

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



October 2012
Newsletter Issue 211

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

October Shepley meeting - Graham Kelly - Segmented turning

Is it Art or Craft?

Before the start of Graham's talk there were a few present, myself included, who expected wood chips to be flying round the room and were quite disappointed to see Graham with just a couple of shopping bags and a DVD for our David to stick in the computer.

But within a few minutes of Graham asking the question 'Is it Art or Craft?' we were all blown away with the amazing creations that kept popping out of his shopping bags. One wonderful piece after another kept being passed from one hand to another of the baffled and incredulous audience.

Graham did try, by means of a very well put together PowerPoint presentation, to take everybody through the intricate steps required to make these wonderful creations, but I'm sure lost most of us along the way.

Is it Art or is it Craft? I don't think anybody really cared as the end result, be it one or the other, was spectacular and a credit to the talent and patients of Graham.

I'm quite sure that a number of us have tried our hand at turning and, if like myself, have found it very much one dimensional and rather boring then segmental wood turning could be the answer. As I write this just a few moments ago a new book was dropped through the door, by a very soggy postman, entitled 'Segmented Wood Turning A Step-by-Step Guide' by Malcolm Tibbett. This is the book that got Graham into this area of wood turning. It cost £21.25 (don't tell the wife) from Amazon. For those on computer I would recommend that you have a look at Malcolm Tibbett's website which is www.tahoeturner.com. Graham is good but this guy is a pure genius. I'm sure we shall be seeing Graham again in the future, next time perhaps with a few chips flying all over the place!



Shepley Meetings.

3rd November, Peter Berry: (Please note that this is not our usual second Saturday of the month). Peter is here for another very popular full day workshop. Those who attended the workshop last November will still be falling over their 'Little Fred's' that created such great amusement both on the day and also at the Christmas Luncheon. This time Peter is going to take us all through the carving of a small caricature face or head. We trust everybody will bring along their creation to the luncheon where we will have a grand prize for the most ingenious and amusing way the 'Little Alfred's' (new name that I have just invented) have been finished and used.

There will be a charge on the door for the pea and pie lunch of £5 and if you are participating in the workshop a further £1 for the piece of Jelutong that Peter will bandsaw out for everybody. Don't forget that you will need a Workmate, that's a bench thing not somebody to help you, and some chisels and a knife. Could we ask, as usual, for cakes, puddings, biscuits and cheese for afters' please. We shall require extra hands in the kitchen and spare wives and husbands would be very welcome. If you are vegetarian please let Margaret know before the day.

Peter has asked if we could all bring our 'Little Fred's' along to the November meeting as he would like to see the finished results. I assume we can find a table big enough after Malcolm has put out the ten thousand he has carved!

8th December: Our annual Christmas Luncheon will this year be held at the Meltham Golf club starting at 10:00am until about 2:00pm.

We shall again welcome our Patron Dr Roscoe and her husband, Marshall, and just for Jane their driver Glenn has insisted on being on duty that day. It's difficult to say that they are our guests this time as Dr Roscoe was adamant that she paid the full price for her and Marshall's lunch, alas not a true Yorkshire girl!

Jane was practising her 'Jane's Dirty Jokes' on us at the last meeting and if the sample was anything to go by - well the meal should be good! Get those jokes to her please she desperately needs new material. Also at great expense, direct from his sell out show at Elland Conservatory Club, we have for the first time that well known international magician by the name of Albert Smith.



A number of our members on the 5th October attended the funeral service of club member and good friend **Dr John Kemp**.

I had the pleasure of sharing a bench for a few years with John in Malcolm Till's class at All Saints and got very little carving done because of John.

Usually after about half an hour he would get bored, put down his chisel and, after grasping his smelly old pipe, lean across and come out with the fateful words 'Did I ever tell you ...' or 'Did you ever sail into port ...' and he was off into a tale of wonder, usually relating to his 17 years in the navy.

I fondly recollect the time he had 'just nipped out for a puff' and returned more quickly than usual but highly amused that, in his words; 'I've got to 82 and just had the biggest rollicking of my life from a sixteen year old prefect for smoking on school premises. I didn't know whether to clip him round the ear or praise him for being so diligent in his duties'.

At his funeral service his daughter gave a very moving eulogy about her father and amused those present when she commented that John 'was interested in everything on earth but clothes'. He might not have been the smartest dressed man on earth but he was one of the most intelligent, with a Doctorate in Medicine and degrees in Humanities and History, but more than that he was a very nice, caring and amusing friend who shall be sadly missed by all his colleagues in the club. Alas, we may even grow to miss that smelly old pipe!

Relief



Trevor Metcalfe has done it again and got a First in the relief section of the International Woodcarver of the Year.

With regards to Peter Benson's comments. It's a very brave man who can say of one of Trevor's carvings '*the carver made a very good effort*' and '*despite the few mistakes*'. All of us who are more conversant with Trevor's carvings, and inspected this one, know better.



David Woodhead one of our Brooksbank members. This is only David's second carving.



Dennis Farmer has carved this keepsakes for the latest addition to his family.

We welcome to the club the following as full members: Andrew Wilson, Chris Smith and Liz Pontin who all attend the Queen Elizabeth carving class and as associate members Carol Stringer, Liz Willoughby, from the All Saint's class, and David Woodhead from the Brooksbank class.



Malcolm jumps for joy

For a man who doesn't like heights, jumping 10,000 feet from an aeroplane seems an unusual way to spend a sunny Friday afternoon.

But then Malcolm Cooper is no ordinary chap.

At 72 years old, he was prepared to strap himself to a complete stranger in a tandem skydive, falling down through the clouds to a ploughed field near Bridlington.

'And it was one of the best things I have ever done,' says Malcolm, known to West Riding Woodcarvers as the best stick maker for miles around. 'In fact I want to do it again.'

Malcolm's aero-feat from two miles above the planet, raised about £1,200 for the Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice in Huddersfield.

The man who fell to earth talked about the clear blue sky, the real sense of speed only being apparent as they dropped through the clouds and then the awesome, tranquil silence as the canopy opened and they floated over the Yorkshire landscape – so quiet that he and his tandem skydiver could chat to each other.

Spookily, Malcolm's first work for the Woodcarvers was a relief carving of a paratrooper leaping out of a plane during the Second World War, which became part of the Association's panel now displayed at the Royal Armouries, Leeds. And even more spookily, the chap to whom Malcolm entrusted his life – his tandem skydive partner – admitted that this was his first tandem jump. But he only owned up once they had landed.

'That didn't bother me,' said Malcolm. 'At least he'd not had time to get into any bad habits.'

That's got to be pretty cool for a man who is even scared of step ladders.

Janet F Smith, Asst Sec

Royal Armouries Panels / National Memorial Arboretum. On behalf of the club our Patron, Dr Roscoe, has written to Major General Patrick Cordingley, who is the Chairman of the Appeals Committee for the funding of the new £12 million Pavilion. I would imagine that our proposal, for the two panels to be moved from the Armouries to the Arboretum, will have to go through various bodies before we hear back from them. Members will be kept informed as we gather information.