

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Newsletter Issue 201

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Meeting at Shepley Saturday 8th October: I understand from everybody who attended, 34 in total, that we must say a big thank you to Mike Chambers and Bryan Hodgson for taking on the demonstration side of the morning which concentrated on all the aspects of chisel sharpening, a science that eludes the majority of us.



Bryan and a nice collection of club jumpers, winter must be on the way

Mike demonstrated the Tormek type wet stone method and the Ashley Isles diamond impregnated rubber wheel and mop system, which I think the majority of people use - although what do I know? Bryan again rolled out his top secret home invented, designed and manufactured sharpening system, last seen 6 years ago, that one day he is hoping to make his fortune with and then jet off to his private island in the Caribbean to finish his days carving coconut trees. A great big thanks to both of them.

Meeting Shepley Saturday November 12th: This is planned as a full day event with our good friend Peter Berry. A pea and pie lunch will be served and we are asking, as usual, for all members to bring something along for the sweet course. A fee of £5 will be charged at the door to cover Peter's costs and the lunch. An extra £1 will be charged to those who are carving to cover half of the cost of the wood blank that Peter will provide, the club is picking up the extra cost.

Peter is going to set up at the front of the room with a camera on his work area and, as he goes through the stages of carving one of his many character carvings, members will be encouraged to follow his progress with their own block of timber. Peter is going to provide each carver with a band sawn blank of Lime or Jelutong. This blank will have an inch or so stub at the bottom that can be held in a workmate, or better still, in one of the small swivel carving clamps if you have one. Talking to Peter the other day, he said that the tools required are ideally the Flexcut type chisels, or smaller gouges, and a knife would also be handy. His intention is to go as slowly as necessary, but will encourage the more experienced carvers to add their own embellishments into the carving. I understand that the cut out will have arms away from the body that will encourage more advanced carving. So at the end of the day, everybody should walk away with a finished carving - we hope!

We shall try and cover the whole floor with some large dust sheets to make it easier for clearing up and everybody is asked to bring along a Workmate. If any carvers don't have a Workmate would they please ring either myself, 01422-361109 or Adrian 01484-861452 and we shall have a word with Mike or Malcolm and try to borrow a few from the Birchencliffe carving classes.

This is a new project for the club and everybody is encouraged to join in and make it an enjoyable day. At the last meeting about 20 people present raised their hands to indicate that they would be participating. However, I'm fairly sure we shall have a lot more than that as very nearly everybody in the Brooksbank class, and I understand most of the Wakefield and Birchencliffe carvers, has indicated that they intend to take part.

Adrian has been approaching some of the ladies to help out in the kitchen.



Christmas Luncheon December 10th at Brighthouse Sports and Social Club: First of all my apologies for getting the price wrong on the booking slip. I had it as £16 when it should have been £18.50. Although I'm apologising I don't think it could possibly be my fault as I only work under instructions from those more senior than I - I know my place - and, therefore, I'm sure I was told £16. Anyway most of us are of the more 'elderly variety' and, so we are told by our wonderful leaders in Parliament, not short of a few bob and finding an extra £2.50 out of the heating allowance won't be a problem. Also, if you don't spend it now it will be worth about £0.50 next year! We kick off at 10:00am with coffee then the speaker and onto lunch.



At a recent Management Meeting a decision was taken, fuelled by alcohol, that we should make a change to the 'Rose Bowl' competition for the carving 'That Appeals Most' to one of our guests invited to make the selection. Over the past few years the number of carvings on display has gradually reduced to just a handful because members know full well that they haven't got a cat in hell's chance of winning with the likes of, well we all know who, putting their carvings up for selection. So from this year onwards, the people who have won within the last five years won't be eligible for selection. This doesn't mean that they can't display their carvings, and they will be encouraged to do so, it just means that other people get a chance of the magnificent prize. We shall find some means of identifying the carvings of the last five year winners, possibly by a red spot or an axe through the middle of them, and these won't be available for selection by the judge. Simple, what can go wrong - well, something for sure.



Following on from the above, can we now ensure that we have a full display of carvings, which I'm sure Dr Roscoe and her husband would appreciate. If each person attending could bring about three carvings, old, new, bought from a street vendor in Bali that you tell everybody is your work, it doesn't matter, then we can have a great display. After all we are suppose to be a carving club so let's show our craft at its best.

Jane will again be conducting her 'Corny Joke' competition and, may I remind everybody, that I have won the last two years, so please email her, or post to her, your favourite joke. Slightly rude ones are encouraged but the really dirty ones will be weeded out and told at the next Management Meeting. I know what you're all thinking 'do we have to sit through Jane telling jokes again' but I have it on good authority, Jane, that people come from far and wide to hear her jokes. Self delusion!

The speaker is Chris Helme, who is a retired policeman, not that that makes any difference, and he will be talking about 'Other Peoples Rubbish' - he hasn't yet seen some of our carvings! I understand that Chris is very entertaining and has been doing talks for a long time and we trust everybody will be delighted with his presentation.

Somebody asked the other day what the dress code is. Well just smart casual as usual - for Dennis that's best bib and tucker and cravat.

Forget-me-Not Trust: All club members have been invited to attend an open day at the new hospice on Friday 4th November. Our time slot is between 11:00am and 1:00pm and parties of 10 will be escorted around at a time. Not quite sure how we are going to arrange this as we don't meet again before the 4th, and I suppose that the easiest way is just to invite people to come along and take pot luck at getting into a group of 10. Please don't all arrive at 11:00am but try and spread ourselves out.

The Round Hill pub has been booked for the evening of Tuesday 22nd November from 7:30pm for a meeting to establish a 'steering group' for the new panel that we have promised to start in September 2012. Anybody interested in driving the project forward, please attend this meeting.

Royal Armouries: Nothing new to report at the moment. We are just waiting for them to offer for approval new information boards for round the panels.

Website: It's quite incredible how many people are now contacting the club via the website. Recently Anne has forwarded emails from people wanting locations for Lime, offers of timber, some we have taken up. 'G' Plan sideboards in mahogany, we have kindly declined. We have also had requests from people asking for help with carvings, others asking for carvings to be done for them, others wanting to link to our site and companies trying to sell us timber. The list is endless but we try to answer, and help, everybody.

Britain at War Magazine, The Times and the Metro: You will probably be aware that we were asked permission to have a piece about the Armouries panels in these publications. We agreed on the basis that a donation would be forthcoming for the children's hospice. I can now report that £100 has been raised from the Metro and the Times and a further £60 from the Britain at War magazine.

Exhibition: It was agreed at the recent Management Meeting that it would be beneficial to the club if we could organise an exhibition of work in the New Year, similar to what the club used to do at the Tolson Museum.

Because of the new carving class in Wakefield it was suggested that we approach the Barbara Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield to see if they were interested. I know that quite a number of us have been to the gallery and the building is ideal for an exhibition, and heavily stewarded for security. Regarding the items on display I'll leave you to make your own minds up.

We shall contact them soon and report progress.

Smile corner: One for the ladies; **G.O.M**

I have got a G.O.M; I didn't know I had it; It wasn't here yesterday, but now it's like a habit; If I pretend it isn't there, it sulks and grumps around; But if I want to talk to it, it will not make a sound; It wanders round from room to room, kitchen, diner, bedroom; It's rude to friends and family, I wouldn't give it shed-room; It seems to be a little deaf, and it's stiff; It does what it wants, whenever it likes, and never in a rush; I think it's with me now for ever, it's common so I'm told; I guess I'll have to keep my Man, even though he's Grumpy and Old! (That last bit is true, but it doesn't rhyme).

I always seem to be reporting sad events in the newsletter and this time it is to inform everybody that Jane's mother, Margaret, has sadly passed away at the grand old age of 100. We all know that Jane has had quite a stressful time this last few months and we trust she can now return to all her good friends within the club - she has been greatly missed. On behalf of all the member's Margaret has sent flowers to Jane.