

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Patron
Michael Painter
Life Member
Jane Renshaw

January 2024 Newsletter



Our thanks again to Graham for taking our January meeting with a slide illustrated talk on the subject of Pack Horse Bridges. The slides were pictures of bridges and the various routes around our part of the world and further afield. One such route was the 'Jaggersmen's Route'. The Jaggersmen plied their trade transporting goods along the packhorse trails. Marsden to Rochdale with Lam Luke O'Marsden. Lots of routes in this area built by Blind Jack O'Knaresborough. Marsden central

to the trades routes with two packhorse bridges. Mellor bridge in the centre of the town and the bridge with three names. The official name for the bridge at Hey Green, just out of the centre of Marsden, is 'Close Gate'. The 'Packhorse Inn' was nearby and was run by a lady called Esther Schofield. The bridge became known as Esther's Gate Bridge which was corrupted to 'Eastergate Bridge'. The third name used by the locals was 'Th'owd Bridge'. Salters Route was from the salt mines of Cheshire over the Pennines and on to Sheffield. Graham played a video of a bicycle following the pack horse trail across the moors— not Graham on the bicycle and certainly not me. Graham concluded with photographs of his and Marina's favourite bridges. The next time that you are on a narrow winding road—think about pack horses.

(Thanks to Graham for the Narrative.)



Photograph of the Mellor Bridge in Marsden and a carving of the same by Frank Greenwood



Faces by Graham, the bridge of Sighs in Venice by Frank and two of the bottle stoppers by Richard. Computer still not 'sorted' hence I can't crop and brighten photo's.

Meeting and Events Calendar

- a) 3rd February. British Hardwoods of Keighley, Open Day. WRWA to have a display stand. 10.00am—3.00pm.
- b) 10th February. Dalton Meeting. Geoff Wallace. Ukuleles.
- c) 9th March. Dalton Meeting. Chris Freeman. Talk on WaterAid.
- d) 13th April. Dalton Meeting. Richard Uttley to give a talk. Many thanks Richard.
- e) 11th May 2024 AGM. At Dalton.

June, July and August—no meetings.

- f) 1st August. Yorkshire Day. Friarwood Valley Gardens in Pontefract. WRWA to have a display stand. 11.00am - 4.00pm
- g) Members are agreed to present WRWA at the Harrogate Show again in November. The proposal is for Graham to provide the centrepiece using automata
- h) The Christmas Lunch has been confirmed for 14th December 2024.

Trevor Metcalfe.

Margaret Metcalfe wishes to thank all members who were able to give their support at Trevor's funeral. There was a good representation befitting a well admired, talented and founder member.

Adrian R Lindley