

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



Facebook: Woodentops Woodcarvers
Twitter: #carverofwood



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

Casting

These shots of Laurie's expert casting skills show how one carving can lead to many – and with several different effects. The options are endless! Ask Laurie for more details.



The original carving - a relief of a girl's head in one wood, set in a figured wood background



One casting; a coloured resin set in a background which is decorated in a flair pattern



A second casting; this time an alabaster-type finish on a black resin background.



Out and about: an elegant horse's head and a wicker Beetle (well OK, this ones not actually carved but it's a nice piece of work) spotted at a local fete



Renovating Old Chisels



This two-inch wide bladed chisel with boxwood handle and cast steel blade was made by Sorby of Sheffield, probably before the Second World War. It was purchased at a summer fete for £1. Initially in a terrible state, it was brought to life by rubbing the whole thing (handle and blade) with fine wet and dry sandpaper under a running tap, with liberal injections of Jiff (or Cif as it is now called), the mild but slightly abrasive domestic cleaning liquid. The blade was then sharpened and the handle waxed. Now, apart from chips to the handle end, which do not affect performance, it is as good as new. The cost of a new, similar chisel? At least £30. You do the maths.

Another Picture of Our Stall at Ripley Garden Party in August



More Shots from Members



Above: Jane and Paul kindly submitted some carving pictures from their UK travels. This is the last of three batches. This exceptional relief work is by Joseph Armitage at Stoneywell Cottage; a National Trust property. For more details go to: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneywell>



Tree sculpture
Kindly sent in by Ann.
What an exceptional work!

Seashore Bounty (right and below) - Ann also sent this shot taken at Gainsborough Old Hall – again relief work - amazingly fine and delicate. displayed first at the Great Exhibition in 1851, no less!



Seashore Bounty

William Hollingworth of Grimsby

Mr. William Hollingworth worked in Louth for 'T W Wallis, Wood Carvers'

Worked from a single piece of wood, Mr. Hollingworth made this fine example of his craft for display in the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, London in 1851.

It was pointed out to him that if the net were full, the neck of the bag would be pulled shut by the weight of the contents. He began a second carving (also on display) with the mistake corrected. Unfortunately, he died before it was completed.

Making Long Bows

A recent article in the Telegraph Magazine described the work of **Martin Young**, one of the very last long bow makers in England. He is quoted as saying: 'There are no in-betweens when you are a bowyer. You either end up with a fully functioning bow or a pile of sawdust.'

Here he is referring to the ability of the bow to perform (shoot an arrow 200 yards) or, alternatively, snap due to unforeseen weakness.

Today he sells bows for from £150 to £200. The process begins with a piece of yew. This is the height of the user, plus the width of his or her fist on his or her head. So in most cases a bow is around seven feet long.

The wood comes from a cloven trunk or a long straight branch. Martin looks for clear faces with no knots –tricky when yew has so many twists and turns to its grain.

Martin favours Yew because of its composition: a heartwood surrounded by sapwood.

He says: 'Sapwood is happy being stretched and heartwood being compressed, so it combines to be a perfect natural spring.'

To make to bow, the length is drawn on the branch, the excess hacked off with a hand axe, and the surface carved to a D shape. Finally the bow is **tillered** – made into its distinctive curve – via a contraption fixed to a block on the workshop wall (see picture below).

According to the article, Martin can make a bow in three days but the yew has to be seasoned for three years. Much of his free time is spent researching the history of longbows. 'Robin Hood would understand exactly what I am doing,' he says.

Photos by Nick Dawe, Telegraph Magazine



Interested? Do get involved



British Woodcarvers Association

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31 August 2016

To: All BWA Regional Leaders

Copies to: BWA Council Members

The Consideration of You and Your Members is Earnestly Requested

Background Information

When Dave Shires and Vince O'Donnell agreed to take on their respective roles of BWA Secretary and BWA Publicity Officer at this year's AGM it was on the understanding that they would do these roles for one year only in order to find candidates to take on these functions in June 2017.

Not only that but the BWA Treasurer, Ian Langford expressed a view at a National Council meeting that he would prefer to step down from the role and hand over to a willing volunteer.

This letter requests you and your members to consider taking on these roles. It is proposed that members potentially interested in either of these functions should understudy Dave or Vince or Ian during the current year to ascertain whether they would like to assume full responsibility for these roles in June 2017.

As you know BWA Council meets three times a year, namely immediately after the AGM in May, plus a Saturday in October and February ... usually in the Solihull area of Birmingham.

Current Situation

If candidates for these three roles cannot be found by the 15 October National Council meeting, then the BWA will not be able to function properly and consideration will then have to be given to disbanding/closing down the central BWA (Council) altogether.


This action would mean that all regions would then have to operate as individual, autonomous, totally self-contained, woodcarving clubs responsible for all their own organisation, rules and regulations, membership fees and management, public liability insurance, financial plus all other administrative arrangements ... AND ...there would be no more 'Gazette's! I am sure none of us would want that situation to develop.

Next Steps

Please consult your members **urgently** to see whether any of them would be interested in exploring the nature of these roles with discussions with either myself, Dave and/or Vince and/or Ian.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Regards and best wishes.



Mark Davis

Letters

Hello fellow whittlers and carvers,

I need some help if possible? I'm looking for a **lime wood carving blank of around 30mm x 200mm x 200mm ish**. Yes, I've done the Google search and unbelievably most of the blanks of the size I want are 'Out of Stock'. Does anyone know where I can actually go to a timber yard that sells the wood or a reliable source via the internet? Even though the blanks are fairly cheap it's made prohibitively expensive by the postage, as I'm sure you're aware.

Cheers,
Ciro

Reply to any of the Committee (see below) if you have any thoughts and they will pass these on to Ciro.

Club News



Carve Me

Cakes

October: David
November: Jane

The Club has purchased copies of the BWA book with ALL the carved birch eggs (including three from our Club). If you would like a copy at a bargain price, speak to Ann.

Christmas Planning. Though it still seems ages off, we need to think ahead. There was a view expressed at Club meetings to have the **Christmas meal** (or event) in January. The reason: December is always busy and there is no need to necessarily wed the party to the day of the December meeting. Also venues get busy. If you haven't already expressed your thoughts about this at a Club meeting, do please email your views to Ann.

Other updates –

In 2016, **Hever Castle's summer craft show** changed their format, and woodcarving wasn't a part of their idea of what the event should include. Anyway, good news. It seems that they missed us and have rethought their ideas, now making overtures for us to have a stall at their 2017 Show. Let's hope this comes to fruition. More details is due course.

We are assisting at Surrey Woodturners' Show 19 November. Details from Tom or Ann.

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Committee	<i>Tom Young</i>	<i>01689 851500</i>	<i>thomas.young67@ntlworld.com</i>



2016 Main Meetings
(Carving, coffee & cake, an opportunity to bring guests and potential new members, occasional guest speakers)
All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

2016 Additional Meetings
(No frills, just carving)

All 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

1 October

15 October

6 November

[No extra November meeting]

3 December

[No extra December meeting]