



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

*Visitors are very welcome*

Website:  
[www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk](http://www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk)

 Woodentops Wood Carvers  
 #Carverofwood

# WOODENTOPS Newsletter

Oct/November  
2019

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.

## It's Halloween Time

This carved cat's head was above the entrance of the Chat Noir Club in Paris. Le Chat Noir ("The Black Cat") was a nineteenth-century night club in the bohemian Montmartre district of Paris. It opened in 1881 and closed in 1897. In it met many leading artists of the day, spearheading the Art Nouveau movement.



The Chat Noir was one of the first avant-garde cabarets where for the first time people from all social classes could meet together. The aristocracy and common people would eat, drink, talk, listen to music and come and go as they wished, and all artistic forms collaborated in a hospitable, friendly setting.

When I took the shot of the cat above, I thought it was a wood carving, but now I've enlarged it I realise it's not of wood but probably fashioned from painted fired pottery. But it's a good front sheet for this time of year, around Halloween time, and a very well executed piece, by Eugene Grasset (1845-1917), in about 1895. And it could well give you inspiration for a carved piece, with it's 'almost alive' look.

The cat to the right is not wood either, but papier-mache, attributed to Henri Cros, (1840-1907). He created the work in 1885 after being introduced into the Chat Noir cabaret by his brother Charles. He was both sculptor and painter.

Both works are in the Montmartre Museum, well worth visiting if you go to this lovely corner of Paris where many famous artists lived and worked (Van Gogh, Picasso, Renoir...the names go on).



## Cudham Show

Some of the stalwarts who represented the Club at the Cudham Show at the end of August are shown below. Exhibiting at fairs is a great way to get our name known, and to encourage new members to join, though it is a constant surprise just how many people express rapturous interest in the Club and its work and such shows, eagerly taking meeting times and contact details, but then how few of them actually ever turn up to a Club meeting, despite their earnest promises! But a good day was had by all, helped by the sun.



## Local Carvings



Golfers among you may know Chislehurst Golf Club. The Clubhouse is Camden Place, formerly home to Napoleon III and his wife, Empress Eugénie, who lived in exile at Camden Place in the 1870s. Apparently Queen Victoria used to come here by train to visit Princess Eugénie, alighting at Chislehurst station where there was a special waiting room for her.

Enter through the foyer of Camden Place and you are greeted by spectacular carvings on the walls and ceilings. (read more at [https://www.chislehurstgolfclub.co.uk/club/club history/imperial downfall](https://www.chislehurstgolfclub.co.uk/club/club%20history/imperial%20downfall))

This is yet another extraordinary building, and yet more gorgeous carvings, close to the Club. All part of the unrivalled heritage that Bromley has to offer.

It's Napoleon III that put Chislehurst on the map, and local names commemorating his time there abound, from Prince Imperial Way to the Imperial Arms pub.

By the way, The dining room of Chislehurst Golf Club has more spectacular carvings, which may be featured in a future edition of this newsletter.



Napoleon III



## (Slightly less) Local Carvings

Thanks to member **Ian Hill** for these shots taken at Beaulieu. Apart from the Griffin-cum-eagle (below), which was clearly outside, the rest of the shots are of the fireplace in the Upper Drawing Room, with its exquisitely detailed carvings on the fire place mantle. I particularly like the owl.



Upper Drawing Room

## Cathy writes...



This is Cathy's picture of woodland in Madeira.

As you know, Cathy, our former Treasurer, has emigrated to Madeira, the so-called 'Land of Wood'.

She writes to us all...

*Hello to you all at the Woodentops. I hope that you are all carving enthusiastically and looking forward to the next competition, as well as the Christmas party.*

*I have now been in Madeira for nearly two weeks and am starting to get settled in, although our possessions have not yet arrived. I missed you all at the October meeting, and did think about you as we were taking a walk through the eucalyptus and laurel forests here.*

*I wanted to thank you all for your kind wishes for my move, and for the support, guidance and friendship that you have given over my many years as a Woodentop. I will keep an eye on the activities of the club through Clive's wonderful newsletters and Facebook site, and will try to drop in on you if I happen to be in Orpington on a first Saturday.*

*If any of you plan to visit Madeira at any time, please let me know as it would be lovely to meet up for a coffee and a chat. In the meantime, happy carving!*

Cathy x

## Sacre Bleu..

**Right:** Spotted in the gift shop of the Sacre Coeur Basilica in Montmartre, Paris, this charming wooden carved ornament is cleverly whittled in a twig. Note the feet at the bottom, enlarged below.



## Club Stuff

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



**New Club Project: Movement**

## Woodentops Christmas Meal

Our Christmas Meal will be on the evening of our December meeting; that is **Saturday 7 December**, in the Hall where we have our monthly meetings. It's 'Bring a Dish', so please advise Ann what you will be contributing. If you wish, bring your own plates (there will be paper plates for those who don't, but be warned about gravy and custard) and take them home with you to wash them up. Also bring your own cutlery, please, and glasses, and drink. There will probably also be a quiz and a raffle. And music.. But we'll maybe draw the line at dancing, though thinking about it, why not?



## 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 November Meeting:

**Jane**

### The next Main Meeting

(Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests  
and potential new members) will be from  
**9am to 1pm, Saturday 2 November 2019**

Then a 'No Frills meeting on 23 November (to be held  
in the 'Moreton' Hall of the church complex)

All our meeting dates and other information are shown on  
our website [www.woodentopswoodcarvers.co.uk](http://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.*

