

DIARY 2016

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall, 09.30-3.00 pm

Sunday	March 13	Normal Workshop
Sunday	April 10	Normal Workshop
Sunday	May 8	Normal Workshop
Sunday	June 12	Normal Workshop
Sunday	July 10	Normal Workshop
Sunday	August 14	Normal Workshop
Sunday	September 11	Normal Workshop
Sunday	October 9	Normal workshop
Sunday	November 13	Normal Workshop
Sunday	December 11	Xmas Workshop

Meetings at Westcliff

Monday December 19 Xmas meeting
2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 'The Bridgwater Drive Church, Hilltop Building' Bridgwater Drive Westcliff,
10 – 4pm, £4 for the day

Events 2016

The events officer (Michelle Toon woodcarver1@talktalk.net) has issued a listing of the events that we are planning on getting involved with during the course of the year. The listing is repeated here for information. Some of these dates are provisional and may change!

29 April-2 May	RHS Hyde Hall Essex Craft & Design
5-8 May	BWA AGM Hatfield House, Living Crafts
14-15 May	Weird & Wonderful Wood, Suffolk
22 May	Essex Young Farmers, Roxwell
19 June	Blackwater Country Show, Heybridge
2 July	Bradwell Pilgrimage
2 July	Tolleshunt D'Arcy Show
4 August	Toot Hill show, Stanford Rivers
28-29 August	Havering Show
27-29 August	Westonbirt Festival of the Tree
28-29 August	Guild of Essex Craftsmen, Cressing Temple Barns
5-6 November	Woodfest, RHS Hyde Hall

Reminder. Your BWA Annual subscription is due on 1st June
We will offer a collection "service" in the region during
May for those wishing to pay by this route.



THE

ESSEX

March 2016

REGIONAL

NEWS

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Spring 2016

It's March and 2016 is well underway. You should have got all your new year resolutions done and dusted, sharpened your tools and set yourself onto new carving opportunities!

Meanwhile, in the real world, we all move on and events within the region are already coming into focus. Of particular note is the BWA AGM at Hatfield House, Herts on Saturday 7th May. This takes place with the backcloth of the Living Crafts Show at which a number of you will be "doing your stuff" as in previous shows. I hope many of you can make this local event. Full details of the AGM will be given in the Gazette.

Once again I would ask you to consider how you might be able to help out the National Council. Various offices are becoming vacant and any help you can offer will be appreciated. It is of course OUR BWA and we should make an effort to support it.

Can I remind you all that the themed carving for 2016 is Nursery Rhymes, as suggested by Gerry Guiver. With any wood, any style and as many entries as you wish there should be ample scope for everyone to come up with something that both suits them and is an appropriate carving to the theme. When you start to think of the subject you will be surprised what "old friends" come up. You have until the December 11 meeting so lots of time!!

Finally, the days are getting longer, the sun is getting stronger and it's time to look forward to getting to grips with that carving idea you have been toying with all winter.

Go to it and all the best to you all.

Ken

BWA Essex Region AGM

The AGM took place at Mountnessing Village Hall at 11.00am on Sunday 14th February.

There was a goodly attendance of members and many had made a special effort to be present, well done and thank you for that. Personally I think the Library Officer stole the show by coming through the door at 10.59 precisely and taking up position just as the regional Leader opened his mouth to say “good morning”. I was impressed. Now that’s what I call style!!

The meeting went off in good order. The regional leader’s report is published elsewhere in the newsletter while the remaining officers reported verbally. Michelle gave an account of a very full year of events and issued a new programme of proposed events for 2016. John Thompson presented a concise statement (issued in hard copy) of our accounts. He also explained that he was NOT proposing any increase in the attendance costs of our meetings this time round .Brian Pitcher gave his report and explained some of the ideas he had for the New Year. He also alerted everyone to a day coach trip he was organising to Kew Gardens (with guided tour of the new facilities). There was considerable interest in this proposal. Sheila Humphrey reported on the situation with the books/cd library. Several new additions were suggested.

Following these reports we had elections. I’m delighted to say that Michelle, John and Sheila were willing to stand again and were duly elected *nem.con*, for which can I add my thanks.

Finally under AOB Maureen Hockley took the opportunity to remind everyone of the desirability of having representation from our region on the National Council.

Ken

PS. If I’ve missed something important in this report then apologies. It was a busy time.



Four old friends from the hand of Ted Jeffery in painted Lime



Dave Colvin “at it” as they say, working on a bit of Padauk.



John Urbanowski showing how it should be done. Note the gloved hand. Top marks here

Change

Change is something that many of us find uncomfortable as it always asks something of us! While some changes are unwelcome, very many are not and subsequently prove to be beneficial, stimulating and even enjoyable. The Essex Region newsletter format is worth looking at with change in mind. After 8 years (32 issues!) producing it I can confidently tell you feedback is pretty sparse. My impression is that it doesn't meet the required need. As it takes some considerable effort to produce and distribute I am proposing a change of practice. Accordingly I will produce only two issues a year instead of 4) these will be in March and December.

Should items of general interest come up I will of course e mail them to all of those on e mail. All paid up members will continue to receive the BWA Gazette 4 times a year and of course everyone has access to the BWA website at www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk

If YOU have a different point of view on this course of action then please let me know, otherwise it will be December before you get the next issue.

Ken



What about this then? Bill Cross looks as pleased as punch with his walnut carving of Perseus. A terrific effort and very well done.

BWA Essex Region AGM Sunday 14th February 2016 Regional Leader's report 2015

I hope you have all enjoyed your years carving with Essex Region. From my perspective attendances have been consistently good and the support for external events has been excellent. We managed only one formal talk (by Dave Wilkins the stick maker) during the year. We will try and do better in 2016 as this format seemed to go down well with those who attended it. We currently have 86 registered members (77 in Feb 2015). Sadly we did lose Vic Stark, Mary Coleman and Derek Dodd last year and they will be missed.

Looking back we had a very busy year of meetings at both Mountnessing and Westcliff with a very full schedule of supported events all over Essex. The Crossing Temple show with the added woodcarving competition went really well and the latter was a testament to the capabilities of Essex Region.

Thanks must be given to all our committee members for their enthusiasm and commitment. We must also thank Maureen and Peter Roberts for taking care of us by keeping the "vitals" going from the kitchen. Thank you to Ted and Bob Emerson for doing this at Westcliff. I have thanked, on your behalf, Sue my wife for her excellent supply of cakes!

I congratulate those of you who have sent material in to the BWA Gazette. It is our magazine and we need to help the editor keep it going to a high standard. Well done to those who took part in the BWA egg carving competition.

You should all have received the 4 issues of the regional newsletter during the year. I hope this has been of use and of some interest to you. I'm not sure at times of the value of this publication as it does take some time to prepare, print and distribute. I would welcome some views on whether to continue it or not. Does it have value to YOU?

Lastly, quite a few of our members do not or cannot attend our various meetings. Can I say thank you for staying with us, we are delighted to have you as members and if we can help you in any way-LET US KNOW what we can do. I wish you all a very productive and enjoyable carving year in 2016.

Ken Veal
BWA Essex Regional Leader

13th February 2016



A recent carving from Ron Kinnerman with an interesting stippled background to bring out the carved elements.



The Duke of Wellington, suitably mounted, in Lime by Rob Hart



A beautifully completed carving by Ron Davison in Lime with an "antiqued" finish (of his own blend, ask him about it!)



An absolute charmer of a harvest mouse in Box by Steve Smart