

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



November 2012
Newsletter Issue 212

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

November Shepley meeting - Peter Berry Carving Workshop

Alfred the Great

A rather small, but perfectly formed, group of woodcarvers enjoyed whittling away at a piece of bass-wood – the American equivalent of English lime – at the Shepley all-day workshop in November.

And 'Alfred' looked great when it came to the end of the day tutored by the inimitable Peter Berry.

'Alfred' was the name given to the faces carved that day – a sort of wild man with unruly hair and a curious squint - reminiscent some would say of one or two absent members of the group...

Peter Berry led the members through a step-by-step guide to carving the relief faces, his tutoring punctuated by that welcome dry humour that produced some delightful belly laughs.

Some of you may remember 'Fred', the last chap we became acquainted with at a Peter Berry workshop, who made an appearance at last year's Christmas lunch, with his flat cap, waistcoat and boots. Well 'Alfred' was like a windswept version of Fred's great-great-grandfather – and he's been invited to this year's lunch.

A demonstration of power carving left some of us wanting to buy yet more kit as Peter carved another Alfred in minutes with a Bosch power tool.

Peter's introduction to faces suggested that to create a man's face, you just had to 'scratch away'; but children's faces and women's faces required symmetry and were much more difficult to capture. And when it comes to facial features, the eyes have it; they make or break the carving.

But at the end of an enjoyable day thanks to Peter, all the Alfred's were perfectly formed, not unlike the carvers themselves. Janet

It's rather curious that when we suggested, in December of last year, that we had a repeat of the very successful November Peter Berry workshop the response was extremely positive. Yet this November's workshop, with only 21 attending, was the worst supported Shepley meeting that I can remember. We need to discuss this at the next meeting to understand why. Needless to say the 21 who did attend had a great time.



You will notice the guy on the right → with his eyes looking at Mary and no doubt thinking "That is so scary, Mary with an electric chisel in her hands!"



Mary in action.

8th December: Our annual Christmas Luncheon will this year be held at the Meltham Golf club. Coffee served at 10:00am for a start at 10:30am until about 2:00pm. For those who are not conversant with the location of the golf club, the post code, for your SatNav, as I'm sure you will all have one by now, is **HD9 4DQ**. If you need directions and a map, just log onto www.meltham-golf.co.uk.

As with all golf clubs, they have a strict dress code requesting that visitors refrain from wearing denim jeans, trainers, collarless shirts or baseball hats. In fact the normal dress for most of us! Suits aren't necessary but a smart jacket and tie would be appreciated - for the men.

Dr Roscoe, her husband Marshall, and their driver Glenn have a very long drive over from the York area, so we shouldn't be surprised if they are a little late. A parking bay right outside the door has been arranged as we don't want them parking miles away after a long drive.

Jane insists on having her 'Jane's Dirty Jokes' competition, even though we have tried to discourage her, so please get those jokes to her as she *desperately* needs new material. I understand that our entertainment for day, that internationally known magician Mr Albert Smith, has just, to rapturous reviews, completed a weeks booking at the Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas.

This year, along with the usual finished carvings for the display, we are asking all the carvers involved in the children's hospice panel to bring along their carving, finished or work in progress, for Dr Roscoe and Marshall to see how the panel is progressing.

As usual, our annual Christmas raffle, in aid of Help the Heroes (as voted for at the last meeting) needs your assistance with prizes. Please turn out those expensive, but never used or wanted, presents and bring them along to raffle for a worthy cause.

Member section only

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Norman Shaw: I have been asked by the family of Norman to say a big thank you for the support that the club members gave them during the sad passing of their father.

Approximately £200 was raised from the sale of Norman's tools and the family has donated this to the Kirkwood Hospice. Which is fitting as Norman was one of the contributing carvers of the panel now hanging in the hospice building.

Malcolm jumps for joy



We have arranged that Gina Fielding, from the Forget-me-Not children's hospice, will collect a cheque from Malcolm at the Christmas luncheon. It will be particularly nice for Malcolm that our Patron Dr Roscoe will be present to witness the end result of his amazing, and crazy, endeavour.

Speakers: We desperately need members to come forward with suggestions for monthly speakers, where possible related in some way to our craft but, if interesting not necessarily so.

It is getting very, very difficult to find decent speakers and the ones that are connected to wood craft are usually located far away in the South of England. This unfortunately makes it practically impossible to attract them to Shepley.

For the start of next year, we are very lucky to kick the **January 12th Shepley meeting** off with the club's answer to Laurel and Hardy. This comes in the shape of **Trevor Stanley and Colin Pratley** who will regale the club with tales of their collective years as industrial pattern makers.

This may seem quite run of the mill but most of us, who attend Brooksbank, have already, time after time after time, heard half of their most amusing and highly interesting tales. We look forward to hearing the other half in one session and that may quieten down the noise on a Monday evening. But I doubt it! Our thanks to Colin and Trevor.

Christmas Luncheon Stop Press:

Jane has just rung to say that she is still waiting for those dirty jokes to fall through her letter box or crash into her computer in box.

She is now so desperate that she has lifted the barrier and any jokes will be considered, no matter how dirty and embarrassing to our guests.

So please email her on:

jrenshaw@uwclub.net

I won't put Jane's address or phone number here but if you need it just give me a call.

Jim Longbottom's latest masterpiece

