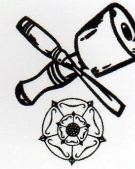


# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



September 2014  
Newsletter Issue 229

Patron  
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe  
Lord Lieutenant of  
West Yorkshire

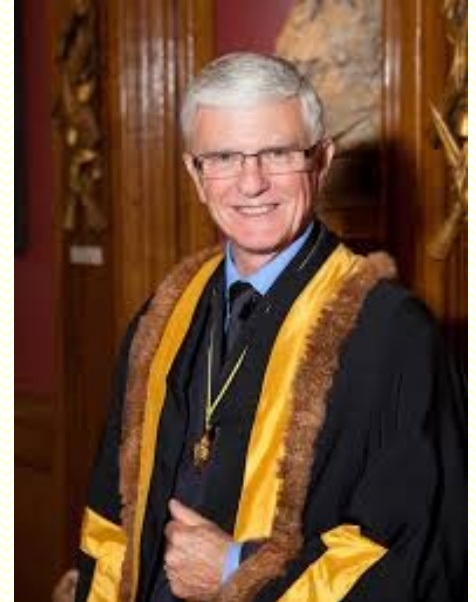
Life member  
Albert Hobson  
Jane Renshaw

## Don Barker - Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

### A guided year for a Yorkshire blacksmith

A Yorkshire blacksmith, who has forged four bronze lanterns for the Queen Mother's memorial in The Mall, spoke about the history of guilds at the Shepley meeting in September.

Don Barker, whose work has been commissioned by York Minster, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, talked about his exceptional year as the Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths – a post he held as the first working smith for 200 years.



The year revolved around dinners and ancient ceremonies held in the City of London where most of the guilds still thrive after hundreds of years. To take up the post, which comes with great honour, Don had to live in London and did so by sailing his own narrow boat to the city, navigating 150 locks, and then mooring in the capital for the duration of his term of office.

He explained that his own family history included a grandfather who was the village blacksmith in Hutton Buscel near Scarborough and, even though he himself came late to the craft and virtually taught himself, he now runs his own prominent business near York.

Guilds or livery companies were essentially groups of self-governing self-employed craftsmen with the tools and knowledge to carry out their specific crafts. They were given royal charters and could police their trades to make sure that craftsmen followed the rules. If they didn't they could expect a visit from the Beadle. The term 'a baker's dozen' comes from the time when a baker may have given short weight in his loaves and if discovered by the Beadle, he had to offer 13 loaves so that the shortfall was made up. Nowadays, the livery companies are extremely rich, Don explained, and they raise and distribute millions of pounds for charity. There are now 110 livery companies in London including those for butchers, bakers, firemen, environmental cleaners and even taxmen.



*Janet Smith Asst Sec*

### Saturday 11th October 2014:

Our guest speaker this month is a lady called **Anne Smallman** who will be talking and demonstrating '**Encaustic Art**'.

I understand that Encaustic Art is a method of creating a painting by using hot wax. **Encaustic painting**, also known as **hot wax painting**, involves using heated beeswax to which coloured pigments are added. Metal tools and special brushes can be used to shape the paint before it cools, or heated metal tools can be used to manipulate the wax once it has cooled onto the surface.



I think this is a 'get involved' talk and demonstration.

**Children's Hospice:** The 'heavy gang' turned out to lift the panel off the wall on Thursday last and now Dusty Miller has got a new sail on his windmill. The Moon Landing has had its drive belt altered and the Earth is once again revolving around the Moon but Huston Control has lost its voice at the moment. We have a spare sound card and plans are in hand for it to be recorded and fitted shortly.

We have again been asked to steward the children's panel for an open day in early November. I think we were told the 5th November but will confirm this nearer the time. The panel looks terrific hanging on the wall at the hospice and we are told a big favourite with the children.

We should all be very proud of the finished product.

### Woodcarving classes.

Please note All Saint's half term is w/c 27th October 2014. Fortunately we have managed to run both the Tuesday and Thursday classes.

### World War 1 & 2 panels.

We wrote to Huddersfield University on the 28th August. We are now at the 3rd October but no reply as yet!!

### Woodcarving classes.

Please note the evening classes at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Brooksbank, Elland do not close for half term.

**G & S Timbers, Penrith.** Along with some friends, I went to the woodworking show at G & S Timbers on Friday 19th September and had quite a long talk with our friend Michael Painter, who introduced me to the joint owners of G & S, a gentleman called Garry Stevenson and his son Shaun. As soon as Michael told them I was connected with the West Riding Woodcarvers Garry's first words were 'you're the guys who carved those wonderful war panels that are in the Royal Armouries'.

We then drifted over to talk to a Scottish woodcarving club who were demonstrating, who's name I can't remember, and during our conversation it was again mentioned I was part of the West Riding Woodcarvers and immediately they all knew about our club and the panels we have produced.

I always carry a few booklets in the car and gave one of the WW1 & 2 Panels and one of the children's hospice panel to Garry and the carving club guys. When I commented that we had raised about £12,000 for the hospice, from the sales of the booklets and other projects, they were very, very complimentary and the carving club plan to look into doing something similar.

Should we decide to purchase bulk timber for the club Garry and Shaun suggested that we work out how much we want to spend, supply them with some idea of sizes and they would put a pallet of Italian Lime together for us and despatch it by carrier to whatever address they are given. This would be far cheaper than going all the way to Penrith to collect. Michael Painter was telling me he now gets all his timber from G & S and delivered by carrier.

Now we just have to work out between us how much we want to spend, what sizes we want and who is going to store and administrate the supply to members. (I would remind everybody that I still have the frame for the children's hospice panel in my garage which I'm constantly falling over.)



**3 D Photography.** We had a gentleman in August contact the club called Karl M. Kindt 3rd - you're right he has got to be an American with a name like that. His speciality is 3D photography and lectures on the subject in St Louis, Missouri.

He contacted Anne via the web site to inquire if it was possible to photograph a number of our members carvings. Unfortunately, he was only in the UK for a very short time and nothing could be arranged in the time period available.

On his return to St Louis he sent Anne a couple of photos and some 3D glasses. If you look at the photos through the glasses its quite remarkable how the figures come to life. Unfortunately, it's difficult to let everybody have a look but those who have managed have been very impressed.

He has offered, next time he is in the UK, to come along to the club and give us a talk. We shall all have to sit with 3D red and blue glasses perched on our noses. If you are interested have a look at his web site <https://sites.google.com/site/indepthphotos/>

### **Christmas Luncheon:**

This year's luncheon is on the 13th December and it has been suggested by the management of Crow Nest Golf Club that we go for the three course sit down menu as opposed to our normal buffet. The reason being that somebody is always last at the buffet and Crow Nest are geared up for serving large parties at the table. I also know that on the evening before our luncheon there is a Dinner and Dance booked in the function room so the room should be looking at its best. I have been to a number of sit down functions at the club and have always found them very good and professionally catered for.

The room should be dressed for Christmas events and, for those not familiar with the club, the views across the golf course are quite stunning, unless you happen to see me driving down the ninth then stunning is certainly not the word!. Also we shall have the return services of Chris Helme, who will be giving a talk on the history of the golf club that sits on the site of the home and grounds of Sir Titus Salt.

I am sending separately a menu for the luncheon and we have been asked, to assist with catering, if we would state our requirements from a menu of four starters, mains and sweets. On arrival there will be tea, coffee and biscuits and, at the end of the meal, coffee and mints. The price this year is, as last, £20.00 per person. Would you please state on the attached sheet your choices and return them to Adrian at the address provided, or as usual just give them to him at a monthly meeting. Early indications of numbers would be appreciated please.

Our patron Dr Ingrid Roscoe and her husband, Marshall, will again be invited as our guests.

