

# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson

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## Peter Berry

Our grateful thanks to Peter for a very interesting, informative and amusing talk/demonstration of character carving. It must take some nerve to stand in front of 58 people who are quite knowledgeable about woodcarving and actually carve. Not many people would be comfortable doing this and manage to still retain a good sense of humour.

Peter will tell you that he was planning for the little guy's right hand to go into his pocket but I've got the carving and I can assure you the little fella has had a serious accident and, as they say 'he's harmless'. Well one arm less!

When the majority of people had gone off home, a suggestion was made by some who hung back that perhaps we could ask Peter back towards the end of this year to do a full-day session. The thought was that Peter would lead a 'hands on' workshop where he would carve certain steps and then, by use of the projector and screen, the people attending would match his movements to the conclusion of a finished character carving.



This is a different step from our normal Saturday meeting and the suggestion will be put to the next Shepley meeting for discussion. (The only month that Peter has free is November.)

A couple of interesting comments that Peter made were with reference to the fact that we had done tremendously well to get woodcarving onto the TV and he was also very complimentary of the fact that the club had managed to raise £8,000 for the Children's Hospice. He also thought, as many do, that the booklet was a very professional publication and a credit to the club.



### Forget-me-Not Children's Hospice

I think that the large turnout of members and guests showed how proud we were for Albert to hand over to Gina Fielding, Community Fundraiser for the Children's Hospice, a cheque for £8,000.

Albert, who is a founder member of the club and a Life Member, on handing the cheque over to Gina commented "When we started this club about 18 years ago, we never envisaged that we could have attempted, never mind completed, such a magnificent job that the club has done with these panels. On behalf of the club I hope that this donation will help the Trust to carry on with their good work".

He stated that he was honoured to hand over the cheque on behalf of the club and offered the Trust our best wishes with their building plans.

We must acknowledge the very generous contribution made by Graham Lockwood towards the £8,000 with the gift of two framed pictures of the WW1 and WW2 panels. These were raffled and raised £83 with the prize going to Colin Pratley. I understand they are now proudly displayed over his fireplace in the lounge, along with his 1937 Playboy calendar.

Graham's videos also raised £62 with the remainder of the money coming from: booklet sales £7804; £20 for booklets I have sent out by post, £58 kindly donated from his fee by Peter Berry with the remaining £56 being put in from our funds before the meeting. The raffle money, together with booklet money taken on the day, and future booklet sales by our members, should see us eventually handing over more funds to the hospice. We have also got the fee for our contribution to the Woodcarving magazine still to come in. (Peter took 13 booklets with him and has since sold them to a woodcarving club in Wales and sent £52 back to the club for the children's hospice.)

All the six Forget-me-Not Trust retail shops are now carrying booklets for sale to the public. The Woodcarving magazine will have a reference to a 'just giving' on-line donation site with funds going directly to the Children's Hospice.

**A terrific result for the club from a very enjoyable and tremendous project.**

### Shepley meeting 12 February 2011: Joanne T Kell. Wildlife Artist.

For the February meeting we can report another small departure from our normal Saturday morning meetings with the introduction of Joanne who was born in Leeds but now lives in Holmfirth. She is a self taught artist specialising in highly detailed pencil drawings.

When approached Joanne said "Yes I would love to speak at your next meeting. I would do an interactive talk...how I build up a portrait etc. with a short 'have a go' session...very easy doodles with fantastic results !!

I'm sure some of the more gifted ones amongst us will be willing to have a go to the derision and amusement of the rest of us.

Joanne says if we can bring along 'cartridge sketching pads', whatever they are!, it would be helpful and you can all take your doodles away home to impress your family and friends. Well the family perhaps!



**Royal Armouries:** The only downside to the lovely, and humbling, morning we had at our last meeting was the obvious disappointment shown by the members who had been to view the two panels at the Armouries. I thought Malcolm Cooper hit it on the head when he commented that '*the panels just look like a couple of awful pictures somebody has just given you for Christmas and you've shoved them on the wall in the hallway so as not to offend anybody*'.

On Monday 16 January I went over to the Armouries to see if any progress had been made on our complaint about the lack of appropriate lighting and display material. Regretfully, I have to report that nothing had changed since the panels were moved out of the Hall of Steel. However, in fairness, the booklets are now prominently displayed for sale in the bookshop.

A letter addressed for the personal attention of Dr Jonathan Riley, Director-General and Master of the Armouries, was left at reception requesting a meeting to sort out the problems. The letter was written on behalf of all members, and as such, a copy accompanies this Newsletter so everybody is aware of the content. (*24 Jan and no word yet from the Armouries.*)

**Woodcarving magazine:** For those who have a monthly subscription the magazine should be coming through your letterbox on about the 24 February and I understand they are available in retailers such as Smith's shortly afterwards. I cant tell you much more about the publication apart from the fact that it looks as though it's going to be quite a spread.

We had some reasonable cover in the local press about the handing over of £8,000 to the Children's Hospice. The Halifax Courier was rather disappointing with a small report and no photo. The Huddersfield Examiner, as usual, was very informative with a nice big write up and a photo. Regrettably, they again referred to an earlier comment made, that the WRWA was part of the Huddersfield U3A, which of course we aren't.

I understand from Margaret that also the Brighouse Echo will shortly have a piece in about the £8,000 presentation.

We have been approached by the girls at Overgate Hospice to produce something for Jenni Feather, Chief Executive, who is soon to retire. Jenni was very friendly and supportive when we did the panel for Overgate.

Our grateful thanks go to John Dean who has kindly 'volunteered' to carve another one of the little stile carving that was so popular on the Overgate panel. John seems to have a production line of these going as he did one for Dr Roscoe and for at least another 2 or 3 people with one waiting to be done for a friend in Australia.



Our grateful thanks go to Margaret and Jim for their sterling work in the kitchen at the last meeting and to Marion for helping with the clearing up.

*Did anybody contact Dennis about his blessed planer? The poor guy can't move in his workshop. Dennis has a Myson 4" planer he wants £50 for.*



I have been asked to sell this apprentice made large wooden tool box for £25 - bargain. The money will eventually go to the Children's Hospice.

From June 24 - 27th the Brighouse Central Methodist Church, via Margaret and Mary, has invited us to be part of their very popular flower and art display. This function is very well attended by the general public and school parties. I'm sure we will oblige as it will be a very good showcase for our work.

We have also, on Monday evening 6 June, been asked by Skelmanthorpe Methodist Church if we will give a talk on the Armouries panels. Volunteers, nearer the time, will be required, please. I understand they will be inviting other church groups to attend.

We got a lovely Christmas card from Dr Roscoe and one with stone angels on the front from Celia Kilner.

We have some members who are not in the best of health at the moment. Our good friend Eric Schofield is unfortunately in ward 15 at Huddersfield Hospital and has suffered a series of small strokes. *On behalf of all in the club, we wish them a speedy recovery.*