

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**

**Website:** [www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk](http://www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk)

**Facebook:** Woodentops Woodcarvers

**Twitter:** #carverofwood

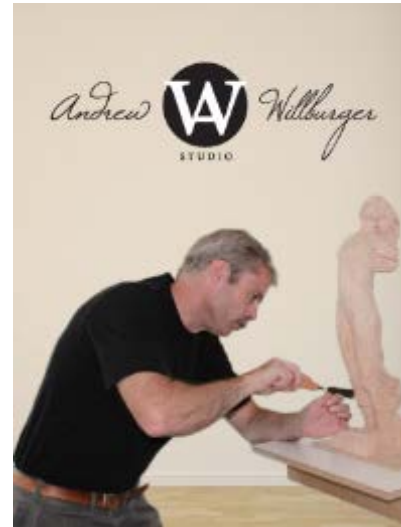
Click here to go  
to the new  
website!

## The Work of Carver Jim Willburger

Andrew writes on his website, [http://www.andrewwillburger.com/?page\\_id=1300](http://www.andrewwillburger.com/?page_id=1300):

Andrew Willburger was born in London, Ontario. His father, Ferdinand brought the art of woodcarving from his native Germany when he immigrated to Canada. Andrew learned to carve from his father, who made religious figures for his church and also created pieces as a hobby. After seeing and being inspired by Neil Cox's works in the early 1990s, Andrew began carving with the intent of entering pieces into competitions, where he met with success. From those initial victories came a drive to expand his carving abilities. He began attending seminars, both in Canada and abroad, and continued to earn high accolades from judges at competitions. He has taken seminars with highly-accomplished professional woodcarvers, including Neil Cox, Pietro Vinotti, and Ian Norbury. Andrew has also taken clay sculpting classes from Mohawk College, and attended seminars by artists Joe Dampf and Fred Zavadil. Having been entering competitions both nationally and internationally for over 20 years, Andrew has recently begun offering pieces for sale through his studio.

Andrew begins each carving by sculpting a clay model. After achieving the desired likeness in clay, he begins carving, using the "pointed method" to duplicate exactly the clay model in wood. From clay model to finished sculpture, larger pieces often take over 100 hours to complete.



# Making a wood working/carving bench



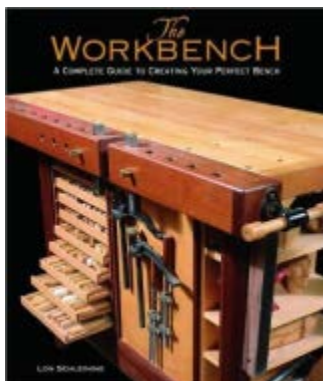
There are many different designs and ideas about carving benches. Here, a couple are presented. The first is from Andrew Willburger, website: <http://www.andrewwillburger.com/?p=1817>, (and whose work is shown on Page 1) who writes:

People have asked me about my carving bench. Many years ago I took a carving seminar and I used a similar bench and liked it a lot and got out my tape measure and took some measurements and when I got home drew up some plans. The tail-vice screw, clamps the table in place. The table can move up and down a total of 38 inches, but I usually only move it around 15 inches. Sometimes it is difficult to raise it due to the weight. I am just too lazy to take the carving and clamps off. The bench is made of maple. The base top has 13 pieces of wood sandwiched together by four 1/2 inch threaded rods with nuts and washers at each end. The bench I copied had a 4 foot by 4 foot base, but my workshop in my basement was too small for such a large base so I made it 2-1/2 feet by 3 feet.



The second is from <http://lumberjocks.com/projects/80492>, by someone called Jim from Italy, who writes:

'After taking a carving class in Austria, I came home and decided to make a bench top version of the school's large carving table out of scraps. I ended up making a second one for an article published in wood carving illustrated spring 2009 on how to make a small carving stand. They are really handy for holding work, the table swings so you can carve vertically or horizontally and they take a pounding. there are two holes in the base to bolt it to the bench. 4 years later and a lot of carving and they work like day one'. -- Jim, Marostica Italy



Or you could buy a book, this one, 'The Workbench' by Lon Schiening, has a huge amount of material. Details of the book to the right:

In this contemporary look at the world of workbenches, Lon Schiening takes us on a guided tour of a wide variety of classic, modern, and specialty benches and offers hundreds of options for choosing or building that perfect bench and its accessories. This is a fresh look at the classic subject with a focus on helping readers find the right bench and accessories for their needs. The object is to guide the reader through making critical choices, including whether to buy it or build it. Even long-time woodworkers dream of the perfect bench and the time to build it, and for them, the real enjoyment is in the planning. With nearly 300 photos and drawings, The Workbench provides in-depth information along with the inspiration to fulfil workshop dreams.



# Wood Carver from Burma

Woodentops has a presence on Facebook – look for **Woodentops Wood Carvers** if you have a Facebook account.

One of the things about Facebook is that users can give as much or as little information about themselves as they like.

One person who 'befriended me on Facebook has only the name **Wood Carver**. All I know about him from Facebook is that his or her name is ဘာမ္မိ မရ ဝိဇ္ဇာ

I know he works as a woodcarver, that he studied at

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that he lives in Mandalay and comes from Amarapura – both in **Myanmar**, formerly **Burma**.

But I also know that this person, from what he or she has posted on Facebook, is also an incredible wood carver.

These are the two examples of his work that he has posted.

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If you haven't tried Facebook, I urge you to set up an account. The wealth of material there is stunning.

## JOKE

**Q:** Why do they call wood carving "whittling"?

**A:** Because you start with a bigger piece of wood, and you make it whittler.

**Comment:** mumble grumble ...*lowest form of whitt*



# Miscellany

## Another One Bites The Dust

We understand that security is important, but does this seem quite right or proportional? Isn't there another way?

Sunday Telegraph 8 Jan 2017

# Landmark tree makes way for terror barriers

A CITY centre's landmark tree is to be cut down so that council bosses can replace it with concrete barriers to protect against a Berlin-style terror attack.

The century-old London plane tree, in Birmingham's Centenary Square, faces the axe to make way for special benches to be built in an effort to increase public security.

Originally it had been thought the tree was being cut down to allow for a Metro tram extension.



The London plane tree which will be cut down to make way for protective concrete benches

A New Take on Sharpening Tools  
(from a 1956 book by Ronald Searle, 'Back to the Slaughterhouse', one of the St Trinians series)



"And this is Rachel—our head girl."

**Reminder:**  
Remember to clear up your chippings when you leave the Hall after a meeting



**Cakes:**  
February:  
**Rebecca**

March:  
**Terry**

**Thank you**  
for doing this!



## T'Committee

Leader:	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	Cathy Thomas	01689 829646	Thomascathy@virginmedia.com
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Beverage provision	Mary Paddick	07929 051373	Marye.paddick@sky.com
Committee	Terry Vincent	01689 827680	terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk
Committee	Tom Young	01689 851500	thomas.young67@ntlworld.com



The next 2017 Main Meeting  
(Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members) will be from 9am to 1pm,  
**Saturday 4 January 2017**

There will be additional mid-month meetings in 2017  
(No frills, just carving)  
**All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays**  
**2017 Dates will be advised in due course.**  
**Watch this space!**