

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Lord Lieutenant of
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Life members
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Albert Hobson

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Towneley Park Exhibition. Sunday September 11th. The Heritage Open Day at Towneley ran from 12 noon until 4:00pm and was our bi-annual meeting with the L&C carvers over in Lancashire. The joint exhibition, which we were invited to participate in, was organised and stewarded by Margaret Myatt, plus poor old husband Jeff who seems to get constantly dragged into our exhibitions, Colin Pratley and myself. We had Darrel Edwards and his wife along to help with the stewarding and visits from Anne Ellwood plus family, Mary Stott and family and Geoff and Marion Brumfield. Regretfully that was the total attendance from our club. Which is a shame as we had a really good turn out of over 45 in September 2009.

The positive side of the day was that we had a really good display of carvings, quite nice weather and hundreds of visitors to the marquee we shared with the Lancashire & Cheshire carvers. Our thanks to the members who loaned carvings for the display.



On duty in club jumpers



John Adamson L&C Carvers with one of his creations



Interested public

Huddersfield Beaumont Park Exhibition: September 11th. This exhibition was organised and stewarded by Dennis Farmer, Bryan Hodgson and Arthur Brook. Unfortunately I don't have any photos from Dennis to show but he reported that they had 22 carvings on display and again there was a very good public attendance but very little interest from our members apart from John and Daphne Kemp and Jim and Margaret Durrans.

Meeting at Shepley Saturday 8th October: At the moment we are still waiting to hear back from two gentlemen who have written extensively about the wonderful and interesting carvings in Ripon Cathedral. We are having difficulty confirming that one, or the other, is available to attend on the 8th October. Regretfully, speakers are getting harder and harder to find (although I have a few lined up for 2012), a problem I know is shared with other carving clubs.

Should we not be able to find a speaker for this date the plan is to reproduce the very successful meeting we had in February 2005 when we held a workshop on sharpening. On this occasion we had quite a number of our more experienced carvers, Trevor, Malcolm, Jim and Bryan, passing on tips and demonstrating how to get that ultra keen edge on chisels and gouges by various methods. Perhaps we can persuade them to take on the task again!

Meeting at Shepley Saturday November 12th: This is planned as an all day meeting with our good friend Peter Berry. The idea is for Peter to provide each member with a cut out block of Jelutong and then, by means of the projector and big screen, to take everybody step by step through the stages of producing a character carving to completion. Lunch in the form of the usual pea and pie plus afters will be provided and, again as previous, a small charge will be made on the door to cover the refreshments and this time a block of Jelutong. Everybody will be asked to provide themselves with a workmate and a selection of chisels. For those who don't have a workmate we shall endeavour to borrow a number from the daytime carving classes at Birchencliffe. This is a step away from our normal Saturday meeting but should be good fun if everybody gets behind it.

Christmas luncheon December 10th at Brighouse Sports and Social Club: See booking slip with this newsletter.

Royal Armouries: Mike Hadfield has been over to the Armouries with the two A2 frames - one of the write-up and the other the diagram of the panels with the name of the carving etc. He also took over another copy of the booklet with each page laminated for display along side the carvings.

The people Mike met at the Armouries considered that the story of the panels was too detailed for casual reading but are using some of the text to write up a more 'user friendly' version. They are also using the layout of the other print, but increasing the size and putting each diagram into a separate frame for sitting at the side of each panel. They will contact Mike when the layout is ready for approval. Graham is supplying digital information.

(I got the two A2 prints copied at Staples for £11 each and framed, in timber to match the frame of the two panels, for £15 each. So £52 in total. These will eventually be returned to us so we can use them in our exhibitions, as we did at Towneley).

It would appear that the Armouries were left with only 120 booklets, after we brought 14 boxes away to the Brighthouse Central Methodist exhibition, and they are now out of stock. The booklet money taken by the Armouries is being collected together and a supply of replacement booklets is underway. More from Mike as it happens.



We got a call from a very nice lady in Denholme whose father had passed away leaving quite a lot of carving timber. Trevor Stanley and I collected the timber, as shown above, and managed to talk John Farrar into storing it. Anybody looking for timber talk to John who will be delighted to invite you round his house, supply you with coffee, tea and cakes and I'm sure cut and supply your needs.

Mike Chambers and myself also visited a lady in Baildon whose husband had sadly passed away leaving a number of carving tools. Mike managed to kit out his Wakefield class with an Ashley Isles type sharpening system and quite a number of really nice chisels. Some items will be brought to the next meeting for sale to members. Amongst the items is a three legged carving stool that retails at about £250 - pictured.

Anybody interested we are looking for £45 please, well worth the money for the holding system alone. Ring me if you are interested.



Britain at War magazine: For those who never managed to get a copy of the magazine I have now obtained a reasonable photocopy and will send it out with this newsletter. By PDF file for those on computer and printed for those still stuck in a time warp. A donation of £60 has been sent directly to the children's hospice from Urban Media the people who put the article in the magazine.

The other day I got handed a copy of the 23rd September 2011 'Metro free newspaper' by a friend who is a bus driver. He was sat looking at the lovely view over the valley from the terminus at Norton Tower when he happened to notice our carvings on a page that had blown down the bus to his cab. He informs me that the Metro is published all over the UK with certain items of regional interest printed in certain papers but the majority of the content, our carvings included, published throughout the country.

Graham and I have recently been sending photographs and written information about the panels to an independent publishing house in Bournemouth on the understanding that if anything was published about the panels we would collect a donation towards the children's hospice. I must admit that when they said they would like to get the article into a national newspaper we hadn't envisaged the Metro free magazine. I understand that the Times also ran a piece but I cannot find any reference in the Times online.

By Aidan Radcliffe
 WARTIME scenes have been brought vividly to life in 3D after being carved out of wood by artists.
 Although absorbing scenes come from the two world wars, they were created by a team of 51 volunteer artists.
 With hammer and chisel, they chipped into the live wood at various depths to create sea and sky.
 Photographs relating to the two conflicts were placed over the top of 95 wooden blocks and the carvers subsequently checked how each scene.
 The individual pieces were stored on 10 to 200 panels that are now on display at the Royal Air Force Museum in London.
 Scenes include the Battle of the Somme and the landing of the RMS Lusitania from World War I, as well as the D-Day landings and the battle of Britain from World War II.
 John Murray, secretary of West Riding Woodcarvers' Association, said: 'As a club we wanted to do something to mark the two world wars.'
 About 8,000 hours were spent on the carvings. They look superb and the reaction from the public has been great, too.'



Carved with pride: The panels depict 95 wartime scenes including the sinking of RMS Lusitania, WW1, and pilots in front of a bomber.

World wars - in wood

Teams of artists meticulously carve blocks to depict famous battle scenes

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Just In: All club members and guests have been invited to look round the Forget-me-Not Trust Children's Hospice new building on Friday 4th November at 11:00am. But the time has to be confirmed and will be given out at the next meeting and in the October newsletter.