

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Life Members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Patron
Mike Painter

February 2020
Issue 275

Club Meeting February 8th, 2020.

At The Sharp End.



For those of us who hover on the edge of the mysterious world of sharpening, February's foray into the world of chisel honing was a revelation.

Both Trevor Stanley and Mike Chambers have recently tried to explain all, but still there were those were unable to grasp

A flat chisel, a V tool, a fluter - all need special techniques to get that sharpness that leaves 'a smooth clean surface that doesn't need sanding.'

These were the words of our own member and club secretary Chris Smith whose power point presentation at the February meeting was a master class in this much rarified art that seems second nature to some and a closed book to others.

New chisels, we were told, have the correct angle of 18 to 20 degrees already, but continued use, of course, changes this. This is where the correct sharpening is required to create a cutting edge that glides through the wood.

Chris's splendid presentation also included an ingenious giant-sized chisel made from lime, which was offered to the equally amazing giant-sized (wooden) grinder at illustrating how to get just the right angle. The burr that sharpening creates, said Chris, can be felt by a thumb or finger nail and this should be removed with a buffing wheel, leather strop or slip stone.

The buffing wheel, Chris said, was there to take off burrs, not to sharpen the chisel and the last stage is a manual strop and some honing compound to give the final immaculate sharp edge.



The sharpening masterclass was excellently completed after the break with practical help and input from club member Mike Chambers. Mike assisted several members to use the grinder, keeping fingers well away and moving the chisel in the correct way.

Next; a walk through of the various stages to finish the edge with members shown burr removal, final honing and given sage advice to take away from the session.

It was an illuminating and practical morning for many of us and we were sent away with the instruction to spend time at club meetings practicing using the grinder, to get that elusive SHARP 18 to 20 degree angle.

Janet Smith

Next Meeting 14th March

On the 14th March we have Alan Wilkinson, an extremely talented Glass Engraving Artist



Alan is a good friend of Anne Allan and we are very lucky to get him to come east of the Pennines from his home in Fleetwood, Lancashire. I'm very much looking forward to his talk.



Visits to Michael Painter's Workshop.

Mike very kindly offered to host two separate days where club members could visit him at his workshop at Austrey nr Atherstone in Warwickshire. The day will be spent with Mike as he explains his work as a Master Carver, how his shop is set up in a professional way to make the work successful and finally he will give some tuition to those attending. This is an amazing opportunity but places are limited to 8 people per day. The dates are Saturday 18th April and Friday 24th April.

Please can you give your names to Adrian or Me at Wakefield and John Murphy at Brooksbank with your first and second preference date.

The proposal would be that if we are oversubscribed that there is a draw of names and those not getting their first choice date be offered the alternative if possible.

I'd also ask that we car share where possible and split the fuel costs.

Chris Smith.