

# SOLENT GUILD OF WOODCARVERS & SCULPTORS

## **Weekend Passions: the secret lives of everyday folk**

**by Steve Hughes – January/February 2017**

We humans are a passionate, but complex bunch. For the most part, only our loved ones and close work colleagues gain any sort of insight into what makes us tick. Some of us go through our entire lives intentionally or unintentionally keeping our dreams, aspirations or wishes close to our chest. Maybe it's just something about being British. It's often only through our actions, perhaps in the form of a pastime, hobby or even a part-time job that these "passions" come to the surface.

All the people who have volunteered to take part in these photographic essays have a story to tell. I am extremely grateful for their time and co-operation and hope that, between us, we have captured a small part of who they are in the portraits and accompanying words.

The following is a photographic essay about the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers & Sculptors and some of its Members. There is an overview about the Guild followed by the work of individual Members in three parts.

## Battle of Trafalgar Bicentenary carving

by Steve Hughes - Sunday, March 5, 2017

<http://www.retinaphotography.co.uk/woodcarvers-show-off-their-skills-part-three/>

We've had an overview of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors [[here](#)], where we went behind the scenes to get an insight into how and when they were formed. In this final section we view the Battle of Trafalgar Bicentennial carving.

Back in the mists of time, the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors were commissioned to create a carving to celebrate the Bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Well OK it was 2005, but in the world of the Interweb that's an eternity.



**Full shield carved by members of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors**

**Part one** of the article about the SGW&S referred to this carving, but it's only recently that I've been able to gain access to the museum to photograph it. I repeat the background below to give this entry some context.

*In 2005, SGW&S were asked by The Friends of the Royal Naval Museum and HMS Victory to design and carve a carving to celebrate the Bicentenary of Trafalgar. The carving, designed by John Vardon, was based on the midship section of HMS Victory and comprised six individual carvings by some of our members Jess Jay, Ray White, Bert Cox, John Tappy, Alan Crockford and Andrew Huebler. One-half of the carving depicts the Navy in the days of Admiral Lord Nelson and the other half depicts the navy of today. The resulting carving was on display at The Royal Naval Museum but due to some refurbishment, it is currently in storage.*

## The old ...

The Battle of Trafalgar was a decisive naval battle fought on 21 October 1805 off the cape of Trafalgar on the south coast of Spain during the Napoleonic Wars. The British fleet under Horatio Nelson defeated the combined fleets of France and Spain, which were attempting to clear the way for Napoleon's projected invasion of Britain.



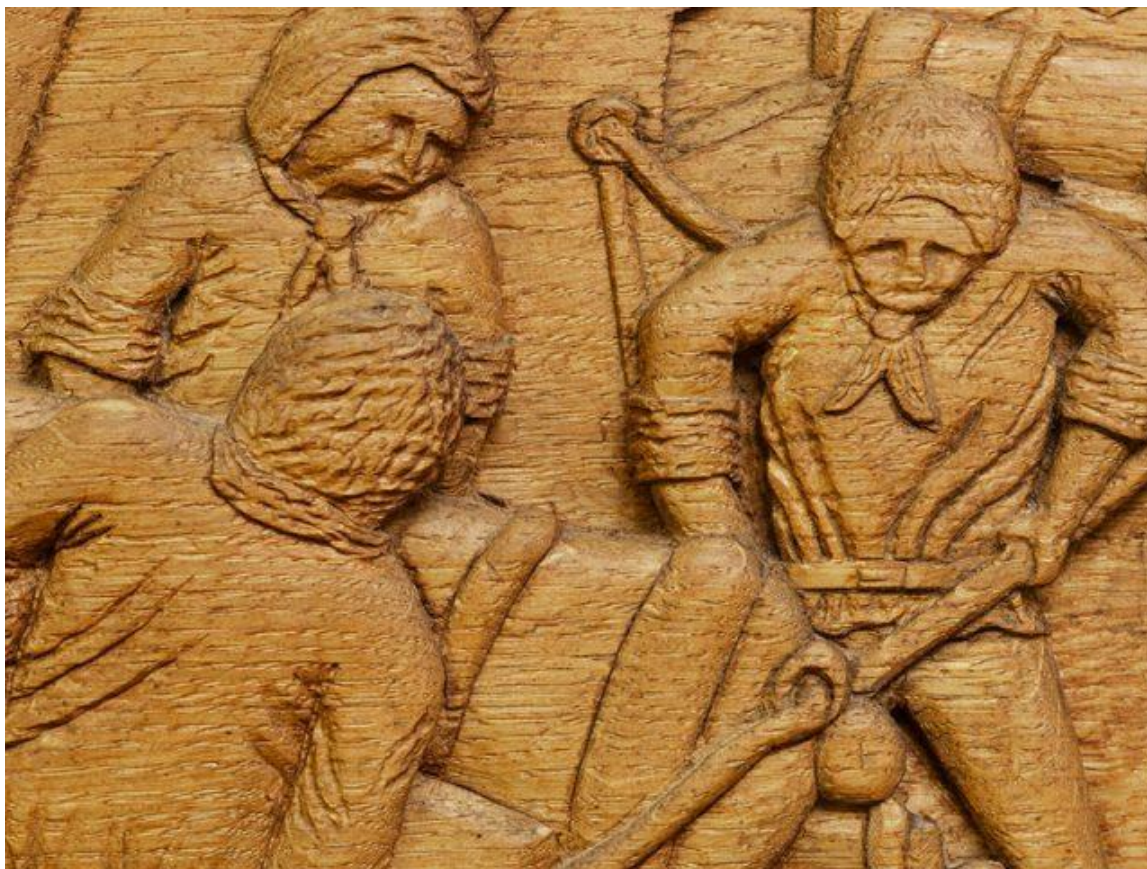
**Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson**



Detail of HMS Victory in full sail



Detail of sailors on the upper deck of HMS Victory

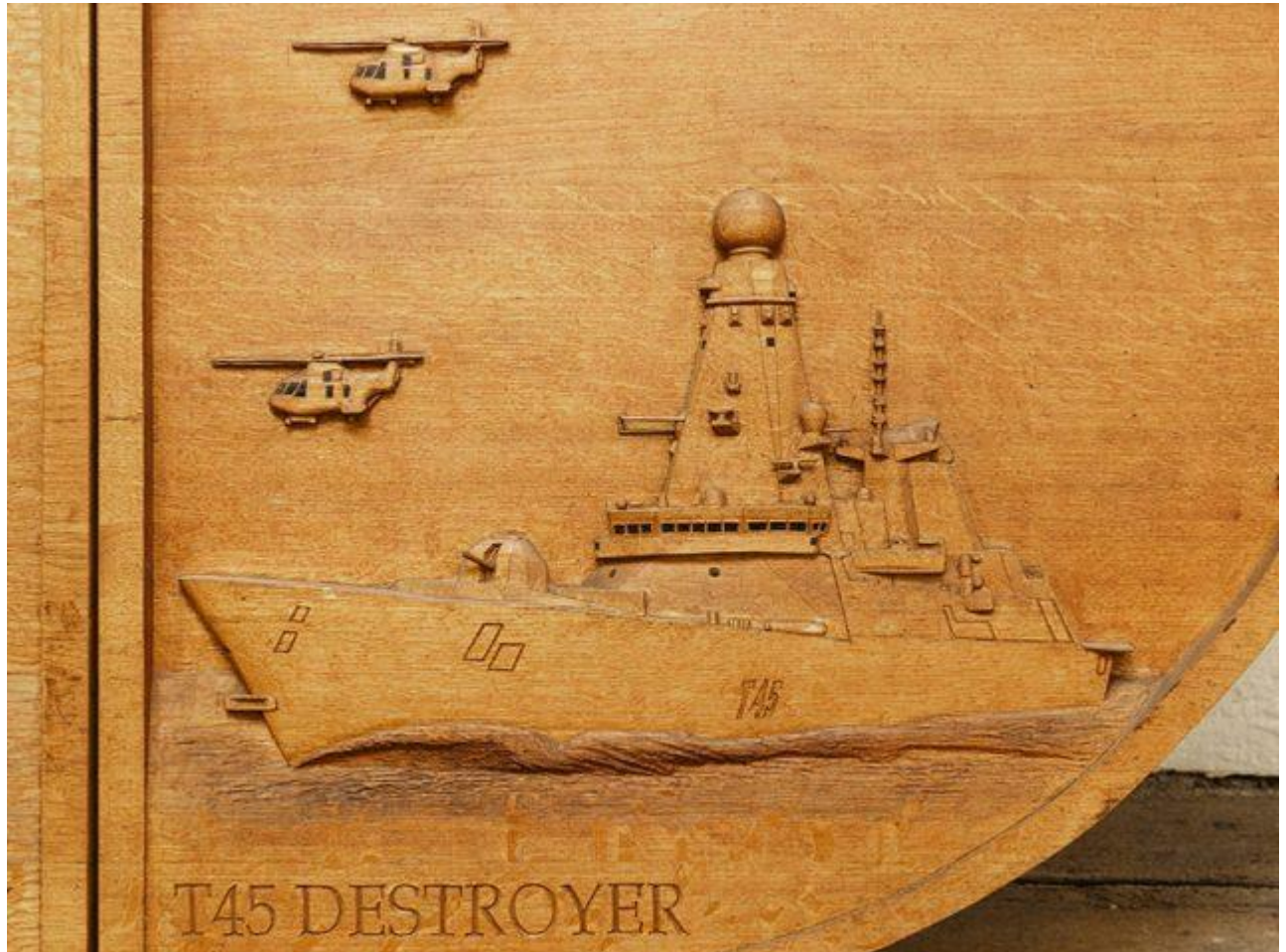


Close up of sailors loading the guns aboard HMS Victory during the battle of Trafalgar

## ... and the new

Destroyers are part of the backbone of the Royal Navy, committed around the world 365 days a year hunting pirates, drug runners or submarines, defending the Fleet from air attack, and providing humanitarian aid after natural disasters.

Britain's 6 Type 45 destroyers [Daring Class] are the most advanced warships the nation has ever built. Their mission is to shield the Fleet from air attack using Sea Viper missile which can knock targets out of the sky up to 70 miles away.



**A modern-day Royal Navy surface ship, the T45 Destroyer**



Detail of a Royal Navy T45 Destroyer



Close up of T45 Destroyer

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the Guild members who have taken part and to say that I'm truly in awe of your skill and craftsmanship. A special thanks to John Vardon and George Palmer who corralled the members and gathered the information as necessary to support the story.

[Click here to read the background story of the Guild](#)

[Click here to meet the members Part 1](#)

[Click here to meet the members Part 2](#)

[Click here to meet the members Part 3](#)

[Click here to meet the members Part 4](#)

## Web Links and References of interest

### **SGWC&S: Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors**

Web: [www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk](http://www.solentguildofwoodcarvers.org.uk)

### **English Woodlands Timber**

Web: / <http://www.englishwoodlandstimber.co.uk>

### **W.L West and Sons Ltd**

Web: <http://www.wlwest.co.uk>

### **The West Sussex Woodturners**

Web: <http://www.westsussexwoodturners.co.uk/>

### **Geisler-Moroder School [Austria]**

Web: [http://www.sc\\_hnitzschule.com](http://www.sc_hnitzschule.com)

### **Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust**

Web: <http://learningstone.org>

### **Sussex Woodcraft Society**

Web: <http://www.sussexwoodcraft.co.uk>

### **Forest of Bere Woodturners**

Web: <http://www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk>

### **Bentley Wildlife Carvers**

Web: <http://bentleywildlifecarvers.weebly.com>

### **Selsey Wood Carvers**

Web: <http://www.selseywoodcarvers.co.uk>

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