

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



April 2019
Issue 269

Patron
Dame Ingrid M Roscoe
DCVO FSA

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Shepley meeting March 9th 2019. John Anderson - Woodcarver and Member of the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers

Inspired by wood

John Adamson finds his inspiration in the natural form of the wood he intends to carve - often a log, a dying tree or even a tree root. But apart from his natural talent as a sculptor and woodcarver, John insists that drawing is elementary to his work.

It's about training the mind to see what is actually there,' he told club members at Shepley in March. 'If you draw, you will be surprised how much better your carving will become.' And to that end, John, who lives in Hebden Bridge, carries a small sketchbook and pencil with him everywhere and sketches people he sees every day. His specialist subject is the human figure. When it comes to carving, he searches for the true story in the wood and endeavours to bring life and movement to his work, preferring a tooled finish.

As the young son of a pattern maker and woodwork teacher, he became interested in wood and carving when he was about ten years old. He carved 'on and off' for many years, earning his living as a civil servant and in computers, running his own company. It was at the turn of the Millennium that he began a BA in Fine Art at university in Preston where an exchange year in Virginia, USA, honed his talents.

His talk at Shepley first centered on a recent commissioned carving on a tree stump of the head of Sean Dyche, the much admired manager of Burnley Football Club.

To get the manager's likeness John worked from photographs of the man and used card from a cereal packet to cut out a profile as 'working from the negative' is sometimes easier than the positive.

His tips included thinking of a face as a V-shaped 90 degree angle, making sure the eyes are well back - and leaving out the ears as, to be perfect, they have to be very thin and fragile.

He has a large and interesting catalogue of commissioned work both public art and private commissions, and some impressive group figure carvings, most of which show how the wood itself has inspired him to create the finished piece of art.

Janet Smith



Shepley meeting 13th April 2019: Annual General Meeting:

It is important that every member tries to attend the club AGM as this is the main occasion where you get to decide the way forward for the club. It is also your chance to join either the Officers of the club or the Management Committee.

There is a whole host of paperwork to come out to everybody, mainly through the internet with a few via the postman. Will you please check that along with this newsletter you receive the following.

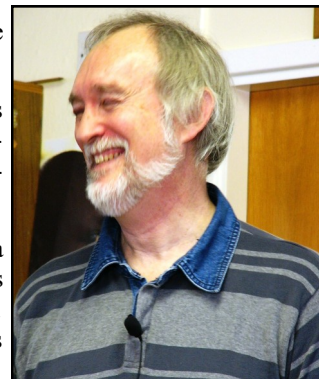
1/ Accounts for the West Riding Woodcarvers for 2018/19. **2/** Accounts for carving classes Queen Elizabeth Grammar School & Brooksbank School, Elland. **3/** Annual General Meeting Agenda. **4/** Treasurer's Annual Report 2018/19. **5/** Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 14th April 2018. **6/** Secretary's Annual Report 2018/19. **7/** Subscription Renewal form for 2019/20. **8/** Club Privacy Statement for 2019/20 and **9/** Newsletter.

Shepley 11th May 2019: Way back in August 2014 our own club member **David Hey** stepped into the breach, when the booked speaker let us down at the last minute, to give a talk on Marquetry.



David has a little more time to prepare this time round and through the wonders of digital technology and a room full of finished projects, will explain the intricacies of how to cut up little bits of veneer to make incredible pictures. Our grateful thanks to David for stepping up to the plate once again.

Shepley 14th September 2019: Once again we welcome back to the club, for a full day, our good friend **Michael Painter**. We are not sure what subjects Michael will cover but, as always, he will be very entertaining and instructional. I'm sure we all look forward to this remarkable Master Carver sharing his experiences and talent once again.



Going forward the main responsibility of finding speakers will, probably, fall to your new Secretary Chris Smith. I wish him luck in what is without doubt a very difficult job to find speakers that will interest and instruct our members.

Tool and Timber sale:

It's always very sad to say goodbye to any club member who you have got to know, admire and become firm friends with over the years. These friendships have been forged through many years of attendance at various carving classes, our monthly Shepley meetings and through our joint interest and involvement in exhibitions and the production, and presentation, of a number of panels, that the club has become well known for.

It is particularly sad to the families, and individuals like our good friend Albert Hobson, to see tools and woodworking gear being gathered together and moved on to others. But I'm sure it's a comfort to Albert, his family and the families of Bryan Hobson and Jim Longbottom to know that these treasured items are going to assist fellow club members in their carving endeavours over the coming years.



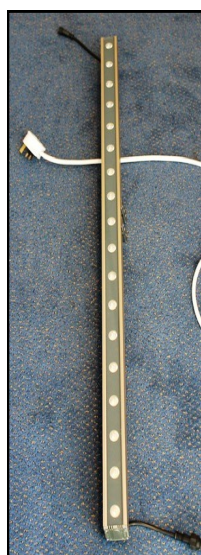
Very kindly, the families of Bryan and Jim, have asked that any monies raised be donated to the West Riding Woodcarvers Association.

On behalf of all club members may I offer our grateful thanks for their generosity and offer our assurance that any carving tool, wood-working equipment or pieces of timber will be taken great care of and used as its original owner would wish.

A number of surplus items, not sold to club members, will be donated to a charity called Specialist Autism Services, Bradford. The charity supports adults with autism through special workshops to teach their clients new skills to encourage independent living. They also teach skills such as cooking, finances and DIY etc. Additionally they also endeavour to teach their clients to be creative and express themselves. One of our members, who also attends the Brooksbank School carving class, Martin Burgess, is employed by the charity and approached us with the suggestion that surplus items would be put to good use.



I'm sure the owners of the items in question would approve of this decision and we thank them for their generosity.



Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds.

I'm sure everybody will be aware of the history of the WW1&2 panels, that we retain ownership of but have offered for long term loan to the Royal Armouries.

For those who are unaware, the panels were unveiled at the museum by Prince Michael of Kent on the 11th November 2010, Remembrance Day. They were originally destined for a newly refurbished War Gallery in the museum but because of financial cut backs this never came to be. The two panels were eventually located in a position that saw very little footfall past them.

Over the years we have tried to have the panels moved to a new location only to be thwarted by a certain disinterest and the moving-on of individuals just as we were reaching a conclusion. However, in December last year, we finally achieved the conclusion of years of negotiations which saw the panels being moved to where they were intended to be sited in November 2010.

They will become the focal point of a newly refurbished War Gallery later this year.

The two photos show the panel now in position, and under Perspex covering, and the light bars that will be fitted later this month. More photos will be distributed once the lighting has been sorted out.

The Pontefract panel - finally in place

We did it!. After two years of talks, planning, preparation and carving, the panel for the Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract was officially handed over.

The evening at the hospice on Tuesday, March 12 marked the official presentation of the panel carved and co-ordinated by members of the West Riding Woodcarvers Association.

It now takes pride of place in the foyer of the hospice at Halfpenny Lane.

Woodcarvers and their families were welcomed by Gordon Tollefson, chair of the board of trustees, who marvelled at the talent and dedication of the carvers who produced the work.

Adrian Lindley our chairman told of the 5,000 hours it took for the creation of the panel and commended in particular Jeff and Margaret Myatt for their hard work planning and co-ordinating the mammoth task. He also thank Janet Smith for her hard working, with input from the hospice personnel, in producing the lovely booklet to accompany the panel.

Dame Ingrid Roscoe, the club's patron and the former Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, now Deputy Lieutenant, attended and paid tribute to the many panels the club has previously made and to the members' hard work and dedication.

The carvings represent the work and ethos of the hospice and also feature the landmarks and buildings of Pontefract and district, drawing together modern structures like the Castleford footbridge and ancient edifices such as the magnificent Pontefract Castle.

The booklet to accompany the panel is being sold to raise money for the hospice and the panel itself will be a talking point for patients, staff and visitors for many years too come.

The evening came to a pleasant end with tea, coffee and, of course, cake.



Coat of Arms
Carved by
John Murphy

In all the very, very many newsletters I have produced and distributed over the years I don't think I have ever included a picture of one of my carvings.

So in my very last newsletter I have indulged myself and put one in that I have just finished before it heads off to its final destination with our son in Hong Kong.

May I take this opportunity of thanking everybody who has helped me in anyway during my time as Secretary and all those who have contributed to any of the past newsletters. *John M*



The Prince of Wales Hospice Panel

CARVED BY
The West Riding Woodcarvers Association