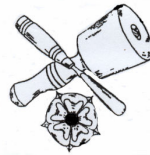


WEST RIDING WOODCARVERS' ASSOCIATION



Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson
Norman Walsh

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www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Barry Isles: Our thanks to Barry for a very interesting and informative lecture and demonstration. Our thanks also to David for great work with the camera equipment. Barry did say, before he agreed to travel up from Spilsby, Lincolnshire, that the demonstration of how to sharpen chisels on their system would only be possible to a large audience with the assistance of a camcorder and digital projector and I am sure that the equipment we got with the Lottery grant came into its own during this demonstration. The new head mike, purchased for £75.37, also proved very successful. David should have a DVD covering the demonstration that will, on request, be loaned out to members. Ashley Isles runs courses on sharpening, and a factory tour, for one or two people at a time at £25 per person. Anybody who wants a few hours of one to one tuition they are well worth the money and travelling time. Barry very kindly would not accept any fee or expenses.



For the next meeting on the **12th July** it has been agreed that we shall have a "Free & Easy" so that the newer members get a chance to mingle with other members and get to know them better. The "Free & Easy" also gives everybody the chance to make known their feelings as to how the Club should progress forward and a chance to air any concerns they have, without the time limits imposed when we are keen to move onto the guest speaker. We shall have Graham Wiles, from Pennine Magpie, taking a little of our time to explain in person what he is proposing regarding our involvement with children who are experiencing difficulties at both home and school.

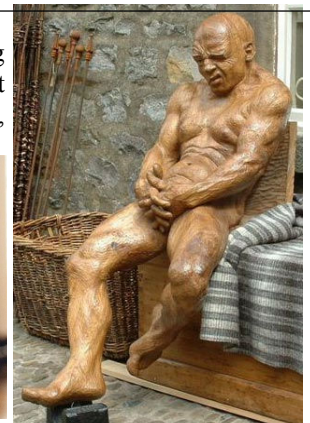
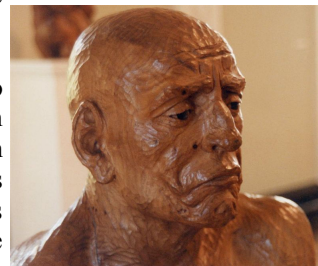
For this meeting, instead of a display of members' carvings, it is suggested that we have another display of unusual carvings from any source, carved by your granny, picked up on holiday, stolen, e-bay etc. The last one we had was very successful with some great and unusual items.

At the AGM the members present were asked if they wanted to continue with the practice of bringing professional woodcarvers to the Saturday meetings for full day events. The overwhelming feedback was that we should continue and members appreciated that costs would have to be part covered by a charge on the door, and the remainder out of funds, for the speaker's expenses and the pea and pie lunch.

On the **11th October** I have managed to book Thompson Dagnall to come to Shepley for a full day's demonstration and lecture. Thompson is well known throughout the UK for his amazing work on carvings that are usually larger than life. He specialises in outdoor carvings, taking commissions for huge creations out of trees that can only be worked on with the assistance of scaffolding. But as you can see from some of the picture samples he also does quite a lot of life size figures which have been exhibited in a number of prestigious art galleries.

Some members of the Club will remember Thompson from our Club trip over the Pennines some five or six years ago when he was the speaker at one of our joint meetings. I understand from Richard Colburn of the Lancashire and Cheshire Club that he is a brilliant speaker and something of a character. I remember him as much for the size of the nylon mallet that he uses, which I could hardly pick up, and the distinct leather cap that he always wears.

The downside is that Thompson does not come cheap and requires a fee plus travelling expenses from his home in Preston. But if we want the best, in the mould of Michael Painter and Howard Boyd, we have to pay the asking price. The advantage our Club has over many others is that we have quite a large membership to share the cost.



On either the **1st or 15th November** - not sure which yet - (the room is not available on the second Saturday in November) I have managed to book a talk and demonstration of bird carving by members of the British Decoy Wildfowl Carvers Association. I recently saw a sample of their work at the Woodfest Festival in North Wales and the standard of carving and finishing were quite amazing.



Queen's Award for Voluntary Services: Regretfully on the 21st May we were advised by the Cabinet Office in London that we had not been successful in our application this year. Out of 379 accepted entries across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands 79 were finally selected for the award. Out of these 79, only 5 came from the Yorkshire and Humberside region. These were Hemsworth and District Community Initiatives Ltd; Home-Start Leeds; Hull Churches Home from Hospital Services; Greystones Community Action Group and Pennine Magpie. (*Graham Wiles from Pennine Magpie is coming to talk to us at our Free & Easy.*)

But it's not all bad news because the letter also informed us that "our group had been judged as so close to standard for achieving the Award that we shall be re-entered into the nominee pool for up to an additional three years". Assessors will review our group's nomination in consideration for an Award during this period. I have written back acknowledging their correspondence.

So it is essential if we want the Award to keep up the good work we have undertaken with regards to our connection with the local hospices. Obviously if we do undertake some form of carving for the Forget-me-not Trust Children's Hospice, and manage to assist Graham Wilde with his children, this will be of tremendous help but should not be the ultimate reason why we agree to either task.

Emley Show: Arthur mentioned at the meeting that assistance is desperately required at the Emley Show on the 2nd August and a request was made that some of the newer members, and older members, of the Club come forward with offers of assistance. Graham Readhead very kindly offered to help. But we still need more volunteers to collect carvings, before and on the day, transport them to our marquee and arrange them for display and then to form part of a small team to steward the event and finally take away the exhibits at the end of the day. So please, please come forward, don't leave it to the usual few, and give your names to Arthur at the July meeting.

You will notice that I have enclosed with this newsletter an up-dated list of members with their contact numbers. My apologies for leaving off our gallant tea ladies Margaret and Joyce but I could just get the 70 members onto both sides of an A4 sheet.



Joyce

Margaret

Mike Chambers has kindly identified a range of steel and carbide rotating burs for the Dremel type machines which he considers are the most popular used for the type of carvings our Club members produce. Dennis has agreed that I can purchase from the dental supplier approximately £125 worth and these will be available for purchase by members at each monthly meeting. The idea is to add about 10% to the price I can buy them in bulk for, with the 10% going into Club funds.

Because we have recently accumulated quite a lot of equipment for the Club, mainly via the Lottery grant, it was agreed at the last Management Meeting that we should start an Asset Register. This will be put with the computer files that the Secretary has generated and a hard copy will be given to the Treasurer. When new items are added the Treasurer will be updated. These records are open to all members.

Also at the last Management Meeting it was suggested that a Club trip could be arranged with a possible location being the Bakewell Show (near Buxton) on either the 6th or 7th August 08. The idea being that members and guests will be picked up in Huddersfield taken to the show and on the return journey we stop at a pub for a meal and a few drinks. Jane will bring this up for discussion at the next meeting.

I am delighted to report that we have some very clever and talented members in the Club that give their time unstintingly for the benefit of others and local charities.

First we have Margaret Myatt and Mary Stott who have been heavily involved in putting together the most amazing flower, craft and art display at the Central Methodist Church, Brighouse. Margaret not only had some wood carved items on display but paintings and fantastic flower arrangements. Mary also had some lovely paintings displayed.



Then we have Anne Allan, who never seems to keep still for two minutes, and has been invited to demonstrate Chinese Brush painting at the Holmfirth Art Exhibition. The show is on from Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th July and Anne is demonstrating on Sunday and Tuesday afternoon and evening.

And then we have Arthur Brook, who also never seems to spend more than two hours a week actually in home, who very courageously not only managed to source and lay down a mobile dance floor for the dancers at the recent Overgate Hospice garden party, but actually gave a demonstration of ballroom dancing to the assembled throng. My wife and I were late getting to the garden party and fortunately managed to miss Arthur doing his interpretation of Anton du Beke on speed.



Tom

Tom Stead has decided not to re-new his membership because of time constraints but wishes the Club all the best for the future.

On the plus side may I, on behalf of all members, welcome David Kent as a new member who joined us at the June meeting. David has also asked to join the Monday evening Brooksbank carving class which incidentally is now full with 20 plus members..



David

Don't forget our meeting in July is a Free & Easy with unusual carvings or wooden articles. A prize for the most unusual will be awarded.

Apologies were received from Malcolm Till, Jane Renshaw, Frank Adams and George Crawshaw.

Club badges were requested by John Farrar, David Hey and Nigel Combes.