

Woodcarver

GAZETTE



British Woodcarvers Association

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Issue 05

Spring 2007

BWA Regions go to the Palace

by Ted Jeffery, photos Maureen Hockley

Four south-eastern Regions represent BWA at the National Woodworking Show

The organisers of the above event asked our illustrious Chairman, Peter Benson, if the BWA would be interested in holding an exhibition in the show. As Peter was soon to be off whittling in the States, he asked me if I would like to organise said event.

We thought it would be a good idea to include all the 'Home County' Regions and five were duly invited. Unfortunately, tickets and vehicle passes were very late coming through and we finished up with a contingent from Essex; Hertfordshire; S.E London & W. Kent and one stalwart from Kent.

We put up an excellent exhibition which created a lot of interest and hopefully some new members (time will tell) but there really was little spare room for demonstrating our craft. Shame, perhaps if more support is pledged in advance we can book a larger space next year.

My sincere thanks to Stan Kimm, Mick Cuomo and their teams, and Phil Deacon from Kent. For their support and their good company which made for an enjoyable weekend.

I later received the following from the show organiser:

Dear Ted

I would just like to say thank you to yourself and all club volunteers as together you did a wonderful job and put on a great display and demonstration stand. It was much appreciated by us, and by show visitors. Your efforts contributed to making a worthwhile show that certainly picked up and had a good buzz to it after the initial 'snow-fright' and lower numbers on the first day. Please pass on my appreciation to all concerned.

Kind regards,

Nick Hunton

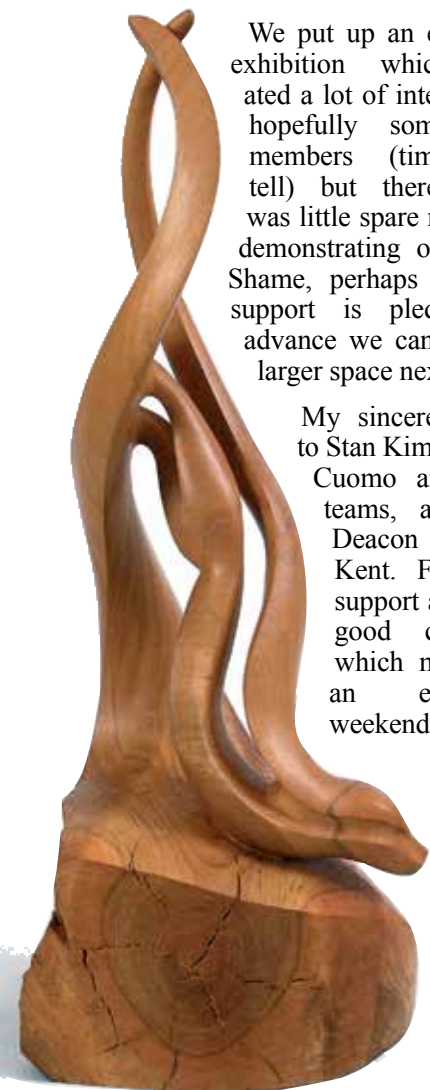


Above: Laurie Salsussolia and Mick Cuomo making sure they keep their strength up for carving!



From top: carving by Essex member Yinka Fabayo; a young visitor can't resist Phil Deacon's dragon; part of the SE London & W Kent Region's display.

Left: Carving by Steve Smart in English Cherry.



summary beautiful **AGM 2007 weekend in Shropshire**

The Shropshire Region members cordially invite you to the BWA AGM 2007 to be held at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, just south of Shrewsbury on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May.

Set in the beautiful Shropshire hills, this is an idyllic venue to spend a weekend meeting carvers from other Regions, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.

We have arranged three 'masterclasses' which are hands-on events for you to hone your skills in convivial company.

The classes are:

- (A) **Peter Benson** – who will bring along 'study sticks' for you to use and will demonstrate how to form the eye, nose, ear and mouth. To participate you will need a carving glove (essential!) and knives. A few spare gloves and knives will be available for those who do not possess them.
- (B) **John Sullivan** – will talk and demonstrate on the subject of 'Proportions of the human figure'. This will include how to draw the figure and how to turn your drawing into a maquette suitable for use in future carving. All materials needed will be provided; you need to bring along your 'imagination' of the figure you wish to produce.
- (C) **A.N. Other** – a 'lucky dip' at this stage! This Masterclass is still being organised. It will be on a topic quite different to the other two. If you don't fancy either of the above you could take a chance.

**Classes will run simultaneously on
Saturday 11.00–12.30, repeated in the
afternoon 15.15–16.45 and again on
Sunday 10.00–11.30 .**

John Sullivan's class may require more than one session so please indicate your availability for the Sunday when booking your place. Class numbers are limited and will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Please indicate your preference for class A, B or C on your booking form.

Throughout the weekend there will be trade stands for you to browse and purchase those items you have always promised yourself.

An exhibition of carvings is being staged and you are invited to bring along your own work for all to enjoy. A prize will be given for the carving most admired by those present, so do bring along your best work.

The weekend costs £7.50 per person, which will include:

- ☐ **Tea & coffee**, available throughout the weekend
- ☐ **Lunch on Saturday**
- ☐ **All Masterclasses**

The AGM itself and Sunday lunch are free to all BWA members, whether booked or not.

Accommodation & Information

Accommodation in the area is plentiful, including hotels, guesthouses, B&B, camping and caravan sites.

For further information:

- contact local tourism office in Shrewsbury on 01743 281200, e-mail visitorinfo@shrewsbury.gov.uk
 - visit the website: www.visitshrewsbury.com
- or
- speak to Ann Lewis or Alan Whitfield who will be pleased to assist (see booking box/form for contact details).

We look forward to welcoming you to the AGM and ensuring that you enjoy a memorable weekend with us. Shrewsbury is 'The Town of Flowers' and has just been selected to represent Britain in the *Entente Florale Europe 2007*. Some say it is England's finest Tudor town with over 660 listed buildings including the Norman Abbey made famous in Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael books.

Alan Whitfield



AGM 2007 – AGENDA

Meeting scheduled to begin 14.00, 19 May 2007 at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, Shropshire.

- Apologies for absence
- Approval of Minutes of AGM 2006
- National Council officers' reports and presentation of Financial Report
- National Council proposals
- Membership fees and capitation
- Appointment of National Council officers
- Appointment of auditor
- Any other business
- Venue for AGM 2008

Don't forget your Bottle Stoppers!

There will be a competition to produce a 'Bottle Stopper' carving. Rules are simple: The carving can be any shape or size, it can be carved integral with the bottle stopper or attached to a commercial bottle cork. The criterion is that when inserted into an EMPTY 75cl wine bottle, the bottle and stopper will stand upright unaided. You may bring along the bottle for which it is intended.

Programme of Events

Saturday 19 May

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 09.30–11.00 | Arrival, refreshments, viewing carving display and trade stands |
| 11.00–12.30 | Masterclasses 1 |
| 12.30–14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00–15.15 | AGM (see agenda above) |
| 15.15–17.00 | Masterclasses 2 |
| 17.00–19.00 | Time for people to find their accommodation or if not to join us for a walk in the Shropshire hills (if fine!) before dinner |
| 19.00 onwards | We are suggesting a social evening at a local hostelry where we can continue to chat carving. In order to select a venue of sufficient size it would help if you could indicate on the application form if you would be likely to take part in this activity. |

Sunday 20 May

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 09.30–10.00 | Arrival and refreshments |
| 10.00–11.30 | Masterclasses 3 |
| 11.30–12.30 | Carve, maquette make or chat |
| 12.30–13.30 | Lunch (free) |
| 13.30–15.00 | Carve, maquette make or chat |

CLOSE

Proposals for AGM 2007

No proposals from members had been received by the National Council by the closing date, March 19.

The National Council will make the following proposals:

- That annual membership subscription be raised to £20 with capitation remaining at the current amount. Junior membership to remain unchanged at £5
- That a Region can form and continue to exist only if there are a minimum of six paid-up members who agree to belong to the Region. Provided it is so constituted a Region will be eligible for capitation and inclusion as a separate Region under the BWA's insurance cover arrangements.

Nominations for National Council

The current Regional Secretary, Bridie Tonge is standing for re-election, proposed by Russell Parry (1144) and seconded by Alan Whitfield (1590).

The National Council would like to include the topics 'Members' Insurance' and 'This Precious Earth' under the item 'Any other business'.

National Council

Booking Details

Please let us know as soon as possible, but not later than
1 May 2007!

To book please contact:

Ann Lewis
E-mail mlewis4693@aol.com

or

Peter Benson
E-mail bencarve@aol.com

Or send booking form (with this Gazette) to:

Alan Whitfield
4 Fairlawn Gardens
Meole Brace
Shrewsbury SY3 9QT
Tel 01743 356574

Shape up with Tilgear



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These superb Swiss made woodcarving tools are crafted from superior alloy steel and are ground and honed ready for use. Pfeil chisels and gouges are used by professional woodcarvers throughout the world and are developed in conjunction with the famous Brienz Woodcarving School in Switzerland.



Over 300 different profiles and sizes are stocked in depth; together with chip carving knives, palm carvers, drawknives, carpenters' bevel-edge chisels etc. Other associated products include Arkansas stones, Eze-lap diamond sharpeners, work positioners, abrasives and finishes.



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All items are available by mail order - card payments accepted.



Bridge House, 69 Station Road, Cuffley, Herts. EN6 4TG
Tel: 01707 873434 Fax: 01707 870383

Letters to the editor

The National Arboretum Exhibition 2006

A reply from the National Council

Members may remember that January's Gazette carried a letter from John Tybjerg (Hampshire) about the National Memorial Arboretum exhibition in 2007. John made a number of suggestions for the next exhibition, as follows:

- 1 Publicise it early (July 2007?) in the *Gazette* as a BWA national commitment and keep the pressure up.
- 2 Try to have the main marquee ready before exhibitors start arriving.
- 3 Encourage carvings at all levels, say what you want for sale etc.
- 4 Regional Groups should make a commitment to support the event and plan their display early. Don't ignore your simple carvings – they are often the most admired.

I promised a reply for this issue, and here it is.

First, we would like to make it clear to John and the membership how grateful we (and the Essex team responsible for the Exhibition) are for his turning up with around twenty carvings and effectively 'saving the day'. We appreciate his suggestions aimed at making the next exhibition better than 2007 and more rewarding for those participating. At the same time it is perhaps worth looking at exactly how the exhibition was handled. From this members may draw their own conclusions as to why, despite the work put in by the Essex team, the exhibition failed to represent the BWA as a whole.

- 1 News of the event was in *Woodcarving* issues 89 and 90 and the *Gazette*, Feb 2005 (supplement), Oct 2005 and April 2006. Its change of status due to absence of Regional commitment was made clear in these articles.
- 2 Without National support Essex applied for a grant, which never materialized, to pay for the marquee. The marquee was only provided at the last minute due to the generosity of Westonbirt.
- 3 We can encourage all we like; if Regions do not want the event there is little more that can be done. In this case all Regional leaders were contacted in Aug 2005. The Chairman also phoned or e-mailed all Regional leaders to remind them in the two weeks before the exhibition
- 4 We entirely agree with the exhortation 'not to ignore your simple carvings – they are often the most admired'. Whether or not Regions will 'make a commitment to support the event and plan their display early' for the next event we can only wait and see. It is very much up to the members whether it will be a National event, or down to Essex and a handful of individuals from other Regions

BWA National Council

AGM 2007 Booking Form

To simply attend the AGM or the events that surround it you do not need to let us know in advance; just drop in according to the timetable opposite. However some things cannot be properly catered for unless we have some advance notice, so if you are intending to come along please read the following, cut out (or photocopy) this form and return it to the address at the bottom as soon as possible, but in any case not later than 1 May 2007.

If you do not need any of the listed items, but have decided to come please tick 'Nothing required, but intending to come' at the bottom; it is not necessary, but will help us assess what space, etc. will be needed.

Thanks!

? How many buffet lunches do you require on Saturday at £7.50/person?..... ☐

? How many finger buffets do you require on Sunday lunch (free)?..... ☐

? How many would enjoy a social Saturday evening at a local hostelry? ☐

? Will a Saturday evening meal at the hostelry also be required?..... ☐

? I would prefer to take part in Masterclass:

Peter B. faces ☐

John S. human proportions ☐

AN Other ☐

None ☐

? Would you like us to send you a list of local accommodation?

Please add your address below:

! I require none of the above, but expect I and ☐ others
will be attending the AGM weekend..... ☐
(This in no way commits you to attendance)

Your name..... Region, if any.....

Telephone number..... Other means of contact if preferred:

Return to: Alan Whitfield, 4 Fairlawn Gardens, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9QT

Please enclose cheque for any buffet lunches ordered, made out to

'BWA Shropshire Branch'

We look forward to seeing you on the 19 May!



News of the BWA CHIP Scheme

from Peter Benson

Those Regional Leaders reading this may remember that some time ago I sent you a folder containing all the details of the CHIP Scheme – a completely revised version of the old BWA Awards Scheme.

Get digging

If your households are anything like mine this has probably been confined to some dark corner with a mental note to do something about it at a later date. Well, I reckon that it is about time that it was dusted off and looked at before you get involved in sorting out your gardens or taking the grandchildren to the park.

Attention newer members

Perhaps, as we have quite a number of new members in the Association, It would be useful if I gave you a bit more general information about what the Scheme is really for.

I know that there was a lot of misunderstanding about the Awards Scheme in that many members found it difficult to grasp that it was in no way competitive. I think this may still be the case with the current scheme so I will try to clarify matters, if I can!

The purpose of CHIP is in the title (I hate mnemonics but how else do you do it?) Critiques for Help, Improvement and Progress. That is exactly what it is all about.

Critiques for Help, Improvement and Progress

It is designed so that carvers of any standard can get advice and help from another carver, whose opinion they value, organised around a laid down set of criteria. At the end of the process they will get a written critique of their work with suggestions as to how they might progress. If they feel that they would like some recognition of their success they can apply to the Scheme Organiser for a Certificate or Rosette from the BWA, although this is by no means a necessary part of the Scheme. This can always be shown at a future date to show that you have met the standards set by the Association. In this case it would be necessary for the Organiser to be familiar with the Assessor chosen so that there can be some sort of uniformity of standards. Carvings do not even have to be finished. In fact there is a lot to be said for having this advice during the carving process – it might well help you to avoid the normal pitfalls.

I know that many of you will already get the sort of advice you need from a class tutor or mentor in your carving club or Region but there must be a lot of you that get very little advice or guidance at all. Maybe you don't want it and, if that is the case then the scheme is not for you.

Handy guidance

If, however, you are struggling along without any real idea where you are going why not take advantage of the scheme? There need be no expense involved – you are at liberty to ask anyone to do the assessment for you if

you value their opinion and as long as they are not out of pocket there is no problem.

If you are organising it on a Regional basis and are bringing in someone from another area you might need to make a small charge to cover an assessors travel expenses. If you are not sure who to ask to do the assessment the Scheme Organiser, Phil Deacon, will be able to help you find someone.

No competition!

I know that the more usual method of finding out if your work is good or not is to enter it into a competition but in this country competitions are very few and far between and not always very forthcoming in feedback to the entrants. Let's face it, what is the use of a competition if you don't win and are not told by the judges why you didn't and how to do better next time?

Added to this, not everyone wants to enter their work into any form of competition or even feels that it is good enough to do so.

Lively interest from the USA

In the USA there are woodcarving competitions by the thousand attracting exhibitors from all over the country yet they still don't get the guidance they would like and enough feedback from the judges. Many of the clubs are now adopting and/or modifying the CHIP Scheme for their members and I am getting requests for information on a regular basis as they have nothing comparable.

Go on, get in touch

If you feel that this might be useful to you and need any more information you can contact me, Peter Benson if you wish, or

Philip Deacon on 01634 290042
E-mail: Philip@thedeacons.net.

He has taken over the organisation of the scheme and will be running it for the Association.

Why not give it a try?





You will know that here in Gloucestershire we are organising an exhibition on the theme of *This Precious Earth*.

Initially it was just to fill the BWA Marquee at Westonbirt but the response has been so good that we would like to extend the exhibition and move it around to other Regions during late 2007 and the first half of 2008.

We currently have 54 carvings promised and sponsorship for the exhibition at Westonbirt from Classic Hand Tools and Flexcut.

The National Council has now agreed to provide support for this venture. With a bit of effort and your help we could well have a stunning exhibition travelling around the country showing carvers and the public just what the BWA is capable of. Please give it your support.

The Theme

We are proposing to host an exhibition of carvings on this topical subject, celebrating what is good about life on earth, what we regard as precious. We hope to be able to generate press interest in the display and we intend to create a catalogue on CD of all carvings to commemorate the event.

Each carving should be accompanied by a brief explanation of the inspiration behind it and the link to the theme of the exhibition.

Aims of the Exhibition

- To demonstrate to the public the talents of the members of the BWA.
- To inspire as many BWA members as possible to join in and provide a carving.
- By using a topical theme, to attract the attention of the press at established events around the country.
- By providing a complete exhibition we hope to encourage Regions, especially the less established ones, to bid for space in new venues where the BWA has not had a presence before.
- To expose as many members of the public as possible to current woodcarving with the aim of attracting new members and raising awareness of the artform.

Possible Venues

The exhibition is currently scheduled to visit the following venues:

2007

Aug	Westonbirt
Early Sept	West Midlands
Nov	Harrogate Show/ Durham & N Yorks
Early Dec	Kent

2008

Early Feb	Alexandra Palace?
Early Apr	South Wales
Late Apr	Warwickshire
May	AGM/Hertfordshire
Late May	Essex
June	National Arboretum
June	Dumfries and Galloway

I am hoping that between now and the end of August these dates will be confirmed and more venues can be added.

Transferring the Exhibition between the venues

There are two main problems when trying to arrange an exhibition to travel around a number of regions over an extended period.

- Moving it between each Region at a reasonable cost.
- Storing it when it isn't being displayed.

To solve both problems we propose to buy a closed trailer large enough to contain all of the carvings. The trailer will be waterproof and lockable so that it will act as a storage unit for the exhibition between venues.

Most Regions have a number of members with towbars on their cars and would be able to move the trailer around the country. Petrol expenses for moving the exhibition will be paid.

The amount of handling that the carvings will receive should also be much reduced; they would be unpacked from the trailer into the exhibition venue, then re packed immediately afterwards. Storing the exhibition between events will be a matter of parking the

trailer in a secure location.

To make it as simple as possible to mount the exhibition anywhere we also propose to provide the trestles, table tops and cloth, within the trailer, as well as publicity material comprising banners and other information about the exhibition and the BWA.

In short it will be a complete exhibition, ready to be towed to a venue, unpacked and set up needing the minimum of support from the organisers of the event.

Competition at Westonbirt

When the exhibition is first set up at Westonbirt in August, the carvings will be judged by an independent judge from the art world. Prizes will be awarded but details have not been finalised yet. The public will also vote for their favourite, which will be awarded the Westonbirt Trophy.

There are Flexcut knives printed with a message to enable you remember that you were part of the event.

What to do now?

There is an entry form enclosed with this issue of the *Gazette*. Please fill it in and return it to me whether or not you have already sent an expression of interest. I have a note of your name if you have done, but I now need to know what you are carving and if possible the approximate size so that I can attempt to work out how much volume I am going to need for transport and storage!

You will be responsible for getting the carving to me before the start of the Westonbirt Festival at the end of August 2007. You will also need to provide postage or another means to get the carving back after the end of the event in June 2008.

The full list of rules is also printed opposite.

Could anyone with a finished entry (or who completes one in the near future) please send the Editor photos so that we have something to use for advance publicity?

(Russell's address on back page)



RULES

Following the brief outline of rules that appeared on page 13 of July 06 *Gazette*, here are the rules in full. Any queries should be addressed to Bryan Corbin (back page for contact details)

- 1 Entry to the competition is at the organisers' discretion. The organisers' decision regarding any matter whatsoever is final.
- 2 Completion and return of a signed application form will signify that the entrant agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the competition and agrees to displaying the work at all the venues involved in the event. Any wording in these rules relating to 'the event' or 'the competition' will be taken as including all venues.
- 3 All carvings must be boxed to protect them in transit. The box must be rectangular in shape with no protrusions - handles, legs etc.

The box must be sealed with brown packaging tape. No screws, nuts and bolts etc. are to be used.

Each box must contain only one carving. Polystyrene beads must not be used. Packing instructions should be posted inside the lid of the box to enable anybody to put the carving back in correctly.

The outside of the box must be labelled using the form supplied with the application form which contains the carvers name and address. A photograph of the carving should also be stuck to the top of the box to aid identification.
- 4 The organisers will not be responsible for any loss or damage to carvings, however caused, at any time.

The organisers will not provide insurance cover, so if the carver wishes to ensure it he or she must make their own arrangements.
- 5 Application forms are available online at: www.thispreciousearth.org, by e-mail from: bryan@thecorbins.org.uk or by writing to 'This Precious Earth' MRG Systems Ltd, Willow Court Beeches Green, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4BJ.

An entry form must be completed for each carving entered.
- 6 ALL application forms must be returned by 31 May 2007. Late entries will not be accepted.
- 7 Carvings for entry into the exhibition must be received by 1st. August 2007. No late entries will be accepted. Carvings should be delivered to "This Precious Earth", MRG Systems Ltd. Willow Court, Beeches Green, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4BJ. This is open from 9.00 to 5.15 Monday to Friday.
- 8 Any carving received in a damaged condition will not be judged or exhibited.
- 9 The responsibility for sending the carving to the event and returning it to the entrant will be that of the entrant. The organisers will not provide any means or pay for the transit of carvings except between venues.
- 10 The maximum weight of any carving entered must be no more than 15 kg including packaging. Beyond this limit carvings may be accepted at the discretion of the organisers. Prior agreement with the organisers will be required.
- 11 Carvings may be offered for sale at the entrants discretion.

If they are sold at the Westonbirt Festival of Wood the entrant, by agreeing to the sale, will also have agreed to pay the charity 'Tree Aid' a 10% commission of the sale price. This is a requirement of the venue not a decision taken arbitrarily by the BWA.

All money for the sale of carvings will be paid directly to the BWA. The BWA reserves the right to deduct the cost of carriage to the purchaser, if any, from the sale price. The net amount will be forwarded to the entrant within six weeks of the sale.

A record will be kept of carvings sold and the amounts paid as the exhibition moves from venue to venue. Carvers will be informed by phone and letter/email as soon after the event as possible if their carvings have been sold.
- 12 When your application form is received you will be sent an acknowledgement. Provided all your entries are accepted you will hear nothing more - just forward your carving by the closing date.



Packing Carvings for Exhibition

A Quick Box *from Dave Johnson*

Suggested Basic Pattern

The following guidelines are based on a pattern I have used repeatedly for dispatch of carvings by various carriers over long distances.

- 1 Start with a rectangular baseboard (A) of cheap timber, block board, ply or MDF, about 20 mm thick and about 10 mm bigger than the length and breadth of the widest part of the carving including any base.
- 2 Using 4–6 mm sheet material, ply, MDF or hardboard, cut a rectangle (B) which is the exact dimension of the longest side of the base board $\times$ the height of the carving + the thickness of the base board + approx. 20 mm spare.
- 3 Nail and glue one edge of the sheet material to the base board to form an L-shape.
- 4 Leaving a gap (C) above the base board a fraction larger than the base of the carving, nail and glue a strip of softwood approx. 15 mm square around the remaining three sides of the sheet material on the intended inside of the box.
- 5 Cut 2 pieces of the same sheet material the same height as the back and the width of the base board + the thickness of the back sheet. (D)
- 6 Nail and glue these to the left and right sides of the base board and to the softwood strip on the back sheet. Nail and glue a 15 mm square softwood strip to the back and sides at a height above the base board which is a fraction larger than the base of the carving.
- 7 Nail and glue a 15 mm square softwood strip to the inside top of the sides and on to the front edges down to the strip which holds the carving base.
- 8 Cut a piece of 4–6 mm sheet (E) to the external dimensions of the top and nail and glue this to the softwood strip previously fixed to the inside of the back and sides.
- 9 Cut a piece of 4–6 mm sheet (F) to the external dimensions of the remaining open sides.
- 10 Fix the lower edge of this to the base board with two small hinges to form a door.
- 11 Nail and glue a strip of 15 mm square softwood around the top and sides of the door allowing space at the bottom for the base of the carving and the thickness of the sheet material on the sides and top.

Slide the carving into the box so that the softwood strip grips the base. Pack the void around the carving with bubble wrap (NOT POLYSTYRENE CHIPS). Close the door and fasten the unhinged sides with PACKAGING TAPE (NOT SCREWS OR CATCHES).

With the forthcoming exhibition promising to provide a spectacular journey around the country and a chance to show more people than ever the range and quality of contemporary woodcarving, there is one matter that always causes more concern than anything else.

Making a box.

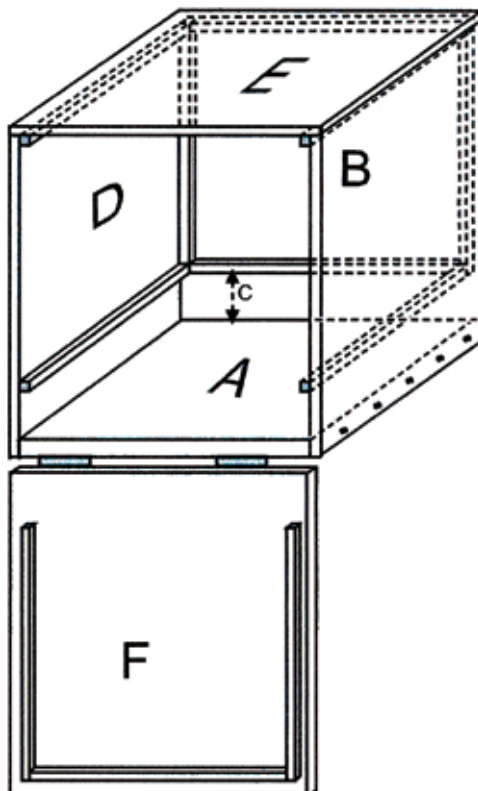
There always seem to be so many rules 'do this – don't do that'.

It's really common sense when you think about it. Your carving will be travelling thousands of miles and it will be unpacked and re-packed a number of times during that time. So it needs to be able to survive, to look just as good at the last venue as it will at the first.

- It needs to be protected during the journey
- It needs to be easy to unpack without damaging it
- It needs to be easy to re pack – bearing in mind it is unlikely that the person who unpacked it will pack it again.
- The box should stack neatly with others to minimize the space needed for transport and storage.
- The packaging to protect it shouldn't be easy to lose. i.e. polystyrene chips. They might protect it at the start but by the end you can be sure there won't be any left and the carving will be rattling around loose.

The box doesn't need to be made of wood; it can be plastic or cardboard as long as it is strong enough to survive, protects the carving inside and allows it to be removed and replaced.

There are, of course, many methods of making boxes to hold your carving. One simple method is described below. Remember the box doesn't have to be perfect. It doesn't really matter if the sides don't line up exactly – it only has to hold the carving – the work of art is inside!



Holy Family project for Christmas

I have been involved in the making and carving of a Holy Family feature for three churches in the Leeds, Horsforth area. This was started in March 2006 and finished for the start of Advent in December.

While it is not one-hundred percent carving I thought you might like to see the result (see right).

I made it of wood, carved parts of it then painted it, after which it was displayed outside one of the various churches over the Christmas period.

It took nine months from start to finish and I thought it might be suitable to include in the Gazette; I have shown it to members of the Yorkshire Region at Holmfirth and they seemed to think I should send a picture.

Derek Shuttler



A splendid project that I am sure many churches would most pleased to be offered. Sounds like members need to be thinking now about making the offer and starting work if the results are to be enjoyed this Christmas coming.

No problem with the 'mixed media' nature of the project; we cover anything in which carving is involved. Such projects, including collaborating with artists in other media, really widen our horizons, I feel. – Ed.



The carved and painted artwork, with Derek's original sketch in front

For Sale

BWA Shropshire member would like to sell a hardly-used

Copy-carver complete with accessories

The package consists:

- Duplicarver F200 with its 1HP router
- Transformer
- Selection of bits

£400

If you are interested please contact:

**Mary Powell on
01630 638401**



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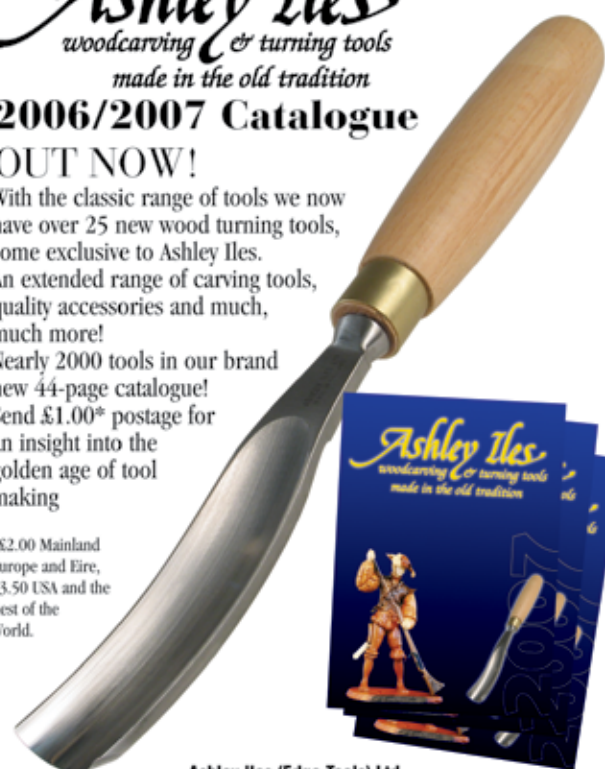
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michael rust

6–10 July

BWA Kent member, Michael Rust will be holding a five-day course on letter cutting in wood for carvers of all abilities this summer.

The course is under the auspices of The Memorial Arts Charity, which until now has focused its work on stone carving. The Charity exists to promote the arts and crafts associated with the making of memorials, particularly lettering and good design. It seeks to maintain and renew Britain's long tradition of letter carving in stone and wood in a way relevant to the twenty-first century, and addresses the lack of available training by running letter carving courses and an Apprenticeship Scheme.

The course is at Hastingleigh near Ashford, Kent and costs £285.

Tel: 01728 688393
E-mail: clare@memorialartscharity.org.uk
Website: www.memorialartscharity.org.uk



Memorials by Artists is a nationwide service which helps people to commission good individual memorials for churchyard, cemetery or garden.

It was founded by Harriet Frazer, three years after the death of her step-daughter. The experience of searching for and finding a sympathetic artist to create an individual headstone led her to the idea of helping others through the sometimes daunting experience of finding such an artist, commissioning the memorial and negotiating any rules imposed by locations. A helpful leaflet is also available on request.

For more details of lettering courses in wood or stone, or to contact *Memorials by Artists* see below.

Old Singer found Fretting in Florida*

Chairman, Peter Benson sent me these photos from his recent sojourn amongst the Snowbirds in Florida. It seems that the frontiersman's spirit of resourcefulness is still alive and well down there. In the photo below Wally Kurth is shown using an old Singer sewing machine to cut intricate patterns in quarter-inch hardwood. Wally and his friends at the Gulf Coast Carvers use the machine to do the work



of a scrollsaw, with the great advantage that the blade is only fixed at the top, so internal holes can be cut without removing the blade and slotting it through the workpiece.

Peter reports that the machine required no real modification; a 2–3 inch (5–7 cm) section of fairly thick, pinless scrollsaw blade simply being fitted into the needle holder. The normal sewing machine foot pedal was used, giving excellent control and leaving two hands free to manoeuvre the wood. Most models, like this one, even come with an integral worklamp.

Peter himself gave the machine a go (he's got a lovely, embroidered carvers' apron to prove it) and says it worked just as effortlessly on wood. This is perhaps not surprising given the solid quality of an old Singer compared to many of the electrical tools available today.

I suspect machines like this are easy to find, if not from members' own lofts then down the local junk shop. Why not give one a new lease of life for your Club? Let us know how you get on!



* *Hands up those who read the title and thought it was an article about our very own Russell Birch missing his flight back from the States.*

Anniversary Opportunities for Ox & Bucks Region

This last year has been the first full year for the Club,
and quite an eventful one at that.

reports Brian Eastoe

At the beginning of the year we agreed to produce a montage of 11 carvings, mounted in a frame, to be presented to Abingdon Town Council to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the granting of the Town Charter.

Royal Approval

Nine carvers took part, Terry Hardaker and Brian Eastoe carving two panels each. The local Mayor took a keen interest in the work as it progressed. So much so that when the Princess Royal came to mark the occasion, the Chairman of the Ox & Bucks, together with the Secretary, Liz



The Princess Royal inspects the (mostly!) finished Abingdon Anniversary carving with the Mayor's assistance

Aylward, were introduced to HRH Princess Anne. The Mayor had spent several minutes explaining the carvings, including several marked 'work in progress'. When Her Royal Highness spoke to us she complimented us, saying that as far as she was concerned even the 'works in progress' were good enough already.

The finished carving is now permanently displayed in the library at Abingdon. A comments book that was placed with the carving when it was on display contains many very complimentary comments. The one that made me laugh out loud was at the bottom of page one; in three different handwritings, the words:

Really nice

Truly amazing

I can't believe it tastes like butter

Humour is alive and well in Abingdon!

Getting involved

As Oxfordshire is now celebrating 1000 years of the County, the Club voted to produce a variation of three sets of five carvings, hinged together, as our contribution to commemorate such an occasion. I am delighted to say that we have 15 individual carvers now chipping away.



Some of the Ox & Bucks in front of the finished carving. From left: Kevin Swain, Liz Aylward, Brian Eastoe, Joan Damerell and Bob Mather

All of the wood has been sponsored by local firms, the blocks trimmed and planed to exact size, a wonderful spirit of co-operation from the local tradespeople, encouraged by the publicity and standard of work set by the Abingdon 450th Anniversary ensemble.

I have been carving for over 50 years now, so I think the Soldiers Head carved by Terry Hardaker (below) is worth special mention. Made by a person who has only been carving for three years it is quite exceptional.

We will be demonstrating at the Woodland Festival in Oxford, regrettably the same weekend as Westonbirt. We also have the Millets Farm Craft Fair in September. Last year the 'Pick your favourite Carving' attracted 742 entries over two days, and was won by Brian Garside with his kingfisher. It was only his second year ever of carving!

DIY and Save!

We now have 26 members and a regular attendance of 15-16 each Thursday evening. As the Ox & Bucks Woodcarvers we pay £50 per term, compared to the old arrangements under Abingdon College where fees rose to £142 per term



Soldier by Terry Hardaker; it is about eight inches square but the depth of carving is less than one inch. Quite an achievement for a 'beginner'.

Around the Regions

Essex

West Hanningfield and outside Events

Apr 8	Normal workshop
May 10–13	Hatfield House Living Crafts Exhibition
May 13	Normal workshop
May 19	'Turn Essex' Event; Chelmsford
May 20	Essex Young Farmers' Show; Chelmsford
June 10	Normal workshop

Westcliff

2nd and 4th Monday each month

Workshops at URC Church Hall, Bridgewater Drive, from 10 to 4, £3 for the day.

For more information, and details of our regular monthly (West Hanningfield) and fortnightly Westcliff meetings contact me, Jean Weston on 01268 758676 or e-mail JeanLWeston@aol.com.

Jean Weston

Shropshire

Regular workshops second Saturday of each month at the Mary Webb School, Pontesbury.

Tuesday night carving sessions. Restart at Prestfelde School. From 7 till 9 pm, £1.

Thursday night carving sessions, Commence on the 7 September from 7 till 9.30 p.m. See Jerry Hughes (01743 790735), Fees to be paid at first meeting.

For both of these evenings BWA membership is obligatory.

Jean Tudor

Kent

Apr 22	Wormshill workshop	£5
May 20	Wormshill workshop	£5
June 24	Wormshill workshop	£5
July 22	Wormshill workshop	£5
Aug 19	Wormshill workshop	£5
Sep 23	Wormshill workshop	£5
Oct 21	Wormshill workshop	£5
Nov 18	Wormshill workshop	£5
Dec 2	Naff Xmas carving with Peter Benson, £20 inc. travel	

I am in contact with David Howard from a group of carvers who are learning in Whitstable. They have started meetings there as a kind of 'satellite' of the Kent Region.

For more information call Malcolm (details on back page)

Malcolm Dye



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Are you near Whitstable?

The Whitstable wood carving group meets weekly during term times at the Whitstable Community College on a Tuesday night from 7–9 pm. The cost varies according to attendance, as the charge is intended to offset the cost of the workshop hire. It is likely to be around £30–£40 a term.

For more information please contact David Howard on: 01227 265085

or e-mail at: waddy100@hotmail.com.

David Howard



Carving tuition and new website

May I let fellow BWA members know that I have a new website and I would be delighted to welcome visitors to it.

It has details of my courses, students' progress with their carvings, a series of projects to follow, etc. I am particularly happy to host groups and clubs, (with farmhouse accommodation) in my studio which has work-bench space for up to 10 carvers. I offer a 20% discount for individual members, and 25% for groups of 3 or more members on courses of 2 days or longer. If any Regions are interested in a weekend or other time away woodcarving in rural Devon please contact me or visit my website:

www.zoegertner.co.uk for full details.

Zoe Gertner

South Wales

As mentioned in the last issue we have been invited to the Mid-Glamorgan Area Scout Centenary Jamboree at Margam Park on the 24th and 25th May.

The event will host over 400 Scouts for various activities including woodcarving and we plan to have a selection of woggles and simple lovespoons for them to carve, so the next two months we will have a lot of blanks to prepare.

We invited the area organisers to a recent meeting, and they brought half a dozen scouts to do a dummy run, and they were impressed with our plans and the scouts showed a lot of enthusiasm from what they did.

Derek Edwards

Lancashire

Greetings from Lancashire, where we have just (Saturday 3 March) held a demonstration and exhibition at the Red Rose Woodturners open day. This is the first time I have witnessed Andrew Fairnie's wonderful display creation for showing off our carvings – a truly great idea and our stand looked fantastic. Thanks to Andrew for his hard work on this and to all who turned up on the day. The Woodturners were very good hosts and the ladies in the tearoom made fantastic cakes so us ladies were happy (to all in Shropshire; Bridie ate the biggest piece!)

- April 28** Jim Longbottom talk; 1-3 (the turtle man! Hopefully Mick will bring his digital camera so we can send some pictures of this fantastic carving and you'll see I've not lost the plot!)
- May 19** Peter Berry talk/demo on caricatures; 10-3
- June 16** Carve in with Peter Muckalt; 12-4 (Yes Mick 12 until 4pm!)
- July 21** Club Carve-in; 12-4 (No Peter)
- August** **NO MEETING**
- September 15** AGM 1-3 followed by slide show by Tom and Alice Fleming.

Hope to see as many as possible at the above events and its been lovely to see so many of our new members supporting demos etc. Keep it up!

Happy Carving!

Sarah Lawrenson

British Woodcarvers Association

Application for membership



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Subscription rates: Full membership - £17

Junior membership - £5

Junior membership is available to those under 16. Junior members have full membership rights except the right to vote at the AGM

Please complete both sides of the form

BWA Website: <http://www.bwa-woodcarving.fsnet.co.uk>

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