

www.thewoodentops.co.uk

WOODENTOPS

July 2016

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



Facebook: Woodentops Woodcarvers

Twitter: #carverofwood



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

Celia Dickson



Abadiânia Entities
Lime - private collection, Devon



Peacock, 2012
Sapele - POA



Whorl, 2010
Lime - Private Collection, Wiltshire

Celia Dickson writes on her website: (<http://www.celiadickson.co.uk/page/biography>):

My grandfather was a carpenter and a jazz musician in the 1930s. I take after him with his red hair, temperament, and his love of working with wood.

I've always been passionate about being outside, colour, texture, painting, drawing, gardening, photography, theatre, and music. I have a very visual memory and my art is always my medicine in one form or another.

I have used many mediums over the last 25 years as a professional artist, but currently I hand carve large wooden reliefs for both private commissions and exhibitions. I have exhibited extensively in London and South West England.

Miscellany

In the last edition of this newsletter I mentioned that it's always worth keeping an eye out for interesting carvings. I spotted this innovative pillar supporting a bar in **Logrono, Northern Spain**, It brings a literal meaning to the idea of a table leg. This expertly carved pair of pins certainly brings a smile to many a visitor and no doubt adds to the sales of the local Rioja. Questions have been asked as to whether the model has hollow legs. But nicely carved. We appreciate the skill, whoever you were, Senor Carver.
DON'T HAVE COLD FEET - SEND ME YOUR PICTURES OF CARVINGS YOU SEE



This stock of grubbed-up roots was spotted at Sundridge Park Tennis Club. It's still there.

Using natural objects to inspire carvings is increasingly popular (driftwood carvings) so if you want to try your hand pop down to the Club and grab yourself a root (ff Garden Road, Bromley).



Innovative bench design.

From

<https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/303500462366759881/>

Thinking of re-modelling your kitchen? Get your carving tools out and make yourself a kitchen sink. (Warning: probably a bit more than a weekend job)

From

https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/238339005255954548/?utm_campaign=popular_pins&e_t=7a4a9d21ae07409099cb8254e7d406e0&utm_content=238339005255954548&utm_source=31&utm_term=3&utm_medium=2012



AGM Report

During the June Club meeting, our AGM was held.

Ann High (Leader) reported that in the previous year the Club had provided a presence at a Country Fair (16 May) and at the Ripley Garden Party (August Bank Holiday). She reported that several members (Tom, Clive, Stuart) had contributed to the BWA egg-carving competition and mentioned that a similar event was being held by the BWA in the year to come.

Ann said the new extra 'No Frills' meetings had proved to be a success. She reported that the Christmas meal had, for the first time, been held at a local hostelry, The Chelsfield, and Ann thanked Terry for organising this. It had gone very well. She also thanked Derek for tutoring and inspiring new members, Mary for coffee/milk provision and Clive for the Newsletter.

Ann said this was a very special Club, in which everyone had different skills which they shared. People supported each other and we all learned from each other. She said she enjoyed being Leader and looked forward to the year ahead. *(Ann's full report is available to all paid-up members).*

Cathy Thomas (Treasurer) presented the Accounts. She said they were in a healthy state, despite Hall charges being increased slightly and the extra costs of the additional 'No Frills' meetings. *(Cathy's full report is available to all paid-up members).*

Clive Nash (Newsletter Editor and Secretary) presented his report. He said the Newsletter continues to be published nearly every month and is distributed to members and to 'friends' of the Club. He pleaded with members and others to contribute to the Newsletter and asked again if Committee Members would provide *just one article each a year* to the News sheet. *(We live in hope - Ed.)* He pointed out that the Club now has a presence on Twitter – **CarverofWood** - and Facebook - **Woodentops Wood Carvers** . A domain name is being purchased to enable a new website to be produced, and thanks were given to former member Sue Medley who will assist here. He reminded Club members that there is a flyer available to ALL of them to use to help publicise the Club, available from Clive.

Nominations to the Committee were received and approved. There are no changes to Committee membership or roles for 2016-17. Details are as shown on the back page.

Any Other Business

There was some discussion about the format and structure of meetings, and whether the formal business section of each meeting (nicknamed the 'séance', and held after coffee at each main meeting) was always required. It was agreed that various ways to help reduce the formality and shorten the business section of the meetings would be explored, including, possibly, having the 'séance' in the kitchen area, bringing coffee and cake back to the main room for the business meeting, and/or not having a 'séance' unless strictly required.

Various initiatives were discussed. **It was agreed that:**

- New member projects would be produced and promoted, including a variety of new pattern ideas. It was hoped that new member starter wood pieces would be produced – perhaps with Peter Paces' starter pieces; seahorse, penguin (he to be approached)
- A survey of members and previous members would be carried out (Clive to initiate)
- The location of the Club 'library' would be reviewed, The Club has a good stock of carving books but these are not accessible. Perhaps they could be stored in the Church basement and some books be displayed weekly? To be explored.
- Membership badges so people (particularly newcomers) know who everyone is –agreed. Tom to take forward.
- All members to bring in carvings for display each month (There is now no table shortage as there was while another group used an adjacent hall on Saturday mornings and which, during that time, limited display options)
- Stocks of carving would to be provided for sale (Derek to organise)

The possibility of the Club subscribing to Woodcarving Magazine was also discussed but not finally agreed.



Woodentops Flyer available from Clive



Report from Bill

One-time Club member Bill Prickett carves wood for a living. The below is taken from his Newsletter. Find Bill at info@billprickett.co.uk , www.billprickett.co.uk



Leslie Prickett writes: Bill has yet again been short-listed for the **David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year Exhibition** with his Ridley's Turtle. Ridley's Turtle Skull (right) which has been hand carved from birch plywood. The short listed entries (chosen from hundreds of international submissions) are brought together to make one of the top wildlife art exhibitions of the year, and is always worth a visit.

This turtle skull was the first in a collection of endangered species skulls, which Bill is in the process of carving .



The Harpy Eagle Skull (left) is carved from chestnut burr. This chestnut burr is an excellent example of beautifully figured wood. Such unusual pieces of burr, of a good size, are hard to come by.

You have almost certainly seen burrs on trees, but perhaps not realised just how stunning it can look when exploited in a sympathetic way.

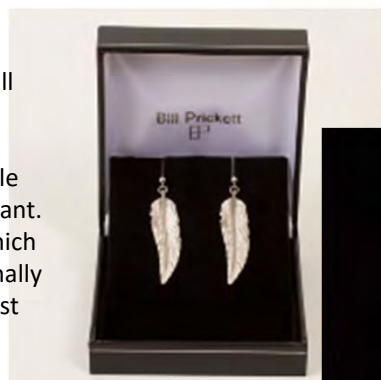


A new addition to Bill's growing marine collection is the John Dory, right. It has a most beautiful silhouette, and Bill has used a variety of textured finishes to give an extra dimension to the sculpture.



Silver Jewellery

Bill has added two more feathers (a small and medium size) to his jewellery collection. The medium is available as a brooch - and the small feather is available as earrings. Both are available as a pendant. There is also a new Dolphin Pendant, which is priced at £175. The Dolphin was originally carved from box wood, and the silver cast has turned out beautifully.



Club Stuff

Cakes

July: Jerome/Jane

August: Derek



Ann has been contacted by someone who has some carving tools to dispose of. Apparently these are mostly Russian tools. Anyone interesting in purchasing these should contact Ann.

The BWA is running both an Egg carving competition (as last year) and a spoon-carving competition in 2016-17. Details from Ann.

2016 <u>Main</u> Meetings (Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members, occasional guest speakers) All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays	2016 <u>Additional</u> Meetings (No frills, just carving) All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays
2 July	<i>16 July</i>
6 August	<i>20 August</i>
3 September	<i>17 September</i>
1 October	<i>15 October</i>
6 November	<i>[No extra November meeting]</i>
3 December	<i>[No extra December meeting]</i>

Leader:	<i>Ann High</i>	<i>01689 859617</i>	<i>highmorton@tiscali.co.uk</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Cathy Thomas</i>	<i>01689 829646</i>	<i>Thomascathy@virginmedia.com</i>
<i>Secretary and Newsletter</i>	<i>Clive Nash</i>	<i>0208 4648902</i>	<i>clivewoodentops@outlook.com</i>
<i>Beverages</i>	<i>Mary Paddick</i>	<i>07929 051373</i>	<i>Marye.paddick@sky.com</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Terry Vincent</i>	<i>01689 827680</i>	<i>terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Tom Young</i>	<i>01689 851500</i>	<i>thomas.young67@ntlworld.com</i>

