

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life member
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Anne Smallwood - Encaustic Art



The iron hand of art

Wood carvers swapped their chisels and lime for pretty pinafores and extreme ironing at the Saturday club meeting at Shepley in October.

But they weren't tackling a pile of freshly laundered shirts.

Instead they were having a go at encaustic art – the art of making images using hot wax.

Anne Smallman, an artist who uses the technique, told the group that the art dates back at least 2,000 years to ancient Greece when the wax was melted with charcoal and applied with a brush onto canvas. Remains of encaustic art have been found in Pompeii, and the Egyptians used the technique to create a picture of the face of the dead person inside a mummy.

The technique involves melting beeswax containing pigments onto the flat surface of an iron and then imprinting a design onto coated card. This enables the wax to 'sit on the surface'. The iron used was a special encaustic iron but Anne said that a travel iron would do the job almost as well.

The knack is in the way the iron is used and Anne insisted that we didn't need artistic talent at all – just ironing skills. So that was all right then.

Four different techniques can produce an amazing result: using the flat of the iron on flat card, using the flat of the iron on slightly bent card, and using the outside edge and the tip of the iron. Landscapes prove the easiest to do, from the scenic to the magical and mystical.

John Farrar stepped up as the first one to have a go and, replete in a smart stripy pinny, he produced an admirable piece of art – once he had acquainted himself with how to use an iron. Others followed with the same success rate proving Anne's point that it is really quite simple.

For those wanting to have a go at home the initial set of iron and beeswax can set you back £40 and is available at an encaustic art specialist shop at Elsecar near Wakefield. *Janet Smith Asst Sec*

Saturday 8th November 2014: This month we are back with our old friend wood instead of wax. Not the carving variety however but the turning type.

We welcome to Shepley for the first time a gentleman from Scarborough way called David Lowe who is very well know as a demonstrator amongst the woodturning fraternity. David is a member of the Woodworkers Institute and the Register of Professional Turners.

He has teaching facilities and a workshop at Bretton Farm, East Ayton nr Scarborough where he turns out some quite amazing work, as the photograph clearly shows.

David tells me he has recently turned his hand to carving and is looking forward to seeing the club carvings on display. **So plenty of carvings please.**



World War 1 & 2 panels: Adrian and I, on Tuesday 28th October, met Colin Blair, Director of Estates and Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Tim Thornton at Huddersfield University to discuss the possibility of the two panels eventually moving from the Royal Armouries to the university.

The reception we receive could not have been more welcoming and helpful. Various locations were viewed and discussed with some being a possibility and others being totally unsuitable. The biggest problem we have is that a wall space of over 20 feet, just for the panels and not taking into account information boards and the engraved glass panel, is needed. We also need an area where a viewer can stand back to get the full effect of the carvings. Unfortunately, the ideal locations on the campus did not have this area of space available.

However, we are left with one or two possibilities and these will be discussed at the next Shepley meeting.



Forget - me - Not Children's Hospice: The article in this month's Woodcarving magazine appears to have been well received by everybody and our thanks to Janet for putting it together and dealing with the magazine.

We will eventually receive £350 for the article, minus the cost of ten magazines which I ordered. We also got sent five free magazines and I will bring them along to the Shepley meeting for members to buy at £3.00 each. (I have a few put to one side for members who have already ordered them).

Peter Keene has been in touch with a lady in Ireland who took the opportunity of viewing the making of the panel on YouTube. Her very nice comments are as follows.

Hi Peter

I have just got around to watching the panel video on YouTube.

Sorry for the delay but I wanted to watch it in one go instead of dipping in and out.

I found it incredibly interesting and enjoyable. The process you all went through came across as informal and efficient. Everyone was shown as being important to the project which is nice to see. I did like the way it showed how the carvings evolved and the way the panel was put together. The amount of work and talent was amazing. My favourite bit has to be "Right Said Fred" as the guys were getting the complete panel out of the van at the hospice, it is a great song and always makes me laugh out loud. The hospice looks an incredible place and I am sure that the panel brings a huge amount of pleasure to the children every day.

Very kind regards

Jo .



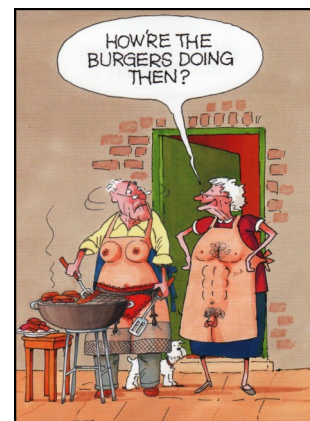
A very nice carving by David Woodhead who attends Brooksbank.

David is taking particular care of this one as he takes 'quite a long time' to complete a carving and his very first carving got thrown down the tip by his wife and daughter during a spring clean.

They claims it was a mistake, but who knows!



Ken Taylor is looking very pleased with the reflection in his lovely mirror and frame.



Christmas Luncheon:

This year's luncheon is on the 13th December and we have the return services of Chris Helme, who will be giving a talk on the history of Crow Nest Park golf club that sits on the site of what was the home and estate of Sir Titus Salt. Our patron Dr Ingrid Roscoe and her husband, Marshall, will again be our guests

I am sending out again 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 are that the numbers this year are, as usual, very good.

The Milestone Society

Most members will know Jan Scrine from the talk she gave our club last year and her presence now as a member at the Thursday carving class at All Saints.

Jan does amazing work for the Milestone Society and as asked me if I will include the following in this months newsletter.

The Milestone Society has been roped in to lead a bid to restore a packhorse track between Slaithwaite and Marsden; it's called 'Crossing the Pennines'. We have made the shortlist for the Big Lottery Peoples Millions, £50k, which is decided by a viewers' vote. ITV will make a 90 second film to go out during Calendar 6pm on 26th November.

"Crossing the Pennines" over the centuries"

Members of the Milestone Society are leading a group of local community organisations, establishing a Heritage Trail in the scenic valley of the River Colne in Yorkshire. The trail is called "Crossing the Pennines" and will showcase the travel and transport history that shaped the West Riding.

There's plenty to see, on foot, by bike or by car, with fascinating evidence of the Romans, the medieval packhorse trains, the Turnpike Trusts and clever engineering by Blind Jack of Knaresborough (including an 18th century milestone) and Thomas Telford who worked on the Canal. The milestones along the present Manchester Road were set up by the 'new' West Riding County Council 130 years ago and today there is the Stanza Stone route, starting on Marsden Moor. But there is one section of the Trail that the volunteers alone cannot repair, the ancient packhorse track from Cop Hill to Netherwood Lane. The surface has been reduced to rubble by generations of travellers and the group are endeavouring to find funding for 'authentic' restoration, for future generations to enjoy.

[This Project has been shortlisted for the 'Peoples Millions' on ITV's 'Calendar' on 26th November – they would appreciate your votes!]

You can view the route on www.CrossingThePennines.co.uk and follow their progress. The website also has a gazetteer of other walks and trails that link with Crossing The Pennines, including the National Trust's over Marsden Moor and the Standedge route to Uppermill. If you have a favourite route to add, the group would be delighted to hear from you!

www.MilestoneSociety.co.uk

Jan

