

# WADDHAMS

W O L V E R H A M P T O N & D I S T R I C T D O L L S  
H O U S E A N D M I N I A T U R E S S O C I E T Y

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- WADDHAMS  
October Fair—30  
October 2005,  
Wombourne  
Community Cen-  
tre, 10.30am—  
4.00pm
- Club Nights:  
Every first  
Wednesday in  
the month,  
7.30pm at United  
Reform Church,  
Penn Road, W-  
ton. All new mem-  
bers and curious  
people welcome!

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Welcome to the new look Newsletter for WADDHAMS. I will try to fill with interesting things but, because this is the first “draft”, I have added a small form at the back for any feedback you can give me. All feedback is useful so don't be shy! This newsletter is for all of you and it is only any good if it can be of use.

I have included some articles that I think may be of use according to some of the questionnaires people have kindly filled in and returned. Some of the features include history of various periods in time that are popular within the Dolls House world, Did You Know

## W E L C O M E !

features, Hints and Tips and some “Cut out and Keep” articles.



I know it feels a little early but I have attached some festive images as the October Fair is soon approaching and I believe it may have a Christmas theme. If you can't use them this time, they should come in useful fairly soon, I am sure! Apologies if I have duplicated anything you already have.

I have also included a feature on the last meeting and what we learned about making

the lovely little bags shown to us by Gill and Tracy and the very useful “Tool Kit” suggestion, just in case you have mislaid your lists.

As I explained in the last meeting, I am afraid I don't own a Dolls House (all boys in my house!!) so let me know if I have completely missed the mark! I can do pretty things with words but the miniature world is still a learning process for me! I hope I can serve you well when I am up to speed but please bear with me until then!

Many thanks

*Michelle*

## LAST MEETING REVIEW



September's meeting held a good turn out and we managed to cover some interesting things.

First up was a useful suggestion that each of us collate a standard "Tool Kit" to take with us every month so we have any basic equipment to hand when we try out practical demonstrations. See list opposite if you haven't yet prepared yours yet.

Sue showed us some of her latest spooky creations including a mummy with some interesting use of glow-in-the-dark Fimo! We look forward to

### Suggested Items for Tool Kit:

Pencil	PVA Glue
6" Ruler	Cocktail Sticks
Craft Knife	Wet wipes/Tissues
Small Sharp Scissors	Tweezers
A few paper clips	Cutting Mat
Fine paint brush	A Plaster!
Sewing needle	

seeing her current project, a were-wolf!, when completed.

We then moved to the practical section where Gill and Tracy showed us how to make a fabulous little bag which can hold shopping, presents, etc. I have included full step-by-step instructions below for those of you who would like another go.

Jayne bought along some little useful 'bits and bobs' for sale, quite a lot of which had a festive theme and will come in handy for us in the coming months.



## HOW TO: MAKE A CARRIER BAG

You will need:

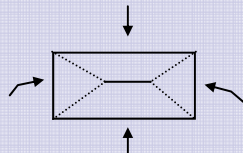
- Paper (plain or patterned) cut to 4½" x 2¼"
- 4 x Double Lego Bricks or similar
- Glue
- Small length of thin ribbon

Start by folding about ¼" over the top longer length of the piece of paper and gluing down. This gives it a little strength for the handles.

Wrap the paper lengthways around the lego bricks leaving about 1" over. Crease all the sides to give definition.

Glue down the short side of the paper trying to keep the seam in the middle for added stability. Leave to dry.

When dry, wrap the bottom overlap like a present:



Glue and leave to dry.

When dry, carefully remove the lego bricks and you should have a bag!

Now cut two pieces of the thin ribbon about 2-2½" long each. You will need strong glue for this—glue one end of each length diagonally across from each other on the top of the bag. The ribbon can go right inside to the base for added strength. Glue the other ends diagonally to each other also and that should give a more even and symmetrical placement.

Fill with tissue paper and/or your chosen goodies!



### Tip

You can use paper stamps to create tiny decorations such as snowflakes or Christmas Trees to give your bag an interesting design



## HISTORY OF THE HANDBAG

The ways in which people have carried themselves and their belongings throughout history have reflected the eras in which they lived. The earliest historically verifiable handbags—little sacks containing pomanders (scented oranges), flint and money—were carried by gentlemen and known as "pockets". These were hung by thongs from the back of the girdle and were often cut from behind by thieves who knew how to capitalize on a friendly pat on the back; hence the name "cut purse". By the 1400's both men and women were wearing purses, and as times prospered and the little sacks got fuller, they were ornamented with gold or elaborate embroidery.

A century later, the drawstring bag was a status possession. Paintings of that era show flat bags gathered by tasselled strings. By the end of the century, however, fashion went undercover, as women preferred to wear their pouches under their skirts.

In 1670, breeches with built-in pockets came into fashion and men dispensed with their handbags. But they did continue to carry a little netted "purse" for money inside the pocket.

In the 18th century, pouches for both men and women disappeared. After the French Revolution, however, the style of women's clothes was so delicate that it was impossible for them to contain a pocket. Out into the open came the handbag, then known as a reticule (and occasionally a "ridicule" by men whose idea that was of a good joke).

Skirts became more ample, and pockets won the next round. Even when dresses grew tighter in the 1880's, handbags were slow to return. The real renaissance for bags came around the turn of the century, with the advent of the hobble skirt. A pocket was an impossibility, and very large handbags carried by long strings or chains became popular.

In the 20's, as dresses got skimpier, handbags became indispensable, and have remained so until the present, both as a utility and as a fashion item reflecting a personal style. Now every fashion has its handbag and every woman can have a wardrobe of shapes and colours.

# History through the ages: The Tudor Age

The first, and probably most recognized age that has become popular in Dolls Houses is the Tudor Age. This ran from 1485–1602 and began with the landing of Henry Tudor from France on the shores of Wales. He fought with Richard III at Bosworth and was proclaimed King after the defeat of Richard III.

This age is best known for the colourful Henry VIII court although he didn't become King until 1502. He is best known for his many wives and the scandals of his reign such as execu-



tions and his strong, religious rulings.

The Tudor age is also known for the "Queen of Nine Days" (Jane Grey) and the great Queen Elizabeth I.

The prosperous people in these

times led a rich and colourful life with plenty of fine food and drink. They surrounded themselves with fine materials and belongings and indulged life to the full.

Most of the houses in Tudor times were constructed as half timber framed buildings. These were, in fact, prefabricated; the walls were first assembled lying flat and then the pieces were numbered and re-assembled on the house site much the same way as we would build a model aeroplane.

There were no bolts or nails in the frames—all the joints were bonded with wooden pegs. The timber frame was then filled with a mixture of hair, dung and clay! The white and black look actually came from the Victorians - the colour in Tudor times would have been much more gaudy.

The majority of furniture and fittings were made of oak and ornately carved. The carvings that appeared on your house timber or furniture showed



how rich you were. The fabrics were rich and plentiful, beds were ornately decorated

with carved wood and rich, thick fabrics.

Food was extravagant for the rich; venison and veal was considered the best. The poor had to eat coarse bread made from rye and barley and soup made from vegetables and herbs. Animals were

kept by the poor for milk and eggs. They rarely ate meat.

Did you know the Tudors invented the first upholstered furniture?

Here are some more interesting facts about the Tudor Times:

1. Girls could marry at 12, boys at 14
2. Water pumps got their water from the local streams that were full of sewerage
3. Henry VIII had over 78,000 people executed
4. The Tudors rarely lived past the age of 40
5. The first flushing toilet was introduced in Tudor Times although it didn't catch on
6. There were no toilets in the Theatres so people just "went" where they stood
7. The Tudors invented the 'Dessert' course from their love of sugar
8. The Tudors invented starch, hence the big collars

**Did You Know?**  
Children played with animal bones and pigs bladders blown up to use as a football...



9. The Tudors had the first carpets imported from Turkey. You had to be very, very rich to have one.

10. The Tudors rarely drank water because it was so polluted. The most popular drink was ale or beer and the only hot drink in this time was soup.

11. The Tudors used to cook wild boar and use the head as a table decoration. However, cooking made the head go very pale so they used soot and pig grease to give a better colour

12. Xmas dinner was sometimes Cooked Peacock. They used to skin it and cook the meat and then place back in the skin to present on the table in all it's glory.



## Did You Know?

There were two types of school in Tudor Times, Petly and Grammar and they started at 6am!

**Did You Know?**  
Edward VI passed a law that said everyone had to walk to Church on Xmas morning and this is still a law to this day. It is hard to imagine being prosecuted though!

## MEMBER PROFILE: GWEN THORPE

Gwen has been making and enjoying miniatures for about five years. It all started when Brenda (Gwen's sister) and husband Ken invited her to the club one night and she got bitten by the bug! She started off experimenting with ideas and now she has a wide range of items in her portfolio.

A recent addition to the collection is her new Paper Magic which is an authentic looking range of pewter ware and medieval items. The range includes everything from small pewter tankards right through to full size Suits of Armor! (1/12th scale of course!)

Gwen's other specialty is her food items, they can make anyone's mouth water even though they are so tiny!



Paper Magic!



Yum, Yum!!

With Christmas around the corner there is usually quite a demand for her Christmas Puddings and fine Turkeys.

Like most miniaturists, Gwen is always looking for new ideas and drives family members barmy with constant scavenging for useful items that would otherwise have gone in the bin! Tiny bottle tops or interesting yogurt cartons can all look appealing to the miniature minded craftsperson!

Another addition to the portfolio is the new range of bird cages made by hand from fine jewellery wire and then enhanced with brightly hand painted bird varieties. Gwen takes great care to ensure the colours are correct in some of the most exotic birds which makes everything look so real and yet so tiny.

Hopefully, health permitting, Gwen will continue to make wonderful things for a long time to come! We all look forward to the next new ideas!

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Well, what do you think? Have you learnt anything? Please could you take a few minutes to answer a few short questions to see how the newsletter can be developed?

What have you enjoyed in the newsletter?

Has it helped you in any way? How?

Is the format easy to read/follow?

Do you think the balance is okay or is there too much/too little of anything?

Any further suggestions/comments?

## Coming Next

### Issue:

- Review of October Meeting
- More "How To:"
- History through the Ages: The Stuarts
- Member Profile
- More Christmas Themes