



A Club in South East London
for people interested
in wood carving

Visitors are very welcome

Website:
www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk

 Woodentops Wood Carvers
 #Carverofwood

WOODENTOPS

Newsletter

December 2018

We meet at:
St Johns United Reform Church Hall
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

We meet on:
The first Saturday of each month
with additional 'carve-only' meetings
on many other months.
Full details of our meetings and
much more on our website.

Pictures of the Month: A Big Tree Carved



I'd love to tell you more about this but, as with so much on the Net, the information just is not there! But this is a huge tree trunk being carved by hand. For what purpose, I know not. What the tree species is, who the commission is for, and whether this is to celebrate a particular event, I know not. But have a look at this extraordinary video yourself – go to <https://9gag.com/gag/anM8ZYb?ref=pn.mw>

Jigs for Sharpening Gouges

Gouges and chisels need sharpening to an angle – one issue is how to get that angle right. The steps for sharpening skew chisels, and gouges, are roughly the same as they are for flat chisels. First, flatten the back of the skew or the pod (concave curve) of the gouge. Then sharpen the bevel, working your way up through finer and finer abrasives. Finally, remove the burr that forms at the cutting edge.

However, because the shapes of these tools are more complex than flat chisels, it's harder to maintain the bevel angle. You must either feel the angle or devise some method of holding the blade. And it takes so long to do it all by hand that it's tempting to start the process by using a grinding wheel. The best of these are slow running, water-cooled wheels, the best of which is the Tormek range, but they come at a huge price – up to £600 or more! Use your fast-running bench grinder beast and you risk overheating the tool edge, whatever stone you have on the wheel, which will spoil the temper, so do this with care. Most of us have little choice unless we want to spend weeks at the hand-grinding stone, so here are some ideas for jigs to use with your grinder to start that process off, after which you can finish with a hand stone. Many think the best angle is about 25 degrees. Learned tomes suggest a more acute angle for softer woods, with a greater angle for hard woods. But which of us is going to change the angle on all our gouges to do this? I think it unlikely. Like everything in life, things tend to be a compromise. The hand-made jigs will at least get you off to the right start – cheap and indispensable. Make one of those shown below, or take these pictures as inspiration for your own design.



To the left from https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/343610646567038465/?utm_campaign=rdpins&e_t=275b9ba6545f40edb045b85a790ac794&utm_content=343610646567038465&utm_source=31&utm_term=5&utm_medium=2004



Pictures to the left from https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/343610646567038442/?utm_campaign=rdpins&e_t=275b9ba6545f40edb045b85a790ac794&utm_content=343610646567038442&utm_source=31&utm_term=4&utm_medium=2004



The above from <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/328762841546268408/>

Make Do and Mend

Don't know what to do with your old credit card? Make it into a glue spreader, of course!. The other photo is of a pair of 'Bench Dogs' (to hold items while working with them on your bench) both from <https://atelierdubricoleur.wordpress.com/tools-index/>



Wildlife in Wood



July 2018: More feathers have been roughed out and the details on the back and shoulders has started.



August 2015: Head detail and eyes have been added.



See <http://www.wildlifeinwood.com/> where the website shows a range of wildlife carvings, with shots from the bare wood to finished product in easy stages. Fascinating to see how the carvings develop.

Go to <http://www.wildlifeinwood.com/works-in-progress.html>



A life size Barred Owl created from one piece of Birch wood. Photos from early stage (March 2017) to final completed piece (November 2017).



June 2016: Painting is finished.



May 2016: Another new carving. This piece is carved from Birch. A Spotted Owl that I'm also trying to finish for the Walk in the Woods Art Fair.



Norman

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Norman Wilkins, a former staunch member of the Woodentops. Norman was a thinker and an innovator. Indeed, it was he who first came up with the idea of intermediate 'No-Frills' meetings in between our main meetings. And after founder Mick Cuomo retired as Club Leader, it was Norman who was the driving force behind the shows we used to hold, culminating in large events at Cooling Nursery which attracted huge interest.

Norman also developed, and maintained, at no cost to the Club, our first website. He also identified and suggested various procedural improvements to the Club's operations. As well as being a member of the Woodentops, Norman was also in the Splinter Group, a bunch of hardy Woodentop carvers who meet to carve regularly in each other's homes.

Norman was a spirited and talented carver, who will be very sadly missed by his carving friends.



Needle Files From Peter Paces

Member and exceptional carver Peter Paces writes;

I am back from a recent visit to the Czech Republic and by popular demand have bought a number of the rounded toolmaker's needle files. I had gone mad and have bought too many, and as they were not cheap, I advertise them on the eBay for a vastly inflated price. However, they will be available to the members for 8 quid each, which is actually how much I paid for them in the first place! There are two "grades" - very fine and medium and they are ideal for cleaning out and finishing concave surfaces, something not easily done by other means.

If you want one of these great little files, you can contact Peter to get one – ppaces@googlemail.com – or he does come to the Club from time to time so you can see him there.



Norwegian Woodcarver

I can't find who he is or exactly what he is carving, though the similarity to our Paul is perhaps uncanny, albeit a much older man. Maybe he was Paul's age when he started this project, who knows.

The image is from <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/8c/26/c9/8c26c9ece4997c161f919913520688e7.jpg>

And it's entitled 'Norwegian Carver'.



Did You Know?

Our Christmas Meal is fast approaching – it's on 8 December, 7 pm for 7.30pm, in our usual Hall. Everyone brings a dish or other contribution. Please let Ann know what your choice of dish to bring will be (her details below) Should be a great evening! If you are coming but haven't let Ann know, please do so as soon as you can! There is still an opportunity to contribute to the fare – ask Ann what you can bring. And of course bring partners.



For next year, our subscription will cost an additional £10 for those not in the BWA, as the BWA gives us money back for those members in that august body. (The subs are still a snip, and we remain the best value club in town).



The monthly raffles to raise money for our new gazebo are underway. Last month, a mallet was the prize.. The 'contribution box' for coffees and cakes in our break, again to help raise pounds for our pergola, will start from December.

On Tuesday 27 November, Worshipful Company of Turners Show, help only once every two years, is being held at Carpenter's Hall, a few minutes from Moorgate. This outstanding Show has the best of craftsmanship and is free.

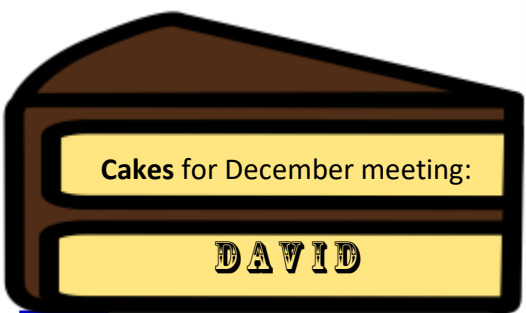
The BWA New Members Competition with a £250 prize closes 31 January 2019. See Ann for details.

The deadline for the Club's leaf-carving competition is now the February 2019 Club meeting. This leaf from <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/540220917779658174/>



For New Club Safety Rules: see Ann. In due course it will appear on the website.

Leader:	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
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The next Main Meeting
 (Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members) will be from
 9am to 1pm,
Saturday 1 December 2018
And our Christmas meal – Saturday 8 December

All our meeting dates and other information are shown on our website www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk



Members are reminded that if they demonstrate at an event on their own, they MUST tell Leader Ann to help ensure they are fully covered by the provisions of the insurance arrangements in place.