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The **MIDLANDS**
WOODWORKING & WOODTURNING
EXHIBITION



SUPERB EXAMPLES OF WOODWORKING SKILLS ON SHOW IN THE COMPETITION & DISPLAY CLASSES

SEE THE UK'S LEADING EXPERTS DEMONSTRATING THEIR SKILLS



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VAST RANGE OF TOOLS & MACHINES ON SHOW FROM ALL THE LEADING SUPPLIERS

WOODWORKING IN EDUCATION
THE MID-WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE PRESENTS A FULL ACTION PACKED WORKSHOP

We've carved out a great show for you!

AT THE **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE (NAC) STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE**

The home of the **Royal Show**
21-23 APRIL 1995

10.30am to 6.00pm Daily (Final day 5.00pm) **UNLIMITED FREE PARKING IN THE SHOWGROUND CLOSE TO THE HALL**

- SUPERB 33,000 sq. ft. EXHIBITION HALL PACKED WITH EXHIBITS, TOOLS, ETC. FOR THE WOODWORKER
- Woodcarving • Wooden Toys and Models
- Woodturning • Carpentry, Joinery and Cabinet Making

DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED BY LEADING EXPERTS THROUGHOUT THE THREE DAYS. PLUS COMPETITIONS, DISPLAYS AND A COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF TRADE STANDS COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF WOODWORKING.

ENTER YOUR WORK IN ONE OF THE COMPETITION CLASSES - Phone now for an entry form.
See your exhibit on TV - The 1995 Show Video, featuring all exhibits, will be available early June.

THE MIDLANDS WOODWORKING & WOODTURNING EXHIBITION - THE EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.

Exhibition organised by THE PUBLISHERS, The Picos, Fosse Way, Nufford Grove, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN. Tel: 01926 614101. Fax 01926 614203

SOLENT CARVERS

Carl Pendle takes a look at the work of members of the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors whose next annual exhibition can be seen at Portsmouth in May



1. Pax Benger with his barn owl carved in lime.
2. Pax demonstrates his technique for demisting the plumage with a feather burning tool.
3. One of Ray Baker's carved ducks, not at all out of place in the Arundel setting.

WITH nearly 100 members, the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors is an organisation that caters for both amateur and professional carvers. Of that number, 45 are active members who demonstrate and undertake the occasional commission whilst the majority pursue the craft simply for their own interest. Indeed only one or two actually make a living from this challenging artform.

When visiting the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Arundel, West Sussex, I had the chance to see some of the work produced by members and to talk to those whose work was featured in the exhibition. Indeed with many of the exhibits being birds there could hardly have been a better setting.

Pax Benger, I learnt, is a carver who specialises in duck carvings. For him the Wildfowl Centre is a great source of inspiration. However, for this show he had brought along his latest pride and joy, a barn owl carved in lime.

The owl is carved from five pieces of wood, and the skill, he told me, lies in disguising the joints. "I must create the illusion of the piece being carved from one bit of wood," he said. The wings had to be cut from a 3in. piece of lime, and Pax mentioned how distressing it was to cut away so much wood - an enormous waste, he added.

It took him four months to complete the carving. Cutting out the shapes of the feathers took most of his time, and

acrylic paints were used to give the finishing touches to the bird. The eyes, the same type as used by taxidermists, added to the illusion. The owl's landing wood came from the bonfire pile, and the bottom support was turned by his wife from walnut.

Other talents

One of the Guild's other talents is Patricia Weeks. Her carving of a heron using eight different woods was nothing short of inspirational. The woods include lime for the heron, amarello for the iris, beak and legs, ebony for the pupils, lime for the bullrush heads, hazel for the stem, with the leaves in deal, base in elm, stone in London plane and finally the stump was apple. It took Patricia over 100 hours to complete, so it's not surprising she only makes three pieces a year. Since 1988 she has been taking woodworking classes at Southbourne College and now feels confident enough in her ability to rely on her own judgment.

Another interesting carving was copied from a greeting card bought from W.H.Smith. The card showed a painting by Eugene De Blass called 'The Flower Seller.' It was being carved in deep relief, which is especially difficult as everything must be in perspective.

Seeing work come alive

With a wide range of work from dinosaurs to rabbits, along with a battalion of soldiers charging their way out of a fine relief, there was plenty for visitors to see and the workshop demonstrations seemed to make the wooden animals come alive.



4. One of the Solent carvers adding the finishing touches to his relief copied from a greeting card.
5. Ray Baker's relief work where the cavalry appear to be charging out of the wood. Background picture: Patricia Weeks' heron which uses eight different timbers.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION
Displays and demonstrations of work by the Solent Guild of Woodcarvers and Sculptors 27th to 29th May at Fort Purbrook, Portdown Hill Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire. Part of the larger craft fair organised by Woodland Crafts of Purbrook, further information about the Guild's annual exhibition is available from: Peter Hurrell, Vice Chairman of the Guild, 85 The Crossway, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire. Tel: 01705 373899.