone would like a copy electronically, please let the Secretary know. Note the file is over 11Mbytes.

John found this article from the past and wondered if it reminded anyone or would be of use again?

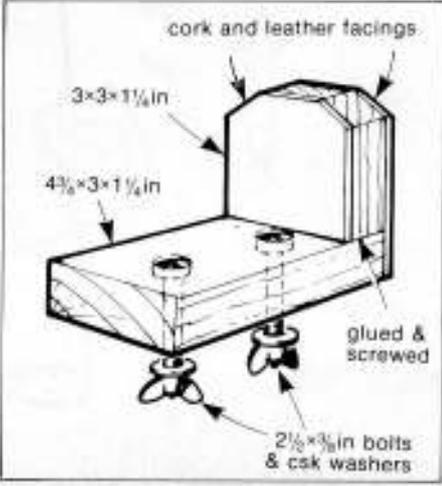
### Workmate chops

D. R. Duff writes: There is no doubt that the carver's chops is an ideal vice for holding small carvings. However, its price is now well beyond the means of many amateur carvers. It was this consideration that led me to develop an attachment for my Black & Decker Workmate: it consists of a pair of jaws which can be bolted to the vice-jaws of the Workmate, and which then use the existing screw mechanism to enable them to function. The attachment is quite easily made, and the necessary parts are inexpensive. The diagram gives all the necessary

details for construction. Each jaw is made of two pieces of a suitable hardwood which are glued and screwed together. Each side should be faced with cork,  $\frac{1}{4}$ in thick (a cork tile is quite cheap), covered with a thin layer of leather (an offcut from a leather merchant is also cheap). An epoxy adhesive will stick them all together very firmly. The base should be  $3\frac{3}{4}$ in long, the same as the width of the Workmate vice-jaw, and the bolt holes should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ in from each end so they pass through the holes in the Workmate.

Each jaw is held firmly in place by two coach bolts  $2\frac{1}{2}\times\frac{3}{8}$ in with washers and wing-nuts. The bolt heads should be recessed in the bases: remember to insert the one bolt before gluing and screwing the pieces together.

In use the jaws are individually reversible, so that when facing each other they open from nil to 4in, when one is reversed they open from 3 to 7in, and when both are reversed they open from 6 to 10in. The Workmate's unique 'taper action' also allows for some angulation between the jaws — a feature not included in the function of the ordinary carver's chops. This can be a help in wood sculpture when holding irregular shapes. The attachment can be fitted to either end of the Workmate vice-jaws as well as in the middle; this factor, together with the space between and below the vice-jaws when open, allows an even larger variety of shapes and sizes to be held firmly when carving. ■



### NEW MEMBERS

We have only one new member this time, and we welcome Miss Shirley Perry, Dora's sister to the guild, Shirley has been coming to various events and has eventually decided to join. We are very glad that she feels confident enough these days for her to enjoy it.

We are sorry to lose Chris and Doug Phillips from the Guild due to other commitments.

Others leaving our membership is Sharon Silver and Peter Skrzypczak due to other commitments.

### Sickness

After spending an inordinate amount of time in hospital our member Pat Kyari, has ended up with the amputation of her leg above the knee which healed beautifully. She is now back at home again.

## **DECEASED**

For those members who know Sandra Barnes a carving member of the Guild, Her partner Eric who was a social member also, after a spell in hospital with health Problems, had passed away on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, our thoughts go to Sandra and Families.

## **REMINDER SUBS**

Just when you thought it was safe to look over your shoulder it's that time of the year again, when the subscriptions are coming up. Reminders are never kind but can sometimes be useful. They are the support that keeps the guild going i.e. Carve-Ins, Social evenings, etc. If you've got any good ideas as to what it can be spent it on, and would be for the benefit of all the guild members, then please don't be shy and tell us know about it.