

Life members
Anne Holroyd
Albert Holroyd
Norman Walsh

Newsletter Issue 183

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



February 2010



Trevor Metcalfe



Jim Longbottom



Jim Wrathall



Dennis Farmer



Mike Chambers



Maurice Oldale

Philip Abbott - Head of Collectables. Royal Armouries.



Our grateful thanks to Philip who did a splendid job taking our 64 members and guests through the history of the Royal Armouries which is Britain's oldest museum holding in trust one of the greatest and most comprehensive collection of arms and armour in the world.

Philip explained, with his incredible memory for dates and historic facts, that the museum began life as the main royal and national arsenal housed in the Tower of London. The Tower and its armouries were first opened to the public in 1660 and, as the museum's collection continued to expand, in 1988 the Armouries took a lease on Fort Nelson, a 19th century fort near Portsmouth.

In 1990 the decision was made to establish a new museum in the North of England and the concept of the Royal Armouries in Leeds was born.

The museum was eventually opened to the general public in 1996 by Her Majesty the Queen. Including the ground floor, the museum is made up of six floors and our Panels will eventually be displayed on the second floor, which can be over looked from the third floor. Both the second and third floors display artefacts and information relating to the various wars throughout history. In the year to March 2009 the number of people visiting the museum was just short of 300,000 with a steady increase year on year being shown. The displays are intended to entertain and stimulate a desire to learn with many children visiting.

Philip stated that his colleagues at the museum were all intrigued, excited and looking forward to receipt of the two Panels. Philip explained that the personnel at the Armouries had little concept about what they were going to get at our initial meetings with them but, as carvings are being finished and samples viewed, their interest in the project, and admiration for the quality of craftsmanship, was growing with each meeting.

Correspondence thanking Philip has been sent to the Armouries.

It was incredibly pleasing to see so many of the Panel carvers at the Shepley meeting. I have just had a quick run down the list and out of a total of 50 carvers we had 41 present at the meeting.

Please remember that it is very important that we have as many carvers as possible at the meeting on the 25th February at the Lindley Golf Club, Daisy Lea Lane, Huddersfield, HD3 3LP. Start 7:30pm, and a bar is available, obviously, and wives, husbands, lovers, fancy men etc are all welcome.

Although everything is going very well we still have 13 carvings to start, 9 un-claimed, 51 being worked on and 22 finished. It is essential that we get a clear understanding where everybody is up to so we can plan final hand in dates.

We are very conscious that spring/summer days are on the way and that the level of commitment will inevitably drop off as people find their gardens again and the only wood the bowlers amongst us will be handling will be running down a crown green, usually not in the right direction.

With regards to the booklet. Margaret Myatt, because of her design and art background, Graham Lockwood because of his photographic and computer aided design background and Anne Ellwood because of her editing/publishing background, got together with a brief to come up with ideas for the Royal Armouries booklet.

Their task is to put forward to the 'sub-group' a booklet that is similar in principal to the Overgate booklet, bearing in mind that we shall have double the number of carvings and descriptive information. They have also to keep in mind that the booklet will possibly be used as an educational tool for children viewing the Panels.

Carvers have been invited to forward to Anne (email if possible - mail@anneallan.com), Mike Hadfield or myself, information regarding the subject matter of their particular carving picture. Please bear in mind if you do wish to put forward information that it may, and most probably will, be altered by Anne to fit the space available under the photo of your carving. Group photos are now being taken at the various classes together with some video footage.

Our grateful thanks to the various teachers, Malcolm, Mike Hadfield, Mike Chambers, Des, Jim and Vernon who rarely get a mention.

February 25th 2010: Panel carvers meeting at the Lindley Golf Club, Daisy Lea Lane, Huddersfield, HD3 3LP. 7:30PM.

March 12th 2010: Jonathon Albutt, Stone carver. A welcome return for Jonathan. (To be confirmed).

April 10th: Annual General Meeting.

May 8th 2010: Chris Scaife, historian for Robert Thompson's of Kilburn, will give an illustrated talk on the history of how a 'Mouse' was to become synonymous with Kilburn and explain how an offhand remark about being as poor as a church mouse, lead a joiner to carve a mouse on the finished cornice he was working on. And in that moment, a famous trademark was born.

June 12th 2010: Talk and demonstration by the Rocking House Shop, Fossgate, York.

July 10th 2010: Still to fill.

August 14th: Still to fill.

September 11th 2010: Joint meeting with the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers. Speaker yet to be found.

October 9th 2010: Birstall Woodturning Club will be coming along to give a demonstration of turning. We have agreed to give them in return a talk/display on carving.

November 13th 2010: Still to fill.

December ?? 2010: Christmas Luncheon.

You will notice that the omission of the Life Members names on the Newsletter heading has been rectified. If my failing to include them since the addition of the Queen's Award logo caused any offence my apologies.



On behalf of the Club may I welcome **Graham Hughes** as a new member. Graham is a carver in Mike Hadfield's class at All Saints School.

You may remember that Michael Painter kindly offered to accommodate about 8 people down at his workshop for a few hours for help with their Panel carvings and just generally assist with any carving problems. (After Michael chopped Arthur's poor lady, man and ugly child to bits you must make up your own mind if the trip is to your personal benefit).



You may remember that I forgot to put the photo of **Liz Willoughby** on the contact list that I sent out recently. So here you are, please add Liz to your sheets. Liz also attends Mike Hadfield's class.

It seems a long way to go, Austrey, Nr Atherstone, Warwickshire, just for a couple of hours, and bearing in mind that Mike makes his living out of teaching, I would suggest that if anybody is interested they should make it a full day outing. I would be willing to approach him with a suggesting that all who travel pay say £20/£25 each from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Obviously if too many are interested there could be a problem as he can only take about eight. Please let me know if you are interested.

I'm struggling to find anything more to report - so I will add in some nice photos!



Malcolm Cooper's incredible stick ends.



Margaret Durrans lovely little turtle.



John Kemp head down, carving away in Malcolm's class. Shortly after this photo he cut the turtles flipper off!

I would like it put on record that the bottle of Champagne that I won, for the worst joke, at the Christmas Luncheon I gave back to Jane at the recent Shepley meeting. You may remember that Jane's joke was actually the worst but she gallantly refused to take her prize of the champagne. She has done nothing but 'harp on' about it ever since so in despair I have relented and let her win. She was last seen clutching it to her bosom and telling everybody it was a Valentines Day present from 'somebody special'.

Apologies for the February meeting: Joyce and Vernon Secker, Jim And Margaret Durrans, Nigel Combes, Eric Schofield, Mick Wilson and Trevor Kilvington. [Our thanks to Joyce and Margaret for their work in the kitchen.](#)

Trevor and Freda Kilvington, Mick Wilson, Joyce Secker and Eric Schofield are having health problems but are all making steady progress. On behalf of all members we wish them all a speedy recovery.

Raffle: Sales £71.00. Prizes £21.00. Profit £50.00. The years profit will be voted on and sent to a Children's Hospice at the AGM in April.

Management meeting to be arranged by Jane or Adrian.

Panel Sub-Group meeting to be arranged by Mike Hadfield.