

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



September 2015
Newsletter Issue 239

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Joey Richardson - Wood Artist

The whirl of a dentist's drill rang through the hall at Shepley and it certainly made many a heart race.

But it wasn't the fear of a dentist cleaning out a cavity that caused the woodcarvers to hold their collective breath. Rather it was the sheer beauty and craftsmanship of wood turner Joey Richardson who uses this unusual tool – a dentist's drill - to craft the most exquisite art.

West Riding Woodcarvers were in thrall as Joey, an internationally acclaimed turner and sculptor, gave a demonstration of her work and talked us through the making of her own fine art pieces which are now in collections all over the world. She has demonstrated and shown her work in America, Australia, New Zealand and London.

The drill isn't of course her only tool. She is a gifted wood turner, controlling the lathe and her work by eye, but the intricate pieces she produces owe much to the use of innovative methods which produce exquisite, delicate, breath-taking work.

Joey, who works predominantly in sycamore, also occasionally uses metal and glass to complete her pieces, which follow a theme to make her work instantly recognisable.

'I want people to recognise my work, but also want to move it on,' she explained. 'My designs should make people "feel" something. I use the comic and unusual along with

flowing shapes and curves, and tell stories.'

Joey draws on symbolism mixed with images of people, animals and events, and creates feelings and moods with a

rich palette of colour, endeavouring to lead the gaze into the work with design, balance and shape. Apart from the pieces she brought to the club, Joey showed her working conditions and other pieces with a power point which included images of her excellent photography.

Ten years ago Joey was awarded a bursary from the Worshipful Company of Turners and three years ago a scholarship from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QUEST) which enabled her to study in America. This year, 2015, Joey was awarded the QUEST Award of Excellence which is given to talented craftspeople.

Janet Smith



A beautiful butterfly by Joey but the way it's being held makes it a bit like the Parrot in Monty Python - dead..!



Carving Classes: All the carving classes are now in full swing with approximately 18 carvers at All Saints. Brooksbank is again full to bursting and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield is doing very well, but could still welcome a few more.

Shepley: Saturday 10th October: We are still talking to a number of craft people who have all said that they will come along to one of our Saturday meetings but we have failed, at the moment, to tie anybody down to specific dates, especially October.

So for October, with the kind help of Jan Scrine and her 'lovely' assistant, David Holt, we are going to try something totally different.

Jan and David are going to run a morning session called
'Uncle Frank's Archive - What's in YOUR Attic?'

The first half of the talk will be a PowerPoint presentation by Jan, which will have some audience participation, and the second part of the session will have David acting as Master of Ceremonies.

Jan and David will need lots of people to bring along items that are unusual, intriguing, beautiful, odd etc for the table display. On this one and only occasion we are asking that you leave all your lovely carvings tucked up at home and instead dig out all those items squirreled away in the attic or at the back of cupboards or in the 'man drawer' or shed and bring them along on Saturday morning October 10th.

On this occasion the display tables will be set up at the front of the main room for those items made of textile, wood, metal, plastic, glass, electronic or maybe that old teddy that you never got around to throwing out. The slight downside is that at some point a few people may be asked to tell a tale about the object, or objects, they have brought along.

The success of the morning depends on the audience bringing along plenty of interesting items. So please join in and bring along plenty of objects of curiosity to help Jan and David.



Alan Raynor: Most of us are aware that we have a very remarkable individual as a member of our Wakefield carving class who is totally blind. Alan wrote an article that we tried to get published in the Woodcarving magazine but for some reason, that now escapes me, we failed. But we will most certainly try again.

Below is a very short abstract from the article Alan wrote. The two pictures show Alan's latest conquest. Truly inspiring for us who can see what we are doing, but still manage to grumble and complain when we cut our fingers off.

Alan wrote; Blind folk like me are used to people asking questions like... "How do you manage to... ?".



The first thing I was taught in the woodwork class at school was to keep your fingers behind the cutting edge of a chisel. This advice is still uppermost in my mind when I use a wood or stone chisel. The only difference being that I have to slightly modify my hold on the blade to accommodate forward and sideways wavering, and to assess the impact of a cut as the tool is engaged by hammer or mallet. This involves a kind of pen-holder grip with first or second finger touching the upward facing edge of the business end of the chisel exactly at the point where it bites the material. As far as the hammer action is concerned, muscle memory takes over. Any golfer will know exactly what I mean by this. When doing repetitive actions, the brain can direct limbs to correct accordingly a poor swing of a golf club or skewed blow from a hammer without having to see it. I tend to keep hammer or mallet work to a minimum, usually for roughing out, and with gentler, sparing taps when necessary. I much prefer using paring actions where I have more control. Control being the operative word for me, and I quite often find using rasps and rifflers more effective and less intimidating than chisels. Yes, it often takes longer this way, but I can feel the shape evolving without my fingers straying too far from the material. Each of those finger pads is like a pair of eyes, and has the advantage of searching out the slightest deviation, plus of course, it allows me to see around corners or in hidden crevices and recesses without re-fastening a piece of work.

Christmas Luncheon - 12th December 2015:

Our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will again 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.

These are the instructions I gave out last year and only one person seemed to have got lost – Jim Wrathall!

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. Suits aren't necessary but a smart jacket would be appreciated for the men. The ladies, as always, will be immaculately gowned or in nice trousers.

Coffee and biscuits will be served at 10:00am for a start at 10:30am. Our speaker for the day will be Jean and John Broadbent who will be giving a talk entitled 'Plastic Fantastic'.

An invitation has been sent out and we are hopeful that our Patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, her husband Marshall and their driver Glenn, will be with us once again.

We would again ask that we have plenty of members' carvings for the display, old ones and new ones are always welcome. I'm sure that if they can attend Ingrid and Marshall will be interested to see what we have all produced over the year, if anything.

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



I am again sending out 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 mince pies. The price this year is, as last year, £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.



Turners Retreat

The Woodworkers Source,
Faraday Close,
Harworth,
Nottinghamshire, DN11 8RU,

The other week I got invited by friends, who are wood turners, to go down to a turning display at Turners Retreat just below Doncaster. Turners Retreat some years ago bought out Craft Supplies that for many years were at Millers Dale in Derbyshire. The new premises are just below Doncaster and about two miles off the A1 motorway, turn off at Blyth Services. It took me, on a Saturday morning, just 1 hour 20 minutes from the far side of Halifax to get there.

The reason I mention this is four fold. Firstly, Mark Baker, the editor of Woodcarving, and incidentally Editor of the Turner magazine, was the person demonstrating. He was actually very, very good at turning and an excellent speaker. Having spoken to him on the phone on many occasions, in connection with the various articles we have had published in the Woodcarving magazine, I introduced myself after the first demo and asked him about coming along and talking to our club. Unfortunately, he lives way down in Colchester so distance is a problem with our reasonably early morning start. But he did say that if he found himself up this way he would bear it in mind. He also congratulated us on the Panels we have produced and thanked us for the excellent articles that we have contributed to the Woodcarving magazine.

The second reason I mention my visit was that I bumped into our old friend Peter Berry who was demonstrating caricature carving. Peter said that he would be delighted to come along to Shepley and take a full day session in the new year. We have to contact him with suitable dates.

The third reason is connected with the huge number of people present at the show that covered mainly turning but also items and demos for carvers and general woodworkers. This would be an ideal spot to publicize our club and demonstrate our work as quite a number of the hundreds that were present must come from north of Doncaster. Certainly it could be more productive than Holmfirth.

The fourth reason is to make everybody aware of the very good range of carving gear on display and, in particular, bring to your attention the timber on sale. There was a huge selection of timber in store and plenty of good size blocks of Lime at reasonable prices. Being only an hour and a bit from Halifax and even less from Huddersfield, there is little point the club trying to stock Lime when its available there.