

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Meeting at Shepley Saturday 14th January: Well that was a bit of a disaster for the first meeting of the year. Not only did we have our speaker, Mike Disley a local stonecarver, on time and raring to go, we also had a great turn out of 52 members and guests only to have everybody out of the building and on their way home by 11:00am. The problem was the total shut down of the building's electrical system that could not be foreseen, and certainly wasn't anybody's fault. The eventual decision not to hang about any longer was quite wise as I understand the fault was still trying to be rectified late into the Saturday afternoon. We were not the only ones to be inconvenienced, the ladies running the jumble sale in, what would be our normal meeting room, suffered badly because they had no electricity for lighting or use of the kitchen.

On the positive side, Mike has very kindly offered to return on the 10th March to give his talk on stonecarving. Regretfully, he couldn't even start on this Saturday morning as most of his talk is given around a Power Point presentation that requires the projector and screen, and of course we had no electricity! All the members present can now boast that they have been in church, for other reasons than funerals, in this new year of 2012 and the other plus side of the morning was that Trevor Stanley, after keen negotiation with the jumble sale ladies, was 'ecstatic' on becoming the proud new owner of an angle lamp for the sum of £1. He has absolutely no idea what he is going to do with it but a bargain is a bargain. Being a bit more savvy than Trevor, and having spent more than enough years roped into scout and guide jumble sales, I finished up with a brand new set of six German-made carving knives and a sharpening steel for £3, well worth getting out of bed early, the round trip of 35 miles and petrol costs.

So just a run down of what we have booked for the Saturday Shepley meetings so far:

February 11th: Graham Collins. People may remember Graham from way back in June 2006. Both Graham and I couldn't believe, when we checked up, that it was nearly six years ago that he was with us last. Graham's hobby is the making of amazing miniature tools to a fraction of the original size. Graham was a pattern maker and used to work for many years with Colin Pratley and Trevor Stanley, but I don't suppose we should hold that against him! Incidentally, just looking at the June 2006 newsletter - yes, I keep them even if everybody else throws them away - I notice that this was the month that Adrian, now Vice Chairman, joined the club and we confirmed that a room had been booked at Brooksbank School for evening classes. We got 10 names down as certain starters and for the last few years have had a regular 22 attending each Monday evening. Quite a successes story. This was also the month that George Crawshaw, Julia Hanus and John Dean joined us with Ken Taylor re-joining after a few years' break.

March 10th: Mike Disley will again try to give his talk on his life as a stonecarver. Let's hope the electric is all sorted out.

April 14th: This is the club's Annual General Meeting. The last few meetings have gone without any fighting or a great deal of discussion and if this one moves as speedily it will give everybody a chance to catch up over a coffee.

May 12th: To be advised.

June 16th: The return of Michael Painter but this time, as requested by quite a number of members, we shall make this full day meeting into a practical woodcarving workshop (similar to the very successful day last November with Peter Berry). Michael will lead the group through the carving of an item yet to be decided on, possibly a face, hand or foot carving. Note this is the 16th not the second Saturday as Michael teaches on the second Saturday of each month.

July 14th: A new face to the club will be Mark Raby who is a wood finishing demonstrator. He will concentrate on various finishings for different types of carvings. Mark is also the demonstrator/agent for Jo Sonja products and I understand that there may be a chance that Jo will be accompanying him. I don't know of Jo Sonja but Anne and Margaret, who are amongst the artists within our group, are getting quite excited about a possible visit. If you want more information look up www.lrcraftcreations.vpweb.co.uk. (Our thanks to Malcolm Cooper for putting me in touch with Mark Raby).

August 11th and October 13th: to be advised.

September 8th: Joint meeting with the Lancashire & Cheshire Carvers at Shepley. Margaret has just received a letter from their Treasurer offering our club £50 towards our costs for joining them last year for their demonstration and display at Towneley Park. This is a very unexpected and generous gesture and Margaret is going to contact her to express our appreciation.

November 10th: The return of Peter Berry for a full day for a similar workshop to that held last November.

Sample of work by Mike Disley



Trevor



Christmas Luncheon December 10th at Brighthouse Sports and Social Club: I'm sure everybody who attended the luncheon enjoyed the occasion and our thanks to Chris Helme for a very interesting and entertaining talk on 'Other People's Rubbish'.



I reported earlier that I received a lovely hand written letter from Dr Roscoe saying how much she and her husband enjoyed the Christmas luncheon. She also thanked us for her lovely flowers and wrote "the note on the flowers says 'from your friends at the woodcarvers' and that's what you have all fully become. You are all remarkable people with wonderful skills, warmth, humour and loving kindness". She also went on to say that Glenn, her driver, would remember the day for a very long time. For any member who didn't attend the luncheon the point behind that remark refers to Jane's very obvious 'lust' for the very handsome Glenn.

On the downside quite a number of those present commented that the food wasn't quite as good as we would have expected, and certainly not to last years standard and hardly constituted a fully carved buffet. The building is also a little 'industrial' and not very welcoming. During our discussions at the January Shepley meeting it was decided to seek a different venue for the 2012 luncheon. Adrian has made tentative enquiries at Meltham Golf Club and we understand they would welcome our return. Unfortunately, although the food is first class, the room can create a problem when listening to the speaker. You may also remember that we were encouraged not to return as we took all the parking places for the golfers, which made them very cross, poor dears. Suggestions for a new venue will be put to a full meeting shortly.



The above are pictures sent to me by our good friend Derek Adams and are of a porch he has constructed for the Whitley Hall Hotel, Grenoside, Sheffield. The porch is made of Oak timbers and has a stone slate roof. Anybody going for a meal it may be a good idea to use the servants entrance! But well done Derek - a lovely job.

Anybody who has any interesting news please send it to me as it nicely fills up the newsletter.

Please note that the next Management Meeting is on the 9th February 2012 at 7:30pm at the Round Hill pub. The next Forget-me-Not meeting is also on the 9th February at 9:30am at the hospice.

Raffle: Takings and spend I don't know, as Margaret hasn't given it to me, but the profit, for the Jan meeting, was £58.00.

Forget-me-Not Trust: Quite a lot has happened since our first meeting in December at the hospice and I think the easiest and the most informative way is to include the minutes of all meetings at the end of this newsletter.

Talks: We are getting quite a number of bodies asking us to give talks on the Royal Armouries panels. We are talking to the Huddersfield Rotary Club on the 28th February the Ladies Elland Probus club on the 25th July and the Soroptimist Society of Dewsbury on the 27th September.

The photo is of the area at the bottom of the staircase where the new panel will be sited.



The people giving the talks are myself - introduction and club history, David Hey - runs through the carvings on the panels and the history behind a number of them, Graham Lockwood - ten minutes or so of his DVD about the making of the panels and the song Waltzing Matilda and David Holt backing everything up with the projector. We have just recently started asking for £45 per talk which, together with any money raised on booklet sales, will all go to the children's hospice.

If anybody wants to take over, or join us, please feel free.

Yorkshire man takes his cat to the vet.

Joke corner

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."

I understand that Malcolm Till is not very well at the moment and his Wednesday class has been postponed for a couple of weeks. I'm sure we all wish Malcolm a speedy recovery. Des Lindley, who is well known to those who have been members for some time, has regretfully had to leave his home and is now in residential care at Thornhill. It seems unlikely that Des will attend any more monthly meetings but will be remembered as a very knowledgeable and generous gentleman while remaining a valued member of the club. (A special friend of mine as he used to ask for two copies of each newsletter!) Although Jane made a triumphant return to the Christmas luncheon she still has a number of health issues that don't seem to want to clear up but she should be back with us very soon.