

## DIARY 2014

### Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall

Sunday	January	12	Normal Workshop
Sunday	February	9	Normal Workshop
Sunday	March	9	Normal Workshop

### Meetings at Westcliff

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month we meet at 'The Bridgewater Drive Church, Hilltop Building' Bridgewater Drive Westcliff, 10 – 4pm, £4 for the day

### Meetings at Hornchurch

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at Nelmes Road URC  
10.30-2.30pm

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May      Exhibition Diary  
BWA AGM                      Shropshire

## BWA Essex Region AGM to be held on Sunday 9 February 2014 at Mountnessing Village Hall.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Regional Leader's report
2. Exhibition Officer's report
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Publicity Officer's report.
5. Library Officer's report.
6. Election of committee members.

While no posts are up for election this time round we are more than happy to co-opt anyone who has an interest in joining in with the committee's activities! Currently Ted Jeffery and Dave Lodge are operating in that role particularly as a conduit to the Westcliff membership/attendees.

7. Proposal for the claiming of mileage expenses.  
(Proposed by Brian Pitcher. For the background to this proposal see elsewhere in this newsletter).
8. Any other business

NB. [www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk](http://www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk) for background information on the association.



# THE

# ESSEX

December 2013

# REGIONAL

# NEWS

Regional Leader: Ken Veal  
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**Merry Christmas 2013 and Have a Good One in 2014.**

Once again it's that time for reflection. The move to Mountnessing village hall during the summer seems to have gone down well. The BWA "subscription in June" saga continues to give us difficulties, BUT WE WILL GET THERE IN THE END--HONEST. How's that for positive thinking?

The year has already seen much in the way of change for our region. We have had considerable success in our demonstrations, exhibitions and of course the woodcarving competition at Cressing Temple Barns. The exhibition season was yet again busy, perhaps a little too busy for comfort at times? Perhaps in 2014 we might consider being a little more selective about what events we can or should support. Food for thought and no more than that.

Whatever we would like or wish for one thing is for sure, 2014 is approaching fast and it ain't gonna be satisfied till it gets here. In the meantime let's all enjoy the rest of 2013 with all its festive cheer. The shortest day is just around the corner and after that its roses all the way!

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a joyous New Year and above all...keep carving or whatever it is you like doing.

Ken



Now then, what a study in concentration and human endeavour? This was the Mounnessing meeting in November. I couldn't get everyone in as the galley (out of the picture on the left) was a bit congested at the moment I took the shot. The glove in the foreground should have had Bert Miles in it but he was off for a tea and a wad along with Gordon Pringle and a few others. This apparent "tranquillity" was before all the riotous activities took place.

The hall is a considerable improvement on the previous one being warmer, larger and with better windows/lighting. Storage of items is a bit tight but we are managing. Fortunately although the car park is used by many people on Sundays it's big enough for all of us and so far it has not been a problem getting in or out at any time.

The hall is a little more expensive to hire than the previous one but we are getting average attendances of around 25-35 so this should be manageable. All in I all a very nice venue to attend and nice people as well....what more could you ask?



A relaxed yet industrious Westcliff Monday meeting in September with apologies to those just out of the camera angle. If you have never made it to Westcliff I can tell you it's a well-lit, delightfully warm and welcoming venue.

### **Motion to be put to the Essex region AGM February 2014.**

In the year 2013 we had a full events calendar with our carving demonstrations and exhibitions being held throughout the Essex region and beyond. These events were well supported and enjoyed by a number of our keenest members. However, a total of over £400 in travelling expenses (pence/mile) was claimed, quite legitimately, between just nine of those attending with a similar number of attendees choosing not to claim. I believe we, and I am one of the claimants, have fallen into the habit of thinking, "this is normal, I am expected to put in an expenses claim".

I propose that we "start over" and create a new mind set which removes any thought of claiming for travelling to events related to our demonstrations of woodcarving from our minds. Our new treasurer John Thompson has shown me that if we remove this £400 expenditure from our accounts it will be possible to fund at least two or more subscription-free Sunday meetings during the year, giving a saving of £10 to every member in attendance. My proposal is therefore simple.

**From now on Essex region of the BWA will not accept any claims for travelling expenses to events related to woodcarving demonstrations.**

Brian Pitcher

**BWA Woodcarving Competition at the 5<sup>th</sup> European Woodworking Show at Cressing Temple barns Saturday/Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September.**

While most of you will be well aware of this event there will be some who could not make it to the show itself and might like to hear how it went. The event was the second of its type and followed on from the success last year. Once again Classic Hand Tools ran the woodworking show and Essex region ran the carving competition. This time round Classic Hand Tools themselves funded the prizes (£750 for 1<sup>st</sup> prize and £250 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize) for which they have our grateful thanks.

This time round we required an Essex committee to organise it and Michelle Toon, Brian Pitcher, John Urbanowski, John Thompson, Dave Lodge and myself were it, together with lots of other members we “co-opted” in for extras.

The event opening arrived and we were well placed to get started. The venue was bigger this time round as we had the whole of the upper floor of the barn to ourselves. It was also much better lit together with an improved arrangement of the exhibits for all to see that much better.

We had some 26 exhibits, somewhat down on last year but the quality and in particular the diversity of the carved subjects/types was excellent. The number of visitors was greatly up on last year and voting was almost universally and enthusiastically taken up by all the visitors. We even had three people who liked the voting box (built by Ted) so much they wanted to vote for it!! Weird or what?

The show winner was of a cavalier figure (Kings Minder) in lime by Peter Paces of Kent region. The (very close) runner up was Gerry Guiver with his magnificent Grinling Gibbons carving in lime (featured with picture in the June issue) and elegantly mounted in a glass case. The voting was much closer this time round with ALL the carvings getting votes with not too much between the top half dozen or so of the exhibits on show.

All told this was a very successful event with huge public interest. The venue is just built for a woodcarving show but there seems to be some doubt that Cressing temple barns will be available for 2014. Let's travel hopefully. Next time round we definitely will take a closer look at the “rules” of the competition as we want to keep this competition fresh to the carvers and public alike.

Finally, all this happened while we had many of our members in attendance on both days either demonstrating carving, answering questions, manning the exhibits and voting arrangements etc. To all of those we must say a big thank you. You were exemplary in your approach to the public and made the event a real pleasure for them to see and be a part of. You gained many converts and you will be pleased to know some of them have made it on to our meetings!

Organising Committee



A classic rugby tableau in lime by Ted Green. He can be seen framed by the players.



A stylish Celtic eagle in lime by Mick Gwilliams. The blue background really sets this carving off,

## How about this then?



Now how about this one taken in November at Mountnessing. Brian and his Tazza in all its glory, and doesn't he look pleased with it!! As he should.

It has a cherry scalloped bowl and a turned base of cherry with three dolphins (with scales...yes scales) carved in lime and gilded. What a table decoration.

*A **Tazza** was originally an Italian wine cup with a shallow bowl (from the Arabic tassah bowl). This one is a hell of a wine cup. I wonder if he's going to make a complete set of them??*



A very interesting head study in lime and Padouk by Ted Jeffery. Now how did he get that scarf to fit?



A very different head study in lime from Mick Ives. This model, originally chosen by Ian Norbury, really gets around doesn't she!