

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

 Facebook: Woodentops Woodcarvers

 Twitter: #carverofwood

And some months,
mid-month meetings
too! –see last page

Happy New Year!

This joyous shot of Santa's Elves making delightful wooden gifts was captured by friend of the Club Bernard Tetchner.

The Splinter Group, to which Bernard refers in his picture, is a sub-group of the Woodentops which meets regularly both to carve and (I'm told) to put the world to rights.

Bernard's talents at photo manipulation are improving all the time. Hopefully, with these skills, in due course he will make us all 20 years younger in his next effort. We're hoping...

(And see the next page for find out what some of us looked like then!)



Lets start with a puzzle....'Impossible Nail in Woodblock'.

The following was taken from <http://www.instructables.com/id/Impossible-Nail-in-Wooden-Block/>. The author writes:



This is my take on a classic puzzling object that woodworkers have been making for years.

The nail is solid and has not been bent, cut, glued, or modified in any way. It slides back and forth within the block of wood, and the total length of the nail is longer than 2x the diameter of each hole.

The wood has not been boiled and squished or bent, as some people may suggest.

I made this because I love little objects that seem to defy physics and logic. They intrigue people and encourage them to think and reason, and I find it very interesting to observe how people respond when confronted with things like this.

Want to know how it was done? Ask one of the more experienced carvers in the group at our next meeting, or check out the website above.

Ripley

Just a reminder that the Woodentops is a member of **Bromley Arts Centre at Ripley**, as like-minded organisations supporting arts and crafts in the borough. Ripley is in Sundridge Avenue, Bromley and offers a huge range of courses there, including:

- Language Course in Arabic
- Language Course in Italian
- Practical French Lessons for improvers or intermediate.
- Spanish Club –Creative Writing Group
- Yoga, Breathing, Relaxation and Meditation classes -
- Iyana Yoga
- Ballet Sculpt – Wednesday @ 9.15 am (75mins) £10,
- Skylark School of Dance.
- Thai Chi
- Qi Gong & Tai Ji Classes
- Mindfulness Meditation
- WEA Bromley Branch
- Short lands Poetry Circle
- Ripley Recitals Association
- Bromley Music Makers
- Art Tuition for Adults
- Bromley Art Society
- Art Classes
- *And much more!!* Including recitals, exhibitions and World Cinema nights. Why not try this terrific Centre?



Find the Ripley brochure at
<http://www.bromleyarts.com/ripley-arts-centre/>

Blast from the Past

The shot below was published in the News Shopper in 2002. Apart from thinking: 'Umm.. About time we thought about more promotions like this..', I wonder how many current group members you can spot? How young we all looked then! Seems the Club kindly contributed to Bromley Hydrotherapy Pool and on the back of that, as a bonus, we got this great publicity.

Wood you believe it?

FANTASTIC news about the hydrotherapy pool at Orpington Hospital! writes Mary Barber.

It looks amazing! We have been to visit the new facility and it is incredible what has been achieved with the cash raised for the Bromley Hydrotherapy Pool Appeal.

The pool is now complete except for a few items which will be installed shortly. These



include specially-made benches for the changing rooms and shower curtains.

It won't be long before hundreds of patients with mobility problems will experience the full benefit of this essential facility.

Support

Well done to the thousands of people and organisations who have supported the appeal which was launched by the Friends of Orpington Hospital with the support of the Times and user groups.

Bromley's Hospital NHS Trust has also made a contribution to the hydrotherapy pool which has been built by contractor JJ Jagger.

Aldwyn Davies, chairman of the appeal, said: "We are delighted the pool will be opening soon."

Among those who have contributed to the appeal fund are a group of expert wood-



SPLINTER GROUP: The talented woodcarvers.

NE/9184/14aC

carvers. In fact, there were lots of chips off the old block when they got together last Saturday. About 400 filed in to watch the 20 expert craftsmen and women at work at St John's United Reformed Church in Orpington.

They were treated to different displays, which included wood whittling, marquetry and needlework. Among the exhibitors was David Wright, who showed off a working clock, which had been carved out of a solid six-inch block of wood, and a knife, fork and spoon set.

Rimas Metlovas, from Lithuania, who has lived in this country with his family for six years, also carved wooden masks for visitors.

All the proceeds from the event will be shared equally between the Bromley Hydrotherapy Pool Appeal and St John's, in

Lynwood Grove.

Organiser Michael Cuomo said: "It was incredible. It was packed all the time."

"People were going around and around the hall looking at the displays."

"I don't think they wanted to leave."



DETAIL: Freda Brighton.
 NE/9184/22AC

David Esterly, Carver and Writer

Adapted from <https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/tag/grinling-gibbons/> and <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lost-Carving-Journey-Heart-Making/dp/0670023809>

In 1974, academic David Esterly encountered a lime wood carving by the seventeenth-century master Grinling Gibbons in a London church. He gave up English literature and chose to dedicate his life to the art of carving: its physical control, intricate beauty and intellectual demands. He devoted himself to the art of high-relief carving, and in the process became not merely the foremost Gibbons expert, but a master carver himself.

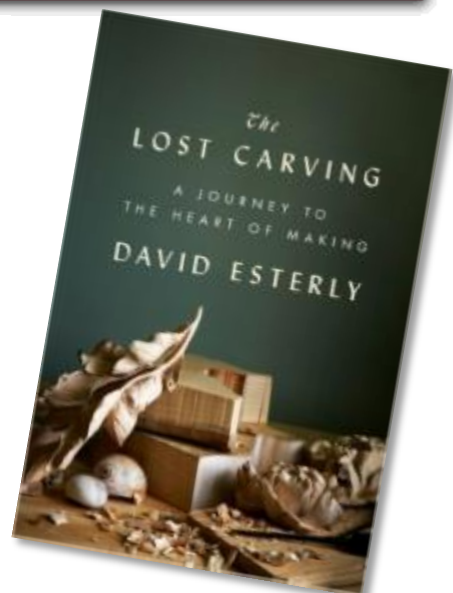
After a fire at Hampton Court Palace in 1986 destroyed much of Gibbons' masterpiece, the job fell to David Esterly to restore Gibbons' work to its former glory. It turned out to be the most challenging year in his life, forcing him to question his abilities and delve deeply into what it means to make something well.

He wrote a book about this. **The Lost Carving: A Journey to the Heart of Making.** This details Esterly's restoration of a Gibbons drop at Hampton Court, but it is more than this. "I was apprenticed to a phantom, and lived among mysteries," he writes of that time, and the memoir is indeed as much about engagement with the past and the preservation of ancient arts, as it is one man's journey. He breathes life into the world of wood carving and deftly illustrates the union of man and material necessary to create a lasting work of art. He also describes the determination, concentration and skill that go into achieving any form of excellence. You can buy **The Lost Carving: A Journey to the Heart of Making** from good booksellers.

Forty years on, David is the foremost practitioner of Gibbons' technique and which revolutionised ornamental sculpture in the late 1600s. His official website is <http://www.davidesterly.com/> and it contains many very impressive carvings.



He has written a second book: **Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving.** David's first-hand experience of lime wood foliage carving gives him unprecedented insight into Gibbons' methods and techniques. Unique photographs illustrate those procedures, while spectacular interior shots show carvings in their settings. Esterly places Gibbons in his historical context, and shows how the carver's invention of his style is linked with the dramatic events of his early life. Tools, workshop practice, materials and finished are also dealt with in detail, giving the book a special appeal for practitioners as well as for those with interest in 17th-century interiors and the decorative arts generally.



Club News

Website: The Club's new website is up and running – but if you don't give Clive your views, we won't be able to improve it further and get maximum benefit from it. Go to www.woodentopsewoodcarvers.co.uk

It was agreed that the Club would continue subscribing to Bromley Arts Council, given its like-minded aims.

It was agreed that mid-month no-frills meetings should continue in 2017. Many members love these as the full meeting time can be spent on pure carving with no distractions. Members should note that each such extra meeting requires at least 5-6 people to attend to make viable.

The latest on our Christmas meal is that it is now likely to be held mid-February, at Hisar Turkish Restaurant, 101 High Street Orpington. Cathy is pursuing.



A representative from the Worshipful company of Joiners came to an Autumn meeting. Anyone interested in more information about this organisation should speak to **Ann**.

Cakes:
January: Ann
February Rebecca
March: Terry



Tidiness: The hall management mention for us to clear all chippings away after each meeting. I think we are pretty good at this, so this is just a very gentle reminder



Future planning:

- ☐ We may have a stand at the Summer Cudham Show to promote our work: we need to apply in March.
Action: Ann
- ☐ No news as yet on the Hever Summer Show and whether there will be a facility for us to have a stall there.

Leader:	<i>Ann High</i>	<i>01689 859617</i>	<i>highmorton@tiscali.co.uk</i>
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The first 2017 Main Meeting
(Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members) will be from
9am to 1pm,
Saturday 7 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!