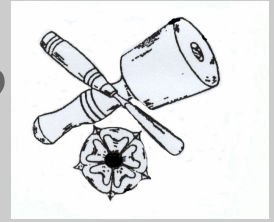


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# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



## LIFE MEMBERS

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Issue 150

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## Monthly meeting January 13th 2007

To open our 2007 meetings, attended by 56 members and guests, we were pleased to welcome George Moore from the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers this time in his role as a very accomplished wood turner. George gave a demonstration of small cylindrical box turning and very generously allowed Jane to raffle both it, and a previously turned box amongst the members present, with the proceeds, some £50 pounds plus, going to Kirkwood Hospice. The lucky recipients of the two boxes were Bill and Tracey.

Not only were we treated to George's turning skills, and his ancient but very amusing jokes, we were also introduced to some of the equipment that the L & C Woodcarvers purchased with their grant of £5000 from the Awards for All Lottery. Quite a number of our members have since commented that the equipment was first class and without it a large section of the audience would not have followed the more intricate details of George's demonstration. The close up shots shown on the screen were a big plus.

Regretfully, we never followed through our application after doing the hard work of getting a Club constitution adopted, which is one of the main requirements of the application. But as soon as the paperwork connected with the Overgate Panel is out of the way, and there is quite a lot, I shall dust off the application form and forward it for consideration. One little downside, I have been informed that the Lottery Grant Board have now tightened up their selection procedure as a large chunk of Lottery money has been put aside for the Olympic Games. But what we witnessed on Saturday morning makes it worth a try. On your behalf a letter of thanks will be sent to George, who incidentally will be back with us in March with some of his fellow carvers, to listen to Malcolm's talk on Relief Carving.



George Moore



**Christmas Dinner:** The dinner was again an extremely enjoyable occasion with over 70 members and guests attending. Our guest speaker, David Newbold, was as accomplished a speaker, as he was an artist, keeping everybody highly amused while painting a beautiful

picture that he allowed to be raffled for Kirkwood Hospice. The lucky winner this time being David Holt and his wife. In total the dinner raised £89.10 for the hospice. Our thanks go to all who donated prizes and to Wendy Hodgson for again organising the raffle and also to Jane for organising the dinner and speaker.

David was asked to choose his favourite carving from the table display and Norman Shaw was bathed in glory with his carving of a bird.



**Future meetings:** *February 10th* meeting is a general "Free and Easy" coupled with a sale of unwanted tools. This time we are expanding the range of goods for sale and members are invited to bring along any items they wish to sell, not the old fridge or grandma's old bed pan, try and make them a little craft orientated please. Could I suggest that if items are for sale and the money is for going into Club funds then a label stating that, together with a suggested price be attached to the item? Items you are selling for your own piggy bank please mark with your name and the suggested price. Jim Wrathall is putting together a slide show of Misericord carvings he has photographed that may be available in time for this meeting.

*March 10th* meeting is a talk by Malcolm Till on "Relief Carving" and the April 14th meeting is the Annual General Meeting. We have nothing booked at the moment further than the April AGM because I have been corresponding with Peter Benson. I am sure many of you will recognise the name as he is the Chairman of the British Woodcarvers' Association and a regular contributor to both the Woodcarving Magazine and Chip Chats. Peter has expressed his willingness to come and talk to the Club but we are having problems sorting a date out. He is a keen cricketer and is waiting for his summer fixture list before he can commit himself to a firm date. He is also talking to Pete LeClair, the well-known American caricature carver, for us about the possibility of also coming to Shepley. It's rather difficult to book other people while trying to keep open as many dates as possible.

**Overgate Panel up-date**. Most people will now be aware that the Panel will be presented to Overgate, on our behalf, on Tuesday 13th March 2007 at 7.00pm. The good news is that just yesterday we had confirmation that **Dr Ingrid M Roscoe, Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire**, will now be presiding at our hand-over. Dr Roscoe, an old friend of Vernon Secker who carved a special cross for her, has a BA in Fine and Decorative Arts, a PhD on aspects of eighteenth-century British sculpture and is co-editor of a journal on British sculpture. No doubt all the individual carvings, and the completed Panel, are going to be viewed with a very experienced eye. Because Dr Roscoe will now be handing-over the Panel, as she outranks the Mayor, the Mayor, Councillor Colin Stout, will be presenting to each carver who worked on the Panel a signed Certificate of Appreciation. Dr Roscoe is also a Patron of the Community Foundation for Calderdale from whom we got the grant of £1570 from for the Panel timber.

The display to the public will take place from 10.30am to 4.30pm from 14th to 17th inclusive and 19th to 24th inclusive. To ensure that all members of the Club, irrespective of if they have worked on the Panel or not, are involved in the occasion we are planning to have a full show of members carvings on display at the hand-over and for the two weeks that the Panel is on public view. We shall be asking at the next meeting, and in the next Newsletter, that carvings, loads and loads of them please, be handed in at the March 10th Shepley meeting. The Club, as at the Huddersfield viewing, will provide stewards during public viewing and Mike will be shortly putting together a schedule of volunteers. The smaller carvings will have to be cleared away into a secure area when our members are not in attendance and put out again for the next day.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are going to be provided on the Tuesday evening during the hand-over, at the expense of the Mayor, and chairs for 90 or so people will be arranged around the hall. A booklet is being compiled by Neil Simpson, photo of the carving, and possibly the carver, will be included together with the hours worked on all carvings. We are talking to a source to help professionally design and print the booklet, proceeds of sales to the public will be donated to Overgate. A TV and press package has been put together and will shortly be sent out. We shall certainly get press coverage in Calderdale and Kirklees and I am very hopeful that we shall see the TV involved. The attendance of Dr Roscoe should help with publicity.

A dinner for all the carvers and partners, and interested Club members, where the completed Panel will be displayed for the first time, has been booked at the Meltham Golf Club on the evening of the 7th March. Names to Mike Hadfield please.

One backward step is that Overgate Choir have pulled out, after initially saying they would attend, claiming that they cannot raise a conductor or accompanist. We now have the services of the Halifax Light Opera Junior section, who are presenting Fiddler on the Roof at the Halifax Playhouse just before our hand-over, who have very kindly offered to fill the vacancy and delight all present with their enthusiasm and lovely young voices..

Because of family health problems Jane and Peter Smith, who was a woodcarving teacher, regretfully have had to give back word on carving for the Panel. Trevor and myself have finished these off (Trevor's to a far higher standard than mine no doubt!).

**Interesting carvings:** In the last newsletter I started to introduce member's unusual carvings that were displayed at the November 2006 meeting (was it that long ago). This month the carving featured is the Iron Wood Owl owned by Gordon.

Gordon writes as follows: Made in New Mexico. I am told that the carvers do not cut the Iron Wood trees down they only use dead wood. Although it is an extremely hard wood there is evidence that edge tools have been used on the carving.

From what I can see it would seem that the carving was part of a branch which would have had to be held in some sort of heavy vice and when finished cut off.

I have telephoned the person who bought it and asked if they have any information about it i.e. what tools were used, how it was finished etc. They have no idea but promised to find out what information they can and let me know. This will be passed on if it becomes available.



**Besançon Panel:** Dennis, Bryan, Jim and Mike were the lucky members who got to attend the official hanging of the Panel in the Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall) in Besançon. Copies of the booklet, printed in French, which was printed for the official opening, are available to any member who wants one. The "boys" brought a CD of photographs back with them and if possible we shall be showing them at the meeting in February.

**Kirkwood Panel:** We are indebted to Guy Tolson, who attended our last meeting, for compiling and printing a small booklet to go alongside the Kirkwood Panel. These are available for visitors to Kirkwood Hospice to purchase by donation, suggested price £1.00. Dick expressed his concern that information on the Panel was not already available, as he had on numerous occasions supplied the office at Kirkwood with details of the Panel and the carvers involved. Many members at the last meeting purchased booklets and Guy took the proceeds to the Hospice.

**Apologies:** Mary Stott, Ken Taylor, Duncan Gledhill and Frank Bromhead.

**Badges:** Anybody who wants a Club name badge, and Dick reminded everybody at the last meeting that we should wear them as a courtesy to our newer members, please give me a ring and I will get them made, I think they are £6 each. I need to order some as I had one made for Adrian and lost it.