

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



September 2015
Newsletter Issue 240

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

'Uncle Frank's Archive - What's in YOUR Attic?' Jan Scrine



Our grateful thanks to Jan, and her able assistant David, for taking us through the fascinating tale of her Uncle Frank and the amazing things found in his attic after he passed away. Old plates, dishes and parish records, retrieved from the tip, being only a small part of many unusual items.

On many occasions I have heard commented that we all know and get on with one another, from our involvement with each other in carving classes, projects, displays and at meetings, but we only scratch the surface when it comes to more detailed knowledge of our fellow carvers past life.

But at Shepley in October many more sides of our individual lives appeared from this meeting. Who would have thought that we have members who have met the queen at a Royal Maundy Money service at Manchester Cathedral, others who have family heirlooms in the form of naval epaulettes and memorabilia, others with beautifully carved ivory items, as the picture above, and an intricately carved and inlaid box, again as above, with little known of its history.

After the break items were selected at random by Jan and the owner invited to talk briefly about the object selected and their particular history. We had bottles that had laid around a lofts for years that have just recently been valued at many thousands of pounds, wooden implements of all shapes and sizes for a multitude of bygone functions, a walking stick, for measured horses, that had travelled to England with a family from Ireland in the early 1800's, a vast array of old tools for electrical measurement, calculations, wood related work and many other uses, each with a particular story to tell. And a pair of old frog flippers worn once and never again after helping to nearly drown there owner, Arthur.

A was a great shame that time cut short the stories as many objects still retained their secrets and fascinating history. Only a very small selection were held up by Jan, with many others awaiting their turn.

Because of the interest shown, and many requests that we repeat this format, it has been decided that we will again invite members to bring along their unusual and fascinating items to another Saturday meeting, probably the month of May in the new year.

Shepley 28th November 2015: Master Carver Michael Painter:

We all know Michael from his previous successful visits to our meetings in Shepley but for those who don't know his personal background the following is a quick résumé.

Michael studied at the European School for craftsmen at San Servolo, Venice and in 1994, after a considerable and lengthy selection process, was elected as a member into the Royal Society of British Sculptors whose patron is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1988 he became a fellow of the William Morris Fellowship which is organised by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (S.P.A.B.) and in 1991 presented his carved bust of William Morris to Her Royal Highness the Queen Mother who was patron of the Fellowship.

He has worked on Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, the Palace of Westminster and many National Trust buildings. During 1997 Michael supervised a team of carvers to work on the fire damage at Windsor Castle. His work was acknowledged by Her Majesty the Queen with a personal letter of thanks and a specially commissioned medal. In February 2001 Michael was elected into the Worshipful Guild of Smiths who have been in existence since 1601.

Michael became self employed in 2003 after becoming a Master Carver while working for an architectural and ecclesiastical company specialising in the traditional crafts of wood carving. He has been teaching wood and stone carving for over 35 years and holds wood carving courses at his studio in Austrey, Warwickshire.



On past visits Michael has carved and lectured on the hand and the face, with particular emphasis on the eye.

On this occasion it has been agreed with Mike, after discussion with the people in the carving classes of All Saints and Brooksbank - sorry QEGS, that we will all bring along our workmates and a small section of carving tools and the current work in progress carving that each individual is working on in the various classes.

Mike will then select certain items and, with the permission of the owner, use his skills, knowledge and expertise to discuss the carving process to adopt and his suggested finishing methods to best enhance the item.

Unfortunately, the time restraint of just about five hours is not sufficient to start and finish a joint project led by Mike. Also in March we have Mike's old friend Peter Berry coming along and his type of caricature carving is more suited to us carving and following his instructions.

This is a full day session from 10:00am to about 3:00pm and a pea and pie lunch will be put on by the ladies. There will be a few vegetarian dishes made available. It has been decided by the ladies that it is easier to just buy the sweet course, so they know before hand what is required. So on this occasion nobody needs to bring along any buns or cakes.

There will be a charge on the door of £5.00 per person to cover the food and partly cover the cost of our speaker/demonstrator for the day. This is exactly as we have agreed in the past for full day sessions.

We shall need to cover the floor with dust sheets again before workmates are set up. Adrian will have those available.



Future dates for your diary

Christmas Luncheon 12th December 2015 at Crow Nest Golf Club. Booking going well but please get yours to Adrian ASAP.

Shepley January 9th January 2016; Free and Easy meeting to discuss future club projects, outings etc.

Shepley February 13th 2016; Speaker still to be confirmed but we are talking to an animal sculptures at the moment.

Shepley March 12th 2016; Full day with Peter Berry Caricature carver.

Shepley April 9th 2016; Annual General Meeting.

Christmas Luncheon - 12th December 2015:

Just to remind everybody, our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will again this year be held at the Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Coach Road, Hove Edge, Brighthouse. For those who are not conversant with the location of the golf club the post code, for your Satellite Navigation is **HD6 2LN**. If you need a map, just log onto www.info@crownestgolf.co.uk.

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'.

Our Patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, her husband Marshall and their driver Glenn will once again be travelling all the way from the York area to be with us.

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 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.

The attendance looks like being very good again this year but places are still available. 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 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.



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Facebook: A few of our members are on Facebook but I'm sure the majority of us aren't. So for those that don't get the chance to see what a great job Peter Keene does with the internet site the article to the right is an example of what is regularly available to people throughout the world. The elephant carving was recently completed by David Woodhead at Brooksbank.

Peter is a regular contributor to the site and has an increasing following, on behalf of our club, from interesting parties from far and wide. The main viewers seem to be carving clubs in America and Canada and they regularly post very flattering comments about our work that Peter shows.

Just before Remembrance Day Peter put onto the site a selection of carvings from our 1st & 2nd World War panels that looked truly beautiful and very appropriate for this occasion.

Our good friend Jane Renshaw is in the wars again after falling and breaking her elbow in multiple places. On your behalf flowers were sent to Jane. Take care and get well soon Jane.

I know we have others in the club who are having difficulties, and the wives of some of our members.

I'm sure we wish them all well and a speedy recovery.

Just a reminder that the North of England Woodworking show commences on Friday 20th November to Sunday 22nd at Harrogate. Michael Painter will be demonstrating.

Graham Redhead's wife Paddy will be at the Christmas Crafts Show at Shibden Hall, Halifax on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th November. Paddy has a stall selling her lovely cards.



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David Holt Well done David, you were still carving it Monday night, or was that the second one?

Like · Reply · 1 · October 8 at 4:08pm

Tony Charlesworth Fantastic work!

Like · Reply · 1 · October 8 at 5:46pm

Peter Keene Thank you Tony if I'm not wrong this is David's 3rd carving

Like · Reply · October 8 at 6:04pm

David Woodhead Would have been 4 had wife/daughter not 'accidentally' threw my dove out 😊

Like · Reply · 1 · October 8 at 9:10pm

Peter Keene Ahh had forgotten that one David 😊

Like · Reply · October 8 at 9:48pm

David Woodhead I certainly haven't - everytime I go to the tip I pray it may turn up! Lol

Like · Reply · October 8 at 10:03pm · Edited