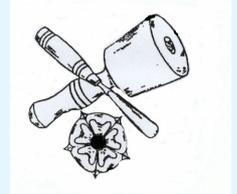


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West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson
Norman Walsh

Issue 162

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Monthly meeting March 8th 2008



Graeme



Tracey

Howard Boyd.



For the March meeting we were treated to a splendid talk by Howard on his amazing work in the world of woodcarving and art. With the aid of a Photoshop presentation and a number of striking carvings and line drawings, he transported his audience into a far different sphere of carving than practised by the average club carver. Howard's tendency is to concentrate on the larger than life figures requested by his clients. These cover both human, animal and abstract forms.

A number of members have asked who one of Howard's main clients, Felix Dennis, actually is. For those who don't know, Felix Dennis is one of Britain's most successful entrepreneurs. He was born in Kingston-upon-Thames in 1947 and after leaving Harrow College of Art he played in various R&B bands. In 1971 he was imprisoned by the British government as a co-editor of OZ magazine at the culmination of the longest conspiracy trial in English history. He went on to found his own publishing company becoming a multi-millionaire in the process. He has latterly become a very accomplished and famous poet living mainly on the island of Mustique and is a patron of the arts.

Howard has sent a message via Frank Greenwood, who e-mailed him regarding the special tools Howard mentioned, saying "**The very best of luck with your carving I am VERY impressed by the standard of the group in terms of work and camaraderie. As always woodcarvers are warm, serious and dedicated people. The best of luck to you all**".

A letter of thanks will be sent to Howard, and Christine, on behalf of the 60 members and guests who attended the February meeting, another magnificent turn out.

The one downside was the poor quality of the sound system. We checked it out afterwards and everything seemed to be OK. We can only put it down to the wooden tie that Howard was wearing, where the mike was clipped onto, or the fact that he had a relatively quiet voice, who knows. We still have lottery money in the bank and are investigating the purchase of a face or throat mike to ensure we don't have this problem at future meetings.

Our thanks must go to the ladies in the kitchen for a splendid effort with the teas and lunch.

April 12th 2008. Club 17th Annual General Meeting & Free & Easy: Reports and nomination forms for office are enclosed with this Newsletter. Please remember that we are going to hold a photographic session at this meeting to enlarge the web-site. Anne will be taking details and Frank will be doing his best with the photos (John Farrar, who has 30 years' experience in photography, has kindly offered to assist so hopefully we should finish up with some good photos). So please bring along all your carvings for inclusion on the web-site gallery. Don't forget we have now had over 6,000 people viewing the site.

May 10th 2008: This was going to be a free & easy plus sharpening session but has now changed. We are delighted to welcome back **Graham Lockwood** who has agreed to talk on his unusual hobby of kite flying. Graham is one of the country's leading flyers and has offered to take everybody onto a local open space, adjacent to the meeting rooms, to demonstrate multiple kite flying to music. Weather permitting, all members will have a chance to have a go at flying his kites.

June 7th 2008: Barry Isles Joint M D of Ashley Isles (Fine Edge) Tools Ltd: Barry has very kindly offered to travel up to Shepley to talk on the history of Ashley Isles and give a practical demonstration of tool sharpening. Having recently gone on a day sharpening course at their factory, I can assure everybody that you are in for a treat. Barry's skill, honed over many years and countless chisels, is well worth watching. Without the Lottery projection equipment this demonstration would be impossible.

Going to order some more Club name-badges. If anybody wants' one names at the AGM please. £6.00



I ran out of space in the last Newsletter to say how delighted we all were to welcome to the January meeting **Len Croft** who travelled that day all the way from Scarborough to meet his old friends and Club mates.

For many years Len was one of the teachers at the now defunct Denton carving class and taught many of the present and past Club members.

Although Len now lives in Scarborough he still pays his £15 subs each year and keeps abreast of Club affairs.

One of the onerous tasks that falls to the Secretary of any Club is writing letters to relatives and reporting the sad passing of people associated with the Club. Neither of the following were members of our Club but became valuable associates over the last few years.



Regretfully I have to report the very sudden death of **George Moore** from the Lancashire & Cheshire Club. George kindly gave the Club the benefit of his turning skill in January 07 at our monthly meeting and was very supportive of our Club activities. He was also the person who initially suggested we apply for Lottery Funding. I had

quite a lot of contact with George so on behalf of the WRWC I attended his funeral in Manchester on the 20th March.

Stuart Noble from Halifax Photographic Society, who took the photographs of the Overgate Panel, also very recently, and very suddenly, died. I have passed on our condolences to his family and sent them a copy of the Woodcarver magazine that carried Stuart's photographs and a copy of a letter from the British Woodcarvers Association that praised the photographs in the magazine for their clarity.

Further business: Meltham Golf Club was agreed for the Christmas Luncheon. Agreed that we would undertake a carving display at Beaumont Park on the 14th September. Agreed that we would participate in the Holmfirth Art Exhibition in July.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

It would appear that we are still in the running for this prestigious award. On the 14th March I received a letter from Kevin Sharp, Clerk to the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy, inviting Jane and myself (we are named on our nomination form, mine as Club Secretary and the person who put together our application, Jane as the Joint Coordinator who signed our application) to a reception at the home of Mr John Brennan OBE, DL, MA, who is the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

The reception is at Brenaire Park, Rawdon on the 23rd April from 6.15 pm to 8.00 pm and present will be Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Peter Sunderland, Deputy Lord Lieutenant (he was the person who attended our Saturday morning meeting at Shepley to assess us in February) and Kevin Sharp the Clerk and probably some other dignitaries.

I understand from a conversation I had with the person who initially contacted me by phone that we are just one of 13 groups who have been invited to the reception. It's a fair bet that we are being called in for further assessment as a Local Selection Panel short-lists nominations for its particular area.

West Yorkshire and Humberside is our area and in 2007 four groups got the award, in 2006 seven groups, 2005 six groups and 2004 again seven groups. So we still have a long way to go. I shall have to make sure Jane behaves herself and we may have a chance.



A relief carving of **Shepley Methodist Church** was presented to the Minister as a thank you for their hospitality since moving from our old meeting rooms. The carving was undertaken by Arthur, Trevor and Albert and presented by Jane. It will be displayed in the church.

Apologies: Vernon & Joyce Secker, Des Lindley, Alan Brook, Norman Walsh, Gordon Taylor, Frank Adams, Reg Platt and Terry Thorley-Lawson.

Woodcarver Magazine is going to correct the mistake they made regarding the amount of grant we received towards the Panel in the 102 edition of the magazine. £1,570 not £11,570.