

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



February 2019
Issue 267

Patron
Dame Ingrid M Roscoe
DCVO FSA

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

January 12th: Mike Sykes - Shaker Boxes:

Shaker boxes, with their simple but exquisite design, were the subject of a demonstration at Shepley in January. The distinctive bentwood boxes, with their swallow tail projections, were made by the Shakers, a religious sect in America, although examples of similar boxes can be seen around the world.

Mike Sykes showed the West Riding Woodcarvers how the thin strips of wood are soaked in a hot water tank until they are pliable enough to be wrapped round a form. Tacks are then hammered gently into place to hold the wood in the authentic oval shape of the boxes, and tiny pieces of dowel are also employed, such as tooth picks or cocktail sticks. However Mike prefers to make his own out of the same wood as the box.

Mike cuts his own wood from a solid board using a circular saw and then puts it through a planer. Thicknesses vary with the size of the box. He uses a variety of woods, including bird's eye maple and pine - pine is usually used for the base of the box as it gives stability to the piece. And of course Mike follows the rule that no glue is used in making the boxes.

'Shakers believed that everything should be practical and beautiful at the same time,' said Mike. Shaker boxes are made in a variety of exact sizes so that they can be stacked inside each other in a similar way to a Russian doll.

The finished box which Mike produced at the meeting was then raffled and the lucky winner was Shirley Wilson.



Shepley meeting February 9th 2019. Emma 'Tiny Turner' Cook. Woodturner and Carver.

Members who were involved with our display at the North of England Woodworking and Machinery Show in Harrogate last November will be aware of Emma who was displaying and demonstrating on the stall next to ours. Emma has been demonstrating for a number of years to woodturning clubs throughout the UK and is a regular demonstrator at all the wood related and craft shows throughout the country.

Emma has also for many years been a pupil of our good friend Mike Painter and has become a very accomplished woodcarver.

It is difficult to demonstrate practical carving work in just a couple of hours so we have asked Emma to try and talk about her carving background as she gives a practical demonstration of turning.

Emma is a lovely young lady who, through joint exhibition work, we have known for a number of years and I'm sure we shall all enjoy her very first visit to Shepley.

When we have a fellow carver as a visitor it is always interesting for them to view the work our club turns out. So can we please have a good table display this Saturday morning, please.



Lost Owl.

After the Christmas luncheon I somehow finished up with a nice carved owl with glass eyes that's now lodging in my workshop while looking for its owner. I have asked around but nobody has claimed it and, strangely enough, Peter Keene took a photo of every carving on display at the luncheon but the lost owl didn't appear in his photos. So very strange.

If anybody realises they are missing a bird carving, just let me know please and I will get it to fly home, post code required.

Pricilla the Pigeon.

We seem to have an attraction for birds in that last year, on a lovely day in April, we found an exhausted pigeon in the driveway. She was very nearly covered in pink dye and we later found out that she is a Tippler pigeon and that their owners dye them to stop winged predators taking them. The dye also makes it easier for the owners to identify them as they come back into the loft. Tippler pigeons are bred for their endurance and they can fly for 20 hours plus non-stop. Pricilla's navigation system seems to have gone faulty.

Being kind people we took it in, named her Pricilla, and after a long sleep in the greenhouse and a feed of seed and a drink of water, she was up again the next day all bright and breezy. We let her out expecting her to go off on her way but she seemed quite to content to sit on the house roof sunbathing. In fact she continued to sunbathe all summer, her favourite place was lying in the gutter on the south side of the house, only occasionally moving to have a fly round and a pop down for her fill of seed off the bird table.

Then as the summer turned into autumn and then winter she found herself a few mates to nest with but comes back, regretfully with her mates, every single day for the very expensive racing pigeon seed that we now buy for her. You can guarantee that if you look out between 10:00am and midday she will be sitting on the house roof or the bird table. She still has pink dye under her wings but has bloomed into a very lovely looking, and obviously contented birdie.

How long will she be around? Who knows, but she seems to know a good thing when she sees it.



British Hardwoods OPEN-DAY Saturday 2nd February.

Just in case you cannot see the poster very well, it's a bit dark, the Open-Day is this coming Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Unit 9, Riparian Way, The Crossings Business Park, Cross Hills, BD20 7BW.

The business park is at the end of the dual carriageway as you come from Keighley towards Skipton. At the big Cross Hills roundabout you turn left and then left again into the business park and British Hardwoods is a very large warehouse on the right at, I think, the first roundabout.

From previous visits, I know that they have a huge supply of timbers of all types and when I was there last they had quite a lot of Lime in both plank form and in great big lumps.

We were asked as a club if we wanted to display our work but, mainly because we shall be tied up with the Pontefract panel during February, we declined the invitation.

A poster for British Hardwoods Timber Shop Open Day. The background is a close-up of wood grain. At the top is a logo of a tree with the text 'BRITISH HARDWOODS Timber Shop' below it. The main text reads 'OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2019 10AM - 4PM'. Below this is the text 'JOIN US AT OUR TIMBER SHOP OPEN DAY' followed by a list of activities: 'TIMBER SALE OF NATIVE, EUROPEAN, AMERICAN & CANADIAN HARDWOODS', 'MEET THE BLIND WOODTURNER', 'CRAFT MAKERS STALLS', 'WOODWORKING DEMONSTRATIONS', 'TOOL DEMONSTRATIONS', and 'WOODWORKING TASTER SESSIONS'. At the bottom is the website 'www.britishhardwoods.co.uk - 01535 637755' and the address 'Unit 9, Riparian Way, The Crossings Business Park, Cross Hills, BD20 7BW'.

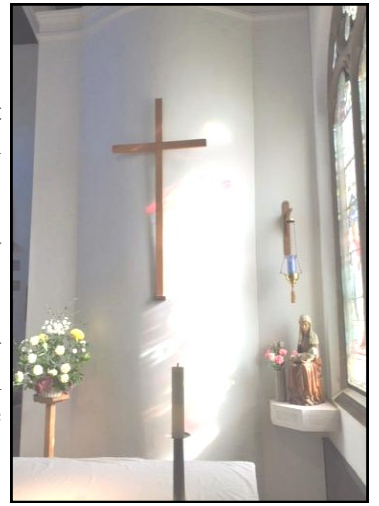
The Prince of Wales Hospice, Halfpenny Lane, Pontefract, WF8 4BG.

Members may, or may not, be aware that the Pontefract Hospice panel will be on display at St Giles Church, Market Place, Pontefract, WF8 1AT from Monday 11th February through to Saturday 16th February 2019.

All arrangements have been made between Jeff Myatt, Sophie Bryan, Event and Community Fundraiser, Pontefract Hospice and representatives from St Giles Church.

Our club will be assisting with transporting the panel from the hospice, where it is presently stored, to St Giles church, setting up the panel, stewarding at the church each day that it is on display and then returning it back to The Prince of Wales Hospice. Volunteers from the hospice will be attending each session at the church to help sell booklets.

The steel frame to hold the panel is presently stored at Derek's house and will need transporting to St Giles Church.



The timetable for the above is as follows.

Sunday 10th February: The panel has to be picked up from Pontefract Hospice for transportation to St Giles church for arrival at 11:15am, after the morning service has finished. Pontefract Hospice is supplying transport but the heavy gang will be needed to lift and secure the panel onto its steel display frame at the church.

Monday 11th February: The panel will be on display from 10:30am until 3:00pm. Ideally, three stewards are needed with the overall time being split from 10:30am to 1:00pm and then from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. At the moment nobody has come forward to fill these sessions.

Tuesday 12th February: Times as Monday with stewards needed for the 10:30am to 1:00pm time slot. The 1:00pm to 3:00pm is also in need of volunteer stewards.

Wednesday 13th February: Times as Monday with Adrian Lindley and Pam taking the 10:30am to 1:00pm slot and Graham Lockwood and Marina taking the 1:00pm to 3:00pm slot.

Thursday 14th February: Times as Monday with David Kent and Pam taking the 10:30am to 1:00pm slot. At the moment nobody has volunteered to cover the 1:00pm to 3:00pm slot.

Friday 15th February: Slightly different times to take into account a church service. We will steward from 10:30am to 12:00pm. At the moment nobody has volunteered to cover this session. After a short break until 12:30pm we then steward until 3:00pm. Geoff Brumfield and Marion will cover this session.

Saturday 16th February: Times as Monday with only Arthur Brook covering the 10:30am to 1:00pm session at the moment. The 1:00pm to 3:00pm will be covered by Liz McFarlen and Casper.

Sunday 17th February: The panel will then be returned to Pontefract Hospice following the Sunday service at 11:15am. The heavy gang will be needed to lift and transport the panel.

Jeff is confident that the stewarding sessions that remain vacant, as of today, will be filled before our display in the church but he asks that anybody interested should please contact him on 01484-712446. Please come forward it is important that we fill all of the stewarding time slots.

There will be a launch event at The Prince of Wales Hospice on Tuesday 12th March 2019 that will be attended by the present Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mr Edmund Anderson and our Patron Dame Ingrid Roscoe. The panel launch will form part of the hospice's 30th anniversary celebrations. I'm sure Jeff will be giving out more details of our involvement as we get nearer the date.