

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



August 2018
Issue 262

Patron
Dame Ingrid M Roscoe
DCVO FSA
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

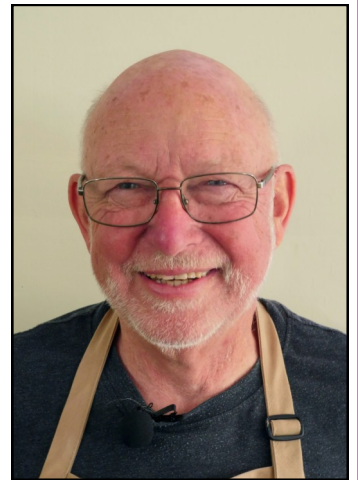
Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

May 12th: Shepley Monthly Meeting

Jim Robison of Booth House Gallery, Holmfirth.

Ceramic art by an 'incomer' reflects the northern landscape

Ceramicist Jim Robison came to this country nearly 50 years ago intending to stay a year. But the love of a woman, later to become his wife, meant that he willingly exchanged Independence, Missouri for Holmfirth, Yorkshire and also fell in love with the sweep of rough, rolling hills, harsh winter weather and summer's lush green fields.



Jim Robison

'It's a lovely place,' he told club members at the May meeting in Shepley. 'I love the hills, the dry stone walls, the vertical nature of the landscape and the characters. However they still call me an incomer.'

His love affair with the landscape is what informs his ceramics, both large and small-scale. Some of his large scale works are two metres high or more although he does make smaller, very desirable domestic pieces to decorate the home and garden.

Jim works with slabs or sheets of clay at his studio and gallery at Booth House, Holmfirth and uses a slab roller (like an old mangle) to flatten out the clay. These large sheets are often re-rolled, stressed, or have their edges 'broken' and then Jim's artistic talents are applied with patterned rollers and colours. 'Things happen in an unexpected way, by chance, and accidents become techniques,' he said.

For unusual textures, Jim presses the clay into the stable wall or local dry stone walls, uses fabrics to imprint a design and incorporates his love of old buildings, the wind, weather and trees to inform his patterns. Much of his work reflects local communities and the environment, like the four large panels commissioned by the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation for its foyer, which depict the geometric element, the decaying coal pits and the river running through.



Pots and planters for outdoors, as well as large commissioned works of art around the area, withstand the harsh winter weather of the north as they are fired to 1,500 degrees centigrade and become waterproof and frost proof. His art was commissioned for Tatton Park, for Huddersfield University, Jorvik Museum at York and many more places including pieces for his adopted home town of Holmfirth.

He welcomes visitors to his studio and the way to find it, he says, is to drive up Shaw Lane at Holmfirth, 'until you think you are lost.'

Janet Smith

Saturday 9th September 2018: Shepley Meeting.

For our first meeting after the summer recess it was agreed that we would have a morning of individual carving and, if needed, tuition on tool sharpening. (We originally planned a full day but a number of people are still on holiday so we have reduced this to just a morning session).

So could we ask all of the people who attend the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Brooksbank classes, and the other members who regretfully now only manage to attend the Shepley meetings, to please turn out and make this a day of catching up with old and new friends while taking advantage of carving tuition and lessons on sharpening. Class tutors, along with the more skilled members of our club, should be present to offer their advice. If you are carving a workmate and some tools will be required.



Trevor Stanley is going to try and get along to give everybody the benefit of a lifetime of chisel sharpening and pattern making. We shall ensure that the sharpening system that we have at Brooksbank is brought along and we would ask whoever has the Tormak wet system, from the All Saints class, to please bring that to the meeting. Would whoever has the tool roll of chisels from the All Saints class also please bring them along to the meeting. We would suggest that you bring along those chisels that would now have difficulty cutting butter. Who knows you may go away with them like new.

It would also be nice to see a table display of carvings that you have recently completed, or some of those carvings that you have not displayed for quite a long time and are locked away in sheds and lofts.

Return of carving classes:

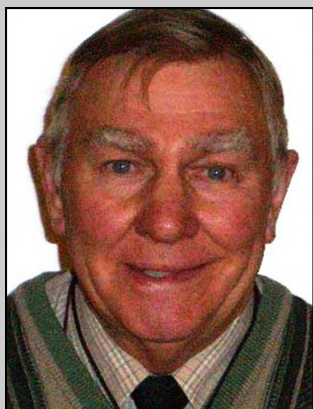
Both the Brooksbank, Elland and the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield classes start again this coming Monday night 3rd September at 7:00pm. If you don't intend to return to these classes will you please let Adrian or myself know.

Just a note to the people attending the Brooksbank class. For only the second time since we started this class in September 2006 the cost of hiring the room has risen slightly. For the term from September to Christmas it is suggested that the charge per individual be increased from £20 to £25. With this slight increase we will then be able to keep the Christmas to Easter cost at £20 each. The members who attend the few weeks to the end of May we shall again be able to keep the cost at £10. Even with this slight rise its incredible good value when compared with other similar activity and evening classes.



Regretfully, we still don't have answers to the question of daytime classes after losing our room at All Saints. Unfortunately, with the recent deaths and illnesses that the club has experienced, it is doubtful if we could raise the numbers willing to attend a daytime class that would justify the cost of hiring a room. Although Brooksbank remains bursting at the seams and the Wakefield class is now reaching full capacity I'm sure we would all make room and welcome anybody who attended the daytime class at All Saints. We will monitor the daytime class situation as the year progresses.

The Brooksbank class have invested in £120 worth of very good quality Lime and we have a number of 6 inch x 6 inch x 1 1/2 inch blocks at £5.00 each for sale. Anybody interested please let me know and I will bring them along to the Shepley meeting.



Terry Thorley-Lawson



Mike Ryan



Bryan Hodgson

Sadly since March 2018 we have lost three members of the club.

All three played a big part in the history of our club with Terry and Bryan being members since its formation.

Our thoughts are with the families of all three.

Dame Ingrid's Commonwealth of Nations Garden Party: June 3rd 2018. Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham.

We were again asked to put on a display of carvings at the garden party that doubled up as the final official engagement of our Patron, Dame Ingrid, before she retired as Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

The day was very typical of this lovely summer with brilliant sunshine and temperatures in the thirties. Our marquee was very popular, not only for the carvings that were on display, but because we seemingly offered one of the only shady spots in the grounds of Bowcliffe Hall, which is where the offices of the Lord Lieutenancy are located. Although the marquee was shady it was also blisteringly hot so we managed a rapid turnover of people interested in looking at our carvings.

We took with us a selection of twenty carvings from the Pontefract Panel and got some lovely comments about the quality of the carvings and the reason why we are doing our latest panel for the hospice.



Pontefract Panel.

I am informed by Jeff Myatt, who has taken over as Project Manager from Brian Walker, that everything is going to plan and all but a couple of carvings, that were given out late, have been completed, sealed and photographed. The timber for the frame has been ordered and its construction will be started shortly. The completed panel will be ready for the start of our three day display at the North of England Woodworking and Machinery Show at Harrogate in late November. Three of the carvings are shown below.

