

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

February 2017
Issue 250

Pontypool Front Row..!



Today's speakers
Derek - Margaret - John
January 14th 2017

In the photo to the right
Margaret and Jeff can be seen
sitting like two homeless
vagrants awaiting Margaret's
introduction to
William and Kate



The Myatts on the Mall for a right royal day out

Nudging shoulders with royalty, taking tea with the Queen and later pictured in Hello! magazine were all part of a celebratory weekend for Margaret and Jeff Myatt.

By the sound of it, these West Riding woodcarvers had a right royal day out in the Mall, when they joined the throng to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Margaret told the tale of their London day out to the Shepley meeting in January while Jeff showed some accompanying photographs of the scene. The tickets were given to the club through our patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and, as long-serving members, Jeff and Margaret were given the opportunity to go.

With Clare Balding compèring the occasion on the big screen below, the Red Arrows performing aerial acrobatics above and the Queen and Prince Philip driving past in an open topped limo, their day revolved round being part of one of the biggest street parties London has ever seen.

Their individual hampers contained delicacies from the British table such as salmon from the Balmoral estate, Wensleydale cheese and Melton Mowbray pork pies, along with Pimms and apple juice, all tucked into individual wicker baskets, one per person.

The wet-weather ponchos were only necessary for part of the day which also involved a parade of marching bands, singers, dancers and representatives of UK charities.

As Margaret said about their special, never-to-be-forgotten day, it made her and Jeff proud to be British. And for their photographs - along with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge - to appear both in Hello! and the Daily Express was the cherry on the cake.

Janet



Prince William & Stavros under full sail

Adventure sailing Derek and John

Derek and John transported everybody back to the days when men were real men and spent their days running up and down Tall Ships' rigging to unfurl sails and journey off to far horizons.

Well perhaps not quite far horizons, as Derek just sailed around the Mediterranean Coastline and John sailed of around the Caribbean islands.



Sunset in the Caribbean

Disaster at Sea - 21st September 1957

A terrifying tale of high seas and shipwrecks, battling giant waves and an unpredictable hurricane, kept the woodcarvers on the edge of their seats at the Shepley meeting in January.

John Murphy, whose early life was spent as a merchant sailor, told the story of the tall ship, the Pamir, a square-rigged four-masted barque, which lost all but six of its 86 crew when the hurricane 'Carrie' sank the vessel in the middle of the Atlantic almost 60 years ago.

The dreadful maritime story with its horrific loss of young lives, made headlines around the world, including a front page splash in the Halifax Courier and Guardian of the day.

But John's story about the Pamir, which set sail from Buenos Aries with an inexperienced sea captain and an unbalanced cargo, was made all the more pertinent by the part that John himself played - as a lowly galley boy on a nearby ship to the stricken Pamir, the MV Lake Burnaby.

Although John was a mere 16 years old and fresh out of Gravesend Sea School, he was aboard the Lake Burnaby as it too battled the ferocious winds of hurricane 'Carrie' and was eventually called upon to answer the SOS call from the Pamir.

John described the Lake Burnaby's voyage through giant seas, towards black horizons in wind speeds of 155 mph, and frighteningly taking on water through damaged hatch boards across the forward hold. To save the ship and all those on board, the 200 ton deck cargo of four railway engines was cut loose. Then, to find calmer waters to manage urgent repairs, the captain sailed the Lake Burnaby into the eye of the hurricane through a wall of water. No mean feat - as the eye wall is where maximum winds occur and the calmer sea thereafter can still be dangerous as massive waves can roar through the calmer waters of the eye.

Once in the eye, which John described as giving the stadium effect as the walls of cloud and water were so high all around the vessel, the repairs were undertaken. But the Pamir capsized, its crew struggling aboard useless life boats or thrown into the ice-cold Atlantic.

Tragically, the Lake Burnaby was unable to rescue any of the Pamir's desperate crew.

The only good to come out of this disaster were the findings of the Maritime Court which helped to make sailing the seas safer by demanding new safety legislation and immediately banning all sailing ships from carrying commercial cargos.

John's breathtaking tale also contained a remarkable coincidence. Another ship, the Sylvestre, was also in those waters and went to aid the crew of the Pamir. Forty-nine years later, John was aboard the Stavros, (you have to keep up here!) on a tall ship's working holiday. An onboard quiz asked which famous sailing ship sank on 21st September 1957. A chap called John Clarke answered correctly: the Pamir - because he, John Clarke, was a 16-year-old aboard the Sylvestre at exactly the same time that John was on the Lake Burnaby - and both ships answered the SOS from the sinking Pamir. Coincidence or what?



To add to this coincidence, when John was looking at Derek's photographs of him sailing on the Prince William, he recognized that John Clarke had also been a shipmate of Derek's. Very strange indeed.

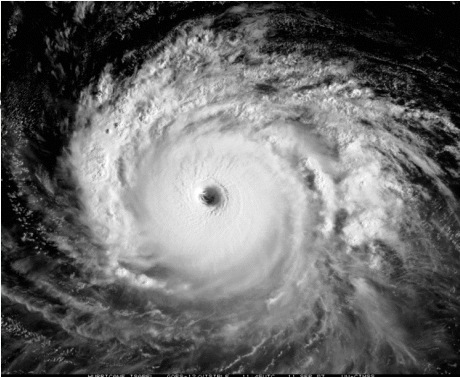
Janet

Search moves into top gear again

HOPES RAISED OF MORE SURVIVORS FROM PAMIR

A mother's Light signals and object vigil ends: 'Son safe' message
RESCUED MEN ARE ON WAY TO CASABLANCA

HALIFAX, Tuesday.
Neighbours hunt in a desperate search for the missing ship, the German sailing ship Pamir (3,303 tons), which was reported to have sunk in the Atlantic on September 21. The search for the ship, which was reported to have sunk in the Atlantic on September 21, is now in its final stages. The search for the ship, which was reported to have sunk in the Atlantic on September 21, is now in its final stages. The search for the ship, which was reported to have sunk in the Atlantic on September 21, is now in its final stages.





Meeting 11th February 2017: Stuart Smith

Before retiring from the police in 2014 Stuart worked on the cold-case review of the Yorkshire Ripper Hoaxer as a Detective Sergeant (2005 and 2006).

The 'pitch' of his talk is to deliver a completely unbiased view of the detail and content of the Sunderland Letters and tape.

The way that he presents the talk to his audience is to deliver all the facts and inferences and let them consider the information.

As we all know George Oldfield was incorrect with his assessment of the origin of the letters and tape and Stuart's talk is not designed to correct or alter the mistakes that were made.

During the presentation Stuart will raise arguments for and arguments against the credibility of the letters and tape, and again he hopes this will provoke critical thinking within the audience. He also introduces elements of the similarities in the Sunderland Letters and tape with the original 1888 'Jack the Ripper' Whitechapel investigation and makes reference to what information was in the media at the time of the Sutcliffe enquiry.

Stuart's talk lasts for around 45 minutes, but there will be time for questions, debate and discussion at the end.

Stuart also makes a donation of his fee to; Support After Rape & Sexual Violence (Leeds)



Royal Armouries, Leeds

We are continuing to talk to a gentleman called Tristan Langlois, Head of Education & Events and have just forwarded to him our draft application for funding to the Heritage Lottery, Leeds.

We shall shortly be having a meeting with Tristan and Helen Langwick, Head of Interpretation, to further discuss, and jointly agree, our application. We shall also be discussing lighting and signage to the WW1&2 panels.

Street Bikes & monthly raffle

You will remember that 50% of all the money we raise on our monthly raffles goes to a charity or good cause of our choosing. It was agreed that Street Bikes of Kirklees would be our choice for the foreseeable future.

I have a slight connection with Street Bikes as my sister, who has learning difficulties, uses their services and spends many happy hours cycling around the athletic track at Spenborough.



We have recently passed across to them £225 which has been gratefully received.

Just on the subject of the monthly raffle I was talking to Adrian after the last meeting and he has asked me to state that the prizes for the raffle should be limited to no more than 6 maximum. (It is now regularly taking well over 15 minutes to complete the raffle.)

This is how the raffle was set up originally but, due to the generosity of our members, we now seem to be getting more and more prizes at each meeting. Although you cannot fault the enthusiasm of the person organising the raffle for that particular month, may we please revert back to just the 6 maximum limit.

Without doubt the raffle has become an important part of our monthly meetings which assists our club financially and the charity of our choice. Just to confirm half of any profit goes to the club and half to charity. Thank you to all who take part.

Meeting March 11th: Speaker to be confirmed.

Meeting April 8th: Annual General Meeting.

Meeting May 13th: Graham Lockwood. Kite flying in China.

North of England Woodworking Show.

We were very pleased to accept the generosity of a company called MFA Como Drills Ltd who kindly sold to us, at manufacturing cost to them, 25 of the small motors that we use on the children's hospice panel. We bought these to ensure we could keep running if the motors burnt out during our three day display.

I sent some pictures of our stand to Como Drills with a thank you letter for their help. I received the following email back.

Hi John, I Remember very well we helped with your query and order in September. We are delighted to know that you have raised £250 for the children's hospice. Thank you for attaching the photos of the amazing skilled work with your wonderful display at the show. Once again, many thanks for taking time to update us on your successful show. This is very much appreciated and we will mention you in our group newsletter. Kind regards Stewart.

I sent an Email to Mark Baker, Editor of the Woodcarving magazine, telling him that we collectively thought his article in the Dec/Jan edition did little to advertise the show or indeed benefit any of the carving clubs participating. He claims he only put in what the show organisers sent him and added a photograph.

He has invited us to forward an 11,000 word article with a maximum of 8 pictures covering our involvement in the show and state what our club got out of displaying WRWA.

We are thinking about it. They will not pay us for the article we forward.

Pontefract Hospice:

I can only reiterate what Adrian said at the last meeting in that he and Brian had a further meeting with the management of the hospice on the 9th January and that things are progressing.

Brian Walker is acting as Project Manager.

Web Site

We seem to be getting quite a lot of people contacting us at the moment for details of our carving classes and where they can get tree stumps in their gardens carved, mainly into owls.

We have also had a lady, called Pat Lockyer, in touch with us asking if we can help shed any light on a bed that was carved for her grandfather by Harry Percy Jackson of Coley.

Strangely enough I have a book, given to me by Olive the widow of one of our past members Vince Smith, called The Ecclesiastical and the Woodwork of H P Jackson. The book is signed by Harry Jackson in 1928. I have offered to give this to the lady and at the moment I am waiting for her to get back to me.



Tools and Woodworking items for sale at reasonable prices.

A lady has contacted us via David Hey regarding tools that belonged to her husband that she wishes to dispose of for any reasonable offer. The list is as follows:

Bosch Router and Table

Black & Decker Router

Record 12 inch Bandsaw and blades with some 5 year warranty left

Cotech Planer/Thicknesser

Meddings Pillar Drill & drills

Scheppach Circular table saw

Skil circular saw

Trend Dovetail jig

Lathe and tools - make?

Weld Mate Welder

Bench grinder - make?

Vax Extraction equipment

Proline Mitre Saw

Bosch Angle grinder & discs

Ryobi Jig saw

Black & Decker Rotary file

Bosch Heat gun

Bosch grinder

Drills, planes, clamps, screwdrivers, woodworking tools, vices.



The lady's name is Mrs Julia Chappel, she is a widower, so we don't want to put her contact details in this newsletter. All enquires to David Hey 01422-376411

Yorkshire Milestone. I'm sure that everybody in the club would like to offer their congratulations to Jan on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2017 New Year's Honours List. Regretfully, Jan moved away from the district and can no longer attend meetings. But I know that she still follows the club's progress through the newsletter. Well done Jan and its nice to see somebody who actually deserves an award being recognised.

Nominated by her fellow volunteers Jan Scrine has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours for 'services to roadside heritage'. Jan is a founder member of the Milestone Society, a registered charity with over 400 members throughout the UK, established in 2000; it has no paid staff and Jan has served as Hon Treasurer for twelve years and as Chair for two.

The Society aims to raise awareness of the historic significance of these 'quirky lumps of rock or rusty iron sitting quietly by the wayside'. The Society's website www.MilestoneSociety.co.uk explains that although there are earlier examples, the majority of milestones date from the Turnpike era, 1720s – 1860s, when tolls were charged to users of almost all the highways in the UK. Jan has been recognised for her contribution in West Yorkshire where she has lived for eighteen years.

She says "For me, while milestones and the history they represent are intrinsically interesting, the real opportunity is to leverage heritage and arts funding to bring tangible benefits for the community. 'Beyond Graffiti' www.Beyond-Graffiti.co.uk taught stone working skills to 100 young apprentices and trainee brickies at Kirklees College and Kirklees Council, as well as working with multicultural children's groups. 'Crossing the Pennines' www.CrossingthePennines.co.uk was to encourage sustainable tourism in the Colne Valley around Marsden and Slaithwaite. 'Finding the Way!' www.findingtheway.org.uk is teaching young people about imperial measurements and creative writing"



Jan Scrine

West Riding Woodcarvers

www.wrwoodcarvers.com



Monthly Meetings
with Guest Speakers

Club Workshops
Calderdale
Kirklees
Wakefield

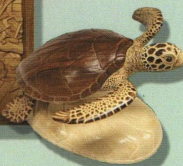
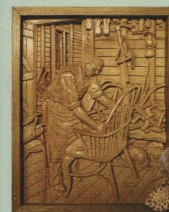
Club Projects
Commemorative Panels etc

Tuition
by Experienced Carvers

Guest Workshops
Varied Applications and Skills

Exhibitions

Talks



World War I & II Panels
Royal Armouries Leeds



Forget Me Not
Children's Hospice Panel

For those members who didn't manage to get to the Yorkshire Show the above is a copy of the leaflets we had printed to hand out. I understand that we paid £90 for a batch of, I think, 1,000 but they will last for quite a few years and were desperately needed. Thanks to Graham for the design and Margret for looking after the printing.