



# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson  
Norman Walsh

July 2010

Newsletter Issue 187



Frank Bromhead



HMS Indefatigable



Crashed aircraft



Seafire



HMS Indefatigable carved by Maurice Oldale

Our grateful thanks to Frank for a very interesting and moving account of his time spent on HMS Indefatigable.

In the club we have quite a number of members who have served in either the Royal or Merchant Navy and, although I understand very few experienced actual front line action, that's if you don't take into account skirmishes in bars throughout the World, I'm sure I speak for both them, and the other members present, when I thank Frank for what proved to be a very enlightening hour full of interesting facts and nostalgia.

Listening first hand to Frank certainly made one reflect on not only the destructive power and horror of war but also the close bond of friendship that is formed from living 24 hours a day in close proximity to comrades often under extremely trying circumstances. Even after all these years, it was quite obvious that time had not eroded Frank's war time memories or dimmed friendships that were made all those years ago.

How appropriate that we should be treated to his wonderful stories as we embark on the path towards presenting our interpretation of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars to the Royal Armouries Museum.

Frank has promised to attend the hand-over ceremony on the 11<sup>th</sup> November proudly displaying his collection of medals. This can only add to what should be a very proud day for the club and its members.

Next month, **August 14th**, we have a return visit from our old friend Jonathan Albutts who last demonstrated his stone carving abilities and unique sense of humour for us in October 2006. Last time Jonathan tried to carve for us a Yorkshire rose but only the few at the front got the full benefit of his demonstration. Since then we have acquired the video and projection equipment with our grant from the Lottery fund so, hopefully, he should be even more appreciated this time round.

Just while I make reference to the video equipment could I, on your behalf, offer our thanks to David Holt for all the sterling work he does with the equipment at the Shepley meetings and the many hours he puts in copying DVDs of our meetings for people. David is very quiet and unassuming and just gets on with the job but, without doubt, is invaluable to the club.

**Forget-me-Not Trust.** Adrian made reference at Shepley to the meeting he and I attended at the temporary offices of the Trust to meet Martin Bradley, Director, and Margaret Wadsworth, Head of Care.

The easiest way for me, and the better way for you to get all the information available from the meeting, is to circulate the minutes taken from the meeting with this Newsletter.

What possibly isn't relayed in the minutes is their keenness for us to do something for the Children's Hospice and the warmth and friendliness offered by Martin, Margaret and all the other people we met at the offices of the Forget-me-Not Trust.

We stressed that our involvement, although freely given, would not commence until after September 2011. This will give us chance to recharge our batteries after the Royal Armouries project and time to apply for a grant to cover costs.

**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.

I seem to be doing a lot of thanks today but again thank you to all the people who brought along 'unusual carvings' to the July meeting.

The winner was David Hey with a funny looking duck.

The prize of £30 was kindly donated by Des Lindley who was the winner of the last competition of this nature that we had some years ago.

Remember Des's gesture, David, for when we have another competition at some distant and future date!

Another thanks to Margaret and her helpers in the kitchen.

We take the tea break for granted and will get a big shock one day when the ladies decide to have a sleep in.

**Holmfirth Art Show:** Our thanks to Derek Adams, and his many helpers, who took on the task of organising the show. It's nice to see new faces coming forward to take on projects for the club.

I understand that again we had lots of visitors, once they had found us hidden away in the corner upstairs away from a lot of the main exhibits, and that most people were impressed with the quality and variety of carvings.

**Emley Show 7th August:** John Dean is heading up this exhibition and has asked me to request at least a further two stewards for the morning session and two for the afternoon spell. John also wants a loan of loads of carvings, old, new and the ones the wife won't have in the house, so give him a ring please on 01484-664347.

Talk has been circulating within the club for many years regarding a club jumper, or cardigan if the ladies prefer, and badge but nothing has ever reached a conclusion. However, very shortly we shall be stewarding the two Panels at, Halifax Town Hall, hopefully in Huddersfield, and most certainly for a period at the Royal Armouries Museum, so perhaps now is the time to raise the issue again.

Our Treasurer, Margaret, has been making enquires and we can purchase jumpers for approximately £10.50 each plus £2.50 per stitched logo and an overall one off set up cost of £30.00 from a company in Sowerby Bridge. The club logo would be stitched, not printed, into the breast area. Margaret, and others, think that the colour should be bottle green - to represent wood and trees, all very Freudian!

This subject will be brought up at the next Shepley meeting for your approval, or disapproval, by Jane and Adrian. Please bear in mind that if we are trying to sell booklets for the Children's Hospice to the general public it would be advantageous to stand out from the crowd. We can also use the jumpers to keep us warm in the winter if the government scrap the winter fuel allowance and then as they get older we could use them to keep warm when we all go off to the garage, cellar, attic, or in Mike Chambers case a beautifully clean little Swiss Chalet in the garden, to do some carving. A few members commented, after the Towneley Park joint exhibition last September, that the members of the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers looked really smart in their club jumpers and, in some cases, aprons.

**Royal Armouries Museum Panels:** Again the July meeting at the Lindley Bowling Club had a very good turn out, which was surprising with the amount of people reportedly on holiday. There is another meeting planned for the 15 July but I don't think this Newsletter will be out by then.

The saga with the Huddersfield Town Hall still goes on. I wrote again to them on the Monday morning after the last Shepley meeting reporting the members' dismay at the lack of interest by authorities in Kirklees and suggesting that we arrange a meeting before our members started taking things further by individually approaching Councillors and Mayors. Four days have now passed and, as usual, I haven't had a reply. For the first time in years I had to go to the bank in Huddersfield the other day and was surprised, probably only because wild horses wouldn't usually get me into local towns, at the number of big shops that are closed waiting for new owners. If the response is still negative from the Town Hall and Art Gallery then we could possibly look towards a display in one of these outlets. I appreciate you could make some arrangement today and the store could be taken over by a third party tomorrow and the cost may be prohibitive, but we don't know until we try.

A meeting has been arranged at the Royal Armouries on the 10 August 2010 to discuss the design of the booklet and the free standing frames that will be used to mount the Panels in Calderdale and, hopefully, Huddersfield plus in the 'Street' at the Armouries. They have offered to make the stands to a mutually agreed design. We shall contribute towards the cost from our grant. I will write up the minutes from the August 10th meeting and circulate them to all members. This way everybody is fully aware of what is being planned. Everything else seems to be going very well and all the 1st World War carvings are now photographed and dipped ready for mounting. I understand that we have also now about 85% of the 2nd WW carvings finished.

This month, through Anne and the website, we have managed to help a lady in Huddersfield with some letter carving she needed doing at short notice and we have had a lovely e-mail in from a young man in India whose parents are refugees from Tibet. He was asking if we could assist him with finding tuition to forward his love, and livelihood, in woodcarving. I was going to print a picture of some of his work but I am running out of space in the Newsletter. Next month I will put the picture in. In the meantime can we help this young man? I don't know how, as the distance between us is so great. I will get Jane and Adrian to read out his e-mails at the next meeting.

**Raffle:** Graham on holiday.

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

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