



West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson
Norman Walsh

March 2010

Newsletter Issue 184

Steve Blaylock - Metal Sculptor



Steve stated that his sculptures were 'Inspired by the creations which surround us'. It's a good job that we aren't still living in the times of Tyrannosaurus Rex and Diplodocus as Steve manages to blow up a lizard from a few inches to a 30 foot plus beautiful steel sculpture. What he would do if his imaginative mind got to work on a dinosaur, heaven along knows.

From Snowy Owls boasting a wing span of 16 foot 6 inches, a giant spider that dwarfs a small child to tiny ladybirds created for his stand at the Chelsea Flower Show, his many photographs of his stainless steel creations were a wonder to behold.

Our grateful thanks to Steve for stepping in at the last moment and for producing a first class talk full of humour and interest. Thanks also to Margaret Myatt who managed to catch Steve on BBC Look North and suggested I contact him.



Apologies for the meeting were received from Peter Hirst, Jim & Margaret Durrans, Anne Ellwood, Mick Wilson, Graeme Richardson., Trevor Stanley and Des Lindley.

Adrian chaired the meeting, welcoming Steve and a visitor from Sheffield, Russell Birch. Russell had a feature in the July/August Woodcarver magazine and I have been bullying him to come along and give a talk to the Club. He has now agreed to come along in September when the L & C Club are our guests. He is a little concerned as he has only spoken to small school groups and one larger group in Leeds where in his words 'he went down like a lead balloon'. Having convinced him that we are quite kind to speakers he has agreed to talk on his subject of Netsuke carvings along with the tools and techniques he uses.

We have our 19th Annual General Meeting coming up on the 10th April 2010 and it is important that all members attend if possible. This is your chance to elect the Officers of the club for the coming twelve months and the four people who will make up the Management Committee. It is appreciated that the normal monthly Shepley meetings are usually taken up by guest speakers and it is often difficult to discuss in detail the way the club is administered. The AGM is your chance to put forward your views and suggestions to move the club forward in a manner agreeable to the majority of the membership. The AGM is the ideal opportunity to discuss, exchange views and gather feedback.

Anybody wishing to take on the responsibility of office, please contact Jane or Adrian before the meeting. Anybody wishing to have an item added to the Agenda, please let the Secretary have your notification no later that Friday 9th April. Although the Agenda is circulated beforehand, any item may be raised in 'Any other business' but ideally as a specific Agenda item.

To assist with our discussions, I have enclosed, or sent by email, a draft copy of the accounts and a set of Club statistics which I trust you will find very interesting and informative.

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 will explain how an offhand remark about being as poor as a church mouse, led a joiner to carve a mouse on the finished cornice he was working on. 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: Jonathan Albutt - Stone carver.

September 11th 2010: Joint meeting with the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers. Russell Birch - Netsuke carvings .

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: We are holding open this date as we may all be engaged in the Royal Armouries Panel presentation.

December ?? 2010: Christmas Luncheon.

Peter Keene has very kindly offered to run off a disc of Celtic carving designs. There are over 100 intricate designs, some quite unusual. If anybody wants a copy have a word with Peter or myself.

Still nobody has taken up the kind offer of Michael Painter to accommodate about eight people down at his workshop for a few hours for help with their Panel carvings or to just generally assist with any other carving problems.



Everybody tries to kid me that they read every word in the newsletters but we have one member, our good friend John Kemp, whose photo I put in the February 2010 newsletter, and he didn't even recognise himself carving away, even though his name was under the picture. He had to run home from Malcolm's class to have another look at the newsletter before he would believe us. He then had the grace to ring up and confirm that we weren't pulling his leg.

As they say - you couldn't make it up!

One of the downsides of writing the newsletter is reporting that we still have a number of members who are unable to attend meetings or classes because of ill health. Jane tries to keep in touch with all these members and our thoughts and good wishes are with them. Our Life Members, Anne and Albert, are going through a difficult time at the moment but coping well.

The recent meeting at the Lindley Bowling Club was again very successful and, although I couldn't attend, I understand that there was a very good turn out. Our thanks to Margaret, Mary and Barbara Chambers for arranging the pea and pie supper. We shall have to keep these ladies on hold for future occasions as they managed to cover costs and generate a profit of £29 which covered the £25 cost of hiring the room and still put £4 into the Royal Armouries' accounts. Well done girls!

A further meeting has been arranged for the 22nd April and this is the date that all the 1st World War carvings should be handed over to Dennis and Bryan for dipping and mounting plus Graham for photographing.

I'm struggling to find anything more to report - so I will add in some nice photos! These are of Trevor Stanley's carving.



Malcolm Cooper



Peter Keene

Mirror, Mirror on the wall who is the fairest of them all. Certainly not Arthur!

Photos by Graham and Frank. Many thanks.



Raffle: Sales £60.00. Prizes £11.00. Profit £49.00. The year's profit will be voted on and 50% sent to the Children's Hospice at the AGM in April.

Management meeting 6th May 2010 7:30pm Round Hill pub.

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