

DIARY 2014

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall

Sunday	April	13	Normal Workshop
Sunday	May	11	Normal Workshop
Sunday	June	8	Normal Workshop

Meetings at Westcliff

2nd and 4th 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

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

Exhibition Diary

Sat-Mon 3-5 th May	Essex Craft & Design Show Hyde Hall
Thurs-Sun 8 th -11 th May	Living Crafts, Hatfield House
Sun 18 th May	Essex Young farmers Show, Roxwell
Sat-Sun 17 th /18 th May	BWA AGM, Shropshire
Sat 28 th June	Gt Burstead Church Show
Sun 22 nd June	Blackwater country Show
Thurs-Sun 17 th -20 th July	Art in Action, Waterperry House



You can't keep a Clinton Lee down for long. How about this recent one of, "The Thinker"? In lime I believe. Now where did I leave those keys?

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



THE

ESSEX

March 2014
REGIONAL

NEWS

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Welcome to 2014.

By the time you read this it will have stopped raining, really it will, honest! I show here a picture of the various fruit carvings that were done for the 2013 themed carving to fill, Dave Colvin's huge carved fruit bowl. Quite a sight I think you will agree. If you missed out on this one how about having a go at the 2014 themed carving of, "my favourite film"? The problem so far seems to be choosing a favourite rather than the carving! You CAN have more than one go, no restrictions.



I need to remind you all (politely of course) at this time that the BWA annual subscriptions are due for renewal by **everyone in June**. While collecting these dues is getting better there is still room for improvement. Over to YOU.

Ken

BWA Essex region AGM was held on Sunday 9th February 2014 at Mountnessing Village Hall.

The meeting was attended by 30+ members and proceeded in good order! Reports that were read out by officers are included in this newsletter. There were no elections of officers at this meeting and the single proposal by Brian Pitcher on claiming travelling expenses was passed *nem.con*.

From now on (05.02.14) Essex region of the BWA will not accept any claims for travelling expenses to events related to woodcarving demonstrations.

Other expense claims should be directed to the Treasurer, John Thompson in the usual way.

Essex Regional Leader's report 2013

The major event of the year was the move to Mountnessing Village hall in the summer. It was clear to all that we had outgrown the previous facility for some time. The move went smoothly and we rapidly found our feet in the new venue. It is a great improvement all round with better heating, lighting, parking, facilities and more carving space to work in. All in all this has been a good move.

The change to the June annual BWA subscription date continues to give rise to problems. These are improving with time but at a seemingly and frustratingly slow pace.

We have currently around 90+ registered members. The resignation of the BWA Membership Secretary during the year has left us a bit uncertain of the total numbers at any one time. The national Council is trying to address this problem but would, I'm sure, welcome any offer of help.

Meanwhile carving has continued enthusiastically and vigorously. We showed our stuff at very many shows and events during the year to great effect. Michelle Toon, our events organiser has beavered away and "sorted us out" at very many venues. The main event in 2013 was the woodcarving competition at the European Woodworking show in Cressing Temple Barns during September. We had huge numbers of the public participating by voting at this highly successful event.

Our home based themed carving of fruit resulted in a veritable cornucopia at the year end, all contained in Dave Colvin's enormous carved bowl. If you missed out on this one why not try your hand at the 2014 theme of, "my favourite film".

As you might expect there are many people to thank for their contributions during the year to running this region, whether in committee, catering, events and solid hard work at the hall. A big thank you to every single one of you. Please do continue along this line as we are at our best individually and collectively when we all share out the load.

Above all, well done to all of you and keep enjoying your carving.

Ken Veal
5th February 2014



A new member of note, one Beryl Wallace who has joined us from the Rockingham Forest region having moved home back to Essex. Beryl is a welcome addition to the Westcliff meetings and here proudly shows her ornithological expertise in lime!



What about this one from Ted Jeffery? According to my counting it contains at least 29 different woods. I think it's called a cross of crosslets. It all swivels of course AND it all comes apart (no glue) IF you know which bit to remove first! Not bad eh?

Events Officer Report

2013 was my first full year in the Events Officer post for the Essex region of the BWA and what a very busy events calendar we had! As a region we participated in some 18 events. This meant that in some months we had to make some fancy arrangements to get the right 'show kit' in the right place with the right people at the right time.

A big thank you to everybody who supported these events, helping to set up and pack away at the end and an extra special thank you to the members who went a stage further and led one or more events – We could not have done many of these events without you.

There is a proposal before this AGM that travel costs to events and shows are not met by the region going forward, if this is carried please bear this in mind when committing to participate in 2014 events / shows.

As a general rule we do not pay to attend events and shows but as belts have been tightening more organizers are looking for us to contribute. If individual members want to continue to support events that now require pitch fees etc. they can of course do so but will need to meet such costs between the members attending. Subject to availability the events kits can still be borrowed.

I have many commitments outside the BWA not least a demanding full time job mostly out of London. I am therefore not able to devote as much time as I would like to this post. This has meant that I have not been able to get to meetings other than those held on the second Sunday of the month at West Hanningfield and subsequently at Mountnessing. Dave Lodge our deputy Events Officer unfortunately fell ill in 2013. This meant that communication with members that were not able to attend the Sunday meetings was not all it could have been. I take responsibility for this and apologize to anybody that feels that they missed out on any opportunities to get involved with any of the events. I intend to rectify this in 2014 with greater use of communication in our quarterly gazette and direct communication with key members attending other groups.

One of the keys to good communication is having complete and up to date contact details. Please try to remember to let Ken know if you change any of your contact details. It is very much quicker and easier for me to communicate with you all if you able to supply an email address that I can use, so please do so if you can. If you do not have access to an email address I will continue to utilize post and telephone (for all where need for contact is more urgent).

I have relied heavily on members attending to help with reports and pictures of events they attended. I thank all of you who helped out in this way. I intend to take more personal responsibility for ensuring that more of us get to know how each event goes in 2014. So if you are leading I may ask you to help out with taking photos and to do a short write up or provide material for someone else to write up for our Gazette

Event Kits – These now consist of LED strung lights, display cloths, shelving stands, battery operated turn tables (8), Perspex stands for display of relief carvings and BWA banners and signs as well as supply of handouts giving details of who we are, when and where we get together. We also have members who have lent easels, exhibition tables, gazebos and even a marquee and may be prepared to do so again by special arrangement. In order to keep tabs on where the kit is in 2014 I will setting up a simple log to make it easier to get the right kit to the right place at the right time.

One of the highlights of our events calendar is the European Woodworking show. This was the second year of the BWA woodcarving competition at Cressing Temple Barns. Although there were slightly fewer entries than in 2012, the quality of the entries remained high. The organizing committee was amazing and worked really hard to make this even more of a success than 2012. They incorporated feedback from both our members and the public as far as possible. We were fortunate to be able to have the whole of the 1st floor of the Granary barn in 2013. Improvements to the layout were made, roles defined for attending members (rotating rota dispensed with), higher wattage light bulbs installed to permanent fixings, additional lighting strings purchased and erected for the event, and more cloth purchased. We were even able to set up a regional display that enabled some items to be handled by the public. Another superb improvement was the provision of tea and coffee making facilities as a result of the very kind loan of a water urn and a very lovely biscuit selection that turned up (thanks to all who contributed)

Very sadly this show will not be taking place in 2014. Mike and Joy have now organized 5 European Woodworking Shows at Cressing Temple Barns in Essex, and are in need of a year off. Whilst Cressing as a venue is good it has some shortcomings for the rest of the show with respect to waterproofing and capacity for cars and exhibitors (as just 2 examples). The uncertainty about Cressing's future as a council operated facility available for hire was a variable that Mike and Joy felt adversely affected the planning of a 2014 event at Cressing. They have therefore taken the decision to run the European Woodworking Show every 2 years, not annually. Whilst Mike and Joy are looking at The 6th European Woodworking Show still being held at Cressing Temple Barns in 2015, they are also considering other possibilities. If you have any suggestions for an alternative suitable venue please let me know and I will forward to Mike and Joy.

In 2014 we already have 9 confirmed events with a further 3 likely. The full list will be published in the 1st Quarter 2014 Gazette for ease of reference and updated in subsequent issues.

If you have knowledge of an event / show that is not listed, please let know even if you have a full contingent of helpers or you want to lead (I am very happy to accept all such offers).

Michelle Toon 01376 330117 woodcarver1@talktalk.net

AGM 9th February, 2014 Treasurers Report

I would like to thank you all for the warm reception you gave me when I took over from John who, I'm sure all will agree, did a fantastic job for many years. Not trying to outshine John, I have implemented a few changes which, I hope, members and the club will benefit from.

2013

Moving to Mountnessing brought with it the extra cost of venue hire. This being an average of £100.20 per month as opposed to the £60 at Hanningfield. I think most will agree it's worth it. To help fund this, without increasing the monthly collection, I suggested that there will be no contribution concessions and that anybody who carves pays. This was agreed by the committee and will generate up to £360 per annum.

I have set the accounts to online banking. Some members have found this facility useful for reimbursement of expenses. It also allows me to check cheque clearance and balances when needed.

I have compiled various spreadsheets and databases to suit our club's needs.

However, I still keep a parallel hardcopy!

End of year report shows we are roughly £380 down on 2012. This is due to Mountnessing Hall hire charges and event expenses. These will be looked into by the committee in 2014.

Capitation. This was set at £10 per member and gave a return of £760, a £50 increase on 2012.

2014

Contributions will remain at £5.

I intend to give 'free day/s' in the year. However, this will depend on venue hire charge and monthly attendance. Today is a free day.

I will not be accepting the BWA renewal subscriptions in 2014 or subsequent years. This is due to the complexity of the manner of payment and also the lack, (none!), of communication from the BWA membership secretary. Standing order or cheque by post are the easiest ways of payment.

I believe money in the account is there to be used. If any member has a reasonable suggestion how to use some of this, for the benefit of the club, please let me know.

John Thompson 01277 227959 j.thompson49@btinternet.com



A stunner from Gerry Guiver? It's in lime and is supported by an elegant glass ball. This one is terrific Gerry.



A Charlie Godber creation in Lime. Now this one takes a bit of working out. It's a complicated subject but it came out really well. It should be called the balloonic!