

THE WOOD CARVERS GAZETTE

Published by
THE
BRITISH
WOODCARVERS
ASSOCIATION



£2-50
FREE to
members

Volume 2 Issue 11 Spring 2013

Editor Graham Biggs

TV & Film Stars are Woodcarvers

It has come to our notice that
Daniel Day-Lewis and Jim Broadbent
both carve as a means of relaxing and enjoyment

Some of the benefits you have as a member

- Friendships with like-minded people
- Access to carving expertise
- Advice on tools and wood to choose
- Contacts and networking
- Exhibitions to enjoy as a spectator or even a demonstrator!
- Plenty of demonstrations at many venues
- BWA Gazette full of regional stories
- Our own page in the national 'Woodcarving Magazine'
- BWA website at your finger tips
- Local competitions
- Learn to up-cycle old wooden objects with your own carved embellishments
- Discounts with some trade stores
- AGM with workshops, in varied, beautiful parts of the country
- Public liability insurance
- Web site to sell your carvings
- Carving summer schools by members and other institutions (group discounts)
- Carving holidays in Austria and Greece (group discounts)
- Each region will welcome you with exceedingly fine cakes of their regional speciality

View of the AGM venue.

This is the National Botanical Gardens of Wales. It is a beautiful place for you and your partner. So why not make a short break? You can do your carving bit and there is something for your partner and then you can both enjoy the beautiful Welsh countryside .



The largest single span glasshouse in the world



Daniel Jones (Junior Member) Grandson of Bob Mapp.
Photo courtesy of Carl Stringer

Some of what the National Council is doing

Each region to have their own page on the BWA website

The location page is now active where you can find your nearest carving group

List of members who are willing to undertake commissions

Membership cards It is proposed that the regional leader will be sent membership cards for paid up members. They will fill in your details as a form of receipt and proof of membership. Saves cost of posting.

The membership form will be updated to reflect the position that junior members are under 16 years

Insurance this is a bone of contention and myth. You are covered if you are a member of the BWA.

Bryan is getting our insurers to spell out the position in everyday language .

As far as possible the AGM will be held at a time and venue where there is something for partners and a place to have a short holiday

*When you organise an exhibition make sure you have sufficient membership forms and back issues of the Gazette. These can be given as an inducement to join. Plus the 20 fabulous reasons to join.
Contact the editor for back issues
They are limited in number*

I give notice that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the **BRITISH WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION**

will take place on
Saturday 4th May at the
Botanical Gardens of Wales,
Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire
SA32 8HG

Starting at 14-00
Only Members may speak and Vote
(Bring your minutes of the last AGM)
Lynn Kimm Secretary

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And too much time on their hands!**



Paper training our little dog, Frank

If you take an oriental person and spin him round several times does he become disoriented?

If a pig loses its voice is it disgruntled ?

**Copy date for the Next
edition
End May 2013**

**To the new editor
Jason Townsend**

'jas@ant.uk.com'

Your NEW Editor.

(They get younger.)

Proposed by Ken Veal and seconded by Ted Jeffrey
From the Essex region

From Jason

I am 33 years old and having been carving for the last three years. Everything to do with carving is fresh and exciting to me and I think that I can bring across this excitement to the readership. I have a background in Computer Science but have a love for Wood and Woodcarving. I think that my technical skills and graphic design knowledge will allow me to be a successful replacement to Graham's editorship. There has never been a more interesting time to be a woodcarver and never a more exciting time to be a part of the BWA – It will be a privilege for me to become editor of The Woodcarvers Gazette

Jason Townsend

'jas@ant.uk.com'

Mob: 07970 535 189

I have been your editor for three years and you have supported me very well.

I hope you will give Jason the same support.
Graham Biggs



Seen by a Clive on a visit to Bruges.

Is this flexibility gone too far?



Spring Onion

Sorry I could not resist it

There is another aspect of our love of carving which I suspect is almost greater than the act itself. And that is the ownership of carving tools.

Just having them can be such a joy and when you are thinking of adding to your collection, and when doesn't a carver do that, those alluring tools pose seductively, whether it be in a shop window a tool shop website, on e-bay or at a stand at a wood show. They just begging to be bought.

Nothing makes the mouth water more than that tool you spy which you just know will make all the difference to the quality of your current or planned carving. You just have to have it.

You wait till your partner is out of site, because you just know that he or she will say "How Much?" or "You have got one just like that already", or even "You haven't room for any more tools".



You have seen a photo montage
what about this

It's a hard life being a dedicated wood carver
Thank you Clive Nash

Four months to go....Woodentops at Coolings – 2013 Exhibition



Diarise it: Sunday 5 May 2013 : our exhibition at Coolings in Rushmoor Hill, near Pratts Bottom.

BWA Lancashire

Lancashire's Christmas carving competition. Each December we do a Jacobs join, with friends and family welcome. Any member can enter the competition as long as they enter a carving not seen in any of our competitions before-any subject/size/wood. We did one year insist on it being leaves, but we only had 4 entries, so decided on a fresh approach. We had some wonderful entries, but after voting finished these are the top three- Lol Abram won £10 in third place with his love spoon, in second place winning £15 was George Olsson with his decoy carving, and in first place was Yvonne Lowe with her art deco lady netting her £20.

This is the second time she has been in the top three (we may have to ban her next year-only joking!) It was a lovely meeting, with a great spread of food (which my nine year old, Daniel, helped to polish off!) and it was lovely to see everyone chatting happily- a great end to a good years carving.

Best wishes

Sarah Lawrenson



What is a Jacob's Join?

Can any one explain?

The correct way to weigh yourself:



I can't believe I was doing it wrong all these years.

WE MUST SHARE THIS TO ALL

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The Hampshire Woodcarvers Christmas Meeting

The Hampshire Woodcarvers held their traditional 'bring and share' Christmas buffet lunch at their December meeting on Sunday 2nd December, held at The Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall at Wherwell. We were pleased to welcome Jean Horseman, who has recently joined the BWA, to her first meeting with the team. Jean is a professional jewellery and fine sculpture maker, using fine metals and a variety of woods.

As always we were over laden with food and despite Kate's best efforts at coordinating supplies everybody seemed to bring along a lot more than their usual Apple and a Sandwich.

The main event at our December meeting is always the award of our trophy given for the best carving completed that year, regardless of when it was actually started! Each member present is given 10 washers to award amongst the carvings as they see fit. This year we had 14 entries competing for 190 washers. Competition at the top was tight. Third place went to John Dixon with his fine copy of the Jaguar Car makers 'Leaping Jaguar' mascot, which collected 25 washers. Second was Kate Upfold with 27 washers for her fine Gentleman's Head but the winner, with 28 washers, was Alan Taplin with his splendid Tree Spirit. It was perhaps fitting that Alan should win in this Silver Anniversary Year as he was one of the founder members at the formation meeting of the BWA. With personal membership numbers now up to about 4500 Alan's is 77!

We hold a second competition each year in which members are asked to carve their entry from a 6" x 4" x 4" lime block, to a theme that we select early in the year. This year the theme was The Olympics. This is normally voted for by the public when we attend the Test Valley Community Woodfair in September. We have attended this since it began in 2000 but unfortunately it was cancelled this year at short notice. We therefore decided to have a second competition at the December meeting.



The Chairman with the Trophy and Alan Taplin with his winning carving

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The initial plan was to give everybody another 5 washers for this one but having seen Jean's superb display of her work, and as she had not met any of us before or seen the carvings under construction, we asked her to select the winner. Much to my surprise my carving of the 2012 Olympics Logo was judged the winner.

The Hampshire Woodcarvers meet on the first Sunday of the month and of the 30 members allocated to the Hampshire Region 24 attend our monthly meetings, with an average attendance of 15-16. Our attendees come predominantly from the rural areas of central and western Hampshire, with a few just over the borders into Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Due to the well spread area that they cover we move our monthly meetings around 6 different venues to try and even out the travelling commitment.

As one of the founder regional meetings of the BWA I am pleased to say that we are all in good form and with some young members regularly attending we look forward to the next 25 years.

John Tybjerg Regional Leader, Hampshire



Alan Taplin's TREE Sprit



Some of the other entries



John Tybjerg and his 2012 Olympic Logo carving



The Hampshire Woodcarvers December Meeting

Mince pies and modesty

The good folk of the North Wales and Borders Branch of the BWA held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 22nd. Everybody seemed well into the party spirit as the buffet table was spread with the usual delicious assortment of goodies.

As tempting as that was, I was far more interested in what was going on down at the other end of the room. This is where the competition table is situated, and from quite early on it was clear that people had been listening to Jack's regular exhortations to get busy with their own entry. The theme this year was "Transport", a subject that certainly grabbed the attention of the members, who responded with an imaginative display of work to be admired.

Whenever I look at any piece of work, whether it is carving, turning or painting, whatever, it doesn't matter; if it draws my attention, my first thought is always, what inspired it? Apart from any considerations of skill in making the piece involved, I wonder about the imagination that conceived of it in the first place.

There were several relief carvings of the old time galleons, including an absolutely stunning "Mayflower", and a very lifelike depiction of a laden camel. Two very imaginative pieces, a col-

ond prize awards said that it is not always the best carving by the best or most skilful carver that wins on the day. It is what happens to catch the eye of the individual. To reflect that observation, and to my complete astonishment, I won the first prize for my carving of a hot air balloon.

There were definitely carvings on show by carvers whose work and skill I can only aspire to, but if my success on the day serves to inspire others who, with natural reluctance, or a feeling that they are less skilled than some, to have a go; then I am happy.

Ron Cannell



lection of boots and a witch with her own mode of transport – a broomstick - raised many a smile. As impressive as I thought the "Mayflower" carving was, it was the simplicity of the witch on her broomstick that got my vote.

Jack later in his presentation of the first and sec-

STAN KIMM'S TIP

If you need to mark an outline, (for relief; letter carving etc.), on very dark wood it is possible to use White 'carbon' paper. I bought mine from Amazon and although quite expensive - £6.49 for 5 A4 sheets - it gives a clear, crisp mark and can be rubbed off easily with a normal rubber.

PORTABLE CARVING BENCH

My carving bench was primarily designed to be portable so that it could be used at club meetings and when demonstrating at exhibitions.

The principle of operation is basically an "umbrella", shown in the open and closed positions in Photos 1 and 2. Dimensions are shown in Figure 1 although these can easily be modified to suit individual requirements.

The assembly comprises five main parts: legs (3 off 3" x 2" softwood), spreaders (3 off 1" x 2" oak), bottom junction (2" oak) and top plate (made up from 3" x 2" softwood jointed to form three arms at 120 degrees), to which is attached the working surface (1" blockboard).

I use various work holding devices, either G-clamps, holdfast or (most often) a ball and socket mounted plate which gives a further 8" of height – just right for me when standing – these are mounted on a selection of interchangeable working surfaces.

I have been using the bench for six years and it has performed well beyond my original expectations – I now use it almost exclusively for carving, even in my workshop. The only modification in that time has been the drilling of a few holes in the Working Surface, to hold chisels currently in use.

The bench is extremely rigid, with very little unwanted movement on any axis. I attribute this to the use of tightly fitting joints and large contact surfaces at the hinge points. For this reason, I would recommend that the Spreader dimensions are not reduced below the 2" used here. Also, be sure to use self-locking nuts to avoid them coming loose.

There is obviously a limit to the force which can be applied to a carving, particularly in a horizontal direction, before the bench starts to tip. It has been suggested that a weight suspended from the centre of the Top Plate would reduce this tendency but I find that a foot placed on the nearest Spreader is perfectly satisfactory.

If the bench is used on a polished floor it can tend to walk across the floor. I have rarely experienced this, having a rough floor in my workshop, but it could be prevented by attaching non-slip material to the leg ends.

One advantage of the configuration is that, with a small Working Surface (12" x 15"), it is possible to work all around the carving without any mounting adjustments. Mike Denney

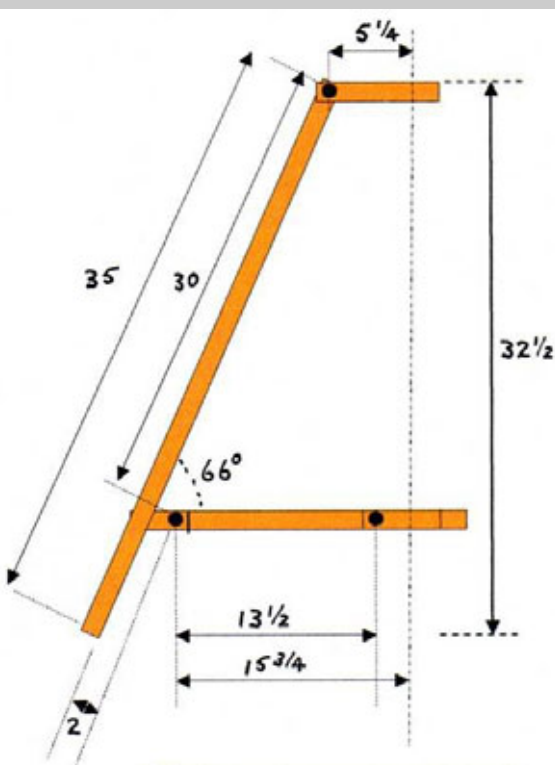


Figure 1: Dimensions (inches)

Five Rules to Remember in Life

1. Forgive your enemy but remember the bastard's name.
2. Money cannot buy happiness but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle.
3. Help someone when they are in trouble and they will remember you when they're in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk.

These should assist you with most daily decision choices.

Julia Turner Creation

From Roland Laycock



Editors choice competition

Carving ? from Offcuts

I am relatively new to carving having only been at it for about 3 years but I enjoy the work very much and am learning all the time.

The piece is an offcut of lime, approx 6" high, 2" wide and 1" thick,

It is based on an idea by Peter Benson, It is supposed to show a series of buildings linked by steps from one level to the next below, and I have coloured the piece to show the various levels. I have done several of these and without colour they would not show up in a photo, although I do prefer my carvings to be plane and waxed. I like to see the grain which often makes the carving come to life.

Dave Griffin West Lancashire Region



Some time ago I was making shields for my son's Football Club. I was left with a number of Offcuts. I glued them together. The result has not been named to this day. Is it a dog, horse, cow???

Pat Sproule



I'm sending these photos for my dad, Mr Bob Ferris, he loves carving and has been an avid carver for over 34 years, he makes fabulous love spoons and statues and will turn his hand to anything, he wanted me to send you what he makes from scrap pieces of wood, frog and mice doorstops .

Bob Ferris



Running Pheasant was carved from Laceywood that I purchased as an off-cut from a chair maker, cost me £1.00.

Steve Smart

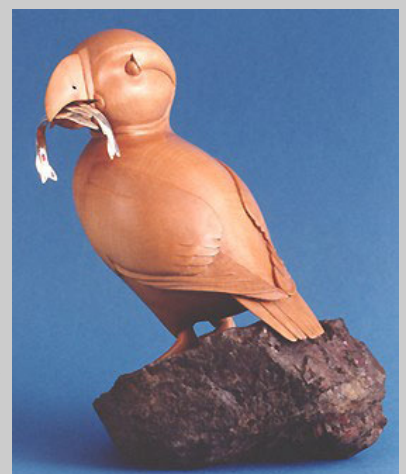


The Dancer was carved from Laburnum that was not strictly an off-cut as I took it off of a friend's woodpile for his fire so this may not qualify but I thought you may be interested any way.

Steve Smart

The puffin was a small commission for a lady who was also one of my students. The wood for the puffin came from the scrap removed from another carving. He has silver sand eels in his beak and stands on Serpentine rock

Martin Turner



From Tim Holmes. Ox and Bucks.

The evolution of a carving

First find a place to put it

I have always been interested in, and admired, linen fold oak panelling. So when I took up carving two years ago it was not long before I decided to have a go at carving some myself. At the outset I was not sure what it was going to be used for. Using traditional tools, no routers, I started by forming the profiles. I made a profile plane out of an old chisel to create the large concave central section. The undercutting was done with a swan neck chisel. Cabinet scrapers we used extensively working well on the hard oak.

Then came the exciting part, forming the ends and working out the folds. Very clear and accurate marking was essential for me but I imagine the master carvers who worked for years on the panelling of large halls with years of experience would have used a few rough pencil lines. The first end was a real challenge and did not look too good. However as I progressed to the second and third end it suddenly clicked becoming much easier and quicker. I was then able to go back and rework the first end and bring it up to scratch.

I was still not sure what to do with the panels. At the same time I had been working on my family coat of arms and it occurred to be that they could be combined into a three sectioned panel. This in turn led onto the concept of the chest which is seen in the photograph waiting for the lid to be fitted.

The coat of arms is based on information dating back to 1603 and was carved in Lime. Again keeping to traditional materials I decided to finish certain sections with 22 carat gold. In preparation for this the carved wood was coated with about 15 thin layers of 'gesso'. This is made by mixing hide glue and powdered marble and applied hot. This coating stabilises the wood and remains slightly flexible which I hope will prevent cracking and provides a smooth surface to take the gilding. The photos show the gesso prior to gilding.



I have learnt a lot working on this project, not only carving techniques thanks to Brian at our club, but also the his-

tory and development of linen fold and finally a lot about heraldry and the protocols of coats of arms.

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2013 Events

Lancashire & Cheshire

19/1	Carve-in with Roy Richardson	12.30-4.30
16/02	Paul Boldy Luthier-instruments maker	1-3
16/03	Carve-in with Richardson	12.30-4.30
20/04	Bob Neill Pyrography hands on	10-4
18/05	Carve-in Roy	12.30-4.30
15/06	Bryan Chapman	12.30-4.30
20/07	Carve-in Roy	12.30-4.30
21/09	AGM	1-3

**Ilan Norbury, possible his last exhibition,
at**

**The Orangery, Highnam Court,
Gloucestershire**

27th – 28th April 2013 10 am - 4 pm

February

9th - 23rd Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Oakwell Hall Art Exhibition

March

April

25 -28th Yorkshire Region: Harrogate Flower show

May

19th Essex Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Essex Young Farmers Show, Roxwell. 1 day.

9th - 12th Herts and Essex Regions: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Living Crafts Show, Hatfield House, Herts. 2/3 days.

June

1st Warwick Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at Kennilworth Show. 1 day.

8th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Honley Agricultural Show

8 - 9th Yorkshire Region: Wistow Scarecrow Festival

July

6-7th Gloucestershire Region: Cotswold Country Show, Cirencester. 2 days

14th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the York Dragon Boat Race

9th -11th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Great Yorkshire Show

6th Essex Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Bradwell Pilgrimage Show. 1 day.

12th - 14th Kent Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Kent County Show, Detling. 3 days.



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14th -15th Essex Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Essex Country Show, Barleylands. 2 days

18h -19th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Countryside Live. Harrogate

26th - Nov 3 Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at Autumn Glory, Harewood House

August

3rd-4th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Leeds Flower Show

24th - 26th Yorkshire Region: Exhibition and demonstrations at the Cawood Craft Fair.

Roger Timms Membership secretary

E mail : timms-r@sky.com

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Have A Holiday in Wales

May 2013 the AGM will be at the National Botanic Gardens, Carmarthen

This is the forum where you can make a difference. Come and have your say.

They are stimulating, good for ideas, meet fellow carvers, discuss problems, learn something new admire the quality of carving by other members. They are great fun too.

The National Council is trying to hold the AGM at a time and venue where there are other attractions for non carvers. So why not book a few days holiday for you and your partner.

It's Just Paper Art

By Canadian paper artist, Calvin Nicholls.

There is nothing simple or ordinary about his paper art.

Where we would simply use a piece of paper and a pair of scissors, Calvin uses everything you could possibly think of to carve, cut and rip perfect details onto his creations.

The motifs are all wildlife, and that must be one of the hardest categories of things to make with paper since there are sometimes impossible details on animals.



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Mark Baker visits the home of Chris Pye and Carrie Camann to find out more about their joint venture, Woodcarving Workshops.tv, a platform offering interactive web-based woodcarving tutorials

It is an unusual situation for me to find something that is different enough to make me want to explore it much further, but when I was alerted to a new teaching website for carvers I must admit that in this case, my interest was piqued.

The appeal

My first thought was, what is it that Woodcarving Workshops.tv possesses that is so very different from the myriad sites one can visit? For example, entering the word 'woodcarving' into the search box reveals over two million website references and,

upon searching the phrase again on YouTube, 16,600 results appear. Many of these will be duplicates, some will be connected with retail outlets and manufacturers, others will relate to online articles and the vast majority are only tenuously related to the initial search word. Not to mention that some of what I saw in terms of quality and information was truly shocking! But Woodcarving Workshops.tv stands apart; it's a site dedicated to the teaching of carvers. It is a subscription-based site costing £5.50 per month, run and operated by Chris Pye and his wife Carrie Camann.

Chris and Carrie

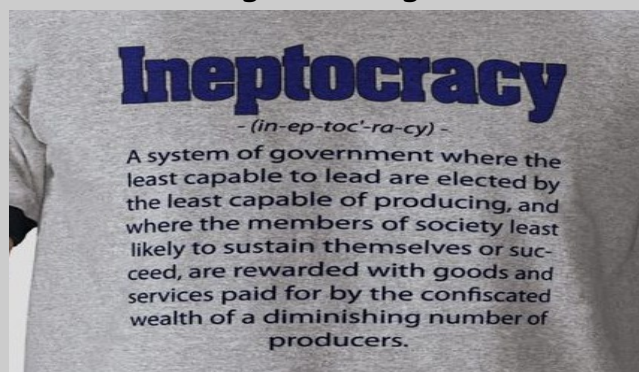
Few people will need an introduction to Chris. Many will have one or more of his books on their shelf already – suffice to say, he is an internationally acclaimed carver with over 35 years' experience; a teacher and author with a passion for sharing knowledge. His wife Carrie Camann is also an accomplished carver and many of you will recognise her from Issue 127's '20 minutes with' where we were given an insight into her carving methods and inspirations.

Chris and Carrie launched the website on 5 April, 2011.

New Word

Couldn't find it in my old Webster's dictionary so I Googled it and discovered it is a recently "coined" new word found on T-shirts on eBay:

Read this one over slowly and absorb the facts that are within this definition! I love this word and believe that it will become a recognized English word.



WINNER
of the Editors choice competition is
Pat Sproule.

Kent Wormshill region
Pat will receive a cheque for £25
For no particular reason but
Its simplicity and it made me smile
Graham Biggs, editor

MORE from North Wales Region



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