

THE WOOD CARVERS GAZETTE

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THE
BRITISH
WOODCARVERS
ASSOCIATION



£2-50
FREE to
members

Volume 2 Issue 7 winter 2012

Editor Graham Biggs

25th ANNIVERSARY

The British Woodcarvers Association

Help us to make this a memorable year.

A competition for all. First prize £250.

This competition is different it is a photograph of your carving.

Details on Page 3.

There is no excuse for not entering. You have plenty of time until the end of September

Make plans for this years AGM in Darlington.

The competition is a Love spoon.

First prize £20.

Why not go and make a short holiday of it .

European Woodworking Show Carving Competition.

Sponsored by Classic Hand tools

First Prize £750

second £250

Full details inside "Go On! you know you want to"

To be judged by the show visitors

Well what a turn up for the book . Lots of things to do and prizes to be won.

Make this Your Jubilee year. Carve a love spoon, Go to the AGM , A holiday Carving in Greece, then enter the National carving competition. Who said carving is slow

New Payment Arrangements

By now you will know that we are changing the date when your subscription is due for renewal so that all subscriptions start at the same time. This has caused some confusion and will no doubt cause a bit more over the next year until everybody gets used to it.

The changes should make it easier to remember when your subscription is due and will make it cheaper and easier to collect them.

All subscriptions will be due for payment in June

In **May** all regions will be sent a list of the current members.

The **June** issue of the Gazette will contain a subscription form.

Payments should be made by the **end of June**.

Payment can be accepted in one of three ways

- **A cheque sent to the membership secretary at the address on the subscription form.**
- **A cheque or cash given to the Regional Leader.**
- **An online payment directly to the BWA bank account. The details will be given on the subscription form.**

Paying at a bank branch with cash or cheque should also be possible.

Capitation for each region will be based on the number of **paid up members** at the end of June and can therefore be paid at the end of **August**.

Regions will have an incentive to ensure that payments have been made so that capitation can be paid. We would expect that some regions will collect almost all of the money and send it with the membership list to claim the capitation.

With this new arrangement we hope that postage costs can be kept to a minimum, both in sending out reminders and also in returning cheques.

We would like to pass these savings back to regions so you will see that there is a proposal to increase the amount of subscription that goes back to each region as capitation.



Please enrol me as a member of the British Woodcarvers Association

Subscription rates £20 per annum:

Interim 'one off' payment for New members joining during Sept, Oct, Nov, £15 : Dec, Jan, Feb £10 :
Mar, April, May £5

to bring Subscription payment in line with, Full Annual membership of £20 per annum, Pay in June

NAME.....

Address.....

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Post code

Phone no..... DOB (Junior members).....(11 to 16 years)

Email Address.....

I want to be in theregion

Return to

BWA Membership Secretary

Roger Timms

16 Coney Hill Road

West Wickham

Kent BR 4 9BX

BWA Silver Jubilee Carving competition

1st Prize: £250 + lots of kudos!

2nd Prize: £25

3rd Prize: 1 year's free membership

If that hasn't caught your attention, we don't know what will!

This competition is the result of asking regions for suggestions as to how the BWA should celebrate its 25th birthday. Malcolm Dye, Regional Leader, Kent suggested a competition that is initially judged regionally, and then each region submits one entry to a national competition.

Your National Council thought this was an excellent idea, but needed a subject. They discovered that the infant BWA used to have its own Christmas cards and think this is a long lost tradition worth reviving, so the competition will be to produce a carving which, once photographed, will make an attractive and festive BWA card.

The competition is therefore a photographic one. You don't have to be an expert carver to produce a carving that looks good on a photograph (and simple designs often work best) so there are no worries about "I'm not good enough". You don't need to send a carving anywhere, and you don't need to add surrounding holly or snow (unless you want to) as there are plenty of templates we can use to dress the card appropriately, depending on the winning subject. No time to carve anything? You may already have a carving that is suitable, so dust it off and enter it in your regional heat – you could win £250 in time for Christmas!

The rules are few: You must be a paid up member of the BWA. National Council Officials may not enter. The photograph needs to be digital, and of a good quality (set the camera to 'fine') and it needs to be set against a plain background. As we don't all have digital cameras, perhaps regions could arrange to have their winning entry photographed and emailed to

lyn.mccracken@btinternet.com by the deadline date of 30th September 2012.

The judges for the Regional Heats are you,

the members. The judges for the National Final will be the members of your National Council, and their decision will be final. Winners will be notified by the end of October, and announced in the Gazette. All national entries will be featured in the Gazette over a period of time. At this stage we are not intending to print cards for sale, just for internal use.

We hope you agree that this is a fitting celebration. It can be entered by all members, no matter what their level of skill, and it is you, the members who have a major say in the winner. Keep your thoughts and ideas coming.

We are listening!
Your National Council.

True letters to the Council;

"I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other day that blew them off."

"Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant."

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European Woodworking Show Carving Competition.

Sponsored by Classic Hand tools

First Prize £750

second £250

Come on, you know you want to!!!!

As reported in the last issue of the Gazette, this event, which has the potential to be one of the largest and most impressive displays of wood carvings by BWA members ever seen, will be hosted by Essex Region on 22nd and 23rd September 2012. It will take place during the European Woodworking Show at the historic Cressing Temple Barns in Essex.

The VERY good news is, as well as a splendid trophy from **Classic Hand Tools Ltd** who is generously sponsoring the event, the winner will receive a cash prize of **£750** and second place will win **£250**. Not bad, don't you think. At last, our special skills as woodcarvers are being given the recognition we deserve.

Remember that only BWA members may enter and there are NO restrictions on size, subject or number of entries per member.

Your entry/entries must have been carved in the 24 months leading up to the competition date and ideally they should make their competition debut at our show.

We very much hope you are able to attend and enjoy the show. You will then be able to bring your entry/entries with you.

If you intend to submit entries for the competition, which will be very tastefully presented and fully protected during the period of the show, you need to arrive with your carving/s by 9.30am on the 22nd September.

If you would like to enter your carving/s but are unable to attend the show we can arrange to receive postal entries and ensure their safekeeping and ultimate return to you after the event. If you have any questions regarding postal entries or indeed the competition in general please contact either :-

Ken Veal by telephone on 01277 899684

e-mail on ken.veal@btinternet.com

Brian Pitcher by telephone on 01277 651672

e-mail on bj.pitcher@talktalk.net

The event is to be judged
by the show visitors .
So think cute

**Go On enter a carving and make this
"Your Jubilee year"**



Woodentops (SE London & W Kent)Christmas Party!
Thanks to JOHN for
arranging it, to DEWI for
these pictures and
NORMAN
for most of the quiz
questions.



Hertfordshire region

Woodcarving holiday in Greece

3 members of Hertfordshire BWA Group and 1 ex member recently spent 2 weeks holiday on the Island of Lefkas. This is what happened! We flew from Gatwick on an efficient airline to Preveza airport on the Southwest coast of Greece. None of us had heard of the airline or airport before but both were a pleasant



surprise. We were met by a wonderfully smiling lady who surprisingly recognised us as woodcarvers without any clues being given to her! She put us in a taxi with a Greek speaking driver who drove us to our destination on Lefkas which is attached to the mainland by a bridge. It was a spectacular drive taking over an hour and we had a chance to see other Islands off the coast and to take note of various landmarks including an old fort built to keep the Turks at bay.

It was a nice surprise to find our accommodation away from the main town up a track in amazing countryside with views of mountains, olives groves and a vineyard. We did wonder how we would cope woodcarving in the heat of Greece. Most days the temperature was between 30 and 34 degrees so it was pretty hot. The woodcarving area was outside on a wooden platform with canvas sides which rolled up and a canvas roof. It was situated to allow as much breeze to pass through the structure as possible. With mountains on 3 sides it was a spectacular place to be. The distractions were sheep in the adjoining olive groves with jangly bells round their necks and some biting flying insects which we kept at bay with sprays and hitting them with rolled up weapons.

We were urged to drink water all day and of course local wine later. It is probably true of all woodcarvers that once starting on a project it is so absorbing that we all ignored the heat and the flying things and just stuck to our projects so much so that it was hard for the tutors to make us stop.



Choices of woods were available and several of us were lucky to use olive wood which has an amazing grain. However it is hard to find large pieces of olive wood because the locals pollard trees to increase the olive crop and all spare wood is used for firewood. It was interesting to see the olive groves and we learned that the trees fruit alternate years. We did see some very old trees which had huge gnarled trunks with lots of branches growing out which were obviously the result of pollarding over many years. Olive wood has a tendency to split as most available wood is green and we learned it is profitable to soak it in olive oil to prevent further damage.



Various other woods were offered to us and we used red gum (flame eucalyptus), lime and mahogany all of which carved well. One of our group adapted an interesting piece of driftwood probably olive wood which was picked up from the beach.. The first two days we had some tuition on basic skills such as tool sharpening and how to use appropriate tools. Those of us who thought we knew it all were mistaken as we all learned something new and it was a chance to listen to and get to know our tutors. We then walked into the vineyard and chose a leaf to carve in lime as an introductory task which left us the bulk of our holiday to carve items of our choice.

Hours of carving were 9am to 12midday and 3pm to 6pm but of course this was not set in stone and we could opt out to do other things if we wished. Most of us used the wonderful swimming pool after the morning carve, enjoyed a very Greek lunch provided for us, had a siesta or a rest on our accommodation balconies and after the afternoon carve we then walked to the local tavernas or bars for our evening meal.

Magical memories were the fireflies displaying at night which reminded us of flashing



Tinkerbelles lighting up the hedgerows and long grasslands. The Greek dancers we watched in a local restaurant, the weekend trip around the Island where we marvelled at the countryside and the wild flowers. We visited a Monastery which had amazing paintings and wood carved doors and panels, we swam in the Ionian sea and enjoyed lots of Greek food especially seafood, although one of our group said if he never saw another Greek salad again he would not be sorry!!

What did we achieve?

We learned to stick to the set of 8 tools we were given and adapt their use to suit our requirements. This was a learning experience and very useful.



We successfully produced good pieces of work in a time limit despite the advice and criticism of our fellow carvers!

We learned some Greek history which seems to have been pretty turbulent at times, but really enjoyed visiting the Island and appreciating the friendliness and hospitality of the local people. Our tutors were Simon Clements and Stephen Scott from Woodcarvers Greece.



Woodworking in Action

The European Woodworking Show is an amazing showcase of craftsmen and women from around the world. Set in the beautiful grounds of the Cressing Temple Barns in Essex, the European Woodworking Show, now in its third year, will have over 100 exhibitors representing a diverse range of woodworking disciplines. A demonstrator led show supported by quality tool makers.

Saturday and Sunday
22nd & 23rd September, 2012

For more information and ticket sales **Call 01473 785 946**
or email:
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Essex, UK CM77 8PD
www.europeanwoodworkingshow.eu

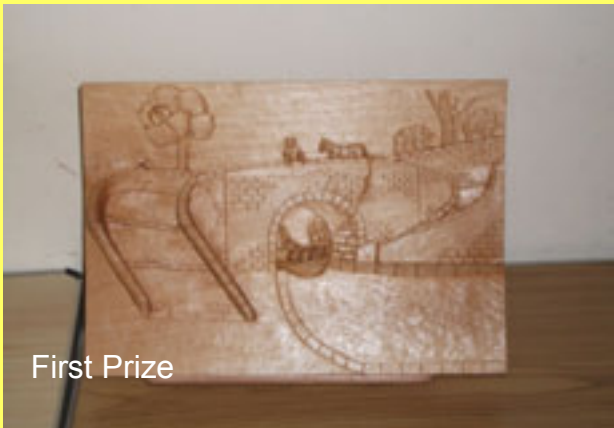
NORTH WALES REGION

Party time

The 2011 rave began as do all the best parties – in the kitchen area. In the club programme this particular day's event (our Christmas party) is always subtitled as "bring a plate of goodies", and as a result it takes on the appearance of the final stages of one of the TV based cooking competitions. Soon enough the room is divided into two distinct sections; at one end there are those who are busily placing their entry in the Christmas competition on to the display table, whilst at the other end the ladies are arranging the buffet table.

My own entry for the competition wasn't ready in time, so unfortunately I had to give it a miss. I never enter any competition with any anticipation of being amongst the prize winners, but that is not the sole point of entering. However, all was not lost.

I was talking to Alex our treasurer and happened to mention my disappointment at not entering this year just as I was opening my own "plate of goodies" offering.



I have this growing interest in baking and saw a recipe by two big guys with beards who go around on motorbikes. It was for a chicken, ham, leek and apricot pie – perfect! My wife Hazel came with me and we were both eagerly awaiting the moment when the pie was cut into portions. It had looked good as it came out of the oven so we were hoping that it lived up to it's promise and cut well. There was a huge sigh of relief when the first wedge slid out cleanly and looking delicious. Alex promptly took the plate the wedge was on and placed it on the competition table – it got two votes!

Enough with the frivolity though, the competition was deservedly won by Peter Challenor, with Eileen taking second place.

Photo 1 shows Jack congratulating the two winners, with photos 2 and 3 showing the winning entries.

The party as always was a great success, and we now all await next years subject.

Ron Cannell



EATING OUT

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in £20, even though it's only for £32.50.

None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators

BATHROOMS

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337.

A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

Solway Region

Three Wise Non Humans

As a group we have always supported local charities with great success. A "long distance" one has been through the running efforts of my son David over the last two years. Nottingham marathon 2010 and two Cardiff Half's.

The charity is WWW. orangutan-appeal.org.uk. This June he is running 6 marathons in 6 days from Worcester to Poole then a ferry to Jersey and a further 6 miles to the Durrell Wildlife Sanctuary, famous for bringing the plight of the Orangutans to the notice of the world.

My idea was to carve an "Orangutan edition" of the three wise monkeys to present on the completion of the run. I hit some problems along the way and as you can see the third one was OK.

You can follow him on his Facebook page. Davids-6in6-orangutans-2012. This has already brought in donations from USA. Hong Kong and Australia. Any donations to: WWW. justgiving.co.uk/6in6-orangutans-2012

Locally we are carving a 30mm X 60mm plaque of the view over the Solway to Criffle Mountain on the Scottish side For the RNLI. Also three 9 ft Totem Poles to stand on the Silloth Green. Designs by the children of Silloth Junior and Infants school are to be submitted for judging soon

Michael Faulkner
Solway Woodcarvers.



The finished three wise non humans

Health & Safety

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged.

However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

CONFUCIUS DIDN'T SAY

Man who wants pretty nurse, must be patient.

Quiz By Dave Hoare

West Midland region

1. A young tree.....
2. Growth of a tree.....
3. Dying variety of English tree.....
4. A sky object in end grain.....
5. Hand tool that fly's.....
6. Bird joint.....
7. Fixing on the tip of finger.....
8. A new tennis player for germination.....
9. Falling leaves on a table.....
10. Carving potato's before frying.....
11. Musical Saw.....
12. Meat saw.....
13. A sad Saw.....
14. You find this cloth in the plane tree.....
15. A file with a bad cough.....
16. Fruit in the linden tree.....
17. Burnt wood, could be a tre.....
18. Wood for the cricket bat.....
19. A saw with links.....
20. Keep your nose to this.....

LONDON 2012

OLYMPIC GROUP PROJECT

SHROPSHIRE WOODCARVERS

To celebrate London 2012 and the part played by Dr William Penny-Brookes of Much Wenlock in the revival of the Modern Olympics the Shropshire Woodcarving group agreed on creating a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion. After much discussion a design emerged consisting of a plaque made up of thirty relief carvings depicting the host cities of the modern Olympics. The structure to display the carvings consists of a three foot diameter disc that can be rotated vertically on an axis supported by a circular base. The disc consists of three concentric sections that open and turn



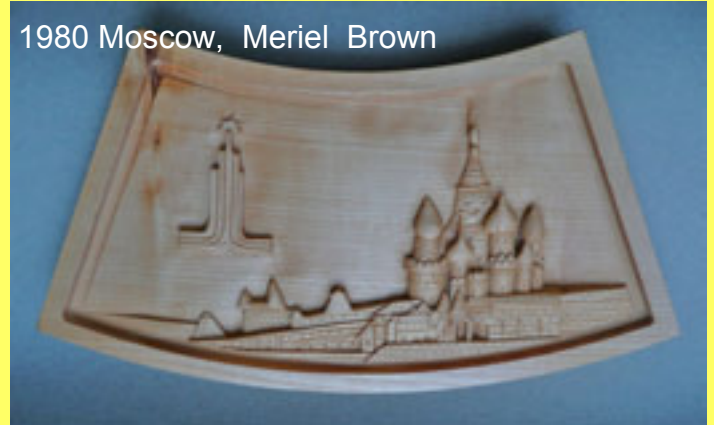
independently on the axis to create the impression of a sphere representing the World. The carvings are mounted on both sides of the disc and arranged in chronological order.

The task of producing the plaque was shared by the group with thirty members carving a section each and our resident engineer constructing the basic structure and carving the lettering into the base. The wood selected for the project was lime and the individual arced sections were laser cut to shape and given an indented margin to create a uniform frame and depth to each carving. The precision cutting using a CAD program was necessary to ensure that the carved sections fitted together snugly onto the curved sections of the disc.

The carving process began with members drawing lots as to which city they were to carve.

The next step was then for each carver to research their city and produce a sketch of how they thought the city could best be represented in their relief carving. To assist with this task a briefing session was used to offer guidance on appropriate content such as famous buildings, landmarks and national symbols. Some cities

1980 Moscow, Meriel Brown



were far easier than others to represent in this way. Each completed sketch was then viewed and discussed for its content and lay out. This was followed up with a work shop on relief carving techniques for those new to this style of carving.

1928 Amsterdam, Chris Lewis



An unexpected and intriguing debate arose over the orientation of the individual carvings when placed on an upright circular mount. Should they be aligned to face into the centre of the disc like the Roman numerals on a clock face or arranged as the digits on an analogue clock. Members of the group expressed strong opinions as to how they visualised the orientation of the carvings and this, surprisingly, was divided largely on gender lines.

In the end the decision on orientation had to be made by the project leader.

The finished carvings were treated with Danish oil and glued to the disc. The project from inception to completion took just over a year and as well as resulting in a splendid carving it provided the opportunity for the group to develop their relief carving skills and social bonding.

The final task is to ensure that the carving is widely displayed during 2012.



1972 Munich, Linda Johnson-Boxall



1992 Barcelona Brian Rogers



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A number of years ago my husband turned me a wooden bowl to keep my eggs in the kitchen. He carved the top edge into 2 chicken heads and attached eyes. Recently one of the eyes came off and was lost. I went to the local craft shop to buy a new replacement pair of eyes. I explained in detail to the shop assistant what I wanted. Without hesitation and not batting an eyelid (sorry) , she replied “ With or without eye lashes.”
Beryl Wallace, Rockingham Forest Carvers

Tribute

As I sit down to write this tribute to one of Lancashire's members, I am filled with a warm glow. Myself and seven other members had the pleasure of meeting Margaret Parker's family earlier today at her funeral, and a chance to reminisce about our memories of her.

I took over as Chair here at Lancashire back in 1999, and if memory serves me rightly, Margaret was with us from the start. She was a lovely, friendly warm lady, very kind, with a good word to say about everyone. In fact in all the time I knew her I never heard her say something bad about anyone. She was very religious, and as a Catholic used her woodcarving skills to painstakingly carve the faces of Saints, and her family. She particularly enjoyed Michael Painter's visits, and loved looking at his photo collection detailing all the ecclesiastical stone carvings he had prepared to replace damaged ones in churches. She was very talented and always started with a huge



chunk of wood which in parts would sometimes end up the thickness of a piece of paper as she worked to get the likeness. As you can see from the photo she managed to do this very well, and I am told her family have found hundreds of her carvings at home, carved in anything she could get her hands on-from a delivery of lime we once acquired as a club to old furniture pieces she had tired of.

Margaret lived on her own and never drove, so to start with she would get the bus to us-despite the fact that after they changed the bus route it

sometimes took her two buses and nearly two hours to join us. One Christmas meeting she arrived just at the end after one of the buses had taken her on the scenic route-never once did she complain-merely said she had enjoyed the view-once we realised this was the case, Geoff and Mick, and occasionally Terry or Marian made sure they either collected or took her home-but she would never ask for a lift as she didn't want to be a burden to anyone-little did she realise it was a pleasure to help such a lovely lady. She was very thoughtful and if anyone had a particular carving in mind would keep newspaper clippings/bring in models if she thought they could help.

When I mentioned that I would like to write a piece for the Gazette about Margaret one member commented that Margaret would be amazed if we could arrange that, though she would no doubt wonder what the fuss was all about... Such a true reflection of her.

Throughout our lives we are sent precious souls... meant to share our journey however brief or lasting their stay they remind us why we are here

Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same. (Taken from 'Some People' by Flavia Weeden)

So whilst we are sad at her passing, we all have fond memories of a good friend, who we will miss dearly at our meetings.

Rest peacefully Margaret,

From all your friends at BWA Lancashire



MARGARET PARKER 1937-2012

To commemorate her 70th birthday,
actress/singer Julie Andrews made a special
appearance at Manhattann's Radio City Music Hall

One of the musical numbers she performed was
'My Favourite Things' from the legendary movie
'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,

These are a few of my favourite things.
Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,

These are a few of my favourite things.
When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they
bring,

These are a few of my favourite things...

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

(Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from
the crowd that lasted over four minutes and
repeated encores..

How can a man go eight days without
sleeping ?

*** No problem, he sleeps at night.**

. How can you lift an elephant with one
hand?

*** You will never find an elephant
that has only one hand..**



Up in the darkest welsh valleys our elves have
been busy in the lead up to Christmas at Forest
Drive, Abercarn, near Newport, Gwent and raised
over £400 for Ty Hafan a Children's Hospice for
the terminally ill. Included in the picture are John
Maiden, John Robinson and Ken Jones.

If you know anyone short of players in a
pantomime I will act as their agent.

2012 Events

Essex Region

Meetings at West Hanningfield

Sunday January 8 Normal Workshop

Sunday February 12 Normal Workshop

Sunday March 11 Normal Workshop

Sunday April 8 Normal Workshop

Meetings at Westcliff

2nd and 4th Monday of each month we meet at

'The Bridgwater, Drive Church, Hilltop Building'

Bridgwater Drive, Westcliff,

10 – 4pm, £3 for the day

Rockingham Forest Carvers

April 14th Barnsdale Wood Demonstration

July 5th Bus trip to "Chatsworth House"

July AGM

Ashley Isles date to be agreed

Kent Region

South-East, Woodworking show, Detling,

9-10th March

Yorkshire region

Great Yorkshire show, Harrogate

July, 10th 12th 1st prize £30 + more

(sponsored by John Boddy's)

Countryside Life

Oct 20th, 21st

European Woodworking Show

Cressing Temple Barns,

September 22nd & 23rd.

Prizes £750 + more

Answers

to Dave Hoare's

Quiz

1 Saplings

2 Rings

3 Elm

4 Star Shake

5 Plane

6 Dove Tail

7 Nail

8 Seed

9 Drop leaf

10 Chips

11 Band saw

12 Chop saw

13 Fret saw

14 Lace

15 Rasp

16 Lime

17 Ash

18 White willow

19 Chain saw

20 Grindstone



Rockingham Forest Carvers Xmas Do



Rockingham Forest Carvers Xmas Do



Yorkshire Xmas do

Yorkshire Xmas do



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KENT Region

It was tutored by Peter Benson, As can be seen by the picture, the subject was by far the most ambitious of all the projects that Peter had set us over many years. He provided the blank and the battery-operated night light which would be fixed in the back of the carving to illuminate the little cottage on the top of the hill. He explained that the blank could be developed in a number of ways, depending on how adventurous we felt.

Most of us were quite happy trying to achieve a result let alone use our creativity!

The floor of the hall was soon well decorated with wood chippings, and slowly, very slowly, the basic shape emerged.

Probably the most demanding part was carving the tiny door and windows in the cottage.

Malcolm was unable to attend, unfortunately, but had arranged lunch at the village pub, The Blacksmith's Arms. An inspired choice as we were made very welcome. The menu was excellent and the food wholesome. So much so that no one could tackle a sweet! So if anyone is looking for a midday meal in the area, The Blacksmith's Arms should be on the shortlist. Carving continued throughout the afternoon and we all made good headway. However no-one completed the project, so it will be interesting to see the finished articles in due course.

An interesting tip was given to us by Peter about the possible productive use of those off cuts that we are all reluctant to get rid of. The idea was prompted by him sorting out some scrap and studying their shapes and what might be produced from them.. Some of the resulting carvings are show in the picture. Of course, Peter has loads of scrap as a result of producing large numbers of blanks for the classes he runs, but what a good idea! So get scrap-gazing, you never know what masterpiece you might produce!



The picture shows eight of the eleven members who attended this event at Wormshill on 11 December, 2011.



Woodworm in Oak, a Cautionary Tale

About a year ago I acquired a block of old oak, some 9"x9"x4" thick, for a particular carving. It was reclaimed timber with evidence of the worm-both surface holes and dust filled internal holes throughout. But hey, we don't pass up a 'usable' piece of wood, so what precautions to take? Let's kill the blighters off by putting the block in the freezer for a week. This was done, and the block removed having been very generous with the time allowed. There, that should do it.

Anyway, carving started and ho! That old oak was hard. As a safeguard (you never know) I put several small pieces of the oak into an empty lozenge tin and chucked it in the workbag, where it lay forgotten for several months.

I recently reopened the tin-HORROR- there were several dozen bugs (alive)

And a pile of dust. For the record the bugs were about the size and shape of ladybirds, but black in colour with pale yellow spots/bands. The unfinished carving has since been destroyed along with the bugs.

Moral-----freezing does not kill woodworm!

Ted Green

Ed. From the description of the blighters (with yellow spots/bands) they sound like Xestobium rufovillosum or Death-watch beetle. They particularly like old oak

and leave holes of 3-4 mm in April-June and a pile of dust!!

KENT Region

An odd-shaped holding Device

Pat Sproule has made this gadget, based on one he was shown at his Hamlett Wood group.

As can be seen it comprises four pieces of wood, the size of which can be flexible depending on the wood available to make it and even the particular carving. It is a parallelogram that can be set narrower or wider to fit the carving to be held. A key feature is that the four screws protrude through the base of the device and their points provide a useful way of stopping it from sliding on the bench. The carving is held fast by a rope or cord stretched over the top.





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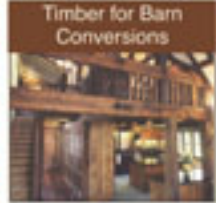
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Peter Brown.

Sadly Peter Brown died on Wednesday 15 November after an extended period in hospital following a fall. Peter was known by many of you, particularly if you attended the West-cliff gatherings. He was a long standing member of the Essex woodcarving community.



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