

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



March 2014
Newsletter Issue 226

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life member
Albert Hobson

Axminster Tools, Warrington

Our thanks to Peter and Daniel from Axminster Tools for travelling over from Warrington with a van full of tools and a Tormek sharpening machine.

Peter took the meeting through the delights of how to get a razor edge on chisels and knives on the very expensive, and slow, Tormek sharpening system. I think the audience were totally split between those who hung onto every word and went home to check the bank balance to see if they could justify a spend of between £300 and £600, and those who fell asleep.

Without doubt if one can afford the expense the Tormek is a cracking piece of kit and, with the aid of the numerous expensive jigs, will give you an excellent edge on any tool. I once stripped my, bottom of the market T3, unit down to try and re-gear it to speed the thing up, however, its so well made and rugged its impossible to alter anything on it.

The most interesting part of the morning was the rush to spend hundreds of hard earned pounds buying up quite a lot of the tools that the boys brought over with them. I think Roy Williams alone must have bought more than their showroom sells on a good day and I forwarded £460 worth of pre-orders to them before they set off. So a good day for Axminster and an interesting , if expensive for some of us, morning. Axminster have offered to return, now that's a surprise, early next year with another load of gear to demonstrate and sell.



Peter Bolton and Daniel Shaw

National Memorial Arboretum: The news from the Arboretum is not very good and the easiest way to inform everybody is to print some of the emails that have gone backwards and forwards. The **blue** email is from the NMA and the one below is my reply. A discussion about the two panels is on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

I have now heard from Sarah Montgomery, the Managing Director of the NMA about the woodcarvings. She took the visuals to the Chapel Committee which determines what goes into this building. This is the outcome:

The chapel committee have finally met and decided not to accept the carvings for the reasons cited below:

"The application was rejected unanimously because...

- The carvings were so large that it was felt they would look overbearing in our small chapel.*
- The MCC's existing policy was applied -- not to accept more artefacts for fear the chapel would become cluttered.*
- The overwhelming reason why the committee rejected this application was that the carvings depict war and therefore are not in sympathy with the chapel's ethos and name as the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness.*

In the revised incarnation of the new visitor centre, there will not be a location large enough where they could be displayed adequately, so we regretfully have to decline their offer." I'm so sorry that this will be very disappointing for you all. June Beedham. NMA

Dear June. How very disappointing.

I can fully understand the comments made by the Chapel Committee of the panels being 'overbearing' as I appreciate the chapel isn't very large and that the two panels would possibly dominate the other lovely carvings and other artefacts in the chapel.

I'm not sure I fully accept their comment about the carvings 'depicting war' although I appreciate both panels are based around the First and Second World Wars. From the start of this project our intention was to show the horror, courage, suffering and human spirit of those who took part in these conflicts, certainly not to glorify war. We purposely included carvings of the Land Army, Bevan Boys, Munitions Factory Workers and Animals in War etc. I would also suggest that the ethos of the whole National Memorial Arboretum is based on past conflicts.

It is disappointing that before construction commences these unique carvings, that have such a clear synergy with other displays at the National Memorial Arboretum, could not somehow be worked into your plans for the new visitor centre.

Before we totally accept your decision could we possibly arrange a meeting with Sarah Montgomery and ourselves to discuss other possibilities for the two panels. J M. Secretary