

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

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Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon was yet again a great success with a very good turn out, in spite of the dreadful weather. The new venue of the Brighthouse Sports Club proved to be ideal and the staff very obliging. The buffet lunch was well received by all and the talk on Old Yorkshire brought many memories back of a more temperate time. The raffle proceeds went to 'Help the Heroes'.



Frank Bromhead, who has possibly enjoyed our project for the Royal Armouries more than anybody in the club, was presented with a walking stick made by Malcolm Cooper with a Burma Star medal encased into the handle. A very thoughtful gesture by Malcolm.



Frank Bromhead and Malcolm Cooper.

The 'funny joke' competition, told as only Jane can tell them, was won by yours truly for the second year running. Well I'm never going to win the Rose Bowl for the carving that most appeals to our guest speakers so I've got to do something to get a round of applause. This year the joke went on so long I think everybody had forgotten what the ones before it were all about. The bottle of bubbly will come in for Christmas Day thank you. I gave the one I won the year before to Jane, who promised we would share it over a romantic candlelit dinner. I never saw the bubbly again or the promised dinner, so I'm hanging onto this one. Never trust a woman who can tell funny jokes! Yet again Mike Chambers won the Rose Bowl. (Trevor must be slipping!)

January 8th, Shepley meeting: At this meeting we shall be presenting a cheque to the Forget-me-Not Children's Hospice. The person who is coming along to receive it is Gina Fielding, Community Fundraiser for the hospice. I'm not sure just how much we shall be handing over but Margaret has got a big presentation cheque from the bank and will fill it with the appropriate numbers before the meeting. What I do know is that we have topped £7,500 which is a terrific amount and I'm sure everybody in the club is delighted with this achievement.

Albert, as a Founder and Life Member of the club, has been asked to present the cheque on our behalf and he has confirmed that he would be delighted and honoured to do so.

Also at the meeting Graham will be raffling the two framed photographs, with all our names on, of the 1st and 2nd World War panels. Graham is donating his costs and as insisted that all the proceeds go to the Children's Hospice. He will also be handing to Margaret over £60 that he has raised from the sale of the DVDs he put together. Our grateful thanks to Graham for all his hard work and generosity.

Trying to get back to a little bit of normality, after the Royal Armouries panels, we have booked, for our speaker, an old friend and favourite of the club, Peter Berry. Peter has been to the club on a number of occasions but I am sure quite a few of our newer member will not have seen him before. (I have just checked and find it hard to believe but Peter was our first speaker when we moved to Shepley in March 2006. It seems like yesterday.)

Peter is the face of Flexcut carving tools and is a regular contributor to the Woodcarving magazine with his character figures. He has informed me that he is going to carve something using a small power tool, just as a change from our normal carving methods. Peter has also very kindly offered to donate half of his normal fee to the Children's Hospice. A very kind gesture which we thank him for.

Can we have plenty of carvings for the display table please? Graham is going to take photographs of the presentation and it would be nice to have a load of carvings in the background of the photos. These, and a small write-up, will be sent to the local media, the Woodcarving magazine and Amanda at BBC Look North.

For those who are not aware, at the presentation of the panels on November 11th, Dr Roscoe very kindly offered to become the Patron of our club. This is a great honour and indicated the close bond she has with the WRWA. This will be discussed and voted on at the next AGM. If accepted, our Constitution will have to be slightly amended.

Anybody wanting Royal Armouries booklets there are plenty available and a box full will be brought to the Jan 8th Shepley meeting. Or give Mike, Dennis or myself a ring.



Wakefield Hospice: A gentleman called Alan Michael Rayner, who has limited if any sight, heard through the media about the Royal Armouries panels and asked if it was possible for him to examine them by touch. He has connections with Wakefield Hospice and suggested that this location would be more convenient to him and the panel at Wakefield would serve the same purpose. It was arranged that Terry Thorley-Lawson would collect him and take him to the hospice.

Alan emailed back to say how grateful he was and how much he enjoyed the hour or so he spent with Terry examining the carvings. Alan also stated that he would like to be informed, through the newsletter, of club activities by becoming a member. We welcome him on board and look forward to meeting him at our forthcoming meetings.

Terry has informed the Wakefield Hospice that the Oakwood Carvers, the name of the group that produced the panel, has now ceased to be. The Hospice wrote back thanking him, and his colleagues, for their donation of £65.95 and the panel. They said that it is daily admired by all visitors to the hospice and will always remain a focal point in their reception area.



One reluctant duty I have to perform, as Secretary, is informing members of fellow members who are dear to the club but have sadly passed away. Unfortunately, on this occasion it is **Ken Cockroft**. Ken regularly attended the Brooksbank Class and carved the 'Shepherd and Sheep' on the Overgate panel but was taken ill and couldn't finish the 'Airship' on the recent WW1 panel. Peter Keene kindly finished this for him. He did actually get to see the panels at the Halifax Town Hall and thought they were 'splendid'.

Because of work commitments Ken had difficulty attending the Shepley meetings but has been a very generous contributor to all the Brooksbank classes through both his endearing personality and constant supply of timber to everybody. The club was well represented at his funeral and a letter and a card of condolence has been sent to his wife Susan. He will be sadly missed by all.



Royal Armouries: This is the first correspondence since the presentation on the 11th November and I will firstly inform you where we are with the Woodcarving magazine.

Some while ago I made contact with Michelle Robertson, Editor of Woodcarving, and informed her about the Royal Armouries panels. Since then quite a lot has happened. Graham has been supplying high quality photographs to Michelle and I have written up the complete story of the Royal Armouries panels. The Royal Armouries have also forwarded the grid diagram and key to carvings and carvers from the booklet.

One of the difficulties in writing up the story was what to leave out and put in. On the advice of Michelle, who said there was a super story to tell and not to cut anything, I eventually covered all I could think of with the completed item running to some 2,940 words, or approximately six pages of the magazine. Whether this is used in its entirety without editing I'm not sure, but I understand they are trying to keep it complete. (My thanks to Anne for taking the time to read through and correct things.)

I have been advised that the story of the panels will be in the March/April issue of the magazine and will possibly be the biggest story they have ever covered with the whole thing running over 10-12 pages. I understand that each panel will be spread over two pages with the diagram and key underneath them. Everybody's name will be listed as in the fold-out cover of the booklet. Individual carvings and the booklet text about the carvings will be dotted around the article. I have no say on whose individual carving will be picked, so don't blame me if your carving doesn't make it. I'll bet anybody £10 that mine doesn't!

We have negotiated a fee for the article, which I will not disclose here as this correspondence will eventually be put into the Newsletter pages of our web site. This subject will be discussed at the next Shepley meeting, or just give me a ring.

Regarding the display of the panels at the Royal Armouries, there has been quite a lot of disappointment aired in the club with regards to their final location and the lighting and display material around them.

The club, on a number of occasions, had been promised that the panels would form an integral part of the War Gallery at the Armouries. The final location of the panels is along the walkway outside the gallery. Although this is not what we were led to believe would be the resting place of the panels it is, or could be, quite a good spot with imagination put into the surrounding display and correct lighting being installed.

The Armouries are aware of our concerns and a meeting has been requested to discuss a number of points early in the New Year.

On a more positive note I bumped into the Headteacher of Ravenscliffe High School, a school in Halifax for 11-19 year old pupils with Special Educational Needs, who congratulated us on the workmanship of the panels. When told that we had raised over £7,500 for the Children's Hospice he thanked me for 'helping his school' as quite a number of his children eventually would be calling on the services of the Forget-me-Not Trust. A very humbling thought!

Dennis has a Myson 4" planer he wants £50 for. He is desperate to move it on so he can make room in his garage for the next project.

We have some members who are not in the best of health at the moment. On behalf of all in the club, we wish them a speedy recovery, a lovely Christmas, a great New Year and a steady improvement.

Have a lovely Christmas and a very healthy and happy New Year.

