

DIARY 2015

Meetings at Mountnessing Village hall

Sunday	June	14	Normal Workshops
Sunday	July	12	Normal Workshop
Sunday	August	9	Normal Workshops

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

Great Burstead Church Show	Sat	27 th June
Blackwater country Show, Heybridge	Sun	21 st June
Bradwell Pilgrimage, Bradwell-on-Sea	Sat	4 th July
Art in Action, Waterperry House, Oxford	Thurs- Sun	16-19 th July
Greenacres Woodland Burials, Epping Forest	Sat	8 th August
Havering Show, Hornchurch	Sat-Sun	30-31 st August
Essex Craft & Design show		
Cressing Temple Barns	Sat-Sun	30-31 st August
6th European Woodworking Show, Cressing Temple Barns	Sat-Sun	12th -13th Sept

Essex Region Shirts

You are no doubt aware of the availability of smart blue shirts with the Essex Region Logo and the members name embroidered on the front. If you would like to get hold of one of these or as a reminder to those who already wear them they are available to members via **Crawler School Uniforms, 361 Hamstel Road, Southend, SS2 4LE tel: 01702 601274.**

Sweatshirts and polo shirts are available in a variety of types with the embroidered logo and names, all at reasonable prices. These can be collected from Crawlers directly or, for a small charge, they will post them directly to you.

Crawlers has a comprehensive web site with a wide variety of products that you might like to personalise!

They may be associated with school uniforms but buying a shirt will NOT get you sent back to school, honest!!!



THE

ESSEX

June 2015
REGIONAL

NEWS

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Summer 2015

The BWA AGM has come and gone and I can report that we are alive and well with a membership that is on the increase again. The National Council do their best but inevitably do depend on YOU the members to keep them informed of what you are doing, what you would like to see done and maybe even what you see as the way forward. Contact details for the council are in every Gazette and of course on the BWA website.

A short reminder here that Dave Wilkins will be giving a talk on stick making on Sunday 14th June at Mountnessing at about 11.00am. Dave is of course well known to some of you and is an established expert in the field and a local Essex boy at that.

If you need it let me give you a final reminder that BWA annual subscriptions (£20) are due this month. If you have already sorted this out then well done you. If you haven't then you need to act quickly!

We currently have 83 members with Katarzyna Antonczak (Kasia to you and me) as well as Jen and Vic Duggan being very recent new members. A big welcome to all three of you.

Don't forget your carving entries for Cressing and the Essex themed carvings 2015. All the best to you all

Ken

NB. www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk for background information on the association
(Graeme Murray (web manager) would be delighted to receive pictures and stuff from you.)

BWA Annual General Meeting 2014

Saturday 16th May, Sacrewell Farm Centre, Peterborough

The AGM was attended by Brian Pitcher, John Thompson, Martin Howells and me on behalf of the BWA Essex community.

This time round the AGM was hosted by the Rockingham Forest Carvers who, following the AGM put on an excellent display of their carvings at a meeting hall in the nearby village of Elton.

The meeting followed a well tried format and went off in good order. No actual blood was spilt but everyone had a chance to have their say and many did so. I have itemised below a few key points to come out of the meeting.

Membership is happily rising again going from around 930 last year to 1009 on the day of the AGM.

Ian Ford has been co-opted as the new Treasurer taking over from Bryan Corbin. Lynn Kimm indicated that she would like to stand down as Secretary but in the absence of a new candidate she agreed to carry on while a replacement is found. ***IF you have an interest in this position then Lynn would really like to hear from you!***

While funds are holding up reasonably, inevitably there has been a gradual depletion of reserves as costs rise. This depletion could be managed for a few years but to enable funds to be made available for National BWA "projects" a proposal was made to increase the annual subscription from £20 to £25. The last rise was 7 years ago. There was a good discussion about the pros and cons of this proposal and when it came to a vote of the members present there was a substantial majority in favour of it. The new fees will come into effect on 1st June 2016.

Two new regions have been formed recently, Cleveland (led by Vincent O'Donnell) and Surrey (led by Brian Monk).

There was universal congratulation to Jason Townsend (Ed of Gazette) for his sterling efforts with the BWA magazine. Jason in his turn asked us all to help him keep up the standard by sending in photos and other material for publication. On this subject Dave Shires (BWA Publicity) also asked for material from us all that can be used as publicity material, particularly in the Woodcarving magazine.

Graeme Murray reported that we had 30,000 + visitors to the website last year and a regular series of monthly enquiries about carving commissions and jobs! Thank you Graeme for maintaining this important channel of BWA communication and publicity

The meeting ended the day with a convivial dinner in a local pub attended by a goodly spread of members. I'm pleased to say the drive home was satisfactorily uneventful

Ken Veal.

Victor Stark

It is with great sadness to report that our member Vic died after a severe stroke at the end of March. Vic was a very popular attendee at the Westcliff meetings and he will be very much missed. There were only 14 members attending the day that the news came through but even so we collected £70 in donations in his memory. I understand from his wife Kay that the money will be donated to the Essex Air Ambulance and that altogether over £900 have already been collected in his memory, which just proves how high he was held in his family and friends esteem. We will be keeping Kay and her family in our thoughts at this sad time.

Ted Jeffery



You just can't keep a good bear down. And this is a good and very traditional one who appeared at Westcliff in April from the Maureen Hockley school of bears'r us. I'm not sure if he/she has a name yet?

Young Farmers Show, Roxwell, Sunday 17th May

It's not often that the BWA Essex Region gets a chance to win a group prize. In fact I've never encountered it before! Someone correct me if I'm wrong here. We've had sincere and well deserved thanks and praise for doing our stuff at very many shows but not too much in the way of silverware. At this Young Farmers Show all that changed. We had a fine and colourful crew once again representing us at the show AND they were rewarded with a **"for outstanding promotion of wood, drawing in and engagement of the public"** prize in the shape of a finely presented shield. The picture below shows the victorious team on the day and the trophy. Congratulations and well done to all on a fine and ground breaking effort.



The chap in the green shirt (right hand side) is the presenter of the trophy.

Ken (on behalf of the team of the day)

No this is not a holiday snap from Easter Island. It's one of them statue monuments things and it has been shaped from a piece of timber left partially started by Les Edwards who sadly died a couple of years back. Les was a very late starter at woodcarving and while his membership was short he was as pleased as punch to be one of us and he was a delight to know. Michelle Bolton regularly brought him in from Braintree and subsequently carved this figure from a piece of apple wood he left behind. A really wonderful background story that gives this excellent piece of carving a special provenance.



An aside.

If you have access to the web and would like some creative inspiration try this site <http://www.noupe.com/inspiration/showcase/40-terrific-works-of-art-made-from-common-trash.html>

Just highlight the address, open the site and ignore the inevitable adverts. I am convinced you will be impressed.

How about this assertive beast from the fold of Gordon Pringle? It would seem that Gordon stole a march on everyone else on the 2015 carving theme by getting going on his Jaguar car (including bonnet!) logo carving before the theme was announced!



Now you don't see many of these in Essex these days. This plesiosaur by Charlie Godber, takes the biscuit. The wood (plain tree) grain well reflects the sinuous lines of the beast.



A delightful carving from the chisel of Bill Cross. In Lime with a bit of staining using the wire wool technique. The composition makes a charming subject.



A recent excellent Gerry Guiver commission in Lime. Somebody obviously likes wolves