

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



June 2012
Newsletter Issue 207

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Michael Painter - Master Carver

Mike Painter is one of Britain's most experienced and sought after Master Carvers. His attention to detail and outstanding skills as a craftsman, as well as his ability to bring character and depth of emotion to his work, have ensured that whatever the project, from portraits to architectural restoration, his artistry will be appreciated for many generations to come.

You've got to hand it to Michael Painter. When it comes to carving five digits, it's thumbs up all the way. This superb, ambidextrous carver proved his professional expertise when he talked to the Association members at Shepley on June 16th. As one of Britain's most experienced and sought-after Master Carvers, he led the group through the carving of a hand and then a step-by-step workshop on carving an eye. He made several worthwhile points.

The middle finger is the only straight finger.

The thumb is the only digit that has a curve.

A woman's hand is three fingers' width of a man's.

So far, so good. But then when he said a woman's head was smaller than a man's – and this was because a woman's brain was smaller - there was some consternation, not least amongst the female members of the audience.

But it seems that size doesn't always matter. Michael, with his man's brain, struggled to add up. Ten chisels, he insisted, is all a carver needs. Set before him were a mere nine.

It's a good job he was so talented, as with those nine chisels he perfected the form of a hand and showed us how to carve the perfect eye, using the notion of an eye 'ball.'

It was a great day of hand and eye co-ordination.

*Michael recommended The Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist as the perfect book for carving the human form. It is a Galaxy Book published by Open University Press ISBN 0-19-503095-8.

Janet F Smith - Asst Sec



Mike



I had to include this lovely photo of Catherine and John Davison as I find it amazing that any man and wife could work together on one workmate - without a nice sharp chisel penetrating some delicate area of flesh!



Our grateful thanks to all who brought along sweet dishes for after and the girls and boys who worked tirelessly all day providing tea, coffee and the lunch. Also thanks to Margaret and Arthur for supplying the peas and pies and Jeff for his sterling work on the electronic gear.

July 14th: Mark Raby, who is a wood finishing demonstrator. From what I can gather Mark is one of the countries leading authorities on wood finishing and colouring and spends a great deal of his time travelling the country demonstrating at clubs and exhibitions. I have it on good authority, from a number of people who have attended his workshops, that he is well worth listening to.

All Saint's Catholic College carving classes: You will be aware that Mike Hadfield, Adrian Lindley and I had a meeting with the Business Manager, Stephen Cooke, of All Saints Catholic College. The outcome is that we have been offered the hire of the classroom, which we occupied in previous years, on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00pm to 5:00pm for a cost of £35 per three-hour session. The decision to extend the time, from the previous two hours, was taken on the basis that quite a number of people come quite a distance and that a two hour period seems to go so quickly. We also find in the evening classes that members are turning up as early as 6:40pm to get those few extra minutes in.

I have calculated that this gives us 26 x 3 hour sessions; 15 from the 4th September to the 18th December 2012 and 11 from the 8th January to the 26th March 2013. This excludes the schools holiday shut down periods. I think this could be extended if we wanted to take the classes into another term.

£35 a 3-hour session, gives a total invoice value of £910. If we get 20 members into the class, which I think there is a very good chance of doing, the cost per person is going to come out at £25 from September to Christmas and then another £25 from January to the end of March. This sounds a lot but actually works out at £1.93 per afternoon session, which is similar to the costings of the Wakefield and Brooksbank evening classes. With 20 in the class, we actually make a profit of £90 over the two terms. This will go towards buying a kettle and 20 odd pots for a cup of coffee or tea at half time, which has proved very popular in the two evening classes. If we get more than 20 in the class, we have the option of adjusting the term cost or using the surplus to buy items the class may need. 18 members is the breakeven number.

When I took names at the last Shepley meeting the total came to 23. This could cause an embarrassment as I'm fairly sure that there are only 10 benches and 20 vices, in the woodworking room. However, we have 22 on the register at Brooksbank and only have 10 benches, yet only once or twice have we had all the available places taken up on a particular evening. There is the possibility of splitting the class up in the future, as we did in previous years, but it is thought wise to begin with one class and suffer the inconvenience of possible over crowding.

We have agreed that we will sign an agreement with the school, specifying costs, times and dates and we have agreed that we will provide the school with a copy of our Third Party Liability insurance. To comply with school rules and safety stipulations, we must also keep a register of all members on the premises for that particular session and that we forward, before the 3rd September, a list of all members of the class with name, address, phone number and car registration number. The latter is to comply with parking and fire regulations should a vehicle need to be moved urgently. However, we can gather car registration detail at the first class. Supplying these details will enable us to proceed directly to our classroom without booking in at reception.

The 23 members who put their names down are Anne Ellwood, Arthur Brook, Bryan Hodgson, Colin Pratley, David Hey, David Holt, Dennis Farmer, Frank Bromhead, Frank Greenwood, Janet Smith, Jim Sutcliffe, John Dean, John Farrar, John Murphy, Ken Taylor, Margaret Myatt, Mary Stott, Michael Hadfield, Mike Ryan, Reg Platt, Roy Williams, Trevor Metcalfe, Trevor Stanley.

If I have missed anybody, or your name is down and because of the day you now have to withdraw, or that you have had just had second thoughts, please contact me straightaway as I shall be shortly sending a list of names to the school and expecting the first £25 fee at the opening class on the 3rd September.

Mike has been keeping the U3A aware of the situation and there is a possibility that his class at Birchencliffe may now not run. However, Mike has said that he has an obligation to the U3A and if necessary will run his class this term. Should Mike not run his Birchencliffe class, he will act as leader/tutor to the All Saints class and the administration work, between the club and the school, will be done by the club Secretary/Assistant Secretary.

Because all the three schools, Queen Elizabeth, Brooksbank and All Saints, now require that we are covered by our own Third Party Liability insurance, from September, all persons attending these classes must be fully paid up members of the West Riding Woodcarvers Association. Should we have new recruits, assuming there are vacant places, these people will be given a few weeks grace before being asked to join the club.

We all appreciate that the carving classes are the lifeblood of the club and our return back to All Saints is a very welcome move forward for the club and now allows us to gather, during the day, in ideal premises for woodcarving.

August 11th: We unfortunately have had a cancellation from Maria Blakeley who is a wild life photographer and a biologist. We are just trying to finalise details of another speaker.

September 8th: Sue Evens who is a sculpture and automaton expert.

October 13th: Mike Kelly, a woodturner who specialises in segmented woodturning.

November 3rd (Note not the 10th as previously advised): The return of Peter Berry for a full day for a similar workshop to that held last November. Possibly with our friends the Lancashire and Cheshire carvers

December 8th: Christmas Luncheon. Meltham Golf Club.

Forget-Me-Not Trust meeting
7:30pm at the Round Hill pub on
Thursday 5th July.

Forget-me-Not Trust: You will be aware, from previous comments in newsletters, that the hospice asked us to undertake a carving to place alongside their Book of Celebration that will be located by the glass wall. Peter Keene kindly volunteered to take on this project and the picture shown is the finished result. This lovely carving, in Oak, duplicates the large stone carving that will eventually be placed outside the hospice building. Our grateful thanks to Peter for flying the flag for the club.

Regretfully **Jane** continues to be unwell. Quite a number of us try to keep in contact with her and I'm sure everybody wishes her a speedy recovery and return to her friends in the club.

