



# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson

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## Jonathan Albutts



Our grateful thanks to Jonathan who brought to us once more his rather odd sense of humour and his amazing skill in stone carving. We always manage to learn something new on each of his visits and on this occasion he didn't disappoint with his talk and demonstration on Raised Lead Lettering. I'm sure that the majority of us had never heard of raised lead lettering before and for the ones who missed a treat the following is a short description of the process.

For hundreds of years gravestones were lettered in various ways. The pictures are of a process used on an old monument and illustrates what's called 'Raised Lead' and can only be achieved by hand. Key holes are drilled in such as marble and slugs of lead are then beaten in and left proud of the surface. They are then cut in different ways to achieve letterforms. On many of the war commemorative monuments you find lettering cut in this manner.



Jonathan also managed to carve the letter 'Q' into a piece of stone at remarkable speed. From start to finish it took no longer than 10 minutes and bearing in mind that he had David breathing down his neck with a camera, and 50 or so people watching him, it's a wonder he got it carved at all.

I met Jonathan later on in the day, at the Halifax Agricultural Show, and he was saying how much he enjoys coming to our meetings - we are obviously paying him too much! The stone carvers had a very good display at the show.

Just opened the Halifax *Evening Courier* - that now regularly comes at 9:30am and is printed in Leeds - and there is a full two page spread featuring the West Riding Stonecarvers' club that came into being in September this year. Their workshop is now located in a large mill down the bottom end of Halifax and quite a number of our members recently visited their open evening. We hope to get our own feature in the *Courier*, and *Huddersfield Examiner*, as we get nearer to the display of the Armouries Panels in Halifax and Huddersfield. You may remember that when we displayed the Overgate Panel in Halifax Town Hall in 2007 the *Huddersfield Examiner* were very helpful with publicity but the *Halifax Courier* totally ignored us and letters expressing our disappointment were sent to them. I trust we shall do better this time and I just hope they don't go back and read some of the rather strong letters that were sent to them!

Next month, **September 11th**. We should have with us our friends from across the border, the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers. The speaker will be Russell Birch - Netsuke carvings. Russell is quite new to speaking about his craft and did say that he might find difficulty in covering more than an hour or so. It's quite amazing how many of our speaker say this and then when they get started, and the questions start coming in, just keep going. Russell, I understand, is a professional singer so if all else fails he can give a bit of *Nessun Dorma*.

At the Halifax Agricultural Show my wife and I bumped into one of our members, Trevor Stanley, in his guise as a bee keeper and was enthralled with his explanation of the life and times of his bees. So, never one to miss an opportunity, I grabbed him to fill in after Russell with a half hour, or so, with a talk on bees which I guarantee will be fascinating. We seem to be breeding bee keepers in the Club as Roy Williams also has quite a number of hives.

The Lancashire & Cheshire members have asked us to give a short talk on the Armouries Panels. David Hey has volunteered.

Regretfully, we still seem to be having health problems in the Club. Ken Cockroft, better known to the people who attend the Brooksbank class, is quite poorly with an industrial related illness and we wish him all the very best. And our good friend Mary Stott has been falling over, probably inebriated, and I hear done a wonderful job at re-arranging the features of her rather nice face. Get well soon Mary and I'm sorry but it's no excuse for not having that WW2 carving finished!

**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.

**Life Member:** At our last meeting Adrian read out a letter from Norman Walsh, Life Member and a founder member of the Club, asking for his name to be removed from our Newsletter and his gallery on the web site to be taken down. He also resigned from the Club.

Also read out was a letter from the Secretary asking Norman to reconsider his decision.

No reply has been received from Norman.

John Dean has some woodcarving slides given to him from some German visitors to the Emley Show.

We may show these at the September meeting if time allows.

**Beaumont Park display 11th September 2010.**

**Emley Show 7th August:**

This year's Emley Show was a great success. The weather was kind to us and we had a fantastic number of people coming to see the carvings on display. We had over 1300 people voting in the People's Choice which was won by Mike Chambers. People were amazed at the quality of the work, some making quite serious enquiries regarding commissions. Unfortunately the entries in the three competition classes was very poor (better luck next year). Thanks must go to Bryan Hodgson, Dennis Farmer, and John Farrar for stewarding the event. Also to Arthur Brook for judging and helping with the stewarding.

John Dean

At the last meeting Jane asked the assembled members if they would approve the suggestion that the Club introduces a Club jumper, or cardigan if the ladies so wish, in a dark green colour with the Club logo and name embroidered onto the breast. To everybody's great surprise ever single person in the room showed their approval and indicated that they would purchase one.

The main reason for bringing this subject up now is our forthcoming stewarding of the Armouries Panels at the Halifax Town Hall, Huddersfield Parish Church and, from the 11 November to the end of November, at the Armouries. It was thought that it would be more appropriate if we actually looked like we all belong to the same Club. The price each is about £16 or so.

Margaret has kindly taken on the task of collecting names and ordering the jumpers/cardigans. At a recent meeting, on the 19 August at the Lindley Bowling Club, she started her mission by measuring up all the members who attended. Again every single person at the meeting came forward to be measured. That could have something to do with the fact that Margaret not only insisted on measuring everybody's chest but also wouldn't let any of the men move away until she had done an inside leg measurement - still don't understand why! ***PLEASE RING MARGARET WITH CHEST SIZE ON ----- 'NOW'***

A special 'Jumper Club' has also been started and Colin Pratley was adopted as President. Its called the XL Club and is only open to the big boys who live on fish, chips and beer. Two founder members are called 'Murphy 1 & 2'.

**Royal Armouries Museum Panels:** Again the August meeting at the Lindley Bowling Club had a very good turn out and Mike and John brought everybody up to-date regarding the various meetings that have been taking place at the Armouries, Huddersfield Parish Church and Halifax Town Hall.

It is far easier for me, and everybody gets a fully documented account of the meetings, if I send out with the Newsletter a copy of the minutes of each meeting. Only problem is I cant remember which I have sent out and to who, so I will send the recent ones to everybody and please bin them if you already have a copy.



Latest information is that we have just 5 carvings still to come in for the 2nd WW. It's now imperative that these are finished as quickly as possible. This is mainly so that Graham can get them photographed so we can start using the composition photos of each Panel, that Graham is putting together, for publicity purposes (as shown for the 1st WW on the left).

**Raffle:** I think £50 profit. Will check with Graham.

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