

DIARY 2015

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall

Sunday	September	27	Normal Workshops
Sunday	October	11	Normal Workshop
Sunday	November	8	Normal Workshops
Sunday	December	13	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

**6th European Woodworking Show,
Crossing Temple Barns Sat-Sun 12th-13th Sept**

Woodfest, RHS Hyde Hall Sat-Sun 10th-11th Oct

Hadvering Show Sunday- Monday 30th-31st August, Hornchurch.

A lot could be said of this annual event and this time round would be no exception. It is a traditional fair of the classic kind and attracts an enormous number of people. In the true spirit of English weather it is a magnet for rain, often of biblical proportions.

The Bank Holiday Monday event lived up to its name and it rained (and I mean rained) and was cold.

Fortunately I took part on the Sunday when it was cloudy, crucially dry and relatively warm to boot. Furthermore there were huge numbers of cheerful appreciative visitors.

At this point I must refer to Denis Hyde and his organisation. Top notch Denis. We had our own large tent allocated to us. We were not too far from the toilets (but far enough). We had a power supply provided AND we had our own tea/coffee supply in the tent. Tables AND chairs were plentiful, At times we had queues to get into our tent and see the carvings.

Of course Denis had a bit of help from his support team (includes the rest of us) and Martin Howells figured notably in that role. Having said that, we have to hold our hands up to Denis for his masterly handling of the available facilities. Rarely do we get this kind of arrangement .However, Denis don't ever try to be a weather forecaster!!

Ken (thank you Denis and Martin I enjoyed my day at the show)



THE

ESSEX

September 2015

REGIONAL

NEWS

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Autumn 2015

By the time you read this the European Woodworking show will be done and dusted. The woodcarving competition will have been held and the worthy winners of the prizes declared. This particular show comes towards the end of a very busy period for events. The weather has not always been kind and audiences for large public events have definitely seemed smaller to me. The enthusiasm shown by the public for our woodcarving efforts, however, is greater than ever. Everyone loves to see "hand-made craftwork" Mass produced, laser cut, computer generated objects are OK but seeing someone using their own skill actually fashioning a piece of wood is a really attractive proposition for nearly everyone who witnesses it. So well done to all of you who have taken part in shows and produced terrific carvings.

I've recently encountered the ruefully expressed comment that woodcarving is a "dying craft." Well is it? Back around 10 years or so the BWA membership was around 600. In 2015 the BWA membership stood at just over 1000. If that's not up then I'm off back to school!! The craft/hobby will never fill Wembley stadium with woodcarvers mainly due to time opportunities and the many distractions of the 21st century. We can, however, show everyone what can be done with skill, ingenuity, creativity, practice, oh and a piece of wood of course., With that can I say go to it you lucky ones and above all enjoy it.

Don't forget the two Essex Region themed carvings of logos and/or a popular song title, done in time for the December meetings

Very sadly I have to tell you that I was recently advised of the death of Derek Dodd after a short illness. Derek was most associated with the Westcliff group and was a very fine and cheerful woodcarver.as well as a very enthusiastic yachtsman.

The best to you all

Ken 09.09.15.

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Fete Saturday 4th July



Wyn and I attended this show on Saturday 4th July. It is a small show from 2 pm until 5 pm.. It was quite well attended by the locals. It had a dog show and various stalls and a main marquee with crafts, vegetables and home-made products which a lot of was auctioned off after the show. With regret Clinton could not make it but it was an enjoyable afternoon.

Gerry Guiver

Blackwater Country Show Sunday 21st June Heybridge Basin

We had a very nice day with a steady stream of people at our exhibition all day long. Some of the public can't believe what you can get out of a piece of wood. I tell them it's in there somewhere you just have to find it. Sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's hard depending on the subject. Thanks again to Ken and Bert for their support and help in making the show a success.

Gerry Guiver.

As I recall Gerry it was a glorious day weather-wise and there was a huge number of very appreciative visitors. An excellent event all round and thanks for organising it..
Ken

The General



Now you have to admit this is not a common sight these days! A General playing on his hobby horse is a bit unexpected. Rob Hart has produced this lime carving representing a biting satirical WW1 image. It's difficult to see this carving and not associate it with the following poem,

The General

*'Good-morning; good-morning!' the General said
When we met him last week on our way to the line.
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead,
And we're cursing his staff for incompetent swine.
'He's a cheery old card, 'grunted Harry to Jack
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.*

But he did for them both by his plan of attack.

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Westcliff Report

Every year in August, One of our local churches, Avenue Baptist Church, run a holiday club for the elderly folk in the neighbourhood and they invite various people along during the course of the week to put up a display that would be of interest. Allan Cox and I always attend for one day and demonstrate woodcarving. We do not get a great deal of interest after the first hour but we do get a fabulous lunch, so it makes the effort very worthwhile and we also meet some very interesting people, as you can see with Allan in deep conversation. The club is always well attended and it certainly gives the old folk something to look forward to every year.

Back at the Hilltop our members have been quite busy and we had one or two finished carvings. A beautiful relief carving of Daffodils by John Richards is one of his first efforts. We also celebrated two birthdays at our last meeting, Hilary and Wendy, so it was cake all round at elevenses and with afternoon tea. Who needs to carve!



Ted Jeffery

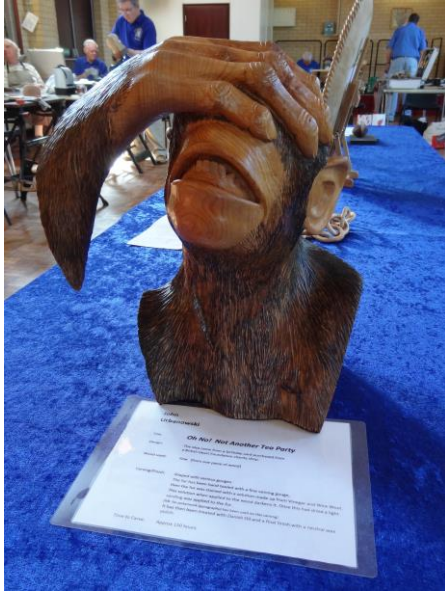
A very recent relief carving in lime from the stable of Maureen Hockley. It has a very appropriate title of “Pals”



Daffodils in lime by John Richards (see Ted's report)



Oh No! Not Another Tea Party. A brilliant reminder of a bygone TV advert!! Well done John Urbanowski for this carving from one piece of yew.



You won't see too many carved chains AND carved (working) padlocks. This fine example of a very unusual set up was from Maureen (chain) and Peter (padlock) Roberts. A variety of woods were used.



If you're looking for a beautifully carved and presented owl look no further. This fine specimen in lime came via Steve Smart and is from the Benson pedigree line I think.



Rawhide by Derek Drain. This one took a time coming as it was planned for the 2014 themed carving of film titles BUT it was worth the wait. Carved in lime and here the colour adds a definite wow factor. Well done Derek

