

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



March 2012
Newsletter Issue 205

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Meeting at Shepley Saturday 10th March 2012

Our grateful thanks to Mike who gave a very confident, relaxed but very interesting talk of his life and times in stonecarving.

Mike did a Fine Arts course at Sunderland Art College in stone carving and then continued learning his craft on the cathedrals and churches of Northern England. Throughout his working life he has worked in stone quarries both in this country and in Zimbabwe, where he worked alongside the legendary Shona carvers, and for a while in Japan.

For the last ten years Mike has worked on many commissions for a wide variety of clients, from building firms to schools, from hospitals to city centres. Mike has also taught many workshops for children and adults across Britain and Ireland. To date he has produced over seventy pieces, each distinguished by his unique style of carving.



Mike Disley - Stonecarver

Mike



Yet another terrific carving by Trevor Metcalfe. You feel in this one that you can walk around the back of the pillars behind the chair, or disappear up the staircase. How on earth he manages to knock these out at the rate, and quality, he does is a mystery to all of us.

There was a suggestion that he is running a Chinese sweat shop in his garage and, like all the old masters, just tickles up the finished items and then brings them to the club for all to admire. We should, perhaps, break a couple of fingers and see if that slows him down!!!

My wife wants to know why Trevor has a different carving each month and I've been working on a mouse for most of the year, that looks more like a bear, or as Tracey called it the other night at Brooksbank 'a fat rat'.

Regretfully, I have to report that both Vernon Secker and Norman Shaw, yet more long serving members of the club, have sadly passed away. Vernon for many, many years tutored at one of the daytime carving classes and Norman contributed greatly to the panels that the club has produced. They were both models of courtesy, manners and enthusiasm. Their passing has shocked and saddened all who knew them, both will be very sadly missed.



Vernon

Norman

I understand that Vernon died very suddenly while Norman has been suffering for a short while and died in hospital.

I understand that Vernon was very well represented at his funeral by club members but, as I write, Norman's funeral arrangements have not yet been published.

Jane has sent condolence cards to both Joyce and Betty and their families.

Regretfully, we seem to have quite a number of health related problems in the club at the moment. Malcolm Till has been in hospital for a few days with, I'm told, blood related problems. John Kemp has been hospitalised with bronchitis - probably brought about by that nasty pipe he's so fond of - sadly his wife, Daphne, has also had a short spell in hospital as well. Then we have Derek Lindley with a bad case of shingles that is now clearing up and our thoughts are always with Anne Hobson, Des Lindley and Mick Wilson who unfortunately remain in care homes.

Shepley Methodist Church Hall: Would you please note that the people who hire the hall to us have asked that we use the main door to the building and not the side door that we usually use. This is connected to new fire regulations.

- April 14th: This is the club's Annual General Meeting. The children's hospice sub-group will be given the chance to share their thoughts, and gather support and approval for the new panel whilst it is still at the planning stage.
- May 12th: Malcolm Cooper: Best stick maker in the club.
- June 16th: The return of Michael Painter but this time, as requested by quite a number of members, we shall make this full day meeting into a practical woodcarving workshop.
- July 14th: Mark Raby, who is a wood finishing demonstrator, possibly with Jo Sonja.
- August 11th: Possibly a lady called Maria Blakeley who is a wild life photographer and a biologist. We are just trying to finalise details. (Introduced by Peter Keene.)
- September 8th: Sue Evens who is a sculpture and automaton expert. (Introduced by Mike Hadfield.)
- October 13th: Mike Kelly, a woodturner who specialises in segmented woodturning. (Introduced by Mike Hadfield.)
- November 10th: The return of Peter Berry for a full day for a similar workshop to that held last November. Possibly with our friends the Lancashire and Cheshire carvers
- December 8th: Christmas Luncheon. Meltham Golf Club.

West Riding Stonecarvers Association.

The stonecarvers are having an open day on Saturday 28th April from 10:00am to 6:00pm at their premises in Halifax. They have extended an invitation to all our members.

The entrance will be free and there are demonstrations, exhibits and a chance to have a go at stonecarving under guidance from members - as if we needed guidance!

You find them by going down Simmons Lane, opposite the Shay Football Ground. You then follow the brown signs to the Shears Inn and park beneath the mill chimney half way down. Their workshops are on the ground floor of Shaw Lodge Mill. You cant miss it once you have parked. Well worth a visit if you have the time and they are a nice friendly lot.

Carving classes:

Although we were grateful for the offer of premises at Birchencliffe, when we were asked to leave All Saints over the CRB fiasco, we are all aware that the premises now used for day classes are not ideal. The lighting is poor, its sometimes cold in the dead of winter and having to work off workmates is nowhere near as convenient as proper purpose built woodworking benches.

I recently informed Mike (I didn't bother Malcolm as he has enough on his plate at the moment) that when I recently booked six extra Monday nights at Brooksbank I had a word with Jane Blackburn, who is our contact at Brooksbank for booking the room, and asked if it was possibly to hire the room we use on Monday evenings for a couple of hours during the day. Regretfully, she came back and said that although they would be delighted to have us they couldn't find a two hour period during school hours when the room was not in use. She did say we could have the room we use any day from 4:30pm if that helped.

Inevitably the question of CRB checks came up and she clarified the following point. Jane thought that if a person attends a school for the sole purpose of education, and that can be craft related, that person does not require a CRB check. Any person teaching, or volunteering, and having direct contact with children, or vulnerable adults, does need a CRB check. I rang the CRB help desk and they confirmed this was correct. Frank Greenwood also checked on the internet and downloaded a whole string of documents that again supports this statement. It would appear that the rules have been relaxed.

Mike has suggested that I write, on behalf of the club, to All Saints School to see if there is a chance of regaining our old woodworking room. This I will do and report back as soon as I have any information.



John at work.

I'm always asking for items for the Newsletter and **John Farrar** kindly supplied me with two foolscap sheets and a couple of photos of his 'Shapley Legs', as he calls them. They have been causing quite a lot of interest at the various classes but I haven't enough room this month to include all his words. And no, John I'm not adding another couple of pages to the Newsletter as I've got enough paperwork to distribute this month.

I will give you all the un-bridged sexy version some other time.

I bought a lovely little set of 10 small diamond coated Riffler Files from Hong Kong for the equivalent of \$8 US dollars. I will bring them to the AGM meeting and if anybody is interested I'll send for some. I'm still convinced nobody reads the Newsletters so the order won't be very big.

Your presence at the AGM is important for the club so please make the effort. If anybody wants to join the Management Committee please let me know by Friday 13th.

Raffle: Profit, for the March meeting, was £69.00.

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You may have noticed the above advert in the Woodcarving magazine to download their on-line publication. You may not have noticed that they are using Dennis's Royal Armouries carving of St Paul's. (the one on the right) -a nice bragging right for Dennis.