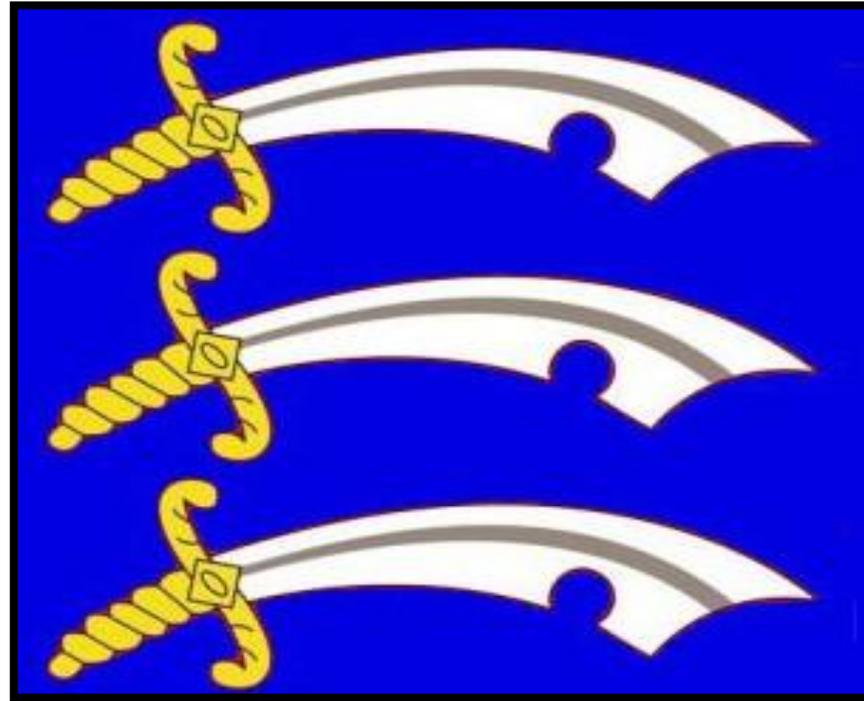


Welcome to
ESSEX
WOODCARVERS



Creative May...

We would have loved to have met you all at the Arts & Craft Fair in May but Covid19 has had other ideas. The lockdown will not be forever – time to plan ahead for better times.

We are a Woodcarving club based in Essex (but you don't have to live in Essex to be a member)

Our aim is to promote the love of wood and keep the art and skill of woodcarving alive. We are particularly interested in growing our membership with young adults but all are very welcome. After the restrictions are lifted, it would be great to meet you in person at one of our club meetings or any number of shows and events around the region (once they are back up and running).

In the meantime we invite you to take a look at some of our members work, a bit about us and woodcarving in general. If you still have questions do please get in contact with us (contact details at the end)

I don't know if woodcarving would be for me...

Q Do you love the look, smell and feel of real wood?

A If so this could be the hobby for you. We are all passionate about it as a medium.

Q Would like to be able to do woodcarving but think it is too difficult to do?

A Our members will help you to quickly acquire the basics to get you started and for those with developing /more advanced skills we have plenty of very experienced carvers to take you to the next level should you wish. Of course if you just want to carve in the company of other carvers that is perfectly OK with us too 😊

Q Ever thought about taking up woodcarving but think it would be too time consuming?

A Simpler projects can be finished in a few hours, however, complicated ones can take several hundred - the commitment and pace is entirely up to you.

Q But I haven't got any tools . Will it be expensive to get started?

A We have a couple of starter sets for you to use until you know what kind of carving you would like to do. We will even provide you with a small blank of wood to get you started. When it comes to buying your own it does not have to be expensive. We can help you make the right decision over which tools are right for you and only get the ones you need.

Q What age do I have to be to start carving?

A There is no minimum age to be a member of Essex Woodcarvers but for children additional consideration needs to be given to health and safety (they will be handling sharp tools albeit under a designated responsible adult, usually parent or grandparent but not simply a member of Essex Woodcarvers). Equally there is no upper limit to starting carving. We once had a gentleman start carving at the age of 83 so you see it is never too late either.

Essex Woodcarvers welcomes all ages.

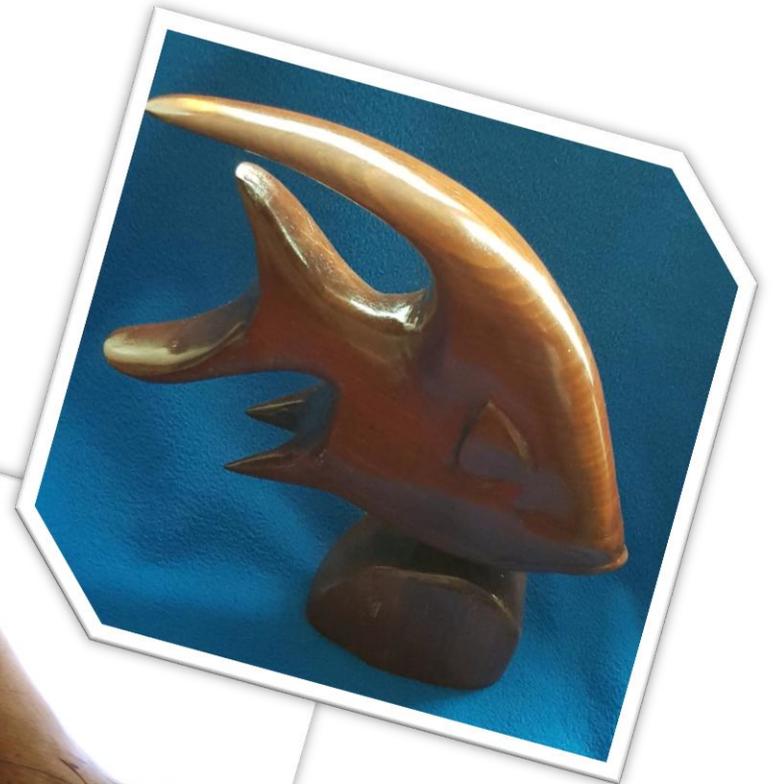
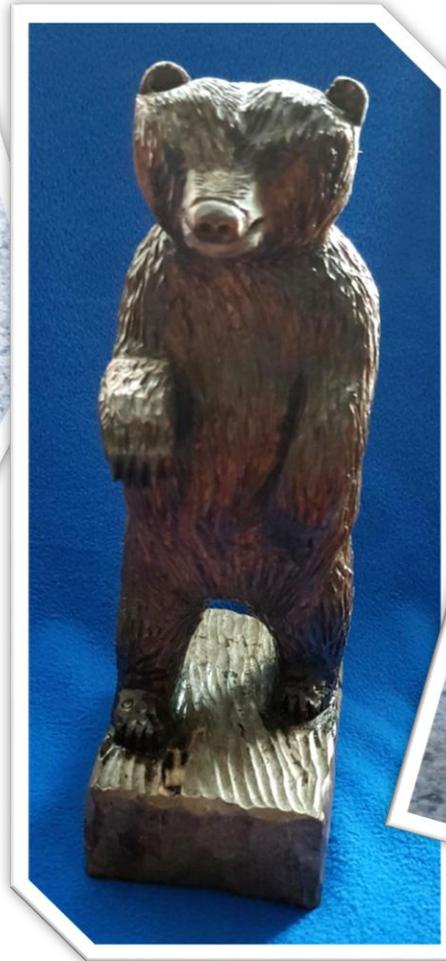
Your first carving...

There are many ways of starting out learning how to carve. We have many experienced carvers who will be very happy to guide you through your first carving.

The Oak leaf starter project (pictured left) will help you get used to the tools. The acorns will help to develop your skills further before moving onto to more complicated projects such as our penguin in the round or perhaps something of your own design.



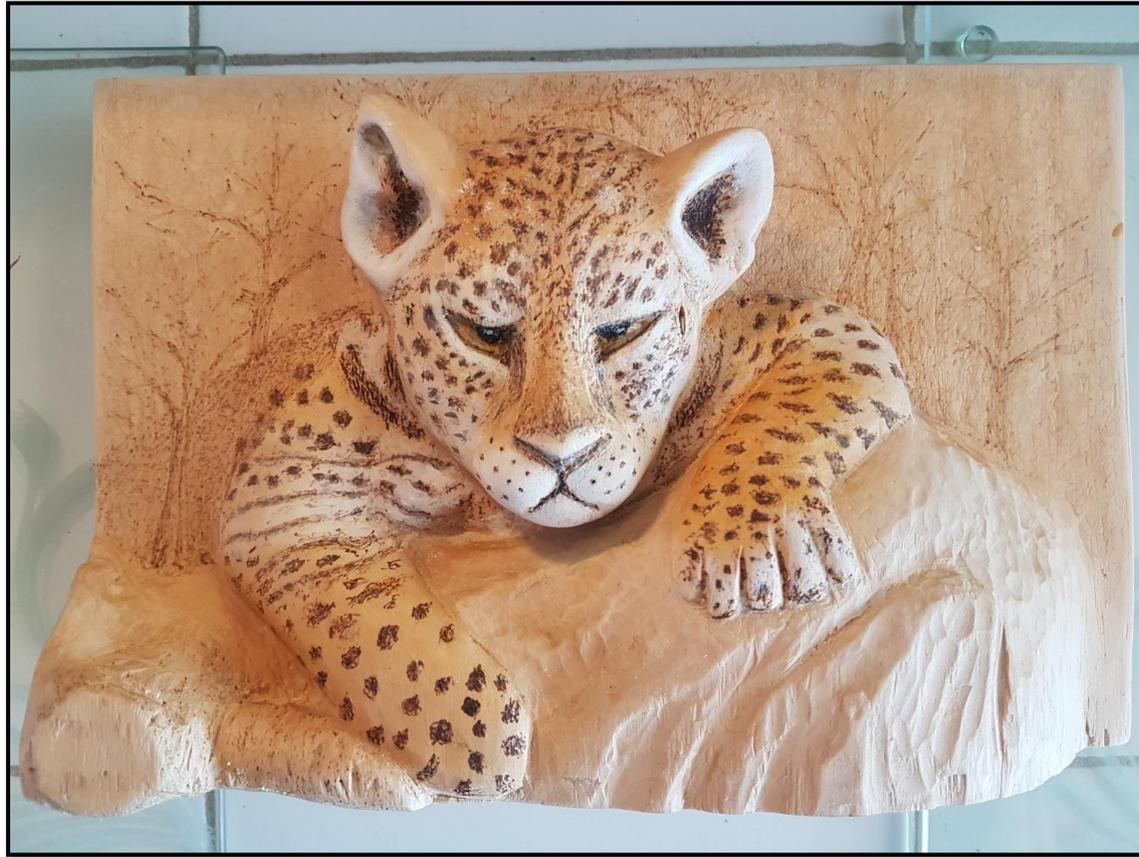
Examples of basic in the round carvings



...some examples of relief carving...



... and some examples of deep relief carving.



Taking the background away completely and cutting through the work makes this a beautiful example of pierced relief carving



Spoon Carving is a genre in its own right, having a complex history. Each element of the spoon traditionally holds specific meaning for the recipient





Another type of carving is called in the round.



These two carvings are examples of modelling ie where there is some element of assembly sometimes but not necessarily utilising mixed media



...accomplished in the round carvings



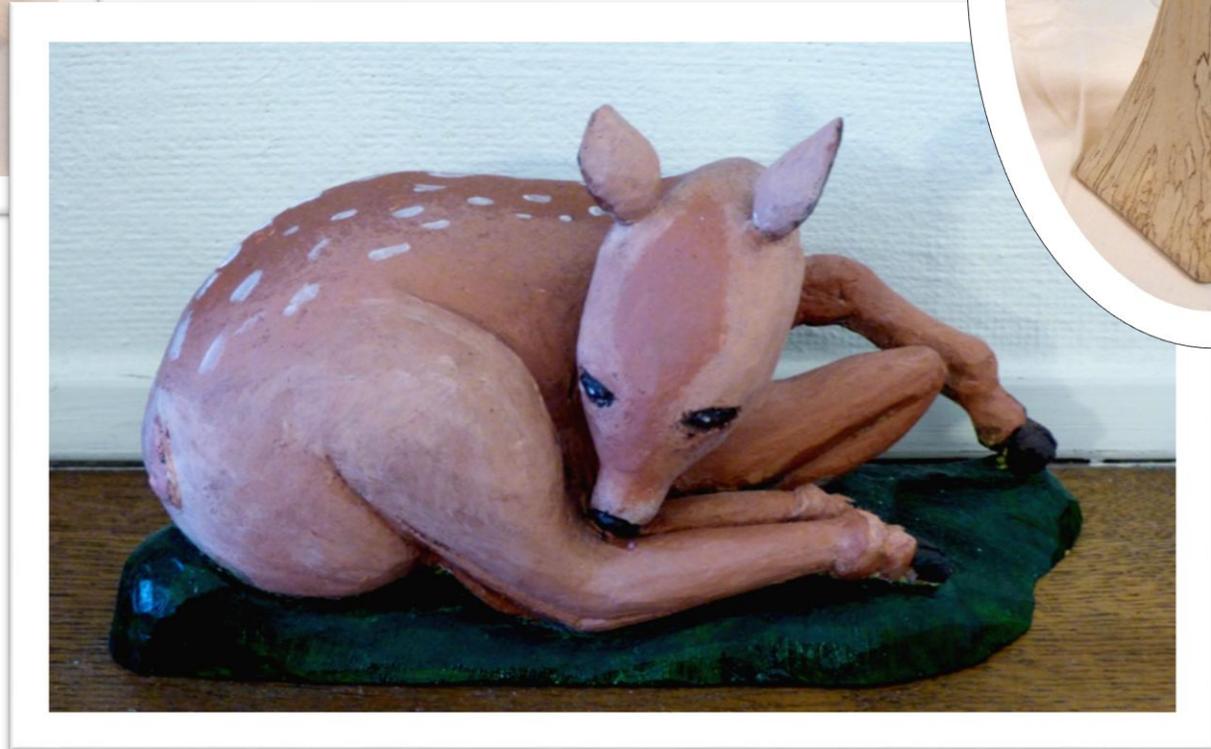


Here are a couple of examples of pieces that are technically very difficult requiring a high level of skill and experience





Dye / paint or natural finish ? It is all a matter of individual taste





Further
examples
of
Dyed
and
painted
finishes





The wood used for this barn owl is naturally figured by a process called spalting (this occurs in the tree whilst it is still standing). Only the eyes beak and claws are painted.

What is your preference? Dyed / painted or natural finish?



Box frames set these two pieces off beautifully. Presentation can make all the difference...



Kits, Patterns and designs...



Not everyone feels they can produce their own designs nor is it necessary in order to enjoy woodcarving. There are plenty of books available in our library that you can borrow as a member or that you can purchase online, that you can take designs directly from.

This Rocking horse was made up from a kit that can be purchased for self assembly. The design is taken care of for you, the skill in this instance is that of the finish. Beautiful crafting skills.



Where to find or contact us after coronavirus

Essex Woodcarvers have two venues where we meet to carve. As a member you are welcome to attend either or both venues. Tea and coffee are complimentary at both venues (and additionally cake at Mountnessing)

Venue	When	Open
Mountnessing Village Hall Roman Rd, Mountnessing, Brentwood CM15 0UD	Second Sunday of each month	9:00am and 3:30pm
Bridgewater Drive Church Hall (on the corner of Cockethurst Close) 150 Bridgewater Dr, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 0DS	Second and Fourth Monday of each month	9:00am and 3:30pm



How to find out more about us?

Have a look at our Facebook page or if you have questions please call our club chairman Derek Drain who be very happy to have a chat with you

Facebook: [Essex Woodcarvers](#) 📞: 07775733062 – Derek Drain

When the restrictions are lifted and we are able to meet again drop in for a chat, a cup or tea / coffee and see what we are doing.

Please don't be shy or put off, we are a friendly group of people and we are all still learning whatever our current level of proficiency. We are always willing to give guidance and encouragement.

Your first session is complimentary, together with use of club starter kit tools, a small blank of wood* and all the encouragement and guidance you could ever want.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Please telephone ahead of the session so this can be prepared for you.

