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# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



11th October 2008

## LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson  
Norman Walsh



Graeme Richardson



Mike Chambers



David Kent



Dennis Farmer



Unknown carver -  
please put your name  
against your carvings.

Issue 169

## Thompson Dagnall

[www.wrwoodcarvers.com](http://www.wrwoodcarvers.com)



With the very entertaining talk and slide show from Thompson we saw the other side of woodcarving away from the classroom and home workshop carving environment that the majority of our members work in.

We tend to have dozens of chisels of all shapes and sizes in pristine condition and sharpened to a razor edge by machines that cost a fortune. By contrast we have Thompson who seems to use chisels that in our world would be in the scrap bin and a sharpening system that constitute of nothing more than a couple of thirty odd pound diamond knife steels. Couple them with a number of lead weighted nylon mallets, that would challenge the majority of us to swing for more than a few minutes, and callipers, held together by black tape, that to describe as knackered would be showing nothing but kindness to them.

However, they do say that talent will shine through and the finished results of the work on display was nothing but staggering. The size of some of his creations and the muscular definition in his figure carvings was outstanding and something that the majority of us can only dream of emulating.

Having spoken to a number of those present, including the L & C woodcarvers, since the meeting the overall impression is that the whole day was a resounding success from the excellent and charismatic speaker, the welcome company of our friends from over the border and the well received prize winning pies.

Our thanks to all the ladies who did a splendid job keeping the 60 plus present in refreshments and for working so hard throughout the day. Without this band of volunteers the full-day sessions would not be possible.

Thompson and his wife open their large garden, complete with an array of Thompson's splendid carvings, on certain days in the summer and we have been invited by Thompson to organise a Club visit next year. I also have a list of all the places that Thompson has his work on display. If anybody wants a copy just ask.

Norman put together a quiz with the prize of a book that went to Mary, the only person who found the time in a very busy day to fill in an answer form. Our thanks to Norman for his time and effort. On reflection I think that with a speaker of Thompson's calibre and the time taken by our members to ensure that our guests from the Lancashire and Cheshire club were fed, looked after and made to feel fully integrated into the meeting the quiz was regretfully overshadowed. A suggestion was made that we should run it again on a "free and easy" day.

**November 15th 2008:** British Decoy Wildfowl Carvers Association will give a talk and demonstration.

**December 6th 2008:** Christmas luncheon at the Meltham Golf Club with guest speaker Ian Clayton of the BBC.

**January 10th 2009:** Bob Chapman professional wood turner from Bingley and a member of the West Riding Woodturners' Association, Eldwick, Nr. Bingley.

**February 14th 2009:** Possibly a stick carver but still to be confirmed.

**March 14th 2009:** Brian Taylor from Lancashire a Caricature carver.

Frank had previously suggested that I make the Newsletter available to anybody with vision problems in BIG text. Everybody must have good eyes as we had no takers for a newsletter in large print.

### Green Business Network.

Only two people came forward showing any interest in this project and I have sent the following e-mail to Graham.

Dear Graham

Please accept my apologies for not getting back to you at an earlier date. This is a combination of being on holiday for a number of weeks and efforts to try and get things sorted regarding your suggestion that we may be of some assistance to your organisation.

Regretfully, we seem to be hitting a brick wall with regards too our members offering tuition to your youngsters on a regular basis. We have now brought the subject up at a number of monthly meetings and also at our Management Meeting and we are unable to get anybody with the skills necessary interested enough to commit themselves to taking the project to the next step.

When you think about it carefully this is, perhaps, not very surprising. The majority of our seventy two members are into their retirement years (woodcarving being a hobby that people seem to take up as they gain more free time) and quite a number are well into their seventies. Again, like myself, they have been committed to a work pattern from a very early age and spent fifty years plus in regular employment and are now benefiting from being able to do what they want as and when they want. To ask them to take on a project that will require a commitment to both a regular time slot and a tolerance and understanding to youngsters that are not the easiest to deal with, is perhaps asking just a little more than they are willing to give.

I'm truly sorry that we have let you down as I think the work that you, and your colleagues, are involved with deserves all the support it can get.

On behalf of all our members may we wish you all the best in your future plans and I trust that sometime in the future we may yet be able to give assistance to your group.

A reply has been received from Graham stating that he fully understands our position and wishing the Club all the best for the future.

**Carved Panel to Commemorate the 65th D Day Landing or similar.** Jane explained to the meeting that the agreed Panel for the Children's Hospice could yet be some 2 to 3 years away and that a "Sub Group" would be formed to investigate an interim Panel to commemorate the 65th D Day Landings, or similar.

Any member interested in serving on the panel is invited to attend the first meeting this coming **Thursday, 30 October 2008 at 7:30pm at the Round Hill pub, Rastrick.** Anybody not wishing to serve on the "Sub Group" but would like to have their thoughts added to the agenda for discussion please give myself (01422-361109) or Mike Hadfield (01484-543579) a ring.

Can I put to bed a vicious rumour that is circulating. During the last meeting I was greeted by one of our members (I will save him from embarrassment by not naming him but he has a shiny head, is very charming with the ladies and has initials DL) with the comment:



"hey, your lads done well with that carving of a gnome that you showed a photo of in the last newsletter".

The carver in question is the other John Murphy who we refer to as *Junior* to distinguish between us and because he is younger than me, slightly!

What he is not is my son, one is enough! John *junior* is in his late 50s and although I come from an Irish catholic background even I wasn't breeding when I was 10 years old. Also there is no family resemblance - he's far uglier than me.



"THAT'S HORACE'S HOBBY  
HE TURNS EXPENSIVE  
WOOD INTO SANDDUST."

Trevor Stanley

On your behalf may I welcome new member Trevor who is a carver at the Brooksbank class.



The saga with the supply of burs goes on and on. I have now sent the Managing Director of the company a letter complaining of the lack of service. More in the next Newsletter.

### The North of England Woodworking & Power Tool Show.

Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate from the 28th—30th November  
28th—29th 10am to 5pm. 30th 10am to 4pm.

### Club Monthly Raffle.

This was, rather surprisingly, a resounding success assisted by an attendance of 60 plus members and guests and the fine efforts of Graham Redhead in managing the ticket sales.

We spent £23 on three prizes and took £82 in sales giving a profit of £59 to be split between the Club and the Children's Hospice. The children's money will be held until the end of the Club's fiscal year and then handed over in one lump sum.

Winners: David Hey, David Kent and Mike Ryan.

**Apologies:** I have lost my note so this is from memory: Albert and Anne Hobson, Eric Schofield, John Kemp, Margaret and Jim Durrans, Cath and John Davison, John Dean, Joyce and Vernon Secker, Norman Shaw, Nigel Combes, Dick Wood and Gordon Taylor.

**Sickness:** We have a number of members who are having problems at the moment. Eric Schofield is being sadly missed from meetings and Malcolm's carving class with a bad back. Peter Nethergate is missing from the Brooksbank class having just undergone a hip reconstruction and Gordon Taylor and Norman Shaw are having problems that are keeping them from their regular place at the monthly meetings.

Our thoughts are also with Derek Lindley and his family who are going through a difficult time at the moment.

Management meeting: 6th November 08 - 8:00pm Round Hill pub.