

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



Florence

The city of Florence in Tuscany, Italy is bristling with Renaissance art. As a part of this artistic explosion, it might be assumed that in this great city there would be a plethora of items from in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries carved in wood to be found. Sadly, this would seem not to be the case - at least so far as public displays go.

Whilst this is no doubt partly because wood deteriorates if not well looked after, the singular lack of wooden artefacts in any of the museums in Florence was to me a mystery. Has anyone got thoughts on why this is the case? The few beautiful wood items were door decorations, of which one is shown to the right, a frieze to the door to the magnificent Duomo cathedral. Overleaf are roundels, also on an ancient door.

But PS – Despite the lack of wooden art, Florence is highly recommended for a weekend break anyway!

The Duomo



Roundels from Florence

These roundels might provide some inspiration to carving a high relief object. Why not have a go! They were all on just one glorious door. At first sight, they all look the same, but on careful inspection it is clear that all are in fact entirely different. NB If you go to Florence and want to find these for yourself – they are on a door to the Cathedral ticket booth (the Duomo).

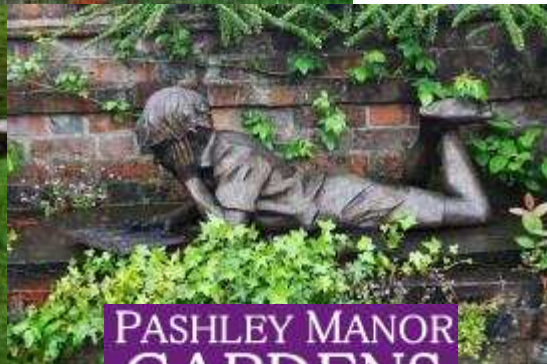


If these are too complicated, start with something simpler, such as something like the one below (in the Crypt of the Duomo)



Pashley Manor Gardens

Pashley Manor Gardens is a charming venue for a day out in Kent – beautiful gardens not too far from Orpington. Address: Pashley Manor Gardens, TN5 7HE on the B2099 between the A21 and Ticehurst Village Look it up at <http://www.pashleymanorgardens.com>. The gardens are peppered with lovely sculptures, in stone, wood and other materials. A selection is below. Well worth a visit on a summer's day.



Non-wood sculptures:
Clockwise from left –Glass Slipper by Philip Jackson, Youth by Anne Hogben, Morning Stretch by Andy Thomas, Second boy [no artist named on piece]

Below: Also in the garden were a number of 'wood sprites', or similar, with no artist named but prices and titles attached.



A selection of wood-carvings:
Clockwise from left –Vali - £104, Iona, £210, Cerne, £232, Heart (unpriced). Artist unnamed

The prices might seem encouraging to budding commercial wood carvers, (one might almost say a little ambitious) and it was unclear as to how many had been sold...



Club Stuff and Events

*Ripley Garden Party – the home of Bromley Arts Council
12.30-5pm 20 August 2015*

Venue: Ripley, Sundridge Avenue, Bromley Kent

Celebrating their 50th Anniversary

**Arts, Crafts, Demonstrations, Bouncy Castle, Punch & Judy, BBQ,
Bar, Strawberries + cream**

& much more... Fun for all the family!!

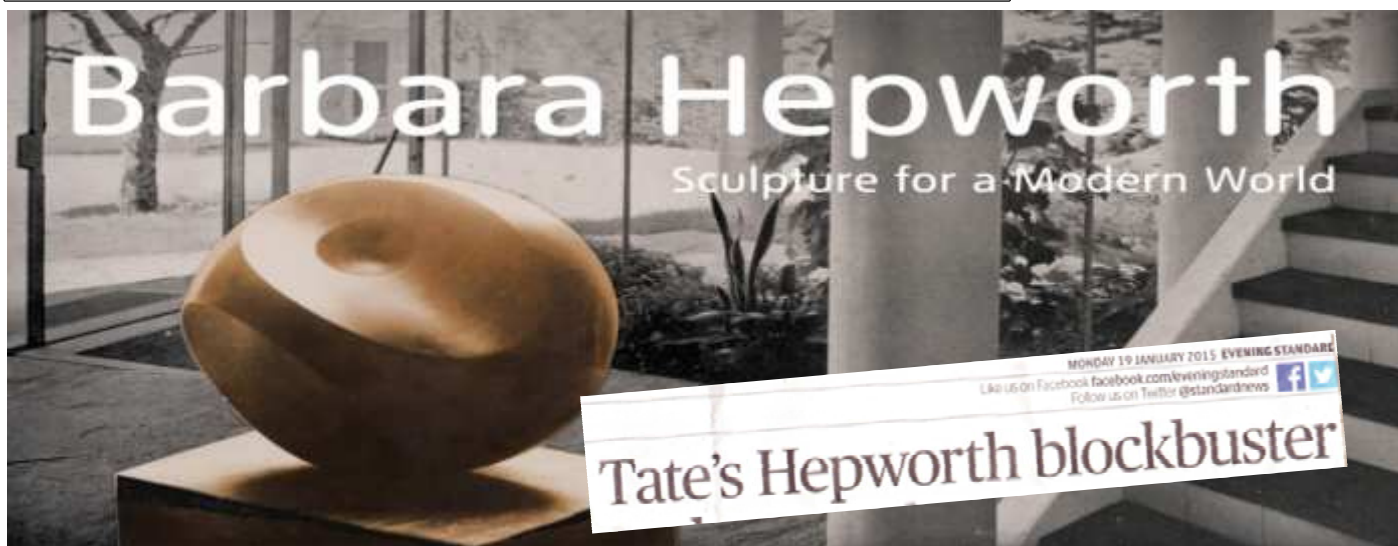
Woodentops will be demonstrating there. Do help if you can



*Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for a Modern World
24 June – 25 October 2015*

Venue: Tate Britain Gallery, London

This major retrospective charts Hepworth's progress from her earliest surviving carvings to the large-scale bronzes of the 1960s. **Among the highlights are four large sculptures in sumptuous African hardwood – the high point of her post-war carving career – reunited in one room**



*European Woodworking Show
12th & 13th September 2015*

Venue: Cressing Temple Barns, Essex, UK

The show is a mix of woodworking demonstrations backed by trade stands. The focus is primarily on hand tool skills although some small workshop machinery will also be on sale at the show.

This historic venue is an attraction in itself and with good quality food & drink outlets dotted throughout the site for visitors to enjoy. EWS 2015 boasts the widest range of demonstrators to be found at any woodworking show in Europe. **Also there is a carving competition Why not enter? [See overleaf]**



And further afield..

*The Woodlands Country Show
11 and 12 July 2015*

Venue: Royal Victoria Country Park, Southampton

Packed with exhibits, activities and entertainment for all. There's everything from falconry displays to ferret racing and from chutneys to chainsaws! There are live demonstrations and "have-a-go" areas. The Crafts marquee and trade stands will be offering a wealth of treasures and there's a wonderful array of food and drink to tempt you. A family show is not complete without some entertainment, music and refreshments. There really is a huge variety of delightful attractions to appeal to both rural and urban tastes.



Carving Competition

Wood Carving Competition

The Essex Region of the British Woodcarvers Association (BWA) hosted this iconic “must enter” event at the European Woodworking Show in 2012 and 2013. And it’s running again this year, at the same European Woodworking Show (see previous page for full details)

The carvings by BWA members will compete with each other for a splendid trophy and great prizes of vouchers donated by Classic Hand Tools worth **£500** for the winner **£300** for second and **£200** for third place.

At the 2013 event, the total number of members of the public who visited the competition and helped us by casting their votes was a massive 1592 beating the previous year by nearly 300. The organisers were delighted to report that the public interest in woodcarving continues to grow – as they say, ‘very encouraging and heart warming to us members of the BWA’.

Rules

In order to encourage as many BWA members as possible to enter this year the rules have once more been kept simple and minimal:-

- Only BWA members may submit entries to the competition.
- There is **NO** submission fee/s for your carving/s.
- There are **NO** restrictions on size, subject or number of entries per member.
- Your entry/entries **MUST** have been completed in the two years leading up to the show.
- Your entry must not have been entered in this event previously.

Please ensure that you state if your carving makes use of someone else’s design or is a copy of someone else’s carving. This is so that we can give appropriate credit (for the design) if we use a photograph of your carving in any publicity material.

We very much hope you are able to attend the show which you will enjoy and is very much worth the effort of travelling a distance to join in the fun. You will then be able to bring your wonderful creations with you, to submit them and be part of the event.

If you intend to submit entries for the competition, which will be just as tastefully presented as in 2013 and fully protected during the period of the show, you need to arrive with your carvings by 9.00am on the 12th September. (If you have to travel a distance and arrive late your submission will not be rejected but you may, of course, miss out in the voting process)

If you wish to enter but are unable to attend the show we can arrange to receive postal entries and ensure their safekeeping and ultimately return them to you after the event. If you have any questions regarding postal entries or indeed the competition in general please contact either:- Ken Veal by telephone on 01277 899684, e-mail on ken.veal@btinternet.com or Brian Pitcher by telephone on 01277 651672, e-mail on bj.pitcher@talktalk.net

PS Please note that our own international super-star Peter Paces won this completion last time!

Why not have a go?



Cake-maker for our July meeting: Derek

Want some decent carving wood (for free)? Maura writes:
Sadly, I am cutting down a large ornamental cherry tree and wondered if the wood is of use to any of your members (collection only). I am in the Croydon area. Please let me know asap: 020 8649 9006. You can leave a message if I am out. Regards Maura



Missive from Bromley Arts Council, of which the Woodentops is a member

Thank you to all those that attended our Affiliates' Reception on Sunday 14th June 2015 and for your continued support of our charity, Bromley Arts Council, and of our lovely Arts Centre [Ripley, Sundridge Avenue, Bromley].

As you are aware, **the funding which we previously received from LBB, finally ceased in the last financial year** so, apart from our Affiliates' subscriptions, we now rely almost entirely for our income, on hiring the rooms in Ripley Arts Centre. For those of you who were unable to attend on 14th June, we would welcome the opportunity of showing you our splendid **new facilities on the first floor of Ripley; some of these rooms may prove suitable for your own organisation or for personal hire by your members.** Please call Ripley if you want to be shown round - tel: 020 8464 5816

We are **also seeking sponsorship**, both for our Annual Directory and to boost our general funds. If you know of any companies, organisations or individuals who may be able to help, do please let us know. We are anxious for Bromley Arts Council and Ripley Arts Centre to flourish in order that we can serve the Arts and the Community in and around Bromley. We can only succeed in this with your active support.

We would welcome the pleasure of your company at Bromley Arts Council's AGM which takes place at 7.30pm on 14th July 2015 at Ripley Arts Centre.

Jean Kingham, Voluntary Admin Assistant, Bromley Arts Council, Tel: 020 8464 5816

2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

4 Jul

1 Aug

5 Sep

3 Oct

7 Nov

5 Dec

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Ann



Next meeting : 4 July