



***THE
WOODCARVERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER -
OCTOBER 2025***



***ANOTHER VERY BUSY COUPLE OF MONTHS
WITH A GOOD TURNOUT FOR MIKE PAINTERS
PERSPECTIVE CARVING SEMINAR***

CARVINGS IN PROGRESS SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

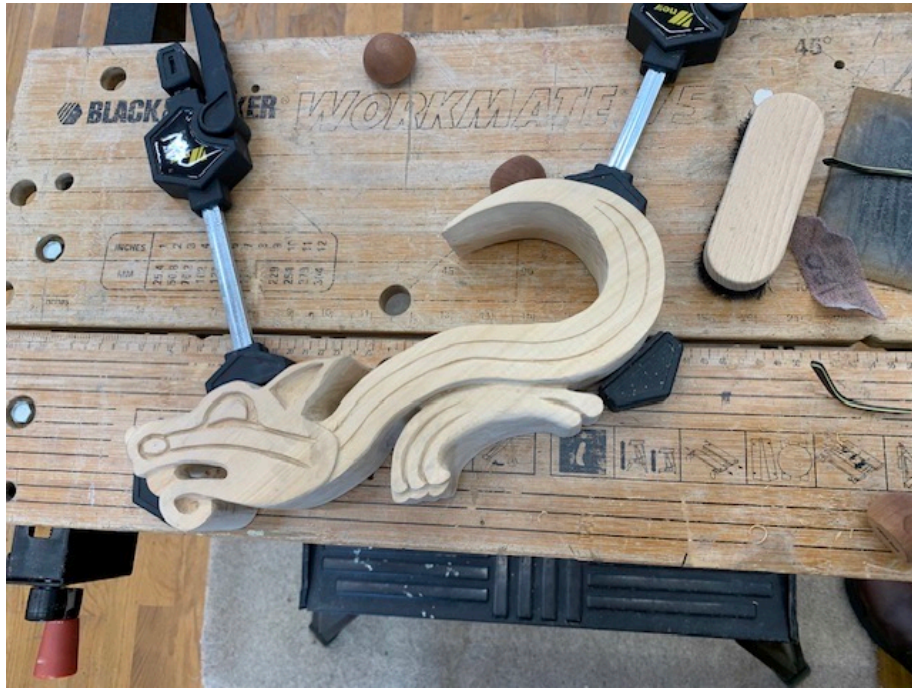
Chalky White starts carving another weird and wonderful creature. This one is to be a Spanish Dancer Sea Slug in plywood



Sebastian Burchart takes on a classic challenge with a relief carving in Lime of a famous painting ‘Nymphs & Satyr’ by William Bouguereau in 1873



Anne Woodbridge works on her Celtic Dragon



Pam Turner progresses her relief carving



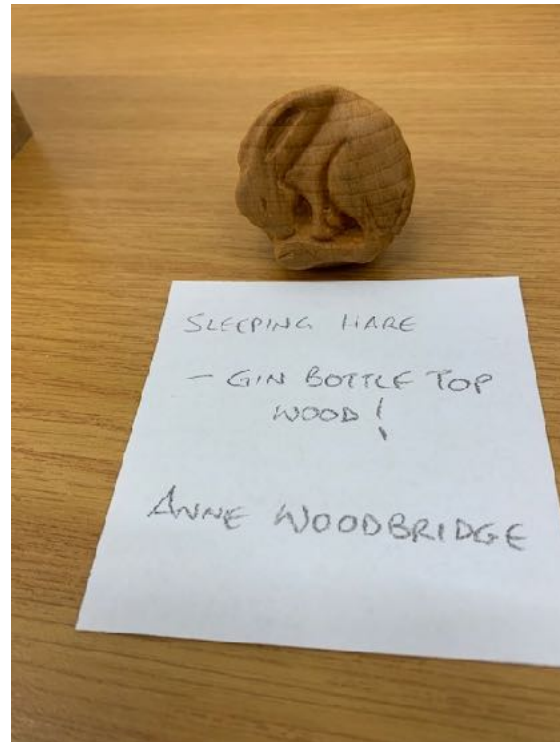
COMPLETED CARVINGS SEPT - OCT

Chalky White completes his abstract Walnut wood sculpture

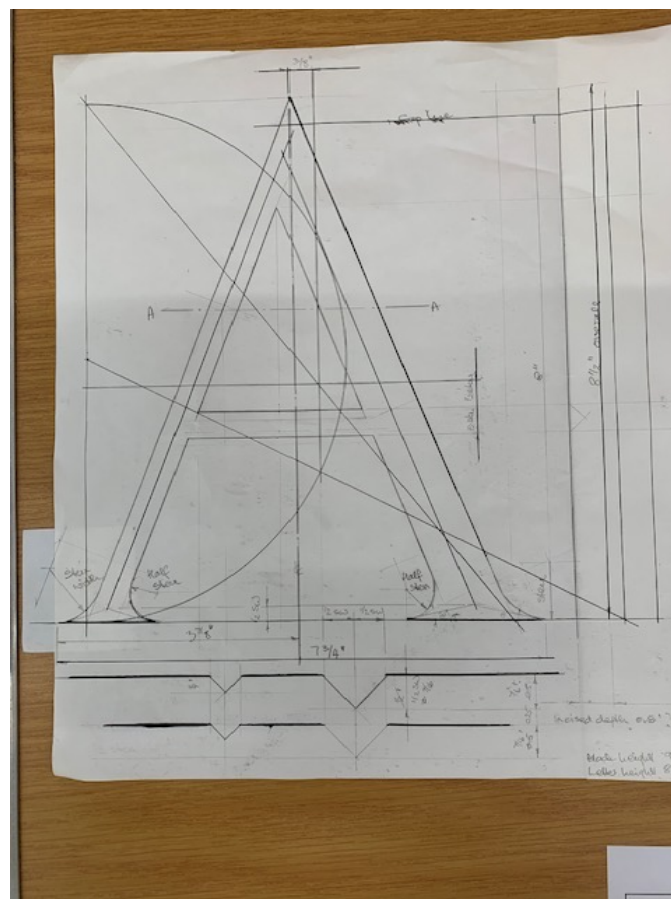


Can anyone suggest an appropriate title/name for this unnamed piece?

Anne Woodbridge completes a delightful Sleeping Hare from a gin bottle wooden top



***Richard Waite completes carving a very precise & technically proficient study of the Letter A. Both back and front.
Raised and Incised carving***

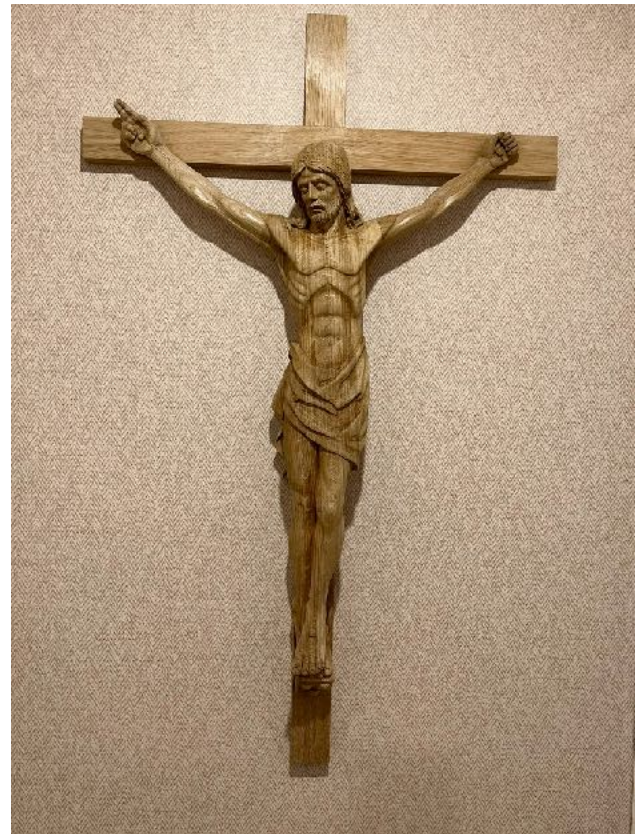


Richard Pepperd shows a pair of Dragons Wings carved in Burr Elm and mounted on a slate base



Chalky White had worked on a Crucifix carving over quite a long period of time but in September after completing about 80% he decided he may give up carving & asked Sebastian if he would complete it.





What an excellent piece of collaborative work !

I am delighted to report that Sebastian completed the work quickly and also that Chalky has changed his mind and decided to continue as a much valued member of the TWA

Chalky has decided he would like to concentrate on doing his own work and will not be readily available for additional duties such as Tuition or doing Exhibitions or arranging Seminars.

The Severn Hall Three Counties Show Malvern

Back in the day in the 1990's the original Gloucester Region of the British Woodcarvers Association headed up by Dave Johnson undertook a huge commission to create sufficient wood carvings to cover a whole wall of the exhibition hall. The subject matter was to be agricultural & community depicting a way of life across the Three Counties of Hereford, Worcester & Gloucester.

Several members have asked what this looked like and is it still there?

Yes it is and my Wife Rose took a few photos of it when attending an exhibition there a few weeks ago.







This is a tremendous tribute to Dave Johnson and the Gloucester BWA members of the 1990's.

You will notice that all carving base shapes are different and each of them were cut, carved and individually fitted together to make the huge display we can still see today. Quite a task & great achievement

Dave Johnson passed away in November 2022. He will be well remembered by all who knew him for his positive 'Can Do' attitude and the help he gave to many woodcarvers over many years.

2025 Carving Seminar, 27th and 28th September 2025 report by: Our Chair Heather Williams

Our seminar this year was a study in perspective and once again we were privileged to have Mike Painter - Master Carver as our tutor for the day. The course ran over two days and was attended by 13 of our members.

We began our project promptly at 10am on Saturday and those of us who had meticulously transferred the image onto our block of wood were very soon to realise we might as well not have bothered as it was rapidly reduced to a pile of chippings on the floor! By 4pm there were more wood chips than I have seen in a long time.

There was lots of hard work, concentration and mallet work with regular huddles round Mike for step by step instruction as well as individual comment and guidance. Some of the key points to consider when beginning a piece of work are as follows:

Where is it going to be displayed?

How will it be fixed?

How will it be lit?

What is the focal point?

If you are working from an existing image

Is it accurate – there was much debate over the accuracy of the scythe and the leg length of the farmer?

What angle was the camera/viewer at and will it be reflected in the display position?

Make a black and white copy as carvings rely on light and shade for definition, not colour

If you are taking your own photograph, use the zoom as this will help to correct the distortion which can occur if you are too close to the subject, ie making the nose on a person's face appear bigger than it is. The camera can lie!

The main aims were to get us to think about what part of the image was the closest to us (the wheat) and what was furthest away (the hills and the sky); and how to rough in the key elements -the farmer, the fence, the trees and the hills before jumping in to the details – something I think we all find quite difficult.

Other key tips:

The angle of the foreground should be consistent

Uprights (the fence) need to be parallel to the backing board

Objects must be grounded and not levitating

Things in the distance should recede – get smaller to create the illusion of distance

The sky can be carved concave to give the illusion of it coming over and above (although we did not get this far)

Don't start the detail until you have roughed in the key elements, starting with what is closest to you and working back

Do not “stab” out the outline of the image – use “fluters” which should allow you to make adjustments as you need to. Most of our roughing out was done with a fairly large one moving on to medium and smaller ones as we got more detailed

Only when you are happy with the placement and depth of all the components should you start on the front facing details

*If you are happy with this you can mark out any necessary straight edges ie, of the fence. **DO NOT UNDERCUT UNTIL YOU ARE SURE AS YOU CANNOT THEN CHANGE THINGS.** This is the last stage and still a long way off*

It was a very intense and enjoyable weekend – we all worked very hard right to the end and are no-where near to finishing but hopefully we have been given the tools and techniques to produce our own unique pieces all of which will be different. We have all learnt a great deal and pushed our own boundaries.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mike for his time and patience sharing his experience and wisdom with us “part-time carvers”.



Also thank you to Karen, Caroline and Rose for providing excellent muffins and flapjacks to keep us energised over the two days.



So How Did Our Members Get On ?

Heather may decide we should have a display of completed Seminar carvings at a later date?

***In the meantime, here with no names and no pack drill are the carvings being worked on at our October meeting
Can you spot yours?***





Fantastic work Guys & Gals !

***Keep carving and let us all see how worthwhile Mike Painter's Seminar
has been for those who attended***

Frampton Fair & Exhibition Sunday 14th September 2025

Show managed by Karen Peers who also wrote this report

There were 4 of us demonstrating at Frampton show: Charmian, Seb, Richard and Karen.

We arrived at 7.30 am, put up our marquee and displayed our carvings.

The weather forecast was for heavy rain, and although attendance was down, we still attracted lots of people admiring our work.

People enjoyed identifying the places on our carved sights of Gloucestershire board.

It was a lovely day, until the heavens opened up at 3pm, and people went home.



TWA Corner Shop Sales



***Two high quality Limewood blocks left over from the recent Seminar
10ins x 7ins x 23 1/4ins each***

Available for £38 each for TWA funds



Record corner clamp

Bargain for £5 for TWA funds

***For any of the above please contact me
Richard Pepperd on 01452 528358 or 0779298482***

The Bob Steadman Corner of recommended links to enjoy and better your Wood Carving skills



WoodBeeCarver <https://woodbeecarver.com/>

Hi Richard, hope that you are both well and that the seminar went well. This is about American caricature carving and contains a very interesting article about carving knives. See you at the next meeting.
Best wishes, Bob

Stories I RobertsonMiniatures <https://www.robertsonminiatures.com/stories>

Hi Richard, hope you are well. Look at this website make sure that you look at all of it. I think that your jaw will drop when you see the content!!!!!!!
There is some woodcarving content, enjoy.
Best wishes, Bob

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16nAEdMxUU/>

Hi Richard, hope that you are both well. The above is on a different scale to our normal carving.
Best wishes, Bob

The Woodcarvers Association Meeting Dates and Venues

<i>Day</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Date Year</i>	<i>Venue</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>29/11/2025</i>	<i>Gambier Parry Hall</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>13/12/2025</i>	<i>Gambier Parry Hall</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>31/01/2026</i>	<i>Gambier Parry Hall</i>

*So, yet another couple of very busy months with lots of quality carvings
having been made and valuable new skills acquired with the help of
Mike Painter*

*Please let me have any print worthy photos, reports, experiences etc you
have on Woodcarving which you think may be of interest to other TWA
Members*

Until we meet next time, Happy Carving.

Richard Pepperd

*Newsletter Editor
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