

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



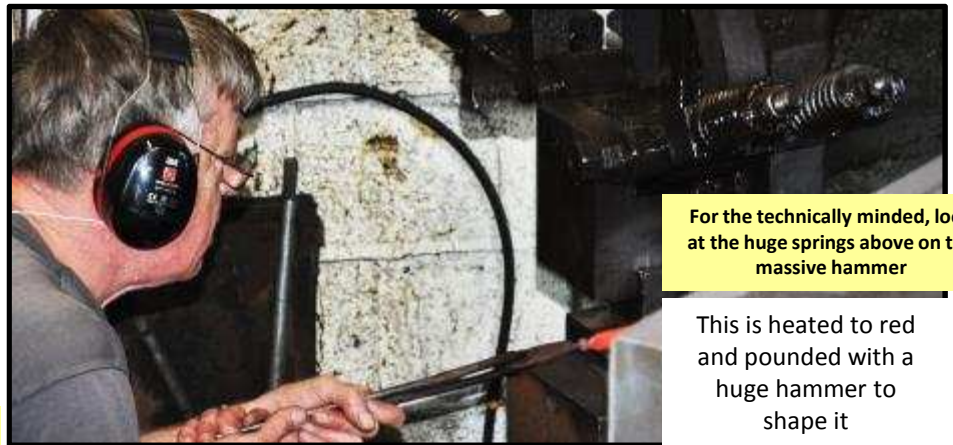
## Ashley Iles Factory Visit –the creation of a gouge

Last month's report described our visit to the Ashley Iles factory. This month describes how they make gouges there. There are two main stages – **forging** and **grinding**. Below are the **steps that take place for forging**



It all starts with a lump of steel – what Tony Iles told us is called a **mood**

For the technically minded, GH 15 steel bar is used



For the technically minded, look at the huge springs above on the massive hammer

This is heated to red and pounded with a huge hammer to shape it



While still hot, the rough shape is refined by hand



Heat treating now takes place

For the technically minded, heated to 80 tempered at 2750C for an hour then quenched in water



The gouge now has to be re-straightened



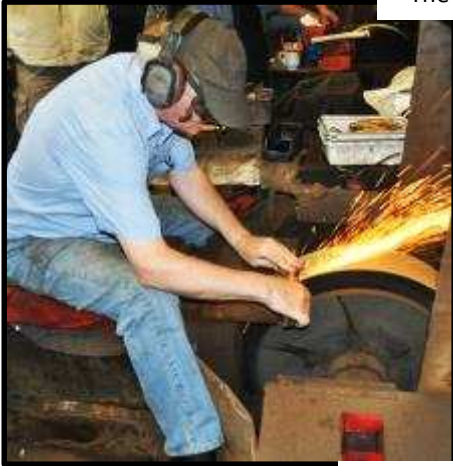
# Making a Gouge at Ashley Iles – Grinding

After forging, grinding takes place

THE GRINDING SHOP!! WHERE GOOD TOOLS ARE BORN

The sign above the door to the Grinding Shop

The gouge is first ground on a huge water cooled wheel



A range of sanding belts is then available – used in skilled hands



With grinding complete, the tool is finished and a handle put on.



Maureen then marks the finished blade with the Ashley Iles logo



We look on in admiration, as another day's task list in the life of the Ashley Iles factory is completed!



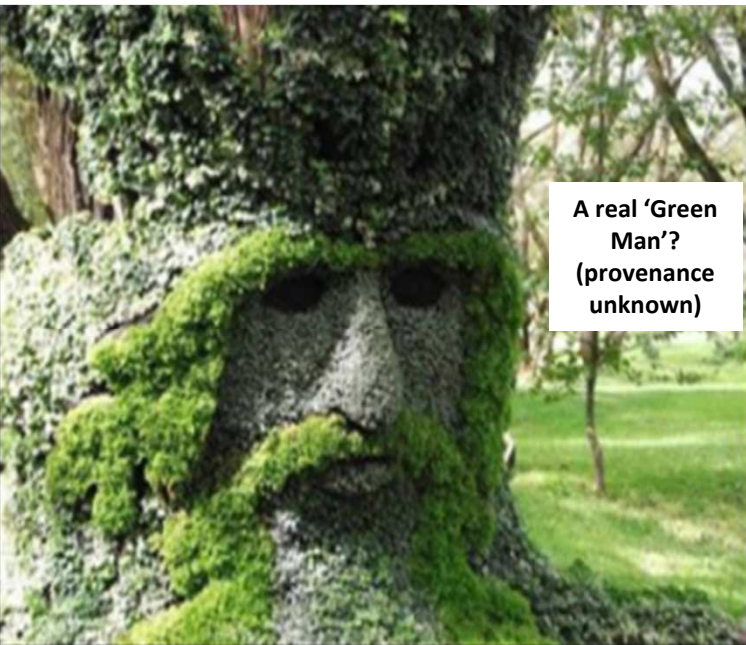


# Old Fashioned Toy Shop



These carved items were spied in a delightful toyshop (akin to Pinocchio's birthplace!) in Florence, Italy

And a couple of other curiosities...



A real 'Green Man'?  
(provenance unknown)



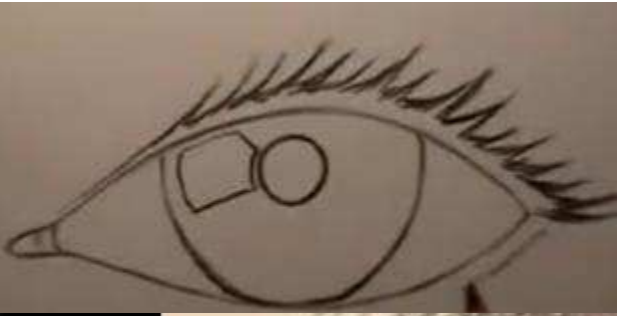
A real wicker bike (provenance unknown)



# Things from the Web

Thanks to member **Behrouz** for the items below. If **YOU** have items to share, LET ME KNOW!!!

This website from Miki Falls has a neat video showing how to draw the perfect eye. Now eyes are hard to carve too, so the hints on the video are very helpful. The website address is shown in the third image.



And this shows a clever and weird optical illusion –it's actually just a drawing on the hand. The website address would not copy over but let me know if you want to have it and I will email it to you.

Hand Art 3D



# AGM

The below are ABRIDGED notes of the AGM, held 2 May 2015. Full Notes will be sent to all members of the Group.

## **ABRIDGED Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the British Woodcarvers Association (South East London and West Kent Group): 'The Woodentops' held on Saturday 2 May 2015**

### **Report by Leader**

- Ann High said much more went on behind the scenes, for the Leader, than people might imagine. In particular she mentioned the huge number of requests for various carvings by the public that were constantly referred to her.
- Ann outlined the busy year for the group, which included, alongside the regular monthly meetings, participating in a number of external events, including
  - Ripley Summer Fair
  - The Hever Castle Crafts show.In both, great interest from the public was shown.
- Ann described the successful Christmas lunch where 'bring you own' fare meant a wide range of delicious dishes for all and the successful trip to Ashley Isles Carving Tool Factory the previous month.
- Ann also mentioned the visit to the Detling Craft Show, which a number of members attended, and also a recent talk she and Derek Tryhorn gave to the Bromley Partially-Sighted Group, enthusiastically received.
- Ann thanked the Committee for its work in the year and all Club members too for participating in the activities of the Club.
- The Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster presented their reports.

### **Committee**

- Mary Paddick was not re-standing as Treasurer. The following nominations were proposed and agreed:
  - Leader: Ann High
  - Treasurer: Cathy Thomas
  - Clive Nash: Secretary and Newsletter Editor
  - Mary Paddick: Catering
  - Terry Vincent: Committee Member
  - Tom Young: Committee Member
- There were no other nominations.
- There was a resounding Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Committee under Ann's leadership.

June 2015

**Perhaps you can try to find something of interest to all of us over the summer - maybe an interesting carving you see on your travels (take a picture), an exhibition, or a show. Let me know and it will go in the Newsletter. Send items to: [clive@the.woodentops.co.uk](mailto:clive@the.woodentops.co.uk)**

***Remember: this is Your magazine***



**SHOWS:**

*From 2 June 2015 at the Tate Gallery:  
Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Exhibition*

*Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2015:*

*The European Woodworking Show, Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Braintree, CM77 8PD Web site: europeanwoodworkingshow.eu Remember: at its last competition, Woodentop member Peter Paces won First prize here*

**Agreed by the Group at its May meeting:**

- Membership cards and name badges for our meetings (as we all forget from time to time!)
- Fortnightly meetings would be a good thing if feasible – Cathy looking into hall availability for a mid-month, more informal carving session meeting, and costs.
- Christmas meal: external venues being investigated – possibilities include the Royal Oak (Ann calling them) the Hussar restaurant (Cathy)
- Members to be asked if they are happy to share their details (email, phone no) with other members. Clive coordinating.

**And Finally...**



AUTO REPAIR PRICE LIST	
Ping-Ping-Ping	35.00
Plunk-Ping-Plunk	50.00
Klunk-Ping-Klunk	125.00
Thud-Klunk-Thud	200.00
Clank-Thud-Klank	325.00

**Cake rota:**

June: Jerome  
July: Derek

**2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays**

6 Jun	4 Jul	1 Aug	5 Sep	3 Oct	7 Nov	5 Dec
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<b>Our Leader:</b>	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	Cathy Thomas	01689 829646	homasacathy@virginmedia.com
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Committee	Terry Vincent	01689 827680	terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk
Committee	Tom Young	01689 851500	tom@thewoodentops.co.uk
Webmaster	Norman Wilkins	01689878603	norman@thewoodentops.co.uk



**Next meeting : 6 June**

