

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Issue 159

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson
Norman Walsh



www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Monthly meetings 20th October & 3rd November 2007

Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers - 20th October.

What a terrific day and a fantastic turn out. I understand we had 33 members present, 27 on the bus and 6 from Halifax way in motor cars. Jane took £135 in fares on the bus and Dennis sobbed into his hanky as he forked out the £65 short fall on the cost of the hire. The suggestion to provide a bus proved a great success and certainly contributed to the very high turn out.

I have received a note from George Moore saying how delighted they were to see so many of their Yorkshire friends and how they appreciated the lovely collection of carvings brought for the display.

A letter of thanks, and a copy of this Newsletter, will be forwarded to George and the members of the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers.



Rather aggressive.

Would anybody want to argue with this man?

Good job Dick only had two carvings on display or we could all have been asking for bed and breakfast. Well done Dick, you were the only one who actually seemed to enjoy getting up and talking about your carvings.



Where's my Mum?



It's a Tree Frog how big do you want it?



Well, I think it's a duck !!!!



It's gone all curly !

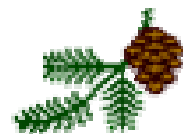
Tracey and Peter in full flow.



Mike Chambers



How many of us have made one of these?



Awards for All - Big Lottery Funding: I think very nearly everybody will now be aware that we managed to get 100% of the £3805 we asked for from the Lottery application we put in earlier this year for digital projection equipment. The money was deposited into the Club bank account on the 22 October 2007 and we shall have to eventually complete a “completion of project form” stating how we have spent the money and list any deviations from our original application. Any money we don't spend has to be returned — fat chance!

Because money is involved Frank Greenwood (as our official Club photographer) and Dennis, our Treasurer, will be fully involved in all discussions and decisions as to why and how the fund will be used. We are fortunate that we have connected with the Club an expert in this type of equipment who has offered to assist with the selection, purchase, commissioning and warranty of the selected items. The person in question is Nigel Goddard, the husband of Tracey, who has his own business supplying computer hardware and software systems to companies throughout the world. The added advantage of using Nigel is that we have a one stop shop for all our requirements and if we need to make changes from the original listing I supplied to the Lottery people, and we shall, then it will be easier to do so using Nigel than purchasing from a selection of different suppliers. Also Nigel has the contacts and spending power to obtain items far cheaper, or to a superior specification, than we could do as individuals.

Below is a listing of equipment that we asked for and, after an initial meeting with Nigel, our thinking on how we shall use the £3805 at our disposal.

Digital projector: The main thing to consider with this item is that on the majority of occasions it will be used in a room that will be daylight lit, therefore, we need a powerful high wattage unit that will allow the images to be clearly seen in these conditions. The cost that was put in for this item was **£1300**.

Hard drive camcorder: This is the unit that will record whatever images we desire and, via the projector, display them onto a screen of some five foot square in size. We can also capture moving images and sound for future display. It will be remote controlled via a hand held unit. Costing **£750**.

Laptop computer: This will allow us to play computer compact discs through the projector and onto the screen and allow us to edit and store anything that we record for display at future Club occasions. Costing **£700**.

Audio sound system: The unit that we have been looking at is a small suitcase size unit that incorporates a radio hand mike and a clip on mike that will eliminate the cables that all our guest speakers seem to fall over. The unit will be mains charged but battery controlled and have speakers and a CD player incorporated. The power output is described as being suitable for a standard size classroom or meeting hall. Costing **£300**.

Printer: For printing all the blessed Newsletters. Costing **£300**.

Projector table: So we don't have to put the projector on an old orange box. Costing **£25**.

Tripod for the camcorder: We are looking into the possibility of the head of the tripod rotating automatically via a hand held remote control unit so that Frank can sit down and zoom in and out without getting tired. Costing **£50**.

Tripod screen: Approximately five foot square for projecting images onto. Costing **£80**.

Extended warranty and spares: We are looking for a three year warranty on most items and because the bulbs for the projector can be about £100 plus to replace we plan to carry one in stock. **Costing £200**.

Insurance: The question of insurance is a tricky one as our present Club insurance doesn't cover this equipment and an extra £44 cost per £1000 value has been quoted. Seeing as the equipment will always be located in someone's private house, and therefore covered by the individual's home contents insurance, and only taken out by Club members for specific tasks that will see it constantly supervised, the question is do we insure it? Costing **£100**.

We are going to ensure that each item of equipment is purchased with its own individual carry case so that it can be easily, speedily and safely packed away for transportation and storage, we don't want it in a selection of old cardboard boxes where it is liable to get damaged. It is a request of the Lottery people that where possible a special “Awards for All” sticky label, that they have provided, be fixed to each item purchased. We shall also mark each item with a permanent label stating that it is the property of the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association.

The plan is to select and purchase all the equipment during November, and after getting ourselves acquainted with how it all works, display and use the whole lot at the Christmas luncheon.

Anybody who requires further detailed information please get in touch with either Frank, Dennis or myself. Or if you want to get involved just give us a call. This is the Club's property for use by all the members.

Life Membership. During the meeting it was very kindly proposed by Arthur that I be awarded the honour of Life Membership for my recent efforts as Secretary for the Club. Although I am extremely flattered that Arthur brought this matter to the meeting, and this appeared to be acceptable to the majority of the members present, I feel I must decline this honour for the following reasons.

Firstly, I consider the award of Life Membership as the highest honour that the Club can bestow on a member and this is usually awarded for outstanding service and achievements over many years, as demonstrated by Anne, Albert and Norman, our present Life Members. For me to accept this award, after only six years as a member and only four as your Secretary would, in my opinion, demean the value of this office. I also consider that there are quite a number of members far more deserving and closer to receiving this award than myself.

Secondly, the Club recently went through considerable discussions and re-writes to adopt a Constitution that was acceptable to all members and outside funding bodies. The wording of the Constitution states “ All members will have the right to propose the appointment of new Life Members. These proposals must be forwarded to the Management Committee and, at the discretion of the Management Committee, the proposal will become an item on the Agenda for adoption by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting” So clearly the proposal, although very kindly offered, was out of order.

It's extremely gratifying to know that my efforts as Secretary are appreciated but this is a position I readily agreed to undertake, and enjoy doing - most of the time - and I would prefer that we just carry on as we presently are please.

Our congratulations to Malcolm Till who, after many years of research and editing, has now become a published author. He was the guest of honour at a luncheon to celebrate the opening of a new exhibition at the National Coal Mining Museum entitled “Coals from Caphouse Colliery”. Amongst the celebrities were various Lord Mayors from around the district, Deputy Lord Lieutenants and Members of Parliament. Malcolm has written a book called “Caphouse to Calder Grove” that is now on sale at the museum.

I understand that the book charts the history of the mineral railway, which was constructed in the early 1850s and, for almost 100 years, linked the collieries with the canals and main line railway network.

Malcolm's photo was in the Hudd' Examiner 05 Nov.

December 8th: Club luncheon at 10.00am. Wow we must be doing something right in this Club as Jane now has just going up to 80 names down for the occasion.

Don't forget that there are still a few places left so get your cheque book out, £14 each and guests are very welcome.

The luncheon is at the Meltham Golf Club with guest speaker Fred Butler. Humorous tales of living and growing up in Dewsbury. Fred was our Christmas guest some years ago and was a great success.

As previously mentioned we shall be rolling out the new equipment that we managed to get from the Lottery grant.

Donated raffle prizes required on the day please.

Carvings are requested for the display, old new, good, indifferent and I know we don't have any bad ones.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services: I sent the application in in July but for months didn't even have an acknowledgment that they had received it. I rang them the other day and they assured me that they had the application and were in the process of doing a bulk acknowledgment to every group that had applied.

We actually won't hear if we have been successful until about June 2008, but I understand that somebody will be in contact with us to ensure our application is genuine and truthful and that we are who we say we are. (And that we are as fantastic as I have told them we are.)

On the sick list we unfortunately still have Alan Brook who has had some set backs from his recent very serious operation and I'm sure we wish him all the best for an improvement in health. Des Lindley is now up

and around and taking part in his carving class on Monday nights.

Peter Nicholas is now home and mending after an operation in a rather tender area.



Many thanks to the merry band of ladies who graft away in the kitchen serving up tea and coffee and the occasional pea & pie lunch. Not mentioned in every Newsletter but always very much appreciated by all.

E-Mail addresses are required for the file please.

Apologies for the November meeting were received from Peter Nicholas, Anne Allan and Peter Nethergate. Jim Wrathall has a block booking apology. I've probably forgotten the rest!

Do we really need an apology section?????????????

A film, not digital, camera was found after we left the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers. If it belongs to you please give me a call and I will put you in touch with the person who has it in safe.

The book that Dominic recommended is called Working Sticks and Walking Sticks by Theo Fossel Price £7.50 on Amazon.

Ravenscliffe School for Disabled Children: The other week the Community Foundation for Calderdale rang me and asked if the Club would help with their plans to produce an end of year report on the Foundation. They required a couple of carvers to be photographed, along with other groups who has received money from them over the last twelve months. You will remember these are the people who donated £1,570 towards timber for the Overgate Panel.

Because of a very tight time schedule two people from the Brooksbank class were asked to help. Tracey and David Hey agreed to slap on the mascara and make up and be the two models representing the Club.

At the photo shoot were two lovely children from Ravenscliffe School, these being the two children below on the £3,500 special rickshaw type bicycles and wheelchairs both funded by the Community Foundation. All 115 children at the school have severe physical and learning difficulties and many have impaired vision problems. We were informed by the Head Teacher that some of the children obtain a get great deal of pleasure, and sensory awareness, from being able to touch items that are tactile, such as carved wood. We were asked by the Head if we would consider doing some form of carving for the schools new sensory outdoor garden.

We have been invited to have a look round the school and garden and put forward suggestions. I think they are looking along the lines of a large type carving that will sit outdoors but they have very much an open mind.

I think it would be very rewarding from a personal, and Club, point of view if we could do something for these children. Just a thought but we could obtain a large lump of suitable carving timber and move it from classroom to classroom giving each set of carvers a chance to work on the selected project. Or we could bring it to a Saturday morning meeting, pick three or four good fast carvers and knock seven bells out of it until we have something that looks presentable. If anybody is interested in helping please let Jane or myself know and we can take the matter further.



Dominic Suddaby - Stick maker. Club meeting 3rd November 2007

Dominic started making sticks some 20 years ago after running a very successful financial and management company. Now sticks are a full time business run from his home in Lincolnshire. He produces a thousand a year and sells them at shows and fairs around the country.
I'm sure everybody would agree that Dominic's two way discussion was very interesting and informative. How anybody could talk for nearly two hours on walking sticks and hold an audience of some 48 peoples full attention is remarkable.



Were a bit limited for photos this meeting as somebody, no names mentioned, managed to get his camera on the wrong setting. And the plan was to let his loose with £3,805 of new gear!



A warm Club welcome to new member Nigel Combes. 01484-314100

Over the last twelve months we have had a few members who have suffered from not the best of health and, on your behalf, may I wish them a speedy recovery, a Merry Christmas and we all trust they are up and about and fighting fit in the New Year.

This will probably be the last Newsletter of 2007, so may I take this opportunity of wishing everybody a very Happy Christmas a terrific New Year and sincerely thank you for your company over the very interesting and enjoyable last twelve months.
JM Sec.