

We meet at:

St John's United Reformed Church Hall  
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

We meet on:

The first Saturday of each month  
9am-1pm. New members welcome

**The Woodentops is the SE London and W Kent Branch of the BWA**



Twitter: #carverofwood



## An Austrian Carver

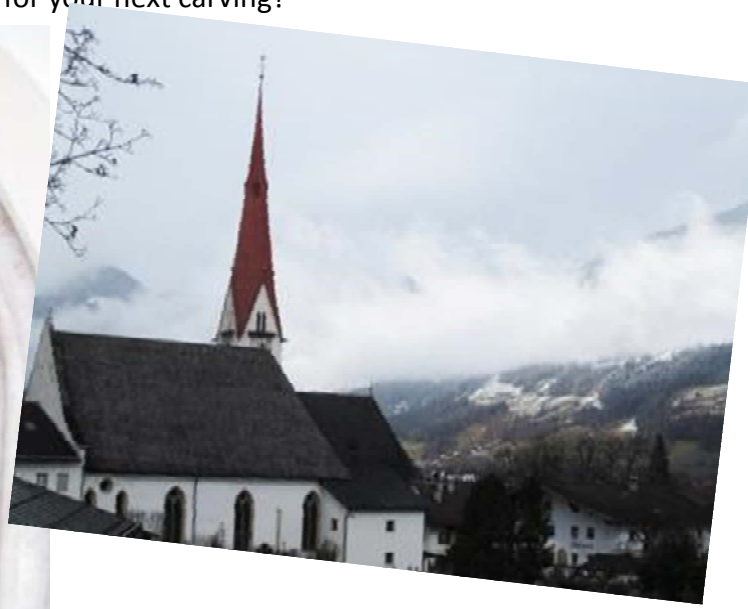
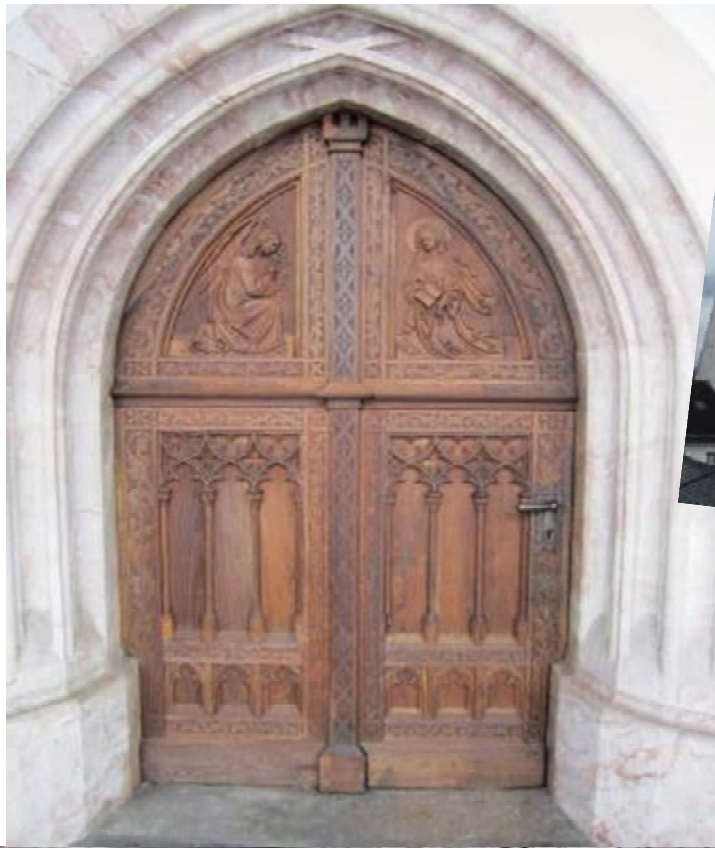
Mayrhofen, in the beautiful Zillertal valley, in Austria's Tyrol is home to Hennes Eder, a proficient wood carver. These are some of his works. If you ever go skiing or, in the summer mountain walking, in this beautiful area, look out for his shop and pop in (as I did). Hennes carves in Swiss Pine and uses Pfeil tools.





# More from Austria - Relief

These beautiful carved church doors were also spotted in Fügen, Tyrol, Austria. What glorious examples of relief work. Perhaps an inspiration for your next carving?



**FÜGEN**



# Michelangelo - New Work Discovered



The recent discovery of two new sculptures by one of the greatest artists in history is a sensation.

These ornamental bronzes are now in Cambridge, on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum from an anonymous private owner. Quite a coup for the town and a tribute to the university's art historians whose detective work led to this recognition.

Michelangelo carved and painted on a huge and energetic scale – when he was 30 he created David, and when he died, nearly 90, he was still working on the dome of St Peter's in Rome.

The relative 'novelty' appearance of these figures (strapping hunks astride a couple of cougars) now attributed to Michelangelo may seem a bit of a come down from his usual works. But we must remember that he worked to order. He had to take commissions to live. Who knows - perhaps he was insulted when asked to make a couple of frolicsome nudes sitting on wild cats for some plutocrat's living room, but more likely he just took it on another work to provide his daily bread, and of course he would do his very best as he did for all his pieces.

But the rippling muscles and bulging anatomies of Michelangelo's two men seem tough, real and different from any other artist.

As one writer has put it:

*'Strange as they are, these brilliantly original works of art add to the very modern unease of Michelangelo. They come from his darkly erotic and shockingly melancholic mind. They are curiosities of the flesh created by one of the most uncompromising artists who ever lived.'*



# A Knife Forge in Peckham? Oh Yes!



A discarded free cooking supplement was the only thing to read on a late night commuter train from London, so I glanced at it very idly, only to find, to my astonishment, a totally unexpected article about a small forge in Peckham which makes bespoke knives in the Japanese tradition ('It took two years of trying', the article quoted one of the three partners, 'to get the method right.' (foodism Magazine, Mar 2015)).

Steel billets are made, consisting of pattern-welded (commonly, if not quite correctly, known as Damascus) steel. This is alternating layers of two types of steel, one harder and one tougher, forged together by heating to 1100 Degrees Celsius then compressing with a fly press - until 120 very thin layers are compounded together. These are placed either side of a piece of what is known as Blue Paper steel and the forge welding – pressing and drawing again – is repeated. The result is a very sharp yet tough knife (and one which is very desirable, too).

Even the handles are made from locally sourced wood.

I've dropped Blenheim Forge a line to see if they are thinking of expanding beyond kitchen knives and into to carving knives. If so, they are likely to have some keen local customers from Orpington...

Meanwhile they do offer tours of this unique Peckham Forge. Anyone interested? Website: <http://www.blenheimforge.co.uk>

Del boy, eat your heart out.



# Shows

*From 2 June at the Tate Gallery:*

MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015 EVENING STANDARD

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## Tate's Hepworth blockbuster

Well, that's how the Evening Standard announced it – promises to be a fantastic show of renowned sculptor Barbara Hepworth. I seem to recall she sculpted in wood as well as other media – go along and find out.

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015:  
The European Woodworking Show, Cressing Temple  
Barns, Witham Road, Braintree, CM77 8PD Web  
site: [europeanwoodworkingshow.eu](http://europeanwoodworkingshow.eu)*



Not too far to travel and looks like it will be a great event.

*Other events across the country are listed here  
(worth a scan!):*

- <http://www.ukworkshop.co.uk/forums/woodworking-show-event-dates-2011-t38294.html>

Perhaps **you** can try to find something going on over the summer.

Let me know: [clive@the.woodentops.co.uk](mailto:clive@the.woodentops.co.uk)

## Ann reports:

The trip to Ashley Isles (carving tool makers) is set for **Thursday 23rd April**. A minibus is booked for Ashley Isles and everyone volunteered to give a £20 deposit as the cost will be something in that region and rebates can be given if it is less. Cathy has 5 parking spaces at her house available (for those who need to park near at the usual Hall, which is the pick-up point.). A health and safety form needs to be completed by all those going. I asked about somewhere to have lunch afterwards and they said that the local town which we will come through has lots of chain pubs.

What could be a better day for the event (St George's day and Shakespeare's birthday!), our first outing as a group. It'll be an early start for the intrepid explorers to visit Ashley Isles' carving tool factory in Lincolnshire. Ann has the full details - if you want to go and haven't got your name down yet, please speak to her as soon as possible.

## Woodentops Subs:

If you **STILL** haven't paid, to Mary, sharp please. (We have to pay for the Hall somehow!) Still at the staggeringly good-value price of £20 for a whole year. Contrary to the British Rail philosophy of life, the price is frozen yet again.

## 2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

| 4 Apr | 2 May | 6 Jun | 4 Jul | 1 Aug | 5 Sep | 3 Oct | 7 Nov | 5 Dec |
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|                          |                |               |                                    |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Our Leader:</b>       | Ann High       | 01689 859617  | highmorton@tiscali.co.uk           |
| Treasurer                | Mary Paddick   | 07929 051373  | Marye.paddick@sky.com              |
| Secretary and Newsletter | Clive Nash     | 0208 464 8902 | clive@thewoodentops.co.uk          |
| Committee                | Terry Vincent  | 01689 827680  | terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk |
| Committee                | Cathy Thomas   | 01689 829646  | cathy@thewoodentops.co.uk          |
| Committee                | Tom Young      | 01689 851500  | tom@thewoodentops.co.uk            |
| Webmaster                | Norman Wilkins | 01689878603   | norman@thewoodentops.co.uk         |



Ann



**Next meeting 4 April!**