

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

Visitors are very welcome

Website:
www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk

 Woodentops Wood Carvers
 #Carverofwood

WOODENTOPS

Newsletter

March 2020

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.

Born in Karaganda,
Kazakhstan, Sergey
graduated from art school
and worked as a carver in a
carpentry shop. At the
moment he is engaged in
wood carving small
sculpture, reliefs and
decorative pieces.



Dream
49 x 40 cm, pine tree/carving, 2015



More on Sergey at :
<https://m.artnow.ru/index.html?author&aid=10322&gid=4&p=4>

The Carvings of Sergey Chechenov, Kazakhstan



Hare
30 x 30 cm



Boar
6 x 8 cm, 2014

From
<https://m.artnow.ru/img.html?id=941975>
10 x 20 cm, 2014



Surprising References to Carving 1: Christ - a Woodcarver?

When delving recently into one of my several woodcarving books, I was most surprised to notice that writer EJ Tangerman comments that the bible is riddled with references to woodcarving. Tangerman, as you probably know a respected American woodcarving author, was writing in his book 'Whittling and Woodcarving'.

Tangerman reminds us that the Lord told Moses that Bezaleel knew how to carve timber (Exodus xxxi-1 to 5) and that in Solomon's temple, 'the cedar of the house ..was carved with knots and open flowers...' (I Kings vi- 18).

His other examples include:

- The very many references in the bible to graven images (Lev xxvi-1 and others) and to carved images (I Kings vi-18 and others);
- Rachel stealing her father's images, which would, he says, have been wood or she could not have been able to carry them (Genesis xxxi-1);
- The burning of idols (only wooden ones would burn) (II Kings x-26 and others) and
- The numerous references to 'workers in wood' (Exodus xxx-1 and others).

But the biggest surprise for me was Tangerman's most unexpected assertion. Jesus Christ, he states, was actually not a carpenter, but a woodcarver. He argues that wood was far too scarce in Nazareth to permit its use for anything other than interior decoration and carving and that the original Greek word was wrongly translated as 'carpenter' when correctly it should have been 'smith', an artisan.

So those idealised pictures such as those above may not be that accurate. And on reflection, it has to be said that carving and modelling wood demands much more forethought, planning and expertise in execution than simple carpentry, so it is surely unsurprising that Christ would have excelled at it.



Surprising References to Carving 2: The Fugitive Carver

An Advertisement.

ON Saturday night, Jan. 28. 1659. Edward Horwood was wilfully murdered by Paul Folliffe, who is a tall black man with full Lips, black curled Hair, a grey Suit and Jippocoat. His Suit is trimmed with black Ribbons, and Silver twist. By profession a Joyner; he is a very good Carpenter, and an excellent Carver, both upon Wood and Stone: He is also a very good Painter, and an Instrument maker for Mufick, and can play very well thereon. If any person or persons do apprehend him, they are desired to secure him, and to send word to the Bailiff of Buckingham, and he or they shall be well rewarded.

The somewhat chilling poster above, from 1659, was spotted in the Docklands Museum, London. It is part of a large display about slavery and refers to a fugitive who has supposedly committed murder. What is interesting is that the best way to describe this alleged way perpetrator was to set out his apparent great skill carving wood and stone!

So look for a good carver, and there's your man....

I understand that the accused was a slave or an ex-slave.

Increasing pressure to abolish the horrific slave trade in the UK is well captured in this House of Commons statement in 1823 by MP Thomas Buxton.

'We make the man worthless, and, because he is worthless, we retain him as a slave. We make him a brute, and then allege his brutality, the valid reason for withholding his rights.'

Thomas Fowell Buxton, speech in the House of Commons, May 1823

Tools...



A nice chest full of tools for wood seen at London Docklands Museum. Well worth a visit. It is a huge (and free!) permanent exhibition in London's docklands.



Emergency sharpening

Help! You've got carving to do but nothing on which to sharpen your edges.

I read this somewhere as the solution:

The bottom of almost any **coffee cup** or **ceramic plate** is a good makeshift sharpening stone when you're in short of regular sharpening tools or car doors.

After stoning, work blade back and forth **on the top of your vehicle window** to get diamond edge.

The edge of that car window is good for "fine tuning" the edge after honing it on a flipped coffee cup.
So there you are – on excuse not to carve!

!



Pillar Sculpture

This strange half-human, half-beast is on the bottom of a pillar in the Sacre Coeur Cathedral in Paris.

Not wood, but a great stone representation well worth copying in wood if anyone has the talent – and patience.



Club Staff

SPRING into action and show us YOUR interpretation of **Movement**. You have till **Easter 2020** to complete your wooden work of art

Project: Movement



'No Frills' meetings for 2020 will all take place on the **THIRD Saturday** of each month except in June when it will be on **27 June**. Something to add to your diary now!



From now on we plan a **monthly raffle** to boost our coffers. If you have anything worth raffling, that you would like to donate, please bring it along to the next meeting

Your Club subscription is now due: for the great price of £35 for the whole year including teas and coffees and cake. Please bring cheques or cash to the meeting, if you have not paid already.



The Club mallet is STILL missing: has anyone picked it up by mistake?

T'Committee

Leader:	Ann High	01689 859617	highmorton@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	Andrew Cheesman	07843 274363	andrew.cheesman@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary/ Newsletter	Clive Nash	0208 4648902	clivewoodentops@outlook.com
Catering	Jane and Paul Mannering	01622 297834	paulmannering62@gmail.com slipknotdesign7@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Tom Young	01689 851500	thomas.young67@ntlworld.com

Cakes for March Meeting

You know who you are

The next **Main Meeting** (Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members) will be from 9am to 1pm, **Saturday 7 March 2020**
Next 'No Frills' Meeting: 16 March 2020

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.