

A Club in South East London
for people interested
in wood carving

Visitors are very welcome

WOODENTOPS

Newsletter

March 2019

We meet at:
St Johns United Reform Church Hall
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

We meet on:
The first Saturday of each month
with additional 'carve-only' meetings
on many other months.

Full details of our meetings and
much more on our website.

Website:
www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk

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#Carverofwood

Club Leaf Carving Competition: The Winner!

The winning entry to our
leaf-carving competition was
by Jane.

Congratulations on a great
design, well executed.
Second prize went to Stuart
(below, left) and third was
David with his excellent
carving.

Other entries are
shown below.

The competition
subject for next
year will be announced
shortly.

Jane wins vouchers for
Ashley Isles tools.



David



Stuart



Cathy



Derek



Laurie



Paul



Clive

The Renowned Carver Who Was Better than Gibbons (But have you Ever Heard of Him?) WILLIAM GIBBS ROGERS (1792 - 1875)

Who was this man? Well, William Rogers was an eminent 19th century woodcarver whose work is often compared to Grinling Gibbons. And yet today, he is heard of little. Why is this, given that he is arguably superior to Gibbons in his skill? Let me know if you have any ideas. Rogers studied to the works of Gibbons and mastered that carver's art to the point where allegedly only an experienced eye could spot a difference.

Born in Dover, Rogers was apprenticed in 1807 to David McLauchlan, carver and gilder, of Printing House Square, London. Whilst in McLauchlan's workshop Rogers developed a strong interest in the work of Grinling Gibbons. His interest and skill in carving in the style of Gibbons led him, in later life, to restore a number of Gibbon's carvings, for example those at Belton House, Grantham; Melbury; Chatsworth; and Trinity College, Cambridge.

The Royal
Collection: Detail
Cradle The Royal
Collection: Cradle
Creator: William
Gibbs Rogers
(carver) Creation
Date: 1850
Materials: Carved
boxwood Made
for Queen
Victoria i.e.
Princess Louise
https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=william+gibbs+rogers&source=inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKFwjg79SBmcPgAhUJTRUIHQypDRMQ_AUIDygC&biw=1536&bih=770&dpr=1.25#imgdii=z6aLQOtezeCDIM:&imgsrc=RmOTuTawSQOraM



THE LATE MR. ROGERS, WOOD CARVER.
<https://www.ebay.ie/itm/WILLIAM-GIBBS-ROGERS-Wood-Carver-Antique-Print-1875-/351298289731>



Rogers set up his workshop in Soho by 1817 and quickly established a great reputation as a carver. He was employed by the Royal Family at Carlton House (c.1817), at the Brighton Pavilion (carvings of monsters for the throne room), and worked at Kensington Palace for the Duke of Sussex in 1831. In 1842 Rogers presented a boxwood spoon to Queen Victoria as a gift for the Prince of Wales and in 1850 he made a boxwood cradle for £330 which was commissioned by the Queen for Princess Louise. It was shown at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and he was awarded both a prize and a service medal. The cradle still exists and is presently displayed at the Kensington Palace Museum in London.

This biographical note is based on the obituary for Rogers which was published in the 'Art Journal', in July 1875, pp. 206-207, and from https://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=ann_1400509710 and <https://woodcarverschildren.weebly.com/index.html>

WILLIAM GIBBS ROGERS (cont.)

From the Vancouver SUN 17 Nov 2006:

(<https://www.pressreader.com/>)

I am curious about the value of my Victorian carved walnut davenport desk (below left). It was carved by my great great-great-great-grandfather, William Gibbs Rogers, an eminent 19th-century English woodcarver. It measures about 30 inches high, 29 inches wide and 22 inches deep.

William Gibbs Rogers(1792-1875)was highly regarded as the most eminent woodcarver of 19th-century England. Following in the footsteps of carver Grinling Gibbons (1648-1720), Rogers devoted his studies to the works of Grinling Gibbons and was regarded by his contemporaries as the equal of Gibbons, if not his superior. Rogers was responsible for continuing the tradition of repairing Gibbons carvings. Rogers produced works for the House of Lords, the library of Trinity College, Cambridge and the Church of St. Michael. He also boasts commissions for the likes of the Sultan of the Palace of Constantinople. In 1850 Rogers was elected to the committee for carrying out the scheme of the Great Exhibition of 1851andreceivedacommission from Queen Victoria to carve a cradle in boxwood in the Italian style. This beautiful item is displayed in the Kensington Palace Museum in London. He displayed several items at the Great Exhibition, including frames with grotesque masks intricately carved. These masks are almost identical to those incorporated in the davenport desk. Although the dates on the back of the davenport indicate that the desk was carved the same year as the Exhibition, we are unable to prove that this was actually carved for the Exhibition — although the dates would tie in perfectly. There is no doubt as to the quality of the desk: The initials FLR and the date 1851 appear on the heavily carved back of the davenport, along with beautiful displays of carved fruit, masks and faces. The gallery has two cherubs carved at either side, but by far the most spectacular carving is to the front where Rogers skill is shown at its finest— a pair of winged griffins. This desk has four full width, hidden drawers found behind a hinged panel, and above a pull out pen compartment shows clearly the stamp of W.G Rogers. G.E., Abbotsford Hugh Bulmer, of Maynards Fine Art Auctioneers, says this piece of Victorian furniture of great quality, originality and provenance. The Davenport is a piece of furniture discussed on numerous occasions in this column, epitomizing the mass production of furniture in Victorian England. This desk owes nothing to mass production, but has been created by a craftsman at the top of his trade, a well-known figure who was proud enough of his handiwork to sign it. The highest accolade an item of 19th-century furniture may be granted is that it is termed to be of "Exhibition Quality," and although there is as yet no proof that this particular piece was exhibited as such, William Gibbs Rogers certainly exhibited for and gained Royal favour. His wonderful boxwood crib, made for Queen Victoria, is still on display at Kensington Palace Museum in London. As to value, it is hard to place a definitive amount on such a piece. Only by bringing it to the market place will you find out the demand. However as a presale estimate \$30,000 – \$40,000 is in no way unreasonable.

ABOVE: Style Guide:
Classical and
Renaissance Revival
- Victoria and Albert
Museum Bracket
William Harry Rogers
(designer) William
Gibbs Rogers
(carver) About 1853
Carved boxwood



Time Flies - in Wood



The astonishing piece (left) is by [Agac uzerinde oyma](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/455874181210355/photos/rpp.455874181210355/1394766173987813/?type=3&theater>

Some of our Carvers

Ouch! Those bad backs and straining biceps!

Some of our stalwarts getting down to it at the February Club meeting.

Clockwise from the top, Stuart, Mary, David and Jerome.



Carving Joke

Even though
I put on a happy face,
I feel so empty inside



Wrong time of year and it's not strictly wood that's being carved, but hey, it's not a bad one.

From <http://joyreactor.com/tag/carving/3>

Subscriptions

Subs are now due for 2019. The cost is a great value £30. For those not in the BWA there will be an additional £10 fee, as the BWA gives us money back for all those of our members who are in the BWA. (The subs are still a snip, and we remain the best value club in town. And if you are in the BWA, you get a highly informative quarterly magazine and other benefits).

Please give your dosh to Cathy (all her details below).



Club Matters

Gazebo Fund

We are trying to have a raffle most months, proceeds going towards a new gazebo for when the Club exhibits at outdoor shows.

We also plan to seek donations for coffee and cakes (when someone has sorted a collecting tin...!)

And the fund is growing at a good rate, standing already at £93. We need two or three times this figure to get a decent gazebo that will withstand being erected and dismantled by vigorous members, at sows where can be unforgiving, so we will carry on collecting until we reach the figure we need.



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|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| 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 | Tom Young | 01689 851500 | thomas.young67@ntlworld.com |

Cakes for March meeting:

Mary



The next Main Meeting
(Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests
and potential new members) will be from
9am to 1pm,
Saturday 2 March 2019

All our meeting dates and other information are shown on
our website www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk

Members are reminded that if they demonstrate at an event on their own,
they **MUST** tell Leader Ann to help ensure they are fully covered by the
provisions of the insurance arrangements in place.