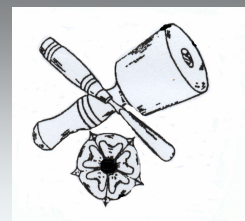


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West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



LIFE MEMBERS

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Albert Hobson
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Issue 152

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Monthly meeting March 10th 2007

Malcolm Till.

For the March meeting we were treated to a splendid talk by Malcolm on "Relief Carving". Malcolm brought to the meeting a large number of carvings that he has done over the years, all in oak, as I predicted, and all that needed the services of a small removal van to transport them. I don't know how big Malcolm's house is but I'm pretty sure that I would be under instructions from my wife to down size or take up dominoes as a hobby. Anybody interested in the more technical details of Malcolm's talk please contact Anne who took copious notes of Malcolm's observations and methods and I am sure she will forward them to you. (I understand that the notes were taken to help her complete her "Lady in the Mirror" relief carving that she



started in 2002!) All I would say is a big thank you to Malcolm on behalf of the 54 members and guests present. I have gone back over the Club's records to 2001 and I am pretty certain that this is a record for members present at a Saturday meeting. Mike Painter only managed to get 43 members to see him, and we paid him a small fortune, and Malcolm got nothing but a cup of tea. It must be his charm!



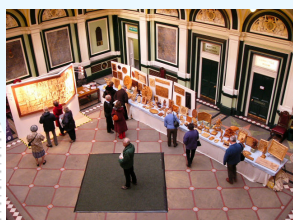
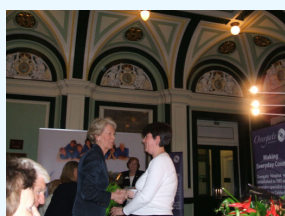
Overgate Panel

I am quite certain that I speak for all members by declaring this Club project a resounding success. The Dinner for 74 carvers, Club members and guests was a terrific evening with food of outstanding quality in very pleasant surroundings. When eventually the Panel was unveiled, by our Life Members Anne and Albert, I think the feeling of all present could be summed up by one person who confided in me that as the cloth was taken from the Panel "the sheer beauty and enormity of the occasion brought tears to my eyes". Without doubt the atmosphere of the occasion helped but the Panel was stunning and a credit to the Club.

Just one downside, I was told by Jane that there was no "Top Table" and that all Club members were equal. So how was it that she was one of the very first at the carvery and I was number 74????? So much for equality.

The hand-over evening went like a well oiled watch and greatly impressed our esteemed guests who commented to a number of members on the excellence of the occasion, and the quality of the Panel and the display of carvings. The children who sang on the balcony were terrific and the acoustics in the Town Hall are something any choir master would die for.

I have got to admit at the Saturday meeting before the hand-over quite a few of the organising members were starting to worry about the number of carvings that were going to be available for display. But eventually we managed to display 99 beautiful carvings. Many thanks to the 20 members who supplied carvings and the stewards who volunteered for duty.



Overgate Panel Cont: The one downside to the evening was the total lack of any recognition of the occasion by the Halifax Courier, even after promising that they would attend the hand-over. I can assure you that many, many words have crossed between myself and the Editor at the Courier. They couldn't even be bothered to come down to the Town Hall to take a photo of the Panel during the period we had it on display. And to add insult to injury when I finally got them to put something in the paper they used a photograph of Anne, Mary and Margaret that they had used just a few days previous. This was unbelievable as, along with my correspondence, I had sent them 6 digital photos of the Panel and individual carvings. I am now considering writing to the Chairman of the Courier's holding group to register our disgust. One rather amusing point was that the Huddersfield Daily Examiner did turn up for the Hand-over, but at Overgate Hospice in Elland not the Town Hall. They decided they didn't have time to get to the Town Hall so went back home. The mind boggles, how did we win the War?

On a more positive side the booklets that we produced, selling at £3 each, managed to raise £1756 during the time that the Panel was on display in the Town Hall. They have been selling steadily ever since to members, and by members of the Club, and very soon we will reach the £1800 mark. The cost of printing was £800 and we still have some money left in the bank from the original donation from the Community Foundation for Calderdale. Dennis confirmed that we are in a position to give a donation of at least £1000 to Overgate Hospice along with the Panel. If anybody wants a booklet I have kept back over 200, and handed over 200 plus to Overgate, and they will be available at the AGM, or just give me a ring.

Overgate have invited all the carvers of the Panel, plus anybody who directly helped with it and the display, to Overgate Hospice on Monday evening 2nd April at 6.00pm for a "thank you" get together. Space is going to be a problem but I'm sure we will cope even if we are a little crushed.

The Panel, as of Friday 30th March, is now hanging in the entrance at Overgate and looks very good. All the staff are very appreciative and as we left patients were being encouraged out of the wards for a look. As we worked on locating the Panel we were constantly being passed by people, either coming or going to or from the Hospice, and the majority of them commented on the Panel in a very glowing manner. It was very humbling listening to kind words coming from people who have probably got other things on their mind and more immediate problems than the majority of us have ever faced in our lives. I'm convinced that every hour we collectively put into the Panel has been time well spent. If it gives just one of these unfortunate people a brief moment away from their personal problems our efforts have been well rewarded.



Hopefully we shall have DVDs available for sale at £5 each at the AGM.

The DVD will show both outings on BBC Look North, photos of all the individual carvings, work in progress carvings, pictures of the Panel at the Town Hall and Overgate, pictures of the carving display, Derek Lindley's video of the hand-over ceremony and our get together at Overgate on Monday 2nd April.

The DVD should work on both a personal computer or a DVD player through your television.



This is a rather poor photograph of the black on chrome plaque that is now at the side of the Panel. This has been donated free of charge by friends of mine, Eglon Engravers, Halifax and the mounting board has been made by Tony Smith.

A feature on the Overgate Panel will, or so I am promised, appear in the Yorkshire Life May 2007 edition.

They are producing a supplement on Halifax and I have provided them with loads of information and photographs of the Panel. It will be interesting to see what they do with it. Next stop the Woodcarver magazine where I understand we get £50



Duncan Gledhill

Sadly we have to report the passing of Duncan Gledhill who has been a member of the Club for many years, and I understand one of the founder members. Duncan will be missed by all his good friend. On behalf of Club members a card has been sent to his wife, Molly, by Jane and I have sent a letter of condolence.

Duncan's funeral is on Tuesday 3rd April at Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church at 12.15pm with internment at the crematorium at 1.30pm.

Not a good month as I also have to report that Des Lindley was taken into hospital a couple of weeks ago and is quite ill. I am sure all our best wishes go out to Des, one of the founder members of the Club and a very respected individual and friend.