www.thewoodentops.co.uk

We meet at: Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

St John's United Reformed Church Hall

News etter

The first Saturday of each month

November 2016

We meet on:

9am-1pm. New members welcome

The Woodentops is the SE London and W Kent Branch of the BWA



Facebook: Woodentops Woodcarvers Twitter: #carverofwood



Voila!

And some months, mid-month meetings too! -see last page

Transfer a photo onto your carving...

Let dry

This idea is from Sydney Gallup, found at:

https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/446137906816892015/visual-search/?x=0&y=0&w=564&h=1123.

The 'gel medium' referred to can be purchased on Amazon or eBay, or of course from craft shops. Similarly, the 'Mod Podge' referred to is a sealer, glue and finish, available from Amazon or Hobbycraft. You could try transferring a photo to one of your carvings, for example a photo of an eye on a carved eye, a background landscape onto that relief of a country cottage that you have been working on, or a picture of your home in the corner of that house number you are carving out. While traditionally, British carvers generally shun paint on carvings, this idea adds a new dimension and could be worth an experiment or two. The possibilities are endless.



Renovating Old Chisels (reprise)

Oh dear – the feature last month on renovating old chisels neglected the publication of 'before' photos. Only the finished article was shown. To correct this error, here's a recap.



Old chisel bought for a quid



Sanded under running water with fine wet and dry sandpaper and Jif



After washing and sanding



Handle repolished



Ferrule reburnished, blade sharpened and ready for anything

Hair Today...

Hair High Street clothing store) and look at how hair is represented on the dummies. There is quite a lot of skill in many of them and you might learn a thing or two about the fall of hair, perhaps while your partner shops. Even highly stylised hair representations (bott. right) can be helpful

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More Shots from Members



This highly decorated plaque was spotted in Walmer Castle, Kent. All wood, this superb piece of pierced deep relief work celebrates marine victories. Walmer Castle is well worth a visit, by the way. And the Duke of Wellington died there (not a lot of people know that!)



These 'found wood' sculptures seem to be cropping up everywhere.

Usually with a hefty price tag, they are made from driftwood cleverly nailed together.

This couple was spotted in a National Trust shop, and if they are in one, they will be in all of them.

The head is priced at £150 (label left). Bet you could do better!

Odds and Ends



Circular Saw Advice

Adapted from Popular Mechanics: http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/tools/reviews/a3769/4291889/

Most carvers probably have a circular saw somewhere in the tool bag, ready to prepare a blank for carving, or to saw off a chunky end piece. These rules may help when you next need yours. Remember: a portable circular saw I s a powerful, noisy, sawdust-spewing brute that can inflict serious injury if it's used improperly. **Always wear ear, eye and hand protection and treat the tool with respect.**

Inspect the Saw

Before each use, run a quick safety check. Be sure the lower blade guard retracts smoothly and snaps back when released. Check the blade for chipped or broken teeth; replace the blade if you find any damage. On corded saws, inspect the power lead for cracks and if cordless, make sure the battery is fully charged. <u>Unplug the lead or remove the battery before loosening, tightening, or changing the blade.</u>

Check the Blade

The speed and quality of the cut depends on the condition of the saw blade. Never cut with a dull, rusty, or damaged blade.



Find the Proper Saw Position

There's no hard-and-fast rule regarding which direction to make the cut, but whenever possible position the saw with its motor facing toward the larger section of board that isn't falling away when cut. That way, the saw's base plate, or shoe, will be fully supported throughout the cut and you won't have to hold up the weight of the saw as the severed piece drops away.

Make Easy, Accurate Crosscuts

Making perfectly square crosscuts with a circular saw is easy, if you guide the saw with a large setsquare. Hold the saw in place with its blade right on the cut line. Then slide the square against the saw's base plate, and press it tightly against the edge of the board. Check to be sure the blade isn't contacting the board, then squeeze the trigger and allow the saw to reach full speed. Now simply guide the saw along the square to produce a clean, square cut.

Prevent Binding

When cutting sheets of plywood or panelling, it's important to provide the proper support to eliminate dangerous kickback, which can occur if the blade gets pinched in the cut. Place four long stout timbers underneath the sheet you're cutting, spacing one close to each side of the cut line. Then, when you make the cut, both halves of the plywood will be fully supported by these beams throughout the cut. When cutting timber on sawhorses, plan the cut outside the sawhorse pair (not between them). Allow the shorter piece to fall away, while the longer piece stays supported on the horses. Cutting between the horses causes timber to pinch the blade as it falls through.

Make Precise Rips

A rip cut is simply a cut that runs parallel with the grain of the wood, as opposed to a crosscut, which goes across the wood grain. Most circular saws come with a metal rip guide that attaches to the saw's base plate. This type of guide works, but it's limited to rips of only about 15cm. wide. A better option is to clamp a 2m+ long board in place for use as a straightedge guide.

Avoid Wood Splintering

A spinning circular saw blade enters the bottom of the board and exits through the top, and as a result, splintering often occurs on the top surface. So when sawing expensive hardwoods place the board or panel with its best surface facing down.

Stack, Clamp and Cut

When you need to cut more than one piece of plywood to the same size, try stacking four or five sheets on top of each other, making sure the edges are perfectly aligned. Clamp the pieces, then adjust the saw blade to its maximum depth of cut, and saw through all the sheets at the same time.

Safe Bevel Cutting

All circular saws can be adjusted to make angled bevel cuts up to at least 45 degrees. However, when the base plate is tilted all the way over, the lower blade guard has a tendency to catch on the edge of the board. If this happens, don't force the saw. Instead, release the trigger, carefully raise the blade guard by hand, and then make the cut. Once the blade has cut an inch or so into the wood, you can release the guard.

Gravity-Fed Sawing

At some point, you may need to make a long, straight, vertical cut. If you do, start the saw at the top and cut down. That way, gravity will be working in your favour; simply allow the weight of the saw to advance the blade through the cut.

...And these pictures show the horrors of circular saw use gone wrong - looks like the blade shattered (an extraordinarily rare occurrence: perhaps he was using the tool incorrectly or on the wrong material) and flew into the poor man's face. No other info is available – pictures at http://www.informationng.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Circular-saw-blade-removed-from-mans-face.jpg.

So take care out there!





Club News

Cakes

November: Jane



















<u>Website</u>: The Club has registered a new domain name - 'www.woodentopscarvers.co.uk' so we will be starting from scratch. The website will now be built with the help of previous Club member and friend of the Club, Sue Medley, who has kindly agreed to assist us. Sue lives in Yorkshire so will be helping us from afar.

We are assisting at Surrey Wood turners' Show 19 November. If you are free to assist, please tell Tom or Ann. These are the details from organiser Neil:

The event is in the St Francis Hall, Ravenswood Avenue, on the 19th November. We open to the public at about 10am and go on until about 4pm. I think the hall is opened up at 9am so we have an hour to set up. I will confirm this closer to the time.

It is not a huge hall, but we manage to cram a lot of stuff in it! It is nicely situated just off the high street opposite a large car park. Parking isn't cheap, so last year I unloaded the car and drove down Ravenswood until I found a space on the road.

We set the hall up with several tables in the middle where our members sell their stuff. The club takes 15% of whatever they sell. Around the perimeter we have a couple of lathes running with our members demonstrating. There are also other wood-related craft demonstrations (Pyrography and Rural crafts), and sales of timber, tools etc.

<u>Christmas Planning</u>. It was it was agreed amongst those present at the last main meeting of the Group that as all present were too busy, the only solution would be to defer it until January. Everyone there thought that this would a good idea. So we will need to agree details very soon.

And finally

A reminder that we will be assisting at the 2017 Hever Summer Craft Show. Details in the New Year.

Why not go to the **Tool fair at Sandown Park** on 3 and 4 November? Promises to be a great day out.. A huge range of tools and equipment will be on show.



Register at http://toolfair.info/

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2016 Main Meetings (Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members, occasional guest speakers) All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays	2016 <u>Additional</u> Meetings (No frills, just carving) All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays
6 November	[No extra November meeting]
3 December	[No extra December meeting]