

DIARY 2014

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall

Sunday July 13 Normal Workshop
Sunday August 10 Normal Workshop
Sunday September 14 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, £4 for the day

Meetings at Hornchurch

2nd Saturday of each month at Nelmes Road URC
10.30-2.30pm

Exhibition Diary

Sat 28th June Gt Burstead Church Show
Sun 22nd June Blackwater country Show
Sat 5th July Tolleshunt D' Arcy Flower Show
Sat 12th July Bradwell Pilgrimage
Sun 20th July Cowper & Newton
Museum, Olney, Bucks
Thurs-Sun 17th-20th July Art in Action, Waterperry House
(Coach going Friday 18th July £27/person)
Sat 2nd August Epping forest Show, Greenacres
Sat 23rd August Festival of the Tree, Westonbirt.
(Coach going to show)
Sun-Mon 24-25th August Havering Show
Sun-Mon 24-25th August Guild of Essex Craftsmen, Cressing
Sat-Sun 27-28th September Art, Craft & Design Show, Cressing



A thoughtful "ancient one" from the stable of Maureen Hockley, in lime.

NB. www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk for background information on the association.



THE

ESSEX

June 2014

REGIONAL

NEWS

Regional Leader: Ken Veal
Holmfield, Norwood End
Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RW
Tel. 01277 899684
Email: ken.veal@btinternet.com

Summer 2014

Yes it is. Summer started last Sunday and it's going to be a memorable one. I know that for a fact as the weather man told me himself, on the telly!

It is peak season for shows again so check which ones are for you either as a visitor or as a participant. Not everyone is able to participate in shows so how about a coach trip this summer? Art in Action at Waterperry House, Friday 18th July is a great show covering all the arts you can think of. Then there is The Festival of the Tree at Westonbirt on Saturday 23rd August. If you haven't already done so then you can book your seat on both these trips via Brian Pitcher (01277 651672).

Thank you all for getting your BWA annual subscriptions "sorted out" in time for the June deadline. While we won't overcome all the problems we do seem to be heading in the right direction.....at the moment!

How're you doing with your themed carvings? Essex Region is challenging you to carve something (any style of carving) showing, "My favourite Film" by December 2014. You can of course have more than one favourite.

Jason Townsend, the editor of the BWA Gazette, is asking everyone to have a go at a 100 x100 x 10 mm carving (any wood) representing the Great War of 1914-1918. Put your thinking caps on, there are no rules to speak of and the subject choice is yours.

All the best to you all and happy carving.

Ken

BWA AGM 2014

Pontesbury, Shropshire, Saturday 17th May 2014

This year the Shropshire Region hosted the BWA at the school where they regularly meet and carve, and an excellent venue it was as well.

Brian Pitcher, John Thompson and I attended representing Essex Region while Martin Howells represented the NELWE group. The meeting was very well organised with a massive show of excellent carvings including a competition of, "a carved chess piece". Brian and John joined in this one with their own interpretations.

The AGM took place at 13.00 and proceeded in an orderly fashion with a decent number in attendance. The incoming National Membership Secretary, John Tybjerg was ratified in his position by a unanimous show of hands!

We currently have 943 members listed and we are hopeful of a substantial renewal rate this year. There was some discussion about the capitation payment to regions and the mechanism by means of how this was done. The capitation was again set at £10 (half the annual subscription) and would be payable **only for those registered and paid by 1st**

July.

Lyn Kimm alerted us to the fact that she would be standing down as national Secretary after this year, so, if you think this is a role you might like to undertake then do please talk to Lyn.

No venue has yet been agreed for the 2015 AGM as no region volunteered at the meeting.

The day continued with classes in carving. We all opted for letter carving with knives run by Murray Taylor. We didn't get to do a complete alphabet but we had a go and we all came away with complete sets of fingers!

The evening was completed by a walk up a Shropshire Hill (this equals an Essex mountain) followed by a BWA dinner in a nearby country pub.

All in all this was an enjoyable visit to a delightful region with friendly hosts.

Ken

PS. A post AGM update from Lyn Kimm informed us that Paula Noble (BWA Publicity Officer) has stood down from her role. It was well received that **Dave Shires** of the Durham Region has offered to take over the role and has been formally co-opted by the National Council. All publicity material such as alerts, photographs, and articles should now be addressed to him.



There you are that's how you do it, simples. A quick demo from John Urbanowski to Bernard Rogers. Gordon Pringle's head is in the foreground, the rest of him was behind the camera!



Now how about this cheerful jumbo from Gerry Guiver. He's in stained Jelutong I believe. One day he will be quite well known...that's the elephant of course!

Living Crafts at Hatfield House

Thursday-Sunday 8-11th May

This well established event in the calendar must have incurred the wrath of the weather gods this time round. It was not a good week for shows and despite all the efforts of all the participants the attendances were obviously well down. This was a pity as there were many good things to see. This year we again teamed up with Hertfordshire region and put on an excellent display of carvings and carving demonstrations. Both of the Essex dodecahedra got a well-deserved outing with one of them making it to the top exhibitor's tent. They were both very much admired and commented on by the visitors. We had excellent support from our region on all days and Michelle and Hugh are to be congratulated on their organizational efforts.



The pictures were taken on the opening Thursday when we were forced to move and readjust the stand a couple of times to avoid the rain coming in! Who said we aren't resilient and resourceful and all with a cheerful smile as well. The show must go on.

Very well done to all who took part.

Ken (*A bit wet and bedraggled by Thursday evening*)



A couple of shots of the competition entries at the BWA AGM in Shropshire. These were judged, "by popular vote".



Some interesting and unusual chess pieces emerged from this competition!

Our Venue at Westcliff

It has become clear to me over the last few months that many of our members do not know the origins of the Westcliff branch of our club. In 1999 we had our first very successful three week exhibition in Southend Library and it became very obvious to the committee at the time that a good number of retired folk would join our club if there was some venue near to the Southend area meeting during the week. As I lived in the area, it was put to me that my church might be able to accommodate us, but with our limited funds we would be struggling at first to get enough members to finance the rent.

I put the problem to my church and asked if we could rent the church hall, but at a reduced rent. The church elders were very kind and realised that it was an opportunity for outreach and said we could have the hall on two Mondays a month for free until we could afford to pay. However, I suggested that as it would be me organising the project and I did not want to be involved with dealing with cash that we would charge £3 per member for the day and all the money that we took would just go to the church funds.

We opened in 2001 just after our second exhibition at the library with six folk attending and the church got the £18 takings which hardly covered the cost of heating the hall.. We now have an average of 18 folk attending at £4 so we now cover the church rent but we still give the church all the money after deducting the cost of tea and coffee which only seems fair as the church suffered a loss for the first few years.

It is a very happy branch of Essex and of course all members are welcome to attend. We do not have as many facilities as Mountnessing, there is no library and we do not supply free cakes etc. hence we keep our subs at £1 00 less than Mountnessing, but you do get tea or coffee three times per meeting.

We have attracted many new members over the years and have been responsible for increasing the Essex membership by a significant amount. We now have 31 folk on our register (fortunately they do not all turn up at once), which is over a third of our total membership, this has increased the capitation to the region by a considerable amount

I do sometimes become concerned that Westcliff is thought to be a separate club, it is not, it is an integral part of the Essex Region and we should be very proud that Essex is such a successful region that we need two venues to accommodate all of our members. If you have never visited Westcliff, do come and visit, you will be made very welcome.

Ted Jeffery

NB. Meetings are 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at The Bridgewater Drive Church, Hilltop Building, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, 10.00-4.00pm.



Something a bit different from Derek Drain. It's in lime but the polychroming (painting to you and me) along with the mounting make it stand out.



A really charming and oh so delicate carving from Steve Smart in walnut. The harvest mouse is life sized! An excellent example of what can be achieved from a modest sized piece of wood, with practice and oh yes a bit of skill as well!