

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

Visitors are very welcome

# Newsletter

## of The Orpington Woodcarving Club

Also known as the:



October 2022

We meet at:

St Johns United Reform Church Hall  
Lynwood Grove Orpington BR6 0BG

We meet on:

The first Saturday of each month  
Full details of our meetings and  
much more on our website.

Website:

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

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**Next Meeting Saturday 1  
October 2022**

## Autumn is the Time for Carving

As the trees lose their leaves and the nights begin to draw in, what better way to spend a few hours than whittling a wand of willow, or chiselling a chunk of chestnut. (Apologies - that sentence was constructed for the benefit of alliteration – many carvings are more likely to be made of limewood or possibly oak.) But you'll get the point. Carving is nothing if not some compensation for the shorter days, spending enjoyable hours working on your latest modelling idea.



Bears are all over the place in Scadbury Park! Ann spotted a couple and your Editor found the ones by the tree. You will also find similar bears at Elmstead Woods station. Who carved them? That's a local mystery.

The two carved heads below in some ways look similar but are very different in provenance. There's more about both of them inside...



## The Team

Treasurer	Andrew Cheesman	07843 274363	<a href="mailto:andrew.cheesman@hotmail.co.uk">andrew.cheesman@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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## A St Paul's Secret



In the American Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral, London, the stalls are decorated with carvings of birds and flora of the States (echoing the wood carving of Gibbons in the Quire).

The surprise is that, partially hidden on the south side of the chapel is a carving of a space rocket. It's almost imperceptible behind the leaves. The frieze was carved in 1958 and the space race was then just starting to get into gear.

The Roll of Honour there includes the names of the 28,000 Americans who died in the Second World War while based in the UK.

Worth a look when you are next in London town.

## Gargoyle 1: Southwark Bosses



These are ceiling bosses from the old roof of Southwark cathedral. The ceiling burnt down in medieval times but the bosses were saved and are now on display in the Cathedral.

The largest picture is of the Devil, eating a sinner alive!

Each boss is a good 30cm in diameter



## Gargoyle 2: Totem



This cheeky face is from a North American Totem pole, on display at the Kelvedon Museum in Glasgow. Its size can be gauged from the person standing underneath. We all seem to be drawn towards the power of the human face, with examples everywhere, from the devil on the previous page to more caricature representations such as this.

### Totem Pole

First Nations peoples of the northwest coast of North America carve totem poles from red cedar logs.

Doug LaFortune, the artist who made this pole, carved local creatures. Can you see the eagle seated above an orca? What other animals can you see?

Coastal Salish totem pole, late 1980s  
Cedar wood, paint

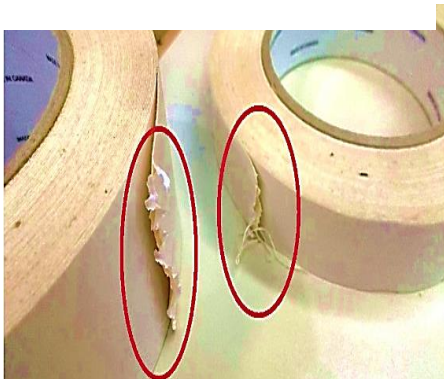
Doug LaFortune, British Columbia, Canada  
© 1982, 20

### Practical Tip

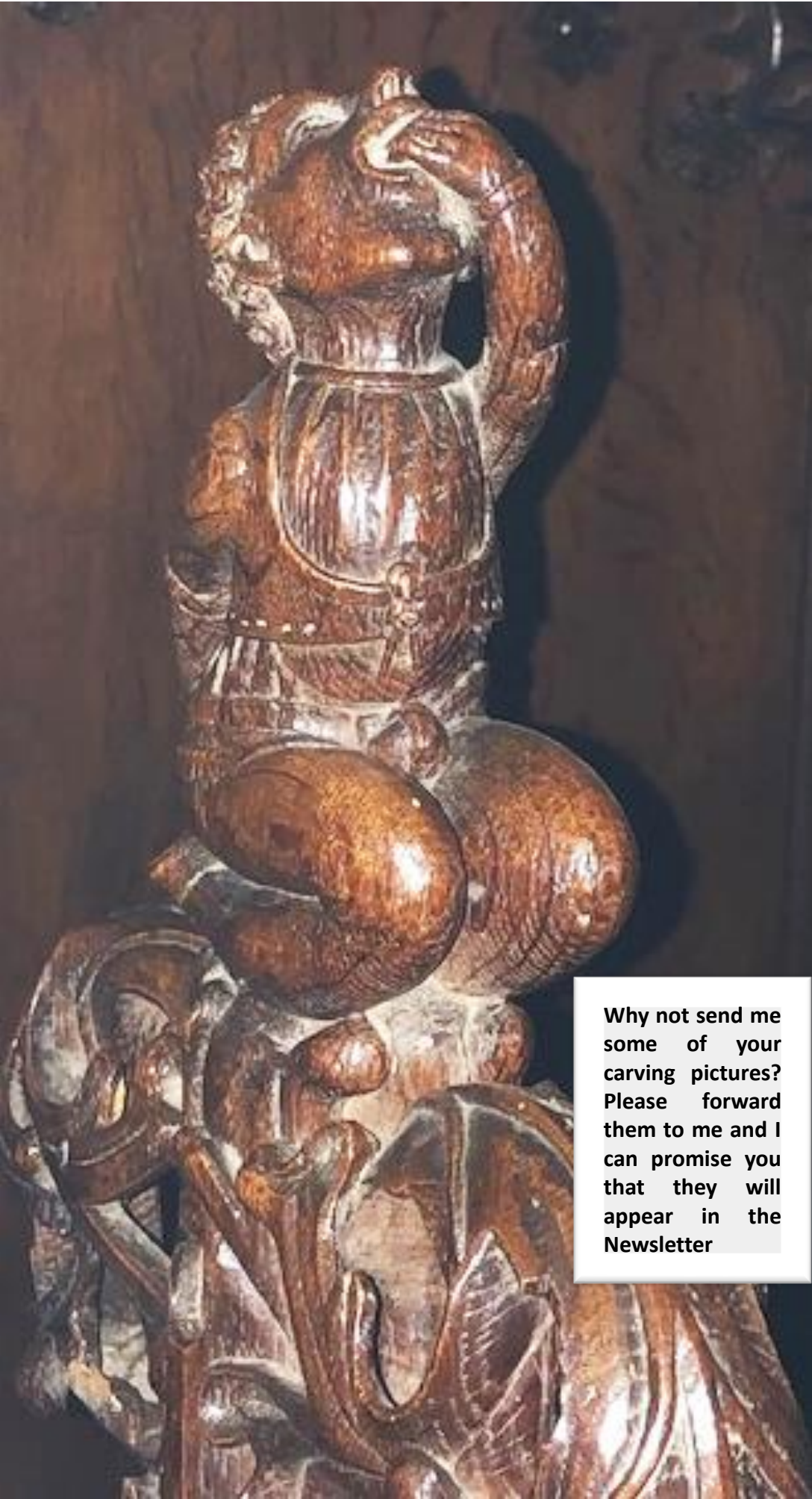
Double sided tape has many uses in the workshop. But it is often difficult to peel off the backing layer. One tip to help do this is to tear the edge rather than cutting it. This often makes it easier to peel the protective layer away.

Tip from [Double-sided Tape Tip / Astuce pour ruban double-face | Atelier du Bricoleur \(menuiserie\)](#).....

[Woodworking Hobbyist's Workshop \(wordpress.com\)](#)



# The Vyne, Sherbourne St John



This superb carving is atop a seat end spied at The Vyne National Trust property at Sherbourne St John.

More from here in a future edition of the magazine.

The boy eating in the carving is a timely reminder that CAKE will be provided if you come to our next meeting on **Saturday 1 October.**

Venue details are on the front cover.

*Look forward to seeing you there.*

Why not send me some of your carving pictures? Please forward them to me and I can promise you that they will appear in the Newsletter