

# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Patron  
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe  
Lord Lieutenant of  
West Yorkshire

Life member  
Albert Hobson  
Jane Renshaw

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## David Lowe - Woodturner

In November we had the pleasure of spending a relaxing couple of hours amidst the sweet smell of wood shavings while watching David produce an exquisitely turned wooden bowl on his lathe.

Because of time restraints he used the same bowl to show two distinct variations of rim decoration. One method by staining with black dye and carving into the rim by means of a burr fitted to a dental type drill and the other by the rather brutal method of using an Arbrotec and disc cutter to score the rim surface. Both methods, after sanding and polishing, produced quite a unique and pleasing finish.



After retirement from a working life as a plumber David turned his talents to woodturning, drawing his inspiration from the natural beauty that surrounds his home near Scarborough with the moors, the coast and the Wolds on his doorstep. He prefers to use locally grown timber from sustainable or storm damaged sources as much as possible. However, sometimes he also likes to use foreign hardwoods such as Bubinga, for its rich colour and grain, or Padouk and many other varieties, but again, all from sustainable forests around the world. Another of his favourites is Yew, claiming that the deep red hue of the heartwood and the contrasting creamy colour of its sapwood quite often make stunning pieces of work.

David stated that what most people have in common is that they are drawn to feel, hold and sometimes even smell the items he has made from wood. This is where timber is unlike any other medium to work with.

David is a member of the Woodworkers Institute and the Register of Professional Turners, which is part of the worshipful company of turners of London. He has always had a passion for working with wood and looking at ways to show off its natural beauty using traditional techniques combined with modern ideas such as airbrushing, texturing and piercing.

Our grateful thanks to David for an interesting and entertaining demonstration.

**Saturday 11th January 2015.** We have this month a talk on Monochrome Photograph by our own member John Farrar. Before John took up the art of woodcarving he was, for many years, involved in photography and I'm sure his talk will be very interesting. John has suggested that everybody brings along a pair of binoculars - not sure why but there will be a good reason.

We have not managed to book anything beyond January at the moment. We were hoping that two gentlemen who wrote a book about the woodcarvings in Ripon cathedral would be available to give a talk in February but, regretfully, they have declined. However, they have suggested that in the New Year we organise a club trip to the cathedral and they will be willing take us round the cathedral explaining the carvings and the history of Ripon cathedral.



Other irons are in the fire but its a little early to announce anything just yet.

Should anybody have any ideas for speakers please pass them on to any member of the Management Committee. Speakers seem, for some reason or other, to be getting a big problem for all clubs and our friends in the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers are always calling to see if we can share information, which we have done on more than one occasion.

**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.

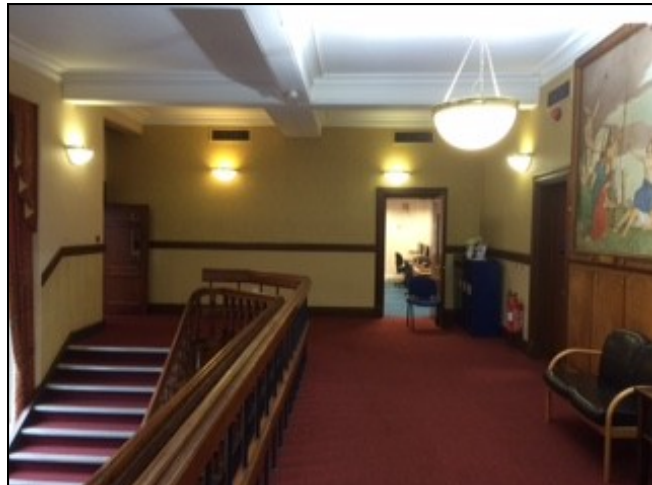
One possibility that was put forward by the university was the option of locating the two panels in the 150 year old Ramsden Building. This is the oldest part of the university and is the university's centre of health studies.

The building is accessible to the general public and already hosts a remarkable commemorative memorial depicting, I'm not quite sure but its very nice, and very large and can be seen in the above photo.

In the photo on the right you will see the space below the wall light. This is where it is suggested one panel will go and the other on the other, identical side at the top of the Y shaped stairway.

Adrian and I suggested that Dennis Farmer, Trevor Metcalfe and Bryan Hodgson, all who are founder members and have had a lot to do with the world war panels, visit the location and give their opinion regarding its suitability. Unfortunately, Bryan had to pull out but Dennis and Trevor were of the opinion that this location could be a very suitable location should we take action to re-locate the two panels.

This subject, and the views of Dennis and Trevor, will be discussed at our January meeting. Members are encouraged to call at the Ramsden building to form their own opinion before our January meeting.



**Christmas Luncheon: 13th December:** Our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will this year be held at the Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Coach Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse. For those who are not conversant with the location of the golf club the post code, for your Sat Nav, is **HD6 2LN**. If you need a map, just log onto [www.info@crownestgolf.co.uk](http://www.info@crownestgolf.co.uk).

Coming from Halifax follow the A58 to Hipperholme, turn right towards Brighouse (coming from Leeds turn left) onto the A644 and turn first left after the Dusty Miller pub. Follow the road, Upper Green Lane, over the cross roads and after 200 yards look for the sign for the golf club which is situated on the left down Coach Road. From Brighouse, if near the big Tesco roundabout, look for the Ritz Ballroom and turn first left at the ballroom up Bonegate Road. At the small roundabout take the third exit up Lightcliffe Road keep going for about one mile and again look for the signs to the golf club which will be on your right down Coach Road. There should be plenty of parking and our entrance is through the double doors underneath the sign Crow Nest Golf Club.

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. Come to think of it, the normal day dress for most of us! Suits aren't necessary but a smart jacket and tie would be appreciated for the men. The ladies, as always, will be immaculately gowned or in posh trousers and bedecked with jewellery.

Coffee and biscuits will be served at 10:00am for a start at 10:30am. Our speaker for the day will be 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. Should be interesting, especially for the local history buffs amongst us!

Our Patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, her husband Marshall and their driver Glenn, have a very long drive over from the York area so may be joining us a little after our 10:30am start, but they are attending and will certainly be there for the start of lunch. (Parking outside the main door has been arranged.)

We would again ask that we have plenty of members' carvings for the display, old ones and new ones are always welcome. (Our display at the November meeting was possibly one of the best for years, may we have a repeat for the luncheon please.) I'm sure Ingrid and Marshall will be interested to see what we have all produced over the year, if anything.

Once again our friend, Malcolm Cooper, has been hurling himself out of aeroplanes in aid of the Children's Hospice and with our club's support, along with many others, he has raised a tidy sum. Again, we will be asking our Patron if she would kindly hand over a cheque to the children's hospice.

As usual, our annual Christmas raffle, in aid of Help the Heroes (as voted for at previous 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. Anne and Hilary will be on hand to receive your gifts and sell you tickets.

One slight downside is that Dennis and Pauline Farmer, for the first time in 22 years, will this year be missing the luncheon. But I'm sure they will be with us in spirit as they celebrate 60 years of marriage with family members in America. I'm sure we all send this very popular couple our collective best wishes.



## Bits of news



Adrian and the two David's, Hey and Holt, gave a talk to Metham Probus Club on the 26th November on the World War panels and myself and the two David's gave a talk, again on the WW1 & 2 panels, to a group at Stones Church, Ripponden on the 28th November.

We keep saying we are going to stop doing these talks as they do take up quite a bit of time plus the inconvenience of lugging a selection of carvings, projectors, computers and the full size paper plans around. However, every time we try to stop we get comments like the one below from Stones Methodist Church and more requests.

.....what tremendous skill you all have and how well your talents are being used. Not only are you producing magnificent historical records for future generations to learn from and enjoy but raising thousands of pounds for terminally ill children. The feedback since your presentation has been tremendous, one of the best talks ever. You intimated that you might be calling it a day with your talks. Please don't because you give such pleasure.

We managed to raise a total of £151.00 for the children's hospice from the two talks. I did read the other day that Hillary Clinton is charging the dollar equivalent of £191,000 for a talk to the University of California and that husband Bill has made £33.3 millions on speeches since he left the White House. Where are we going wrong!!!! And I bet he doesn't run around the USA borrowing carvings!

### Booklets for the children's hospice panel:

Janet has passed on this lovely email from a lady in Canada who has read the article on the Forget-me-Not panel in the Woodcarving magazine that she purchased in Victoria.

Hello Janet,

My name is Norma Lofthouse and I live just outside of Victoria, B.C. Canada. I'm a very serious woodcarver and I teach beginning carving groups.

Our local magazine shop gets several copies of Carving Magazine each quarter and I picked up a copy yesterday and was thrilled with the article on the woodcarving for the Children's Hospice in West Yorkshire. I would like to buy a booklet. Do you send them to Canada? If so, how much would it be, including postage and handling, and I will get a money order off to you immediately.

For your information, this magazine goes around the world and is well respected. You may get several enquiries from overseas woodcarvers for the booklet. Maybe other woodcarving associations around the world can do the same thing! I'm going to show it to my several groups here in Victoria.

A very Happy Christmas to all woodcarvers in England and especially to the groups who coordinated their efforts to produce that lovely, automated woodcarving in the Children's Hospice.

Sincerely,

Norma Lofthouse  
7701 Colin Place  
Saanichton, BC.  
Canada V8M 1N6

My thanks to Graham and Frank for taking photographs throughout the year for the newsletters.  
Graham is off again at the moment flying kites in Malaysia.

Peter Keene has informed me that the **Mid Iowa Woodcarvers** have been following our Twitter page for quite a while. I cannot, for some reason beyond me, copy from Facebook into this newsletter but some of the comments are as follows:

Watch this video! (The one on YouTube about the making of the children's hospice panel put there by Graham Lockwood) It shows amazing work by the carvers of the West Riding Woodcarvers'. They are a group from the UK. They also carved two large panels commemorating the 1st and 2nd World War. Both brilliant.

Check out the West Riding Woodcarvers Facebook page and website. They have some amazing carvings.

You can in return check them out on: <https://www.facebook.com/.../Mid-Iowa-Woodcarvers>

Our fame as a serious woodcarving club, up there with the best, continues to spread thanks to our website, articles in the Woodcarving magazine and Peter continually feeding our Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you need any information about how to access the latter two just give Peter a call on 01422 - 378093.

Email in from **Anne Smallwood** who gave a talk and demonstration in September on Encaustic Art:

Hello all.

I thought I would just drop a note to say a huge thank you for the lovely warm welcome I received last Saturday as a speaker and demonstrator of Encaustic art. Everyone was very friendly and interested and made me feel completely at ease. I hope you all enjoyed the morning and treasure the 'masterpieces' you created.

kindest Regards Anne Smallman

Apart from a dozen and one knee replacements I don't think we have done too badly for hospital admissions and illness this year. Regrettably we lost Joyce Charles, who will be sadly missed for her sterling work with the other girls during refreshment breaks. And our thoughts and best wishes go to Barbara and Frank Bromhead who cannot attend the Christmas Luncheon this year because of continuing illness. All the best Barbara and Frank for a lovely Christmas.

Our Public/Products Liability insurance has been renewed at a cost of £137.01. It is essential that we have this if we continue to use school premises and exhibit outside of our meeting room.

### Stop Press.

Our carving room at All Saints is now available until June 2016. There has been a delay in the school building programme.

Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year from Janet & John your newsletter reporters.

