

DIARY 2015/2016

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall, 09.30-3.00 pm

Sunday	December 13	Xmas Workshop
Sunday	January 10	Normal Workshop
Sunday	February 7	Workshop + AGM
Sunday	March 6	Normal Workshop

Meetings at Westcliff

Monday December 21 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

Meetings at Hornchurch

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



THE

ESSEX

December 2015
REGIONAL

NEWS

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Christmas 2015

**BWA Essex Region AGM to be held on
Sunday 14th February 2016 in Mountnessing Hall
at 11.00 am.**

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.** *(In the 3 year cycle of elections we need to formally address the positions of Events Officer, Treasurer and Library Officer. You will recall we DID the Regional Leader and Publicity Officer last year. I am sure we are all very much hoping the existing committee members holding these positions will continue. IF, however, YOU wish to stand for any of these positions or you want to propose someone then please let the regional leader know preferably before the day of the meeting. Furthermore, if you propose someone please make sure you have asked them if they are willing to be put forward!!)*
7. **AOB.**



This carving sort of sums up Christmas or at least what we would hope it should be. There's so much "disturbance in the force" out there at the moment that we need to reflect on what gives rise to joy. I would like to think that all our members get great satisfaction and pleasure from their woodcarving efforts. As you all know by now, it is not for everyone BUT if you are one of the lucky ones then it's a wonderful activity that can lead to great joy and satisfaction.

The best to you all over the festive season

Ken

04.12.15.

Woodfest RHS Hyde Hall Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th October

This was the second year this event was held with a slightly changed format but lots of visitors. It was described in the adverts as, "an event to celebrate the life cycle of wood". Last year we were in with the prize vegetables stand but this time round Michelle had negotiated a (large) tent all to ourselves. Lots of room and lots of table space. Even the Essex cats project got an outing much to the interest and amusement of the visitors.



The picture shows the moment on Saturday when we had got ourselves in order and were waiting to see what happened when the show opened. We were somewhat surprised by the number of (very appreciative and inquisitive) visitors.

This time round we introduced a "touchy-feely table" where the visitors could and were encouraged to put their hands on the items. This proved very successful and it was a very busy spot all day. Unsurprisingly his outcome happened on both days. The event proved subsequently to have been a very good source of new recruits.

Well done to all those who took part in this show .Michelle Bolton and John Urbanowski did both days and Mick & Mary Ives, Ted Jeffery, Ken Veal did Saturday while Hugh Ingram, Rob Hart and Bill Cross did the Sunday. Good show, good set up and I'm sure we will be asked back to this one.

Ken

Letter carving is not often encountered in Essex region but it always makes an elegant and satisfying piece, especially with silver gilt embellishment. Well done Hilary Davidson.



This is a rare moment of intense concentration to capture on camera including Gerry Guiver, Clinton Lee (the Father Christmas carver on the front cover) and Bert Miles. I wonder what they were listening to?



The BWA Birch Egg Competition

As you all know the editor of the BWA Gazette set a Member Competition with the aim of carving “anything you like” out of a Birch wood egg, that he provided. Here are the entries for Essex Region all submitted by the deadline of mid-November.

While I suppose we should know better by now it’s still a surprise at the quality and diversity of the carvings submitted. Very well done to all of you who took part in this competition and good luck with your entries.

My photographs do not do justice to these carvings but I am hoping that Jason Townsend will give you all much better images when they appear in the Gazette.



This carving, from the hand of Bert Miles, is the ultimate in cuteness. Who is not going to say *aaaah* when they first see this **Paddington Bear**. The attached label just adds to the composition.



This masterly face comes from the fold of Gerry Guiver and oozes out character.



Who could this have come from but Clinton Lee. Clinton are you sure this really is Sir Egbert and not Father Christmas in disguise?



A striking couple of eggs from Maureen Hockley with a novel take on egg decoration. Watch out Faberge the woodies are coming.



This mouse eating his way through a corn cob is a great way to show what can be done with a birch egg. He really is tiny. He was carved by John Martin, while John and the mouse were in his greenhouse!. Terrific carving John , very well done.



This beautifully carved rabbit from Steve Smart , set against one of the uncarved Birch eggs, shows just what the carvers were up against.. Birch is most definitely not a normal carving wood of choice.



This excellent carving was definitely NOT derived from an egg. It is a recent completed piece in lime with added exotic braids and a fan shaped hairpiece, from the stable of Maureen Hockley.