

# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Patron  
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe  
Lord Lieutenant of  
West Yorkshire

Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson

## Mark Raby- Wood finisher

From start to finish, Mark Raby's talk about oils, waxes and lacquers held the attention of the audience at Shepley at the July meeting.

Mark, one of the most knowledgeable wood finishers in the country, showed the West Riding Woodcarvers how to make a fine piece of wood carving even more attractive.

And he stressed that preparation of the wood would dictate how good the final finish would be.

Forget kitchen towel; it absorbs the wax or oil. Instead use lint free, non-woven cloths which will not break down. And the best oil to use? The answer's a lemon, as Mark introduced the club to Citrus Oil which dries quickly, leaves a satin finish and even retains an aroma, especially if used inside a wooden box.

Tung was another good oil, he said, but it was a no to linseed and olive oil goes rancid. However gun oil produces a lovely finish but is better sprayed on.

And if you don't want to burn down your workshop – which most of us don't - Mark warned that a screwed up cloth, soaked in oil had the propensity to self-combust.

Feeding the wood with oil as you sand was a less dramatic tip, and Mark claimed it will build up into a better, softer glow.

Mark also recommended melamine and acrylic lacquers, sprayed on by aerosol, which easily find their way into the nooks and crannies of a carving.

When it came to the iridescent paints and Mark's bold use of colour, some of the finishes made eyes pop. In fact wood carver Arthur Brook became strangely interested in crackle glaze – demonstrated by Lisa Raby, Mark's wife. Was it, he wanted to know, like crackle glaze nail varnish? Arthur, who didn't appear to have a fancy manicure on the day, broad-shouldered many of the jokes that followed and when Mark demonstrated treasure gold's (or pigmented waxes) and pearlescent powders, Arthur confessed to using those only when he is really dressed up. We can't wait to see him at the club Christmas dinner.

Mark Raby's demonstrations of so many and varied finishes were just the start for most of the woodcarvers, many of whom were spurred on to begin the techniques for future carvings.



Mark

Janet F Smith - Asst Sec

### **August 11th: Forget-Me-Not Trust presentation:**

The sub-committee will be meeting on Thursday 19th July at the children's hospice for the purpose of reviewing the final set of pictures and to attach the pictures to the full size backing sheet. At the August meeting the final design will be presented to the club members for their approval.

At the 19th July meeting Mike Chambers, Mike Hadfield and Jim Longbottom will be present and together will allocate the pictures to members who have indicated their willingness to participate in this current project. Their selection will be based on their knowledge of the individual carver and his, or her, ability. Please bearing in mind that these three individuals will be the tutors at All Saints, Brooksbank and Queen Elizabeth schools where the majority of the individual carvings will be produced at the commencement of the September term.

Comment has been made regarding the way pictures are allocated to members and why we don't let everybody decide which picture they would like to carve. It is considered that this free for all method would lead to a 'first in the room gets the best picture' instead of a picture being allocated on a skill basis by the club tutors. Please bear in mind that 41 pictures were handed out for the Overgate panel, with a further 95 for the Armouries panel, (I have no knowledge of previous panels) and not one of the 136 pictures was refused, or asked to be exchanged, by the selected carver.

At the August Shepley meeting members will be invited to accept the carving allocated to them and be presented with three copies of their drawing and an instruction sheet regarding carving criteria, as we did for the Armouries panel. It is hoped that the Lime blocks will be cut and ready for this meeting but if not they will be handed out before the start of classes in September.

## All Saint's Catholic College carving classes:

When I took names at the last Shepley meeting the total came to 23 this has now increased to 29 and is obviously causing a slight problem as I'm sure that there are only 10 benches and 20 vices, in the woodworking room. I have been in touch with the school and they are having a look at the situation and over this next few days and will put forward suggestions.

One option we have is to prioritise club members who are not registered at either Brooksbank or Queen Elizabeth evening classes. How we are going to do that fairly I'm not sure, but we are not at that stage just yet. We do not want to turn anybody away and if possible make spaces available for new members.

A list, which will be amended as we get nearer to the start date, has been sent to the school with all our names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and car registration numbers, as they requested.

The 29 members who have put their names down are Anne Ellwood, Arthur Brook, Bryan Hodgson, Cath Davison, Colin Prately, David Hey, David Holt, Dennis Farmer, Frank Bromhead, Frank Greenwood, Geoff Brumfield, George Crawshaw, Janet Smith, Jim Durrans, Jim Wrathall, Jim Sutcliffe, John Davison, John Dean, John Farrar, John Murphy, Ken Taylor, Margaret Durrans, Margaret Myatt, Mary Stott, Michael Hadfield (Tutor), Mike Ryan, Reg Platt, Trevor Metcalfe and Trevor Deluca (who is not yet a member but willing to join the club).

If I have missed anybody, or your name is down and because of the day you now have had to withdraw, or that you have just had second thoughts, please contact me straightaway. The first payment of £25 is expected at the opening class on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Because all the three schools, Queen Elizabeth, Brooksbank and All Saints, now require that we are covered by our own Third Party Liability insurance the Management Committee, at their last meeting, agreed that from September that all persons attending these classes must be fully paid up members of the West Riding Woodcarvers Association prior to the start day of the class. 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.

A number of people have asked me questions about our insurance cover and below is the outline of what the insurance covers. You will understand from reading this why people attending the classes must be members of the club and why the schools insist we have insurance cover.

The policy covers for Public and Products liability. If the club, or one its members, whilst engaging in a bone fide club activity causes accidents/injury or damage to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, including other club members, then this could constitute a claim under the policy. The cover applies wherever the club/members are engaged upon a bone fide club activity. There is no cover for individual members conducting their own business or activity.

If the club, or a club member, who is sanctioned by and on behalf of the club offers tutorial sessions to either its members or 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, i.e. school children or the general public at demonstrations, then the cover will apply.

It does not cover for members who injure themselves or if they damage their own property as a result of their negligence or other occurrence caused by them.

Non-club members. If you allow them to attend sessions, and they are injured or their property damaged by an act of negligence by other members of the club, then cover would apply to them. If they injured a 3<sup>rd</sup> party or damaged a 3<sup>rd</sup> parties property, be that 3<sup>rd</sup> party a club member or others, they would not be covered.

It's a little complicated but I trust the above will make things a little clearer.

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.

**Dennis and Brian have asked that each member brings one carving to the August meeting for the carving display that they will be running in September at the Huddersfield Beaumont Park Exhibition. Sorry but I'm not sure of the date but Dennis will bring everybody up to date at the monthly August meeting.**

I am very pleased to report that Jane is on the mend and we look forward to her return to the club meetings and all her friends.