

**Woodcarvers in
South East London**

WOODENTOPS Newsletter

March 2017

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

f Facebook: Woodentops Woodcarvers

t Twitter: #carverofwood

Click here to go
to the new
website!

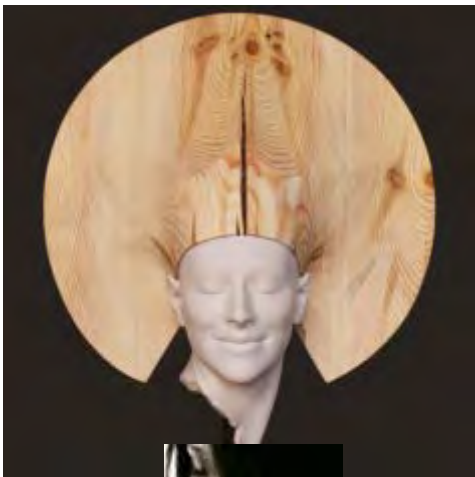
The Work of Pamela Lorca Mendoza

From Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/lapame.io>

Her Facebook profile states: 'Worked at Fine Artist! Pretty fine if you ask me!'



And who is she? All that is seemingly available from the web that this talented person is skilled in a wide range of media, from sculpture in wood, clay or stone to painting. Check her out on Google yourself. The feeling shown in the wood sculpture to the right is exceptional



Old Tools Never Die

What happens to the hand tools owned and loved by carvers who either no longer wish to carve, are no longer able to carve or who sadly pass away? No doubt, a good proportion are recycled through ebay, but equally it's sad to think that many go to land refill, perhaps sent by grieving relatives who don't have either the time to deal with an overwhelming number of issues to sort out when someone dies, or the knowledge to know that such items can and will be cherished by others who share the same hobby.

From time to time, some tools come to the Woodentops Club, kindly donated by ex-members or their families, and these are always gratefully received by members. It's a win-win situation –

- The families are glad that tools have found a useful home;
- The families are pleased they don't have the problem of disposal, as tools are often collected by Club members and
- The new owners are delighted with their bargains

Men in Sheds

There is a growing organisation called **Men in Sheds** (sorry about the sexism but that's just the name, women welcome too!) which seems to cater for (mostly) blokes who need a creative outlet. Whist I'm sure many could better find it through the Woodentops, Men in Sheds isn't just about wood, but a range of activities. They could always do with surplus tools. Details are at <http://menssheds.org.uk> And there are three 'Sheds' in our area:

Shed Heaven – Grove Park

Lewisham, London, SE12 9PU

In the process of building its two workshops, one for woodwork and the other for music.

Contact: Stephen Kenny Email: stephen@seenyc.org Tel: 020 8857 7980

Men in Sheds Penge

Penge, London, SE20 7PR

Open Wednesdays

Contact: Wendy Smith Email: wsmith@ageukbandg.org.uk Tel: 02082-943017 [Website](#)

Men in Sheds Eltham

Sherard Road, London SE9 6EX

Opening times: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00, Sat 10.00-16.00. Wide range of activities. Age 55+

Contact: Pauline Cahill Email: pcahill@ageukbandg.org.uk



Charity Shops

It's a mystery why Charity Shops never have tools of any description on sale. 'Oh,' you might say, 'It's health and safety..

But many, many tools are completely safe – measuring devices, set squares, tool stands, bench locks – I could go on. If anyone could solve the mystery as to why Charity Shops never have these, do let me know. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

And Finally....

Apologies for being morbid, but why not mention in your *Will* your valuable tools and Will them to those who you know would like them? This saves some of the agony for relatives and helps ensure that all that valuable stuff goes to a good home. Maybe helps you rest easy.

Facebook- What's It All About?

Facebook is not only part of the 'Social Network for individuals, but its also helpful for organisations and clubs. I coined the '**Woodentops Woodcarvers**' name for our Facebook identity, expecting just a few like-minded individuals to take an interest, but over the past few weeks things have really mushroomed – now **this Facebook page has well over 400 friends** – that's people who carve wood or love wood carving. They are from all over the world, from India to America, Peru to Paris, Russia to Rotherham. What a rich seam of woodcarving and related information we can now tap through these carvers. Whether or not you have Facebook, look up **Woodentops Woodcarvers** on it. And if you are already a member of Facebook, befriend this site.

You'll see I promote our Club website on the Facebook page (www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk), so we should get more so-called 'Hits' on the website from the so-called Facebook friends. This in turn means that our website gets higher up the rankings of websites as more people look at it.

And the benefit of that? It means that when someone searches for woodcarving (or a related term) on Google or other search engine there is more likelihood that they see OUR webpage rather than someone else's, and therefore be encouraged, if they live close, to coming along to the Orpington Club.



Products and Making Things



Sandits look like cotton buds but have abrasive instead of cotton ends. And what a good idea! Use them to get into those tight corners to smooth off your latest masterpiece. It's the sort of product that's so good that you think: 'Why hasn't anyone thought of that before?' A warning, though – don't get them confused with that Johnson product in the bathroom and use them in your nose or ears – could be painful!

Build Your Own Carving Stand

Make your own custom version of a \$500 stand for only \$50

By Jim Farley

Adjust the height to reduce fatigue and back strain.

Work attaches with a carver's screw for complete accessibility.

Sturdy table tilts a full 90°.

Quickly secures to your workbench with clamps or bench dogs.

Those who read this newsletter every month will know that last month I featured an item on building your own carving stand. Two possibilities were provided out of the myriad number of designs and ideas available.

Well, I've since found a complete guide to making one of these options. Its at:

<http://woodarchivist.com/607-build-carving-stand/> and what a good idea. A completed version is shown on the left.

I expect to see some of these around the Woodentops Club soon and further afield!

If not, there will be questions...



And there's more! This jig for pillar drills. Many drill press tables are too small for woodworking because they were designed for metalworking. Also, standard drill press tables don't have a fence or an insert to back up holes drilled all the way through a piece of wood. This jig solves these problems! Find it at <https://www.familyhandyman.com/woodworking/tips/dirt-simple-woodworking-jigs-you-need>

..And if you need a jig to make joints for your new carving stand, try **Ligna tools** at <http://www.lignatool.at/>

Or **Kreg** pocket hole cutters, jigs and other must-have kit. Check them out at <https://www.kregtool.com/?intl=1>

You can buy such kit direct from the makers, from **Amazon** or though other tool suppliers (personally, I find **Axminster Tools** very good)

A joke to fill the space →



Letter

Dear Clive,
Thanks for the latest Woodentops Newsletter . January 2017 . Much appreciated !
Glad to see The Woodentops Website is improving as time goes by . Well done to all those who have contributed in anyway to enhance , improve and also spent many (voluntary) hours in helping the committee to produce a professional Website .
Well done
Bernard Tetchner



Another Carver to Admire: Xavier Puente Valadell



How does this guy imagine and do this? Check him out at https://www.facebook.com/xavi.puentevilardell/photos?lst=100010282150742%3A100001829676178%3A1486301897&source_ref=pb_friends_tl



The Lonely Carver

Many carvers work alone in their sheds or workshop. It can be a lonely life. But here's the answer! Carve your own soulmate! No need to say 'I aint got no body' ever again. See this website for more details.

<https://www.facebook.com/InterestingVP/photos/a.678513778987091.1073741861.625409637630839/678513795653756/?type=3&theater>

Time Tested Tools

Time Tested Tools is an organisation devoted to old tools and their restoration. Could be very useful for some members of the Club! (Just joking!!)

Seriously, though, this is a very useful and interesting website. Find it at

http://www.timetestedtools.net/?subscribe=success#blog_subscription-2

A Small Selection of Members' Work (for more, see the website)



From top:

Miniature chair and miniature chest, **Ann**
Horses head, Oak leaf cluster, Winged lion, **David**
Nude (work in progress), **Derek**
Miniature table, **Ann**
Swan (work in progress), **David**
Horse's head (work in progress) **Mary**



Rogues Gallery (or a small selection of our members)



Clockwise from top left: Rebecca, Buz, Jane, Jerome, Derek, Mary, Paul



Club Matters

Picture far right above from facebook page of Десислава Недялкова



Our Meal Out!

A stalwart band of carvers and their families enjoyed a great meal out at Turkish Restaurant Hizar in Orpington one Sunday in early February. A great time was had by all – some even carved spare corks from wine bottles, such was their enthusiasm for the noble art (pictures next time)

Thanks to Cathy for arranging this excellent Sunday lunchtime treat

Cakes at March Main Meeting: Terry
Cakes for April: Jerome

Subs now due to Cathy!
Prices held at £20!!

T'Committee

Leader:	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	Cathy Thomas	01689 829646	Thomascathy@virginmedia.com
Secretary/ Newsletter	Clive Nash	0208 4648902	clivewoodentops@outlook.com
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 March 2017

There will be additional mid-month meetings in 2017
(No frills, no coffee/cake just pure carving)
All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays
Next 'No Frills' Meeting: Saturday 18 February