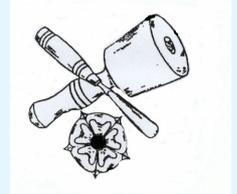


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# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



10th January 2009

## LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson  
Norman Walsh

Issue 172

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

## Bob Chapman - Master turner.



Now't to this camera job!



"Don't need this bit if you've got a suction chuck".



"I can spin this on the hole I shouldn't have made"



For the start of 2009 we were delighted to welcome Bob Chapman and a number of his colleagues from the West Riding Woodturners, who hold their meetings on the first Tuesday evening of each month at Eldwick Memorial Hall, near Bingley from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Bob is a former science teacher, who now spends his days as a professional wood turner. In this day and age probably not a bad swap.

The West Riding Woodturners are in the process of applying for a grant towards digital projection, audio, camera and computer equipment, similar to ours, and were interested to see how we used our equipment and its effectiveness in wood-turning demonstrations. Our thanks to David who did his usual casual, understated but terrific job with the camera. Perhaps an Emmy or Oscar is in the offing?



Having previously witnessed Bob give a demonstration of bowl turning aimed at the novice it was thought appropriate to ask him to repeat this type of workshop for our members.

With his easy, amusing and interesting style Bob captivated his audience of sixty seven members and guests and took those present, stage by simple stage, through from the selection of timber and design to very nearly the final stages of producing a beautifully crafted bowl.

The towering climax of his demonstration is the use of his home made suction chuck fashioned out of an old milk churn, a compressor, various hand made items, a bit of sticky plaster and a couple of rubber bands. Much to Bob's horror, and the great amusement - in the nicest possible way - of his audience, he found that the most important item, the chuck, was still back in his workshop in Bingley.

Having gone past the stage of no return with his bowl he had little option but to call on years of workshop hours' turning to try and improvise the completion of his bowl. With the bowl wedged

between a normal chuck, a bit of old rag and the head stock, he very nearly succeeded in turning off the base but at the last minute dug in with a result that he probably still dreams about during the odd nightmare.

To Bob's credit he did contact me within hours of returning home and offered to return, at some date in the future, for 20 minutes or so just to show us that he actually had a suction chuck, it does work and the results are extremely impressive. If only a few people are interested in saving Bob's embarrassment, he has offered an open invitation to his workshops for a personal demonstration.

From the audience's point of view I think they were delighted to see that even a nice guy like Bob, with years of experience, can occasionally get it wrong.

And being friendly woodcarvers, and not turners, we won't broadcast his failings by putting this Newsletter on our web-site - or shall we????



Beech wood fires are bright and clear,  
if the logs are kept a year,  
Chestnut's only good they say,  
if for long it's laid away,  
Birch and Fir logs burn too fast,  
burn up bright and do not last.  
It is by the Irish said,  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread  
Elm wood burns like churchyard mold  
Even the very flames are cold.  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
fills your eyes - makes you choke.  
Apple wood will scent your room,  
with incense like perfume.  
Oaken logs if dry and old,  
keep away the winters cold.  
But Ashwood wet and Ashwood dry,  
a king shall warm his slippers by.

**February 14th 2009: Jim Wrathall** has very kindly agreed to give the Club a talk on his interest in Misericord.

**March 14th 2009: Brian Taylor** from Lancashire - Caricature carver.

**April 11th 2009:** Annual General Meeting.

**November 21st 2009:** The very popular **Michael Painter**.

On behalf of all members may I welcome Graham Lockwood to the Club. Many will know Graham from the recent talks he gave us on kite flying and robotics. Graham, along with Derek Adams, has also joined the Brooksbank class.



### Carved Panel for the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds.

In the December Newsletter I included minutes from the introductory meeting we had with the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds. Things have moved on from that meeting and below are a summary of the main points.

1/ A second meeting of the Sub Committee was held at the Round Hill pub on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. After lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of various designs it was agreed that Bryan Hodgson's suggestion of two panels each measuring approximately 8' x 4' linked together by a hand etched or engraved glass panel, approximately 3' x 2', would be most acceptable to members and the museum. It was thought that the glass panel would contrast the wood of the two main panels, create a pleasing feature and could be inscribed with the Club name, date, the person who will eventually present it to the museum on behalf of the Club, the Club logo, words briefly describing what the panels represent and possibly an engraved picture of a traditional woodcarver at work. Obviously as we move on things may change but to get our grant application in we need something to base it on.

2/ Having accepted our "Expression of Interest" form, the Community Foundation of Leeds invited us to complete a "Grassroots Grants Application". This was sent in and I have had a response from the Foundation by e-mail stating that they will make a decision on it at their Board Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. We shall be informed of the outcome shortly afterwards. (If anybody wants a copy of the application just give me a call.)

3/ The grant application has been put in.. This is made up of timber, Lime, Utile and plywood; glass etched panel; worktop clamps; sealer, screws, glue, etc; paper and photocopying; postage, printing, stamps etc; display equipment and transport; printing and design of 1000 booklets; (similar to the Overgate Hospice booklet and with all proceeds going to the Children's Hospice). The above costing had to be further broken down and detailed for the application.

4/ A meeting has been arranged for the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 at Overgate Hospice with the personnel from the Armouries Museum. This was at their suggestion to give them the opportunity of viewing the Overgate Panel. At this meeting we shall finalise the design details of the project.

5/ Before the design of the Panels is set in stone, it is essential that the sub committee have a clear understanding of how many people wish to complete one, or possibly more, of the sections that go to make up the Panels. Included in this month's Newsletter is a pre-addressed envelope addressed to Mike Hadfield and a slip asking you to state your intentions. Please, please complete it and post it off to Mike – sorry but you will have to put your own stamp on, or hand it in at one of the classes.

This is an opportunity to further enhance the good name of our Club by creating a work of art that will eventually hang in a nationally acclaimed museum, which will forever be available for the general public, our family, friends and our children's children to enjoy.

Please support this project by posting your completed slips to Mike.

**Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.** On Monday 12th January I had a call from a gentleman called James Barker who is one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants of West Yorkshire and lives in Cragg Vale. He had been asked by the Lord Lieutenant's Office to undertake a re-assessment of our Club for this year's review of applicants for the Queen's Award.

He wanted to come along to one of our monthly meetings but had to get his report in by the end of January and had missed our 10th January meeting. I suggested that he came along to the Brooksbank carving class where he could see us in action — plus arguing over whose cup hadn't been washed up, who was putting away the sharpening machine and whose turn it was for the biscuits — and he came that evening.

He spent in total over one and a half hours with us and spent some time with each of the 18 carvers who were present. He was very well informed, having spent some considerable time going right through the web-site. After leaving us, he was heading off to Overgate to look at the Panel.

We shall only know how impressed he was when we get the results of the selection panel later this year—here's hoping.

The raffle seems to be doing well under Graham. This month the takings were £53 and profit £43. This was helped by the donation of a Stanley plane by Trevor Metcalf. Winners Mary, Ken Taylor and Norman Shaw. Any donated prizes would be appreciated and assist the profits for the kids and the Club.

We have been asked to present a talk and display of carvings to Huddersfield Arts Society on the 28th February 2009. This is something we have not tackled before, to my knowledge, and Anne, Mike Chambers, David Holt, and his projection equipment, and myself have volunteered. If anybody wants to join in just give us a call, or take over please!

At the last meeting, and previous ones, we had a number of people at the back of the room who were strangers, certainly to Jane, David, Anne, Dennis and myself when we discussed them after the meeting. These people were not with the Woodturning group who we recognised and ensured they were spoken to and shown where the coffee and biscuits were.

It is essential, and polite, to ensure that new people are greeted in a friendly way by the Club. Jane has asked that three members come forward who will take on the responsibility of greeting people.

Regretfully we have a number of members who have health problems at the moment. Alan Brook has unfortunately had to return to hospital with a recurrence of his ongoing problems. Eric Schofield is still having problems that are keeping him housebound. Peter Nethergate is just getting back to mobility after a long illness and Ken Cockroft is struggling with an arm that won't work properly after falling and dislocating it.

I have also had the following letter from long time member Gordon Taylor which reads. "Due to health problems at home I am having great difficulty keeping up with my commitments. In view of this I am having to tender my resignation from the club. I wish you all a good New Year and hope the club continues to go from strength to strength".

I'm sure we wish all of them the very best and a speedy return to health, the carving classes and monthly meetings. *I have been asked to report the sad passing of Hedley Sykes.*

We forgot to ask for apologies in all the excitement—Jane's fault. Jane did say that Arthur had to take over for the February meeting as she was entertaining—uhm—at her 60th birthday party. Happy birthday from all at the Club, Jane.

Congratulations to Frank who managed to take some really good photos this month, no bits chopped off, none out of focus and no photos of just the table cloth—well done.

**Management meeting: 29th January '09 8:00pm  
Round Hill pub.**