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West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



6th December 2008

LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson
Norman Walsh

Issue 171

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Ian Clayton



That's another £13 in the kitty

Any discount for pensioners young man?

Jane got the Christmas Luncheon off to a flying start by getting all the table places mixed up and for the first ten minutes or so it was reminiscent of the party game Musical Chairs with half a dozen people fighting for the same place. Having eventually seated everybody, not necessarily in the right order, she then lowered the tone of the occasion by insisting on telling two jokes that Ian must have dug up from the bowels of a mine in Featherstone and sold them cheaply to her.

Relinquishing the role of comedian for the role of toastmaster Jane congratulated Anne and Roy on their recent marriage and offered thanks to the ladies who man the tea cups all year at the monthly meetings. She then, very eloquently, (all cribbed off the internet) introduced our guest for the day Mr Ian Clayton, the well known author, traveller and BBC broadcaster.

They say that a good speaker is a person who is skilled in relating stories and anecdotes interestingly and must have the ability to entertain their audience in a captivating manner part comedian, part lecturer and should have a certain "wow" factor. I think everybody who had the pleasure of attending the Christmas Luncheon would agree that we hit the jackpot with Ian.

Ian gave us a lively account of life in Featherstone coupled with a bit of Shakespeare and a rendition from Alfred Noyes' poem the Highwayman and the odd burst of song thrown in to help the tale along. Ian managed, where many had failed, to strike up a double act with our Club version of Les Dawson, in the form of Dick, who managed to ask all the questions we all longed to ask but wouldn't dare.

Speaking to people after the dinner, which again was excellent, many stated that Ian was by far the best speaker we had engaged for the Christmas Luncheon. He also managed to sign and sell quite an amazing number of books, that he just managed to have with him, although come to think of it we never did get the free book Dick so shyly asked him to donate to the raffle. Just typical of a Yorkshire man from the Featherstone area.

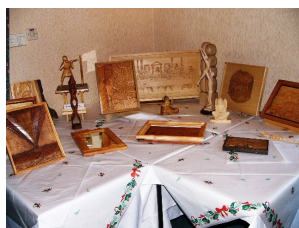
Our thanks to Frank, the official Club photographer, for taking photos that I have just spent an hour cropping, turning, altering colours and generally making fit for viewing. Next year we are going to send him on a course to brush up his skills. Did you all notice that in last month's newsletter he credited Norman Walsh's carving to Arthur? Not good enough Frank you are going to have to improve!

Mike Chambers, having won in 2007, once again won the Rose Bowl for 2008.

His carving of a shepherd with two lovely little lambs was the carving selected by Ian as the one he would wish to own. Now I'm not a vindictive person but my carving never even got a passing glance from Ian and if I were the jealous type I could claim that the only reason Mike's was chosen was something to do with the fact that he was Ian's chauffeur for the day. And I have it on good authority that a conversation was overheard at the bar that went along the lines of "if you want a lift back to Featherstone the shepherd is a good bet". But I'm sure Mike wouldn't stoop so low—even if he does come from Wakefield!

Winner 2008

**A selection of
carvings from the
Christmas Luncheon.**



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

I was invited to a Woodturning meeting by a friend of mine - yes I do have one - and had the pleasure of seeing Bob turn a bowl with the complete novice in mind and it was captivating, even for the very advanced turners. Bob is a former teacher and has a lovely amusing way of putting over his subject. I have asked him to repeat this demonstration and I am sure everybody who attends will enjoy his visit.

We may have a number of the turning club members coming over with Bob as they are interested in the equipment we got with the Lottery Grant and have asked to see what we bought and to view it in action.

If we are having people from another Club as visitors it would be nice if we could have a good display of carvings and at the Christmas luncheon I had a suggestion made to me that it would be interesting if each of the carving classes in turn were invited to display their work at separate monthly meetings. So, taking up the suggestion, could we request that everybody in Malcolm Till's Thursday class bring along to the January 10th meeting a carving that was completed, or is still in progress, at Malcolm's class. Each month we shall pick on another class until we run out. This doesn't mean that no other member shouldn't bring along their carvings.

February 14th 2009: They say never volunteer and **Jim Wrathall** very foolishly opened his mouth at the wrong time, but in the right place, and has now got lumbered with giving the Club a talk on his interest in Misericords. Instead of sitting down to a slice of Christmas cake and a glass of Port Jim will be spending his Christmas sorting out slides and converting them onto a DVD. Good luck Jim and a Merry Christmas..

March 14th 2009: Brian Taylor from Lancashire - a Caricature carver. This gentleman was passed onto me by the guys over at the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers club. He comes highly recommended.

April 11th 2009: Annual General Meeting.

November 21st 2009: The very popular **Michael Painter** will be making a return visit to the Club. He has asked me, a month or so before he comes, to let him know what subject we would like him to talk and demonstrate on. So any suggestions please let me have them. A big jump in the dates booked but Michael teaches every second Saturday but in November we always move our meetings to the third week at the request of the Church.

[Anybody with ideas for speaker please come forward. This must be the most difficult task in the Club as good ones are very difficult to find.](#)

Carved Panel to Commemorate the 65th Anniversary of VE Day.

A meeting was held at the Armouries Museum, and because I'm running out of things to say in this Newsletter, below are the minutes from the meeting.

Royal Armouries Museum: Philip Abbott – Head of Collections
West Riding Woodcarvers: Mike Hadfield – Project Leader Bryan Hodgson & Dennis Farmer – Panel Construction
John Murphy – Secretary WRWC
Apologies: Steve Burt – Managing Director Operations & Collections

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce representatives from the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association to the management of the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds and to explore the possibility of the Club producing a carved wooden Panel for permanent display in the museum.

After introductions, Philip apologised for not yet having had the opportunity to collect, and study, the information package and DVD sent by John to Owen Finn. He had received the e-mailed PDF file describing the story of the Overgate Hospice Panel that had been featured in the Woodcarver magazine and distributed in 56 countries. Photographs, newspaper articles and TV coverage information, referring to previous Panels constructed, and a brief overview of the Club were explained and made available to Philip to help him familiarise with the reasons for our meeting.

It was explained by the members of the WRWC that at certain periods in the Club's history we had undertaken various projects that had the combined benefit of bringing together members of the Club and benefiting the local community. Of immense satisfaction had been the presentation, to three local Hospices, of carved Panels constructed of some 40 plus individual carvings depicting scenes of local activities, points of interest and buildings. The carvings have become a focal point for both patients and their families for quiet reflection. Overgate Hospice has sponsored the Club's ongoing application for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

Our present position is that we are interested in producing a further Panel and it has been agreed that a military theme would be of interest to all members. After much discussion it was agreed that the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds would provide an ideal home for the finished work of art. (It was explained that the Club has agreed to undertake some form of carving for the proposed Forget-me-Not Children's Hospice but building work is still a couple of years from commencement.)

The reasons behind our selection of the Royal Armouries were based on its location in West Yorkshire and accessible to our membership, which covers Wakefield, Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale; the subject matter of the Royal Armouries Museum is complimentary to the military theme of the proposed Panel; grants for material costs should be available for a local community project that benefits both membership of the Club, the general public and a noted and respected Museum. It should be noted that without a grant to cover, at least material costs of some £3,000, the project would have immense difficulty in proceeding.

It was pointed out that should the project go forward that the WRWC had sufficient contacts to ensure, at the appropriate time, that we would get local press, national periodical and possible TV coverage. We have already had promises from Dr Ingrid Roscoe Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire of her support both during the project and as Principal at a hand over ceremony.

It was explained that although the completed Panel will remain indefinitely with the Royal Armouries Museum the actual ownership would remain exclusively with the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association. This is purely a precautionary measure adopted by the Club and has applied to all the Panels we have presented to third parties and has been accepted without reservation. Previously completed Panels have been valued at £50k for insurance purposes.

After the above introductory explanation Philip commented that in his opinion he could see both parties benefiting from a joint venture and invited the party from the WRWC to view a possible location for the completed Panel in the 1st/2nd World War section of the museum. The location presently has a picture display of some thirty-foot length that Philip explained would eventually be replaced and would probably make an ideal location for the proposed Panel.

It was suggested that a party from the Royal Armouries would possibly like to view the Panel that is located at the Overgate Hospice, Elland, and Philip suggested that perhaps the next follow on meeting could be at the Hospice. Because of the very close relationship the WRWC has with Overgate Hospice, it was considered that this was an excellent idea and should cause no problem. It was suggested that the follow on meeting should be arranged for late January.

Since these minutes were typed an application for a grant of £3000 has been sent to the Community Foundation for Leeds. A meeting of the Sub Committee will take place either before Christmas or directly afterwards but certainly before the meeting at Overgate.

This will be the last Newsletter of 2008, 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.

Management meeting:
29th January '09
8:00pm Round Hill pub.

