

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



December 2012
Newsletter Issue 213

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Christmas Luncheon at Meltham Golf Club - 8th December 2012

A morning of magic

A sleight-of-hand magician, a pair of Laurel and Hardy look-alikes and a magnificent man who jumped from a flying machine brought all the fun of the fair to the Woodcarvers' Christmas lunch.

The Association's members rolled up looking almost unrecognisable in their finery, instead of the usual jeans and jumpers, after our Secretary waved his magic wand about the dress code.

This year's venue was Meltham Golf Club in Huddersfield and they came up trumps with an enjoyable meal and hospitality.

Guest of honour was the Association's patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire who said that she and her husband, Marshall, were delighted to be invited to join us once again.

Albert Smith tricked his way through a comedy magic act using all the traditional illusions with hoops, rope and of course cards. Laurel and Hardy came in the shape of Trevor Stanley and Colin Pratley, brought in at short notice to fill the shoes of joker Jane Renshaw who was unfortunately unable to attend.

And of course the flying ace was Malcolm Cooper, who almost jumped for joy when his cheque for more than £1,200 was handed over to Gina Fielding, community fund raiser for the Forget-me-Not Trust Children's Hospice.

Malcolm's dare-devil feat from high above the clouds over Yorkshire was warmly applauded both by Gina and Dr Roscoe and we were treated to his humorous recollections of the event including 'falling 5,000 feet into a ploughed field and I have the bruises to prove it.' Thankfully he didn't reveal them.

A fine stick, crafted by Malcolm from the best blackthorn shank he has ever cut and topped with an Aberdeenshire roe deer antler, was presented to Marshall Roscoe who promised to treasure what he called 'a gossiping stick.'

Janet Smith



Presentation to Gina from the hospice and Marshall, by Malcolm.

A very nice Christmas card arrived in the post from Dr Roscoe and Marshall, which has hung all Christmas on my lounge wall - well I cant tear it up and give all 67 of us a small piece, can I?

The card was to say a big thank you all for making both her own, Marshall's and Glenn's invitations to our Christmas Luncheon most enjoyable. It was a strange invite as Dr Roscoe insisted on paying for her and Marshall's meal, kindly contributed to the raffle and worked her socks off making sure she spoke to everybody in the room as well as helping out with the presentation to the children's hospice.

I understand that Marshall sent a lovely letter of thanks to Malcolm for the stick he beautifully crafted and presented to him. I have it on good authority that the stick now has pride of place over the fireplace in the kitchen of 'Roscoe Towers'.

Speakers: January 12th Shepley meeting. We kick off the new year with two of our own members in the shape of **Trevor Stanley and Colin Pratley** who will regale the club with tales of their collective years as *pattern makers*, from boy to man - ho dear!

We are just crossing our fingers that this goes off a little better than their combined efforts with the 'dirty joke' competition at the Christmas luncheon. It seemed to have slipped their minds on this occasion that it was a 'competition' to see who could send in the best joke. Not only did they forget to say who had sent in the joke but the only comparison with Les Dawson was - well physical.

But our thanks to Colin and Trevor for stepping forward. We may find that nobody from the Brooksbank class will attend as we have all heard their stories time, and time and time again.....

Speaker: February 9th Shepley Meeting. Now we all know about pattern making, from the advent of man to the present day, this month we shall learn how to build a big, big yacht in your back yard - and how to remain married to the same women.

Stepping forward once again this month is another of our members in the form of **Derek Adams**.

Derek will take us, with the aid of photographs and sketches, through the 12 years he spent building his baby from a lump of timber to a 26' 0" long x 9' 6" beam x 2 1/2 ton ocean going yacht.

Fellow club members may not be aware thar Derek holds a full maritime Recreational Skippers Ticket - I think that is correct - and has crewed, on many occasions, on one of the world's most famous Tall Ships, the brig-rigged 18 sail **Stavros S Niarchos**.

The December Newsletter is becoming more and more like a Malcolm Cooper fan club notice but I'm sure some members will not have had the opportunity of seeing the article below which was published in the Huddersfield Examiner. Worth including for the three smiling faces.

Daredevil's efforts all in the name of charity

FOR a man who doesn't like heights, jumping 10,000 feet from a plane seems an unusual way to spend an afternoon.

But 72-year-old Malcolm Cooper was certainly a man with a mission.

He wanted the experience of a lifetime – but he also wanted to help the children who will be the new guests of the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice at Bracken-hall.

And Malcolm's aero-feat from two miles up raised more than £1,200 for the charity.

Malcolm, a member of the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association which meets regularly at All Saints School, Bradley Bar and in Shepley, said: "It was just awe-some."

"I'd do it every week if I could. "Most people free-fall for about 20-25 seconds but we free-fell for longer to beat the rain clouds."

"So we covered 5,000 feet before we broke through the clouds and the canopy came up."

"It gave me a greater sense of speed."

Malcolm was spurred into action by his membership of the Woodcarvers' Association, which picked the Forget Me Not Chil-

By **JOANNE DOUGLAS**

News Reporter

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dren's Hospice as their charity to support.

The carvers are working on a special carving for the hospice – due to be unveiled at a later date – which features children's story characters.

Malcolm, of Dewsbury, added: "It was the icing on the cake to be able to donate the money to the hospice with the rest of the wood-carvers there."

"It was the generosity of the members who helped raise this much."

Some of the group's carvings were displayed at the Woodcarvers' annual Christmas lunch held at Meltham Golf Club, Hudders-field.

There Gina Fielding, from hospice community fundraising team, received Malcolm's cheque.

Also present was the Association's patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West York-shire, who complimented Malcolm on his dare-devil feat.

And she spoke warmly of the woodcarver's skills being put to such good use in bringing joy to children at the hospice.



■ **WINDFALL:** West Yorkshire Association of Woodcarvers' member, Malcolm Cooper hands over the money raised for his skydive to Gina Fielding of the Forget Me Not Hospice (right) along with the Lord Lt of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe who is patron of the Association. (AC081212wood-01)

I'm struggling to find anything else to write about so here are a couple of jokes that never got read out at the Christmas luncheon.

"Fifty Shades of Grey"

The missus bought a paperback
In the city, Saturday,
I had a look inside her bag;
T'was "Fifty Shades Of Grey".

Well I just left her to it,
At 10 I went to bed.
At 11pm she reappeared;
The sight filled me with dread...

In her left hand she held a rope;
And in her right a whip!
She threw them down on to the floor,
And then began to strip.

Well fifty years or so ago;
I might have had a peek;
But Doris hasn't weathered well;
She's 84 next week.

Watching Doris bump and grind;
Could not have been much grimmer.
Then things went from bad to worse;
She toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled up onto her feet;
A coupla minutes later;
Then she put her teeth back in
Told me to dominate 'er!!

Now if you knew our Doris well,
You'd see just why I spluttered,
"I've just spent months in traction
for the last complaint" I uttered.

She stood there nude, real naked like;
Bent forward just a bit...
And I was just so mesmerised,
I stepped on her left tit!

Doris screamed, her teeth shot out;
My god what had I done!?
She moaned and groaned then shouted
out:

"Step on the other one"!!!

Well you all, I can tell no more;
About what we did that day.
Suffice to say my jet black hair,
Turned "Fifty Shades Of Grey".

A man walked in and ordered Burger and Chips.

I served him and asked "Eat in or take out?"

"Piss off", he growled and walked away.

I love working in the Prison Canteen!!

Gordon Taylor: Members who have been in the club for a number of years may remember Gordon who was a member for many years. Gordon had to resign due to his wife's health problems some time ago. Gordon's wife passed away in early 2012. Regretfully I have to report that Gordon also died on the 28th November 2012 after spending some time in a nursing home..



Woodcarving classes: I would remind everybody that evening classes start again at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield and Brooksbank School, Elland on Monday evening 7th January 2013.

The daytime classes at All Saints Catholic College, Huddersfield start again on Tuesday 8th January and Thursday 10th January until week commencing the 25th March 2013, excluding the week of the 18th February which is the colleges half term shut down.

Although we have done remarkably well to attract 33 paying students to the start of the day-time classes we shall just about cover the cost for the two terms. If all 33 sign on again for the spring term we shall take in £1,340 and our costs for the room hire will be £1,300.

It is essential that we try and keep up the numbers or we are in danger of having to increase the subs from £20 per term to £25 per term.

It would be nice to see just a few more people attending these two classes to put us firmly into a comfort zone. Having said that, the two classes have been a resounding success and, after sorting out the heating problem, a much better environment for carving than the rooms we previously hired at Birchenclyffe Community Centre.

