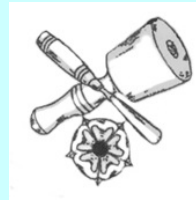




# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson  
Norman Walsh

June 2010

Newsletter Issue 186

## Graham Harker - Rocking Horses.



Our grateful thanks to Graham and his wife Sue who presented a very interesting talk and demonstration of how to put together the kit of plywood parts and accessories from the Rocking Horse Shop at Fossgate, York.

Graham was a little bit worried that he could not stretch out his part of the morning to cover a couple of hours but got so involved answering questions from the floor that he actually ran out of time.

It seems a bit like cheating to me, but very sensible if you don't want a large part of your life taken over cutting out timber, to buy timber component already cut out just ready to put together like an plastic Airfix kit. However, should you wish to go down this route the paper plans start at £12 to £15 and the plywood cut out kit, ready to fix together, start at about £260. That isn't bad considering the cost of good quality ply and the hours of labour the kit will save. Then of course you have to buy the accessories for the horse starting at £50 and going up to £240 depending on specification. Incidentally, the larger of the finished horses that Graham and Sue had on display is offered for sale at the Rocking Horse Shop for £2,995 - so get cracking you granddads.

In the absence of Jane, Adrian took the meeting and when the subject of 'Apologies for the Meeting' raised its head the Secretary asked the members present if it was necessary to take apologies at each monthly meeting. He explained that each month he types out a long list of names of people but only one or two, if that, are genuine apologies. Apologies should, strictly speaking, be sent to the Secretary by the member who genuinely cannot attend the meeting before the meeting commences. What we have each month is mainly a list of names of people who we know, by looking round, are not present at the meeting, thus it becomes meaningless.

The suggestion was that we take Apologies only at our Annual AGM. This change would not breach our Constitution. The meeting accepted this suggestion with an overwhelming show of hands.

For the **10th July** meeting we are struggling for a speaker. I have now tried five speakers that the Lancashire & Cheshire carvers have put me onto without any success and six speakers that we have previously had along with four new ones, all with no luck. The time of year is not helping with quite a number of people on holiday and of course people don't want to tie themselves down to a Saturday morning, and with travelling a good part of the afternoon, when the weather is nice.

Therefore, Jane and Adrian have decided that we shall have a 'Free and Easy' with, as we did some years ago - just looked it up and it was November 2006, how time quickly passes - a competition for the most unusual carvings. This can be a carving from anywhere and by anybody and not just what the member has carved. The more exotic the better. Jane has said she will provide the prize - so that will be worth turning up for - I don't think!!!! - and Adrian will be the unbiased judge.

When we last did this the range of carvings, and the tales behind them, were very, very interesting. So get out those old carvings and if there is an unusual tale to go with them please put a small story card along side them. The last winner was Des Lindley with this unusual carving. He won a bottle of very expensive wine and then promptly dropped it, smashing it all over the floor.

Please don't neglect present, both personal and Royal Armouries, carvings as the more carvings on display the more enjoyment people get out of viewing them.



**Frank Bromhead** has very kindly 'offered' to give a short talk on his time aboard HMS Indefatigable, which Maurice Oldale has done a beautiful carving of for the Armouries 2nd WW Panel. Frank was on board on the 1st April 1945 when she was the first British ship to be hit by a Kamikaze plane. The Indefatigable was also the first ever aircraft carrier to successfully land twin engine aircraft, the De Havilland Mosquito. For all us ex-seamen, and others, this should be a very interesting talk.

**July 10th 2010:** Free and Easy with competition for the most unusual carving.

**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 4th (I think) 2010:** Christmas Luncheon at the Brighthouse Sports and Social Club..

**Holmfirth Art Show.** Derek Adam's popped his head above the parapet and got lumbered with organising the display and stewards. This is Derek's first time and although he is bringing things together admirably he still needs stewards and carvings please. Can we all get behind him by offering help and carvings his phone number is Home 01484-305332, Mobile 07833340582 and his e-mail address is derek-adams1@sky.com.

Derek has asked me to display a list of stewards so everybody is aware of when they are on duty and the hours still to fill.

**Sunday 4th July Stewards**

10:00 to 12:00 Trevor Stanley and Sylvia

12:00 to 5:00 Derek Adams and Julia Hanus

**Monday 5th July Stewards**

10:00 to 12:00 Mike Hadfield and Peter Keene

12:00 to 2:00 David Holt and Barbara

2:00 to 4:00 To fill - volunteer please.

4:00 to 6:00 Mary Stott and Margaret Myatt

6:00 to 8:00 Julia Hanus and Bryan Hodgson

8:00 to 9:00 Julia Hanus and Derek Adams

**Tuesday 6th July Stewards**

10:00 to 12:00 Frank Greenwood and Dennis Farmer

12:00 to 2:00 David Hey and John Murphy

2:00 to 4:00 David Hey and Arthur Brook

4:00 to 6:00 Adrian Lindley and Anne

6:00 to 9:00 Derek Adams and Graham Lockwood

**The Forget-me-Not Trust Children's Hospice.**

You may remember in those days long before we embarked on the Royal Armouries Panels that we were asked, shortly after the Overgate Panel was presented, by the people involved in the children's hospice if we would undertake some form of carving for the new hospice building.

Full of enthusiasm we collectively said yes.

Recently they have been back in contact, now they are ready to start laying bricks for the new building.

They have been told that we are quite willing to support them, as agreed, but because of our commitment to the Royal Armouries project it will be at least September 2011, when carving classes commence for the winter month, before we could start on any agreed project, not necessary one large panel this time.

Jane, Adrian and myself, as the contact person, are meeting with their Directors and architect on July 5th to find out what they have in mind. We shall report back at the July Shepley meeting.

**Royal Armouries Museum Panels:** The June meeting at the Lindley Bowling Club had a very good turn out, which was surprising with the amount of people reportedly on holiday. With the majority of our ladies away we scrapped the food, which usually shows a £25 profit that covers the cost of the room, so this time had to hand over the £25 cost of hiring the room. A further meeting has been arranged for the **15th July 2010 - 7:30pm** as usual.

The carvings of the 1st World War, apart from just two, one that Dennis got very late when somebody dropped out and the other person shall remain nameless, have now been handed in to Dennis. They have now all been photographed under identical conditions for the booklet and dipped by Dennis ready to be mounted by Bryan. Both frames have now been assembled by Bryan and are just ready to accept the carvings. At the last count, at Lindley Bowling Club, we had in total 74 of the 95 carvings now finished and a large majority of the remainder nearly completed.

It has now been confirmed that the two Panels will be displayed in Halifax Town Hall from the 25th - 30th October inclusive - so don't book any holidays as we shall need loads of stewards. The people at the Town Hall said 'They were delighted and honoured to have us back'. I understand they have already had words with a 'Veteran Society' regarding viewing the Panels.

Now we come to Kirklees. On Wednesday 16th June, after three weeks of pestering, Mike, Bryan, Dennis and myself managed eventually to meet with the person who is the Principal Visual Arts Officer of Huddersfield Art Gallery and his assistant. The reception we got was quite frankly disgraceful. They had no interest in displaying the Panels and were totally negative to any suggestion we put forward. Their main excuse was that Huddersfield Art Society were displaying during the whole of October and they couldn't manage two displays at once. We pointed out that we would do all the lifting and carrying plus steward the display while open to the public and that the Panels would be free standing requiring no wall space. They came up with every negative excuse imaginable to block our request. Eventually we left and instantly e-mailed telling them we were disappointed with their attitude, lack of cooperation and considered it futile talking to them any longer.

On leaving the Gallery we went across to the Town Hall to see if it was possible to display the Panels there. Our details were taken with a promise that they would get in touch. I chased them on the 21st June, 25th June and sent a long e-mail on the 26th June. No reply as yet. What a difference to our reception at Halifax Town Hall.

The booklet is going well. We now have 39 A4 pages covered in small type covering details of the scene depicted in the individual carvings. Our difficulty is condensing the text for each one without making the historical fact behind the carving meaningless. We are going to take what we have, without cutting it further, to the girls at the Armouries for their suggestions on a layout.

**Raffle:** Sales £59.00. Prizes £31.00. Profit £28.00.

Management meeting "To be arranged by Jane & Adrian".

Panel Sub-Group meeting "To be arranged by Mike Hadfield".