

We meet at:

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

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



Twitter: #carverofwood



The Thistle Chapel, St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

The Order of the Thistle is regarded as one of Scotland's highest honours, traditionally given to people of Scots ancestry who have given distinguished service. The knights are the personal appointment of the monarch, and are normally to Scots who have made a significant contribution to national or international affairs. Knights have included Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

With its roots in the Middle Ages, in 1688 the previous chapel was ransacked by the 'Edinburgh mob', furious at King James' Roman Catholicism. The Knights of the Thistle then had no chapel of their own for over 200 years – hence this 'new' one – finished in 1911. It contains stalls for the 16 knights, the Sovereign's stall and two Royal stalls. The chapel contains a wealth of detail, both religious and heraldic, and much of it peculiarly Scottish, including, apparently uniquely, one of an angel playing bagpipes (see below).

The nineteen stalls within the chapel have at their pinnacles the crests of the present members. The Queen visits when new knights are appointed with the knights.

Particularly endearing, to my mind, are carvings of animals on the arms of each of the stalls. These are shown on this and the next page.

So who carved these delicious forms? I have no idea as no carver is mentioned in the chapel or in any reference work I can find about the Chapel.

It is sad to think that such skilled artists remain unremembered.

Entry to the Chapel is free and well worth a visit.



The unique
angel playing
bagpipes



Boar and sheep on
stall arms



Pug dog on stall arm

The Thistle Chapel (cont.) Completed 1911.

Carvings of animals on stall arms, from top left: delightful children, the Monarch's stall, Bear, otter with fish, second bear shot, and monkey (centre). Artist or artists unknown, about 1911. Oak.



The Unusual World of Book Carving

Guy Laramée is a multidisciplinary artist. Among his sculptural works are two series of carved book landscapes and structures called *Bibles* and *The Great Wall*, where the dense pages of old books are excavated to reveal serene mountains, plateaus, and ancient structures. A clever idea. He presumably seals the edges of the books after clamping them in a press.

Pictures below from <http://www.thisiscolossal.com/2011/12/carved-book-landscapes-by-guy-laramée/>



Alex Queral does something similar, but with phone books. Taking an ordinary phone book he carves a face with a very sharp X-ACTO® knife, a little pot of acrylic medium to set detail areas and a great deal of talent.

Once the carving is complete, he may apply a black wash to enhance the features and then seal the whole thing with acrylic. However, he never loses the line registration; and the book remains quite pliable.



<http://www.thisiscolossal.com/2010/11/carved-phone-book-portraits/>

Around the Club last month –Caption Competition



Sample caption:

'I'll need that back massage when I get home', Tom might well be saying.

I wonder how many of us consider our posture properly when carving?

Is Terry saying:: 'Shall I drink the milk or carve? Milk or carve? Decisions, decisions.'

Stuart stoically gets on.

Ann (left) and Mary.

Were Mary on the Bench, I can just see her pronouncing: 'Send him down for five years..'

What are your thoughts for captions to the above photos?

Send them to me at clivewoodentops@outlook.com

A small prize may be awarded.

A Question answered..

Last month I asked who had executed these fine carvings, displayed at the Club. The answer is: None of us. It was Chris who brought them along. He had purchased both, and what good buys they were.

And a contribution from an old friend..

Bernard Tetchner, a former Club member, kindly compiled and submitted to me for publication this photomontage of a well-known personality with someone else who is apparently sometimes in the public eye.

The personality is, of course, our own Derek Tryhorn. Any thoughts on who the other guy might be?



Out and About..

Brixton Market

I spotted this fine pair of wood figures shown to the right in Brixton Market. The stall holder priced them at £20 the pair, though I suspect he would have taken 15. I'm rather sorry I didn't make him an offer, now. It was finely worked wood, but could have done with a good clean. Does anyone have any thoughts on their country of origin?



Man



Female, profile



Female

Cathy's Italian Holiday

Cathy reports...

This is an ivory carving from the "English school" of the 14th-15th century- pretty spectacular.
(More of her snaps next month)



Report from the European Wood Show

(12th & 13th September 2015, Cressing Temple Barns, Essex)

Derek took these most impressive shots of Gormonghast-type subjects. . We don't have the name of the carver (yet!)



Jottings

Egg carving Competition

The BWA has extended the deadline for completion of eggs to **13 November** – so there's a bit more time to complete your masterpiece. Need an egg? Ask **Ann**.

We have now had two extra 'Saturday Carving Workshops', one in August and one on 19 September (these are extra 'no-frills' carving mornings that we are putting on as an experiment). Will there be more? That's up to you –tell **Cathy** your views.

Our website

Discussions are proceeding well to get it up and running Meanwhile, we will soon be getting our own Facebook presence too!

Christmas Meal

Our Christmas meal will be at 'The Chelsfield' pub and restaurant in Chelsfield on Saturday 5 December in the evening. Terry has full details. Bookings are now being taken!

Cake Rota

October Mary
November Jane



Reversing the Direction of a Bench Grinder..

..so it can be used with Ashley Iles sharpening systems (and similar). Some of you may have noticed an article by Clive about this in the current BWA Woodcarvers Gazette (Autumn issue). If there are any of you who are not BWA members and who want a copy – let Clive know.



2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

Christmas Meal at The Chelsfield pub and Restaurant, Chelsfield

3 Oct

7 Nov

5 Dec

Our Leader:

Ann High

01689 859617

highmorton@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer

Cathy Thomas

01689 829646

thomascathy@virginmedia.com

Secretary and Newsletter

Clive Nash

0208 464 8902

clivewoodentops@outlook.com

Catering

Mary Paddick

07929 051373

Marye.paddick@sky.com

Committee

Terry Vincent

01689 827680

terence.vincent@mypostoffice.co.uk

Committee

Tom Young

01689 851500

thomas.young67@ntlworld.com)



Next meeting : 5 September 2015