

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



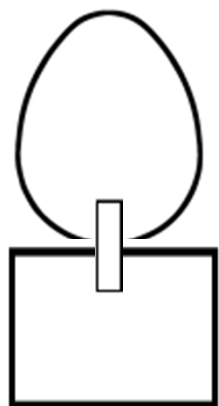
The Eggs Have Landed

In the last edition of this journal, the BWA Egg carving competition was announced.

The blank eggs have now arrived and will be distributed at our next meeting – **FREE** to participating carvers.

Each egg is made of birch and is the size of a large chicken egg.

Holding a small object like an egg, to carve it, can be difficult without power carving tools, so try drilling the end and glueing in a dowel – then the other end of the dowel is glued to a chunk of wood which can be clamped with a vice, as shown below. The dowel is then just sawn off when the carving is completed. I will prepare some eggs like this for distribution at our Saturday meeting on 5 September. Closing date is **November 15th**. Happy carving!



And if you are wondering about inspiration for carving your egg, here are a few ideas. Use Google to get more.



Misericords at Christchurch, Dorset

From Christchurch Priory Dorset, the longest established Parish Church in the UK. Well worth a visit.

THE MISERICORDS

Their name is derived from the Latin word, "misericordia" meaning pity or compassion. These seats were designed to provide, in the upright position, support, but not ease, for the monks who worshipped here and who otherwise were obliged to stand for long periods during the daily services. Do take some time to study them for, painstakingly carved by medieval craftsmen, they add much to our knowledge of English social history. Here are fine examples from the 13th, 14th and 16th centuries.

Stewards on duty will be pleased to point out the most interesting ones.



Carved under the tiny seat ledges made for singers who had to stand for long periods, these misericords are only visible if the main seat is raised.

From top left, anticlockwise:

- Looks like a man feeding a duck
- A man –note the confident carving strokes
- A bat
- A greyhound
- Another man – again note the competent, confident carving
- Lastly, King Richard
- Note the cross hatch shading to either side of each carving- the same style is used in every carving.



Cheap carvings on the web –a note from Peter Benson

Last month I published an item on cheap carvings such as netsuke (Japanese belt fastenings) available on the web. Peter Benson, master carver and former Chair of the BWA, replies below. The Great 'Silent Majority' in our own Woodentops Club remain true to tradition and have, as yet, failed to reply to my comments last month about the worth (or not) of cheap mass produced carvings.

What do you think (about this or anything else in the magazine)? *Please: tell me!*

Hi Clive

Just thought I would add my two penn'th.

These netsuke carvings are readily available at markets like Covent Garden or Petticoat Lane for considerably less than [Amazon prices]. I have several which averaged out at around £8 each.

This may have changed recently but they are still very cheap.

They can be found all over the world and are done on a laser copying machine by the thousand in Taiwan. The same process now supplies many of the reputable mountain carvers in France, Austria and Switzerland as, otherwise, their carvings are not commercially viable.

I was not keen when I first came across the netsuke but have now changed my mind. Many more people are now aware what netsuke are and have collections of these cheap ones.

As they are absolutely worthless, these collectors are turning to carvers like me and other netsuke specialists in order to get something that has a chance of appreciating in value, so the art of netsuke is actually very much on the up. What you do have to watch is the there are sellers out there asking ridiculous prices for these cheap pieces and prospective buyers need to look very carefully before parting with any money. If you look into the little corners and undercuts you can see the circular marks made by the laser – if these are evident don't pay more than you did.

Hope this adds to your discussion.

Hope all is well – please give my regards to your members.

Peter

Boxwood Netsuke of whispering Mice . Hand picked by Art Of Netsuke
by Art of Netsuke
★★★★★ - 4 customer reviews

Price: **£16.50**

Only 1 left in stock.

Dispatched from and sold by **sextion blakes**.

Estimated delivery 15 - 20 July when you choose Standard Delivery at checkout. [Details](#)

- beautiful carved netsuke of two whispering Mice , approx 45mm high
- NOTE please accept slight colour variation in the stain finish, due to the hand finishing

The original Amazon advert.



Laurie and Casting

Member Laurie often makes casts from his wood carvings. This way, you can share the beauty of your creative efforts more widely and also generate a range of effects, such as simulating bronze. These pictures tell the story.



An original



A plaster
cast is taken



From a plaster cast, a new simulated metal image is cast. Special setting plastics, sometimes with metal filings in them, are used.



The new, 'bronze' image





The Club had a stand at Bromley Arts Council **Ripley Garden Party** on the last weekend in August. There was a huge amount of interest in carving shown, and new leaflets about the Club were distributed. Many said they would come to one of our Saturday meetings to see what we are all about. Let's hope some of these promises come true! Tom, his wife Jean, and Clive manned the stall for the afternoon, until the rain started about 4pm.

We could have sold Tom's 'Penguin' and Clive's 'Shaun the Sheep' ten times over.



Very well executed eagle and dolphins exhibited at the Club a couple of months back. This editor failed to note who had carved these, for which apologies.

Can the skilled artist please let me know who he or she is?

Clive

Jottings

The Extra 'Saturday Carving Workshop' held in August was a great success. The next one will be 19 September, (these are extra 'no-frills' carving mornings that we are putting on as an experiment). Will there be more after that? That's up to you –tell **Cathy** your views.

Our website

Discussions proceed to get our website up and running again. More in due course.

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.

Cake Rota

September	Terry
October	Cathy or Mary
November	Jane



Hever:

In previous years we have had a stand at Hever Castle Craft show in the Autumn. Looks like they have changed their organisation and, together with other craft stalls, we wont be invited again. (Sob). Ann will advise if things change.



12th & 13th
September 2015
Venue: Crossing
Temple Barns,
Essex,



Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for a Modern World
24 June – 25 October 2015

Venue: Tate Britain Gallery, London

This major retrospective charts Hepworth's progress from her earliest surviving carvings to the large-scale bronzes of the 1960s. Among the highlights are four large sculptures in sumptuous African hardwood – the high point of her post-war carving career – reunited in one room

2015 Meetings: all 9am to 1pm, Saturdays

5 Sep

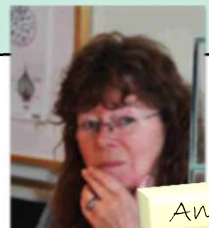
19 Sep
workshop

3 Oct

7 Nov

5 Dec

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Ann



Next meeting : 5 September 2015