

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



December 2015
Newsletter Issue 241



Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Michael Painter - Master Carver

For our November 28th Shepley extended meeting, we welcomed once again to our meeting room the very skilled and charismatic Mike Painter. Mike is an old friend of the club, having demonstrated his incredible skills with a chisel and knowledge of carving on a number of occasions.

When I met Mike at the North of England Woodworking show, we were slightly at a loss as to what he should do during his visit this year, so Mike said 'I'll just waffle on until lunch time if you like and then do something practical after lunch'. And waffle on he did, without hardly a pause, and totally captivated his audience with a talk about his early life as a stone and woodcarver.

Not only did we get a very detailed and interesting slide show of places he had worked in, and on, but a complete run down of art, stone and woodcarving from early English and European times. I'm sure his was one of the most interesting, inspirational and educational talks ever presented to our club.

After lunch, Mike selected a number of carvings displayed in their 'work in progress' guise giving advice to the carver. With the assistance of a quite sizable fluter, in minutes he changed, for the better, the profile of Darrel's carving of a lady's head and hair. How easy it looks when an expert gets going. Arthur did offer him a piece he was working on but, on this occasion, Mike must have thought it wise to keep away from that one...!



Not everything preached was taken as gospel as I noticed the look of dismay on the face of Trevor when Mike was decrying the use of sticking a drawing to a relief carving. Obviously he has never seen Trevor starting work at the top of a relieve carving and speedily creating a miracle as he works down to the bottom, all with just the assistance of a paper drawing and no acetate. I also noticed many a head shaking when the use of swivel holding devices was decried. I think Mike forgets that we can't all use both hands equally well and that, without a swivel holding device the majority of us would be standing on our heads to carve. But the good thing about our meetings is that we can disagree and accept others' point of view, even from an expert - but only just!

By popular demand, Mike will return on November 5th 2016. A request was made that he demonstrates the principles of hair carving. Incidentally, the carving that Mike is photographed against is half of a personal project that he is working on depicting part of Michelangelo's work in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He has promised to bring it back with him, hopefully completed, next November.

A nice comment was made by Mike as he said his goodbyes for yet another year. He left saying 'I've really enjoyed myself today, it's such a pleasure talking to like-minded pleasant people'.

Our thanks must go to all the ladies who organised and served us the pie and pea lunch and the refreshments during the day.

January 9th 2016: For this meeting we have specifically not booked a speaker but have designated it a 'Free and Easy'. The reason is that it will give all members a chance to put forward their view on how the club should move forward.

Amongst the subjects for discussion will be: a future panel project, The Royal Armouries, maintenance of the panels now out on display, club outings over the summer months, displays, falling membership, club finances, carving classes, a brick for the children's hospice and any subject that you, the member, wants to bring to the meeting for discussion.

If you have a specific subject that you want raising, and don't think it will be, a call to Adrian, Brian or myself would be appreciated beforehand.

Christmas Luncheon Crow Nest Golf Club 12th December 2015

Without doubt, it was a great success as not one negative comment has been reported since our luncheon on Saturday last.

The room looked exactly as one would want for a Christmas party, the talk by Jean Broadbent on Plastics was extremely well presented and interesting and the food and service was to the standard of a top restaurant.

We welcomed, once again, our Patron Dr Ingrid Roscoe, her husband Marshall and their driver Glenn and thanked them for taking the time and trouble, in a very busy period for them, to attend our annual Christmas luncheon.

I have just sent a letter of thanks to the golf club that reads as follows:

Attention of Steve Johnson, Crow Nest Golf Club

Dear Steve

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association

On behalf of our Patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, all the members, and our guests, who attended our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday may I thank you, Jemma, the boys and girls who served on the tables, your people behind the bar and the amazing kitchen staff for what was, beyond doubt, first class service.

We were slightly disappointed last year with nothing in the room being set up prior to our people arriving and the tables, eventually, not really set in a manner you would associate with a Christmas occasion. However, this year the room and tables were brilliantly decorated and the layout and facilities were exactly as we asked for at a prior meeting with Jemma.

Our compliments must be passed onto the kitchen staff as the food was presented in a manner and tasted just as good as it looked.

We look forward to returning for a third year on the 10th December 2016.

Best wishes to you and all your very pleasant staff for Christmas and the New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



All Saints' carving class: The situation at All Saints is going to be quite fluid after Christmas in that the school re-building is starting in January and the music students are moving into the part of the building that we use. The agreement that we have come to with the school manager is that we will continue using Classroom 2, the one we are presently in, on a week by week basis. Should they desperately need the room on a Thursday afternoon from 2 to 4pm then we may have to move to another day. They are not going to invoice us until after our session finishes.

Classes start again on Thursday 7th January.

We need a few more people in this class please. The more we have attending the more difficult it will be to move us.



It just leaves me to wish everybody a lovely Christmas and a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Future dates for your diary

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

Shepley 13th February 2016; Speaker still to be confirmed.

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

Shepley 9th April 2016; Annual General Meeting.