

# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



July 2011  
Newsletter Issue 198

Patron  
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe  
Lord Lieutenant of  
West Yorkshire

Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson

**July 9th 2011 Russell Birch:** For somebody who is a professional singer I have never seen anybody quite so nervous before giving a talk. Bottles of water, bananas, trips to the loo and the eventual outcome one of the most interesting, enlightening and certainly well presented talks we have enjoyed for a very long time.

I have to admit that when Russell went into dressing up mode, and asked me to assist by adjusting and tying his sash, I started to get seriously worried about who we had invited to a good Methodist church hall. But wearing and demonstrating the traditional kimono and sash was a master stroke and greatly accentuated his explanation of the history of netsuke carving.

I'm sure that some of those present had a little knowledge that the netsuke started off being a simple device as a form of toggle attached by a silk cord through a hole (*himotoshi*) with at the other end a small purse for single items (*sagemono*) or a (*inro*) with several individual sections for multiple items.

The netsukes became, and still are, much more than carvings to carvers, collectors and the Japanese people; they became a view of life, a window out onto the world that evokes emotion or reaction, probably more than any other art form. The latter words are from the latest book by Peter Benson on netsuke carving which, after listening to Russell, I bought and find an excellent read and instruction book. (Amazon £10.49 and worth every penny).

Not only did Russell go through the fascinating history of the netsuke but enthralled everybody with pictures and actual carvings that he had spent many, many hours perfecting. Our grateful thanks to Russell for a splendid two and a half hours that flew by. I'm sure that we shall have the pleasure of Russell's company again. Although we had 52 members and guests present I know that quite a number of members were either away on holiday, or otherwise engaged, and couldn't get to the meeting. Well fear not, Russell will be giving his talk to our friends the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers shortly and you would be very welcome over the border should you wish to catch his enthralling talk. I will keep everybody informed when a date is fixed.



**Royal Armouries:** We have asked, yet again, about some information being put around the panels and stressed that our club would be willing to consider taking on the task, and cost, of printing up the article from the Woodcarving magazine and having it framed. No reply!!!!

At a Management Meeting the other night it was agreed that we would ask Graham Lockwood to put something together and then just take it over to the Armouries and demand that they display it next to the panels. It's now nearly nine months since we handed over the panels and we are still trying to get the panels displayed correctly. The question of a video running at the side of the panels, as promised, now seems out of the question.

Lighting has now been installed and viewed by Mike Hadfield. He reported that although not ideal it is acceptable.

**Meeting August 13th :** We were promised that Jamie Frost, a local sculptor, would be available for this meeting but we were a bit premature in our assumptions and regretfully he cannot make it. He is willing to come and it's just a matter of finding a slot in his busy schedule.

Time has run out so we are bringing forward the **Free and Easy** that was planned, and requested by members, for October. This gives us chance to look round for a good speaker for the October date.

Please bring plenty of carvings to the Free and Easy as we may be inviting members to talk about their carvings that are on display. Any items for sale would also be welcome.

**Children's Hospice:** On Wednesday 20th July Jane, Adrian, Margaret and I had our second meeting with the management of the Forget-me-Not Trust Children's Hospice regarding our offer to produce a panel for the new building, now nearing completion.

I have sent out with this newsletter a copy of the minutes of the meeting. The main point to note is that we have insisted that sufficient time be allowed to undertake a full and complete planning study and plenty of time to carve the plaques, while still allowing members to pursue their own individual carving projects. We shall now start the carving process at the commencement of classes in September 2012. This is acceptable to the hospice management.

With regards to the request by Dr Roscoe that we consider a panel for the Huddersfield University entrance lobby we have, reluctantly, advised Dr Roscoe that with our commitment to the children's hospice we shall have to turn down her request on this occasion. A great shame, but it is thought that the club would over extend itself, and produce something not to our required standards, if we accepted.



You may remember in the last newsletter it was reported that our good friend Peter Keene had taken on a 'fairy house' project for a local children's nursery. The pictures tell the completed story. Well done Peter.



**Townley Park & Hall, Todmorden Sunday 11th September:**

Those who attended the exhibition we jointly put on with the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers at Townley Hall in September 2009 will remember what a great occasion it was. The sun shone, for once, there was a Sealed Knot display, a brilliant food hall and plenty of side shows and stalls.

All these are expected to be there again. I'll guarantee the sun, and we have again been invited by our friends over the border to join them.

The joint display was possibly one of the best woodcarving shows seen in the North of England and, having accepted their offer, we shall ensure that we don't let the side down.

As last time, a coach will be run from the Huddersfield area. Hopefully this time, the driver will know the way and everybody will arrive before 2:30pm like in 2009. Jane's fault as she organised the coach. She obviously needs the practice so will be invited to have another go.



Sadly we have to report that Freda, the wife of Trevor Kilvington, sadly passed away. I'm sure everybody in the club remembers Trevor bringing Freda to each monthly meeting and her lovely personality and smile, even while confined to a wheelchair for many years. The club was represented at her funeral and our condolences have been sent to Trevor.

The monthly raffle appears to be going OK but I'm not aware of what the numbers are regarding profit. I'll try and rectify that for the next newsletter.

At the recent Management Meeting Margaret reported that our membership numbers had fallen to 64. Regretfully this is mainly through ill health and the demise of a number of members.

Although not a problem, it is essential if we want sufficient funds to bring in good speakers, that we try and keep numbers around the 70 mark. Fortunately, we have picked up a few new members recently with one more joining at the next meeting. We also seem to benefit from the winter classes when they start again in September.

The good news is that not one member has recently left because of the way the club is run and progressing.

Running out of things to report. At Jane's suggestion I should always finish with a joke; so here goes:

Yorkshireman: "Ayup, lad, I need to talk to thee about me cat."

Vet: "Is it a tom?"

Yorkshireman: "Nay, I've browt it with us."

.....  
A Yorkshireman's dog dies and as it was a favourite pet he decides to have a gold statue made by a jeweller to remember the dog by.

Yorkshireman: "Can tha mek us a gold statue of yon dog?"

Jeweller: "Do you want it 18 carat?"

Yorkshireman: "No I want it chewin' a bone yer daft bugger!"

**Blame Jane!**

**Britain at War magazine:** Over the last few months, Urban Media has been in communication regarding trying to place the story of the Armouries' panels into news publications. They have now managed to arrange for the story to be featured in the Britain at War Magazine – yes, there is such a magazine. We shall eventually receive a donation towards the children's hospice.