

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



March 2017
Issue 251

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Meeting 11th February 2017: Stuart Smith



Peter Sutcliffe 'The Yorkshire Ripper'



Jack Humble 'Wearside Jack'



Stuart Smith

The people who attended our meeting this month listened to one of the most unusual talks we have ever had, but one of the most thought provoking and interesting, if not a little gruesome at times.

We can all remember 1978/79 when the papers and TV were awash with details about the letters and voice messages received during the terror reign of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper. In fact, quite a number of people in the room had personal connections and stories, that they shared, that loosely tied them to Peter Sutcliffe and his victims.

Stuart Smith worked on the cold-case review of the Yorkshire Ripper Hoaxer as a Detective Sergeant and the purpose of his very professional and well delivered talk was to put forward a completely unbiased view of the detail and content of the Sunderland Letters and Tape.

Stuart also introduced elements of the similarities in the Sunderland Letters and Tape with the original 1888 'Jack the Ripper' Whitechapel investigation and made reference to what information was in the media at the time of the Sutcliffe enquiry.

Via a well thought out PowerPoint presentation he delivered all the facts and inferences and then let his audience consider the information and put forward their thoughts of the investigation.

Arguments for and against the credibility of the letters and tape from labourer, Jack Humble, also known as "Wearside Jack", and the cruel hoax which helped the Yorkshire Ripper to continue his killing spree for almost three years, contributed to a lively discussion.

Stuart detailed how, after some 25 years following the event, a fragment from one of Humble's envelopes was traced to him through DNA, and in 2006 Humble was sentenced to eight years in prison for perverting the course of justice. Jack Humble was released in 2009 after serving half his sentence of eight years, It is believed he was motivated by a desire for notoriety, and possibly a hatred of police relating to an earlier, unspecified encounter.

Meeting Saturday 11th March 2017 - The History of Silver Hallmarking

We still struggle to bring speakers to our meeting that relate to our craft of woodcarving but fortunately we have still managed to find some extremely interesting speakers on various topics.

This month, Adrian has persuaded a gentleman called Dr David Allen who will talk on the subject of Silver Hall Markings. Adrian has it on good authority that he is a very good speaker and knows his subject backwards.

Bring along all those silver items you have locked up in the safe for authentication or valuation.

The table display over the last few months has been a bit sparse and we seem to be leaving it up to just a few of our members to bring along items. The idea of displaying our work is to encourage and offer assistance to the people who are reasonably new to the club and show our guest speaker what we do. So please try to bring along your carvings, old or new, it doesn't matter, and please don't think yours aren't good enough for display, they certainly are.



London
pre 1820



London
post 1820



Birmingham



Sheffield



Chester



Edinburgh



Glasgow



Dublin



Meeting April 8th: Annual General Meeting where everybody leaps forward to take office for the following twelve months.

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

Attached this month is a content listing of the Woodcarving magazine from issue 1 to 139. Our thanks to Darrel Edwards for obtaining this.

Royal Armouries, Leeds

There is a Public Engagement Group meeting on the 15th March where our proposal to enhance the two panels will be discussed by various senior managers.

Shortly after this meeting, we are expecting to have a get together with Tristan and Helen Langwick, Head of Interpretation, to further discuss, and jointly agree, our application.

We shall, hopefully, then be discussing lighting, signage and our application to the Heritage Lottery for funding of two touch screen panels.

Should we not move forward after the above meeting we may be discussing removing the panels from the Royal Armouries, but I'm confident it won't come to this.

All Saints carving class

We were asked if anybody in the class would like to attend a Black Tie Charity Ball at the Holiday Inn, Brighouse on the 5th May 2017, in aid of funds for the new school building.

Seeing as we only have one dancer amongst us, this being Arthur with his mantelpiece full of gold medals, we kindly declined.

But to keep in the good books of the school, we have donated a very nice bottle of whisky for their raffle.

This class is very well attended at the moment but doubts still exist regarding availability of a classroom from September onwards.

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.

After the last Shepley meeting I called round to hand over a cheque for £225, which they were delighted to received.

You may remember it was a terrible day on the 11th February with the rain bouncing down and very cold and yet at least thirty children, of mixed abilities, were riding round the athletics track at Spenborough with a good number of adults assisting them.

Should anybody get the chance to look at the Facebook page of Street Bikes you will see that they have acknowledged and thanked the club for our donation. The lady who started and, on a daily basis runs Street Bikes, also rang me at home to thank me for the £225 cheque.

It's gratifying to see our raffle money going to a charity that is local and doing such a brilliant job for young children plus adults and children with disabilities.



North of England Woodworking Show

You may remember I sent an Email to Mark Baker, Editor of the Woodcarving magazine, telling him that we collectively thought his article in the Dec/Jan 2017 edition did little to advertise the show or indeed benefit any of the carving clubs who displayed.

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

If we do forward an article it is thought that it will be more effective if it appears in the magazine just before the next November 2017 show at Harrogate, which we hopefully intend to participate in.

Watch this space.

Pontefract Hospice

Adrian and Brian are waiting for the hospice to call them to attend a further progress meeting.

Shortly they will be asking for volunteers to form a working group for this panel.

Brian Walker is acting as Project Manager.



Mike Chambers' tree carvings

A month or so back, one of our elderly members, Des Lindley, sadly passed away and I forgot to inform everybody via the monthly newsletter.

Des for many years ran one of our carving classes from a barn on his farm over Huddersfield/Wakefield way. Unfortunately, Des lost his wife and because of ill health had to move away from his farm into a nursing home. The members who attended his class eventually moved into the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and the class has now been successfully run from there for a number of years.

