

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Newsletter Issue 194

March 2011

Jack Metcalfe - Marqueteur

I have got to admit that I have never been a great lover of Thomas Chippendale furniture, although fully appreciating the quality and ingenuity of the workmanship involved. After Jack's talk I'm sure that, like a lot of other people at the meeting, we shall all be now aware of his skill and entrepreneurial foresight.

I have spoken to quite a number of people who attended the March meeting and without exception they greatly enjoyed, were educated, and have a new respect for Mr Chippendale.

Our grateful thanks to Jack for a very eloquent, informative and entertaining talk. I think we should also pay credit to Jack's good friend John Apps who sat quietly in the audience but was responsible for quite a lot of the work on the joint projects that he and Jack have been working on for eight years.



Jack



John

These pictures are taken from their website (I think they were from a few years back - us woodworkers are a vain lot!)



Pier Table - Replica of a pair of matching tables made by Thomas Chippendale for Denton Hall - Otley, Leeds c1778. The table was made by John and Jack and is on long term loan to Harewood House, Leeds, where visitors can view it alongside a video showing the marquetry being constructed.



Jack is on with his second book that will cover the full range of Chippendale's neo-classical designs. The book will show how 18th Century marquetry was cut, assembled and laid, but most revealingly, will offer first sight of how his furniture looked when first made some 230 years ago.

April 9th Annual General Meeting: Please ensure we have a good turn out for this meeting as we have quite a lot of important items on the agenda to discuss.

I understand that Jane and Adrian has approached all the members currently holding office and they are willing to serve for a further year. This does not mean that we have a closed shop and any individual who wants to take a more active involvement with the running of the club will be welcomed and encouraged to come forward.

May 14th: June 11th: On one of these dates we shall have a Free and Easy with short talks of about 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour from various members of the club. We have some incredible talent within our own membership and this is the opportunity to showcase some of it. On one of these dates we shall try to find a really good speaker. Watch this space!

July 9th: Russell Birch, with his amazing miniature carvings. Russell included an article in the March/April edition of the Woodcarving magazine. So did our old friend Peter Berry.

New carving class in Wakefield: Mike Chambers has reported that our approach to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield looks like bearing fruit. They have been back to Mike with an offer of a woodworking room, complete with benches, teaching area, toilet facilities - always important - an area to make a cup of tea or coffee plus and good parking right outside the classroom.

The price for two hours one evening a week is comparable to that paid at Brooksbank, which manages a profit each term, and Mike has 12 of our members, including himself, who are keen to join.

This is a huge step forward for the club as the majority of our members originate from the classes we run and the classes are also the backbone of West Riding Woodcarvers.

Anybody, apart from the 12, who is interested in joining please get in touch with Mike on 01924-278604.

Our thanks, as always, to the ladies in the kitchen and David on the technical equipment.

Royal Armouries: At the last meeting it was reported that I had written, on behalf of the club, to Prince Michael of Kent, regarding the comments made by Dr Jonathan Riley, that we should not have used the photo of Prince Michael in the Woodcarving magazine without Prince Michael's prior permission. I had a call from his Personal Secretary, Katie Fuller, to say that Prince Michael was delighted and honoured to have his photo alongside photos of such lovely carvings and that he enjoyed meeting everybody on the 11th November. I have since had a letter from Kensington Palace which is printed, with my letter, below.

I also sent a similar letter to Dr Roscoe, who must think I had gone mad, asking forgiveness for not obtaining her permission before we used her photo in the magazine. In fact the Editor of the magazine cropped Dr Roscoe out of the picture with Prince Michael before they used it. Oh well, she's a nice lady so should see the funny side of my moment of madness.

Regretfully, as of the 15 March, and some 16 weeks since we left them in the care of the Armouries, still nothing has been done about the lack of information around the panels or the correct lighting. Where we go from here I'm not sure, but I'm fairly certain this subject will form part of our discussions at the AGM in April. A copy of Prince Michael's letter has been forwarded to Dr Riley with a request that we be advised of their intentions prior to our AGM.

On a more positive note we have sent out quite a number of booklets to people who requested them since our article in the Woodcarving magazine. Some of the letters, that came back with the payment and postage cheques, have been very complimentary with the majority stating what a great job the club had done not just in carving the panels but raising over £8,000 for the children's hospice.

John Farrar handed in a letter that he had received from a young 10 year old girl called Ella Beaumont from Luddenden Foot who had been taken to see the panels at Halifax Town Hall by her grandmother. The letter is so lovely that I have scanned it and copied it in its entirety on the next page. It takes up a fair bit of space but if I had re-typed it out it would have lost some of its charm. I have written back to Ella saying how delighted we are with her kind words.



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His Royal Highness
Prince Michael of Kent
Apartment 10
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W8 4PC

28 February 2011

Your Royal Highness

Please find enclosed a copy of the latest Woodcarving magazine featuring the story of the Royal Armouries panels, which I trust you will enjoy.

On behalf of all our club members may I thank you for the courtesy of unveiling the two carved panels during your visit to the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds on the 11 November 2010.

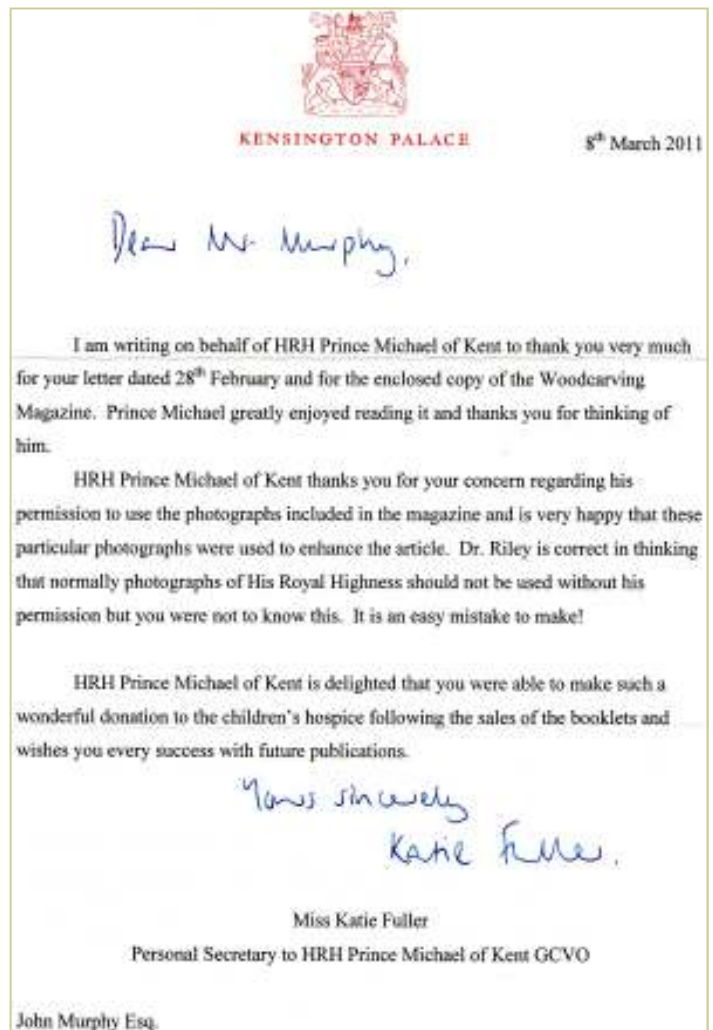
Dr Riley, Director General and Master of the Armouries, recently mentioned that we should have asked prior permission to use a photograph of yourself before including it in our story of the two panels. The photograph was taken by one of our members at the presentation.

It never crossed our minds that we should perhaps ask permission to use the photograph in our article but, on reflection, accept that we should have done so and apologise if we have caused offence.

On a more positive note, sales of the booklets, that we produced to accompany the panels, has recently allowed us to hand over £8,000 to the children's hospice with extra funds coming in daily.

Yours sincerely

John Murphy
Secretary
Enc1



KENSINGTON PALACE 8th March 2011

Dear Mr Murphy,

I am writing on behalf of HRH Prince Michael of Kent to thank you very much for your letter dated 28th February and for the enclosed copy of the Woodcarving Magazine. Prince Michael greatly enjoyed reading it and thanks you for thinking of him.

HRH Prince Michael of Kent thanks you for your concern regarding his permission to use the photographs included in the magazine and is very happy that these particular photographs were used to enhance the article. Dr. Riley is correct in thinking that normally photographs of His Royal Highness should not be used without his permission but you were not to know this. It is an easy mistake to make!

HRH Prince Michael of Kent is delighted that you were able to make such a wonderful donation to the children's hospice following the sales of the booklets and wishes you every success with future publications.

Yours sincerely
Katie Fuller

Miss Katie Fuller
Personal Secretary to HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

John Murphy Esq.

On the next sheet you will find a lovely letter from a little girl called Ella. This is an email that her grandmother sent. When I took the children to see the carvings it was because I wanted to see them, and I hoped the children would respond to them. I never imagined just how much they - and in particular, Ella, would absorb both the art and the information. It was really interesting to see and when I quoted her to Marian (John Farrar's wife) and he asked if she would write something I was amazed at what she remembered - and her terminology. She was obviously quite deeply affected by what she saw for her to remember and use it in her school work. So, your talent helps others to understand something of the world they live in. So, thank you for the impression you have made on not just one but countless people! Sincerely, June Greenwood.

Ella's letter

Last October half term when my mum and dad were at work my grandma came to look after us.

we make our christmas puddings. This year we had to work out what we needed to make them and write a list.

When we had done that and had some adventures we got in the car and grandma said that before we went to the supermarket we were going to see something very special.

And we did!!

We went to the Town Hall in Halifax and there were some

Astonishing wood carvings. They were all about the two World Wars. The panels looked modern and very creative. When we were looking at them my grandma had to keep reminding us not to touch them! they looked so real that we wanted to stroke the bird, houses, dog and the camel. When I looked at the wood carving it seemed as though they were popping out at me. I asked how they were done. A man said that they were all done by hand not by machines. He suggested we went to watch the artists and

That showed us a bit of how it was done and I found it very interesting.

My favourite carvings were of the animals and the planes but I really liked all of them. My brother

Daniel liked the ships and the guns and my sister Anna loved the figures the soldiers and sailors and the rough seas.

We had a brilliant time.

After Christmas we began to learn World War 1 and 2 and I felt very confident because I saw the wood carvings.

My teacher told my mum that at last I was saying something and contributing to the lesson. That was because I had looked at the stories that the wood carvers told.

Thankyou

Ella Beaumont
(10)



What a lovely letter.

If we have inspired and helped one little girl in her school work I'm sure we all agree that the hours put into the Royal Armouries project were well worthwhile. This should give us encouragement to do something special for the children's hospice.