

We meet at:

St John's United Reformed Church Hall  
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

## Newsletter

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

## Preventing Your Gouges Going Rusty: Using Oils

Edge tools are made of carbon steel (of one type or another). One problem with carbon steel is that it rusts. Rusting is unsightly, it tends to dull edges prematurely (ultimately the tool get pitted as well) and, just as bad, the rust can significantly mark your work.

I was furious when my expensive gouges showed signs of rust after a damp winter, even when protected in a tool box in a garage, so I've looked around for an answer. There are several. One is a hermetically-sealed tool case, another is the use of moisture extracting pouches of silica gel (or special moisture-absorbing powders or papers) and a third is to use special oils to coat and protect. (And, by the way, these three solutions are not mutually exclusive.)

In seeking something natural which won't harm the environment, I came across **Camellia Oil**. This is used in Japan to protect carbon steel blades and tools from rusting. UK supplier Rutlands say:

*Until recently, Camellia oil was a well kept Japanese secret. Popular with the Samurai for protecting and cleaning their swords, Camellia oil has been used in Japan for centuries. Its very light, low viscous formula along with the fact that it does not dry or become resinous over time makes it the perfect oil for protecting iron and steel tools from corrosion.*

Rutlands blend their Camellia oil with paraffin oil to produce an oil that can be used for lubricating, sharpening and cleaning as well as for protection from rust. Certainly it's a non-toxic formula and for this reason this oil is ideal for protecting the blades of, for example, kitchen knives as well. Camellia oil is a natural oil made from the seeds of the camellia tree. The seeds are cultivated in Asia and pressed to produce the camellia oil. The oil is very light and unlike other natural oils, it is apparently not likely to dry and gum up.

But not everyone is a fan of camellia oil. The jury is still out. For example, the blog at:

<http://www.sawmillcreek.org/showthread.php?93472-What-s-so-special-about-Camellia-Oil>, has comments like:

- *The stuff used for anti-rust is a Japanese thing and it is not pure camellia oil- it is a blend with machine oil. It will not go rancid like some cooking oils you would get from the grocer. There are hundreds of products out there-some work better than others-such as lanolin.*

and

- *Camellia has slight "drying" properties - in other words, it will harden over a long period of exposure to air. This isn't all that big a deal if you're regularly using the tool, but may require removal with a solvent like Naptha, Mineral Spirits or Lacquer Thinner if the tool's been sitting for a long period. And yeah, as far as rust protection, just about any oil will do that, because they're all hydrophobic (water-hating). Silicone oils are the extreme end of the hydrophobicity spectrum, but most woodworkers don't like to use them as they will "fish-eye" a film finish like lacquer if they remain on the wood at finishing time.*

ALSO Camellia oil is quite expensive. Rutlands (<http://www.rutlands.co.uk/sp+knives-knife-maintenance-camellia-oil-camellia-oil-japanese-camellia-oil-240ml+jp2100>) charges £16.95 a bottle.

I don't want to use silicone oil or other products which can harm the environment, or mineral oils that stain my hands and workpiece and/or could result in an allergy. I have found a solution. I've tried - with great success - **Green Oil**. This is an environmentally-friendly bike chain lubricant which, so far as I can see, does everything a good protecting oil should do without harming the environment - or your pocket - and it works just as well on tools as it does on bicycles. It's available from good bike shops or direct from Green Oil UK at <http://greenoil.cc> or an on-line retailer such as [cyclesurgery.com](http://cyclesurgery.com). At little more than a fiver, it's a great deal and a super product, in my view. Why not try it?

Further tip: Green Oil, camellia and similar oils can also use it on hand planes to help lubricate the base. When you start to feel some friction on the bottom of a plane a quick spray followed by a light buff with a cloth should result in much less effort in hand-planing.



Camellia Oil



Green Oil  
'Wet Chain'  
Lubricant,  
works well  
on tools.

## BWA



The BWA is the British Woodcarvers Association and to which many of us subscribe. This year the **BWA's AGM** is on Saturday 7 May at Riding school, Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire AL9 5HX. Unfortunately, this coincides with our next regular Saturday meeting, but if anyone is interested is going, Chair Ann will have full details. There will be interesting demonstrations, workshops and discussions.

Also this year the BWA also will have a presence at the **BBC Countryfile Live Show** at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. This will be for the four days of the **4th to the 7th of August**.

The BWA tent/marquee will be exclusive to individual members or regions who would like to display and demonstrate the craft of carving. This is the first year of what is to become a regular event.

The show is open to the public from 09:30 until 18:00 on Thursday the 4th August and the same times on Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th. On Sunday the 7th the times are 09:30 until 17:00.

Setting up day is Wednesday the 3rd. Entry for exhibitors is free and Car Park passes will be available.

This is a marvellous opportunity to promote the BWA and the Regions as the show is expected to have 80 thousand visitors and between 6 to 8million viewers on TV. The show also enjoys the services of a dedicated marketing team.

Could well be that our group would like to participate. It is likely to be great fun and an opportunity to display our work and creative talents to a wider audience. **Would you be interested?** The matter will be discussed at our next meeting, but if you would like to make your views known, do contact our leader, Ann. Her details are on the back page.

## Club Shots



Behrouz admires Rebecca's work. Rebecca is providing the cakes for our forthcoming May meeting. We look forward to them!



Paul, Derek and Jane swap ideas

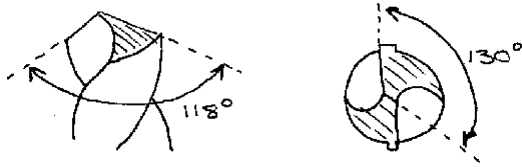


## Miscellany

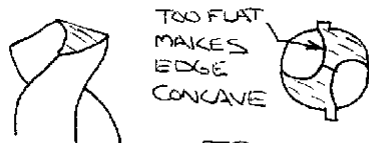
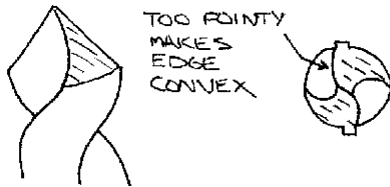
This is for the nerds among us (including me!) who often have to drill wood and other materials with drill bits that often get blunt. The following gives an idea of sharpening drill bits for steel – but the same principles apply to wood. You will need a bench grinder to sharpen drill bits (using a file is possible but tedious) but in the long run it's much more cost effective to invest in one of these (for about £30) than buying a new drill whenever your old ones get blunt.

From <http://www.x-eng.co.uk/images/drilling/sharp1.gif>:

FOR DRILLING MILD STEEL

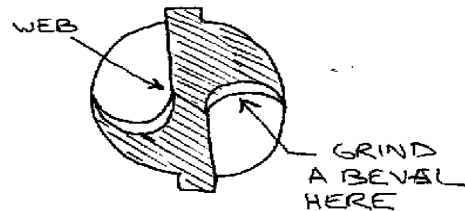


ITS TRICKY TO MEASURE 118° POINT ANGLE, HOWEVER DRILLS ARE FLUTED TO PRODUCE STRAIGHT CUTTING LIPS (EDGES) AT 118°



SJR 2006

WEB THINNING



IF YOU ARE DRILLING WITH A BIG BIT, YOU CAN INCREASE THE CUTTING SPEED BY THINNING THE WEB. THE POINTY BIT OF A DRILL IS REALLY ONLY BEING PUSHED THROUGH THE METAL. THE CUTTING EDGES ON EITHER SIDE ARE ACTUALLY REMOVING MATERIAL. BY THINNING THE WEB, YOU ARE REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE BIT BEING PUSHED & INC THE SIZE OF THE CUTTING EDGES.

S-J-R 2006

Photo by Karl Brodowsky on Wikimedia

### Fish to Inspire



Spotted in Singapore Botanic Gardens, these animated fish in a deep relief pattern are a great representation of how to bring a subject to life. How about trying to replicate something similar I your next wood carving

### The Man Who Made Things Out of Trees



If you are looking to give a friend or loved one an idea for a birthday or anniversary present, try this one. It has much about the history of trees as well as some carving ideas

and much more. Available from Amazon at [https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/1846148421/ref=pe\\_1087271\\_126306281\\_em\\_1p\\_0\\_1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/1846148421/ref=pe_1087271_126306281_em_1p_0_1) or from good booksellers.

## Club Output

Peter Paces' Girl with Hair. This is based, I believe, on a Silvikrin Shampoo poster. Hair is very tricky to carve. Peter does it so well.



Laurie's impressive and professional approach to casting:



1. The original wood carving



2. Resin casting with bronze filings placed on the surface of the cast on top of the resin



3. With white resin on top of the base resin (added prior to casting)



4. With different coloured resins carefully applied prior to casting



# India

Your Editor's recent holiday provided an opportunity to see a range of different carvings. Here are some samples (more in due course, no doubt!)

**Mamallapuram** is a town 60 km south of Chennai famous for its stone carvings. Dating back to the 7th-9th century, the vast and impressive structures are mostly carved straight out of granite and are among the oldest existing examples of Dravidian (South Indian) architecture. And they include humour - a holy man is depicted standing on one leg but elsewhere a cat is shown imitating him, and at the cat's feet are the rats imitating the cat. The depression which runs down the middle of this magnificent piece (to the left of the elephant's tusks) fills with water when it rains and becomes a living river in the sculpture. Impressive!



Rats imitate cat

Cat imitates Holy man

And how about this full size rhino – on sale at a roadside stall. Carved in solid stone (probably soapstone) it was a little to large for the air baggage allowance, but displayed a bargain price (in rupees). The smaller carvings (right) were tempting.



## Club Stuff

### Cakes for 7 May meeting:

Rebecca

*Please note, cake providers: no need to bring milk and sugar. Mary looks after that.*

- If any of you have yet to pay your 2016 subs, these are due to Cathy – capped yet again at the astoundingly good value cost of £20 per year – including all those new extra mid-Month meetings.
- If you update your email address, please let Clive know as soon as possible so that communications still reach you.

<b>2016 <u>Main</u> Meetings</b> <b>(Carving, coffee &amp; cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members, occasional guest speakers)</b> <b>All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays</b>	<b>2016 <u>Additional</u> Meetings</b> <b>(No frills, just carving)</b>  <b>All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays</b>
7 May	21 May
4 June	[No extra June meeting]
2 July	16 July
6 August	20 August
3 September	17 September
1 October	15 October
6 November	[No extra November meeting]
3 December	[No extra December meeting]

Note: it is planned that our AGM will take place midway though our 4 June meeting. It is hoped this will not take too long out of our carving time.

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

