

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Newsletter Issue 234

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Everest the Old Way - David Peckett and John Driskell

*'These are my riches, these and the bright remembering of
ridge and buttress and sky-shouldering spires; these I shall
count, when I am old, of an evening, sitting by the fire.'*

The spoken words of John Driskell, when opening his and David Peckett's talk to our club at Shepley on February 14th 2015.

In November 1967, John and David, plus three companions, committed to drive overland to Everest Base Camp. Four men and one woman who met at Sheffield City Teachers' Training College, planned their expedition for two years, each contributing £300 to cover the cost of a second hand Land Rover and one year of travel.

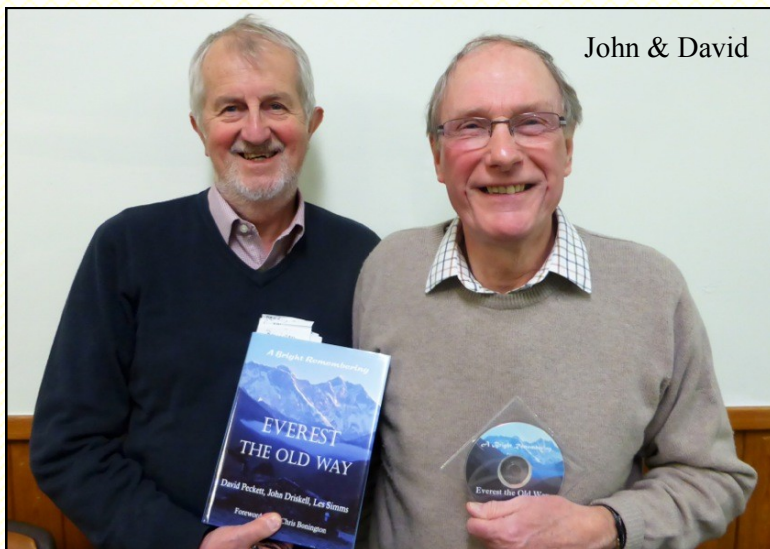
John and David, very entertainingly and eloquently, talked about the journey they made in the 1960s, and later repeated in 2010, to Everest Base Camp on the Nepal side of Mount Everest.

The book that came out of these travels is taken from diaries, pictures and recollections.

John stated that the book 'Everest the Old Way' represented the culmination of early dreams and covers the story of how it all began and how they relived the experience some 42 years later. David commented; we each had our own reasons for making this journey and for what we might achieve during the course of it. Now, looking back, we relive the wonder and magic of it all. The experience has enriched our lives and we hope that other, younger souls may be inspired to follow their own dreams to discover the wonder of the world and the people who make it so.

From the book David read 'It was as if we were treading the Earth for the very first time!' There was not the slightest evidence that any human had ever been there before except for a small cairn, two foot high, at the most, on top of Kala Pattar. No paths or trails, no litter, no buildings and we were completely alone – not just at Base camp, but for the whole day, we saw not another living soul!

I'm sure all who came to listen to John and David would agree that their presentation was of the utmost interest and that left us all, or some of us, reaching for our rucksack and climbing boots. Our grateful thanks to two great story tellers.



John & David



Saturday 14th March we are very pleased to bring to Shepley, John Hudson, with a talk entitled 'My work as an English Country Potter'.

John is a local potter from Mirfield way but very well known throughout the country and has a lot of his work at Hampton Court.

His web site is www.hudsonclaypotter.co.uk and I would suggest, if possible, to look at the video on the site about Hampton Court. This is located if you follow Links and look at the bottom of the page.

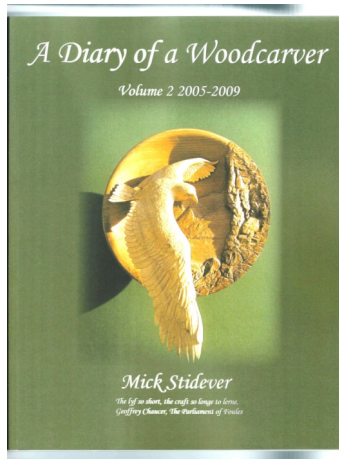
Saturday 11th April. This is the club Annual General Meeting. The usual mass of paperwork will be generated and sent out to members with the newsletter after this one. I'm sure we will have the usual rush to take Office and join the Management Committee so please make your intentions known to Adrian or myself.



Saturday May 9th: I am very please to report that we have agreed with **Mick Stridever**, very well known amateur woodcarver and author, to come along to talk to the club before we shut down for the summer recess.

Some people will know Mick not only from his articles in the Woodcarving magazine but' possibly more so, through his three books entitled 'Volume 1,2 & 3 Diary of a Woodcarver'.

These are available on Amazon at £14.99 each but I'm sure Mick will be bringing lots along with him for sale.



Halifax Agricultural Show: When we displayed the children's panel at a previous show we had an incredible response to the club's work. On a fine day attendance is about 18,000.

At our last meeting we discussed attending this year's show on the 8th August with a general display of members' carvings.

We need two or three people to come forward to take control of all arrangements - meetings with the show organising committee, marquee supply, and organisation of the day itself.

If you are willing to get involved, please make yourself known to Adrian or myself asap please.

World War panels: At the February Shepley meeting, we discussed the possibility of the panels being re-located to the Ramsden Building at Huddersfield University. The general consensus of the meeting was concern that the panels in this location could be lost to the passing footfall of the general public.

A proposal was put forward that we approach the Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, where there would appear to be large wall spaces without covering.

I regret to report that our proposal to the museum, that the panels be moved to them as a permanent display, has been rejected. It will probably be simpler and more informative if I forward the relevant correspondence with this newsletter.

G & S Specialist Timber, Penrith. I reported in the last newsletter that we were in discussions with this timber supplier to purchase about £500 of Lime, which the club would stock and sell to members. Unfortunately, the sizes that they presently have in stock are all 4 inch thick and not very wide. We have asked them to advise us when they get new stocks in, so that we can have first choice at the wider boards.

Richard Potter Ltd, Nantwich. This company has quite a lot of Lime in stock but, again, all planks are 4 inch thick. Most lengths are 36 inches and the maximum width is 12 inches, although the majority is about 8 inch. It's very nice timber in clean planed planks and retails at £40.32 per cubic foot. Not cheap, and if you fancy a trip over it's a 150 mile round journey.

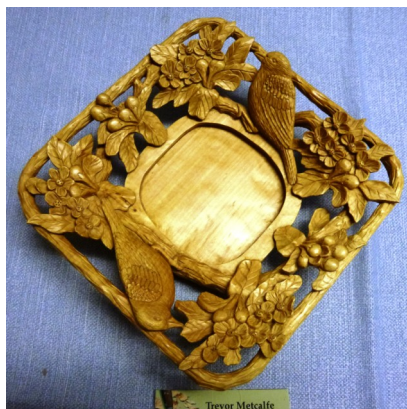
Being over that way I called in and brought back a 36 inch long x 12 inch x 4 inch plank to see if it was possible to cut the 4 inch into 2 inch thick planks. Unfortunately, its just an inch or so too wide for my bandsaw. They also have tons of Jelutong in large planks, again in 4 inch thickness and about 8 inch widths. I brought back a 7 inch x 30 inch x 4 inch thick plank.

I spoke to the owner, Richard Potter, and, if we can guarantee a couple of hundred pounds' worth of sales, he is willing to come over to Shepley one Saturday morning with a van load of timber. I have suggested that the best time is possibly our September meeting when our carving classes have started again. But he will come to our AGM in April if we can make it worth his while, bearing in mind he will be travelling 150 plus miles on a Saturday morning and he will have to take on extra staff to cover for his absence. To be discussed at the next meeting but please keep in mind that all his planks are 4 inch thick.

Flexible Rubber Moulds for Sculpture Saturday 14th March 2015 in Staffordshire

9.30am to 4.30pm. Flexible mould making rubbers (hot-melt vinyl and RVT silicon) offering the opportunity to make repeats and limited editions of artwork. On this workshop you will make a one piece relief mould using hot-melt vinyl and a small silicon rubber mould of a 3d object. You'll leave with a good understanding of the advantages and limitations of these materials. For more details see:

<http://www.brokenmouldstudios.co.uk/>



Trevor Metcalfe



Graham Lockwood

May we please keep up the good work and have a really good display of carvings on Saturday 14th March 2015. Our guest speakers are usually very impressed and look forward to viewing our work.