

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Happy New Year



January 2014
Newsletter Issue 224



Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Milestone Society and the Christmas Luncheon

Measuring and marking the miles

Slab bridges, stoops, causeys, country miles and men dressed as women having a scrap at a Toll House – the story of milestones as ancient monuments is far from dull.

In a swift gallop through the history of these stones, from the Romans to the present day, Jan Scrine, chair of the Milestone Society, told the fascinating story of these ancient stones and posts that punctuate our landscape.

That cry from the back seat of 'Are we there yet?' began to come to life.

And the fact that the milestones are being saved, spruced up and repositioned is mostly down to the work of this fledgling society that began only 13 years ago.

Jan told the January monthly meeting of woodcarvers at Shepley how the first milestones in Britain were set by the Romans who used 1,000 double paces or 1,618 yards, as a 'Roman' mile, unlike the statute mile of 1,760 yards that we use today.

Once the Romans left and we Brits settled down to our own way of life, we saw little need for milestones or indeed roads. People used packhorse routes, trundling their carts and donkeys over causeys or stone paving, often in large groups as there was safety in numbers.

It was Queen Mary who, in 1555, was the first monarch to insist that, to keep the paths in good order, everybody in the land had to labour on the roads. So the routes across slab bridges and packhorse bridges and through countryside were maintained. Tolls were used to pay for the work and people who used the roads were charged; the name turnpike comes from the spiked barrier at the Toll Gate or Booth.

However other routes across open land were even more treacherous as they relied on local knowledge such as 'turn left at the big tree' always supposing the big tree was still there. It was the tragedy of a woman and her children, who froze to death when they were lost on the moors near Sheffield one Boxing Day in the 1690s, which pushed the government into action.

The waymarker or stoop (the Norse for stone) began to become a feature of our landscape and there are hundreds still around today both of stone and metal. But if it wasn't for local councils and the Milestone Society many of these would be lost. Where possible, they are repainted or reconditioned and now most of these stones are listed as 'ancient monuments' and not to be meddled with.

However that little bit of knowledge escaped the notice of a café owner at Salendine Nook, Huddersfield, who lashed a lovely big sign to the unique gable-topped edifice there, advertising her no doubt wonderful food. When Jan approached her and explained that you can't deface an ancient monument, the response began with an 'F' and ended with an 'off.'

Proving there's nowt dull about history.

Jan Scrine



February 8th Shepley monthly meeting:

We have managed to book local Dalton man, David McDonald, to relate tales of his life on board The Royal Yacht Britannia. David was a radio operator on board in the 1960s for a number of years and I'm sure will have some wonderful tales of his time, rubbing shoulders with the royal family and their friends.

For a club based far away from the sea, we do have quite a number of our members who are connected to the sea, either through the Royal or Merchant Navy, and I'm sure this talk will appeal to those members as well as others in the club.

I appreciate that our speakers recently have not been directly connected with our craft, but speakers that are directly connected are becoming impossible to find.



Christmas Luncheon:



Graham's automata of Dr Roscoe's badge of office



Presentation of a cheque for £2,000 to Roy Parry of the Forget-me-Not children's hospice



A very smart Graham Lockwood presenting his automata of her insignia to our Patron and chief guest of honour Dr Roscoe

(The reason Dr Roscoe gets her picture in three times is that she is the only one who confesses publically to reading the newsletter)

Our Christmas Luncheon at the Crosland Heath Golf club was well attended by 75 members and guests and again our honoured guests were our Patron Dr Ingrid Roscoe, her husband Marshall, our Life Member Mr Albert Hobson and, much to the delight of Jane, Glenn, Dr Roscoe's driver.

We call them our guests, and delighted we are to see them, but they kindly insist on paying for their meals, just like the rest of us.

Our talk was a very interesting lecture by Gwendolyn Whitaker on the paintings, many hidden away, of various artists connected with the Yorkshire Mining Museum.

The only downside to the day was the constant grumbling by the golf club members that we had taken all their parking places and that, because the kitchens were running at capacity catering for our meals, they were unable to get their Saturday bacon butty. Unfortunately, the outcome of their displeasure is that we cannot return to Crosland Heath Golf club for next year's luncheon.

On the plus side Crow Nest Golf club, which I have been a member of for a number of years, towards the back end of 2013 completed the build of a large separate function suite that is used for club functions, weddings and other outside events.

The club is located between Brighouse and Hipperholme at Hove Edge, some two miles maximum out of Brighouse past the Ritz Ballroom.

Adrian, Anne and I had a meeting with the person in charge of catering the other week and, after discussing the situation with members at our January meeting, the room has been booked for the 13th

December 2014.

On the plus side the facilities are more suited to our requirements than any location we have been to before. The room can be partitioned off for conference facilities on one side with tables set out on the other side of the partition for dining. The room also has its own bar, completely separated from the club members' bar, cloakrooms and toilet facilities of its own and a car park large enough to accommodate both our members and the golf club members.

We have been given a budget price that is very similar to previous venues and menus are being prepared for us at the moment. Our choice is then a sit down meal or, as previously, a self-serve buffet, which in the past seems to have proved very popular. Because of the delay to the later tables being called forward, with the buffet type menu, we are looking at providing a table magician to keep people amused. This gentleman is a regular at events at Crow Nest and is very talented.

For our guest speaker we are considering the return services of Chris Helme. The reason being that Chris gives an interesting talk on Sir Titus Salt and the Crow Nest Golf club grounds were originally the home of Sir Titus Salt. For Sir Titus Salt's 70th birthday 5000 attended so it should be big enough for us!

Those who have never been to the club will be surprised and delighted at the lovely sweeping views out of the function rooms panoramic windows. In fact, if you go any other day, but our luncheon day, you may see my golf ball sailing into the lake to join the many thousands that are already in there.

Items for sale:

A Record No3 Swing Head wood lathe with three phase electric motor with speed inverted electronics so works off 240 volts. Includes metal bench and various bits and bobs. Bargain at £500, cost twice that much and in excellent condition. Belongs to a friend of mine in Baildon. Anybody interested give me a call and I'll take you to see it.

Another item for sale:

Anne Ellwood has a large vice that she is trying to get out of the house! She tells me it is 'free to a good home'. Anybody interested ring Anne on 01422-368482.





West Riding Woodcarvers Association
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20/12/2013
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Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the children and families we support, I am writing to offer you my warm thanks for your generous donation of £2,000.00 from your fundraising activities including the sale of booklets telling the story of the wonderful wood carving that your members created.

When a child has a life limiting condition they want the same as every child; the chance to play, communicate, experience new things, learn, love and laugh. Thanks to your support, you are helping us to do everything we can to help make children happier and more fulfilled while they are with us, however long or short a time that may be for. Our children's hospice is full of fun and life.

We care for over 50 children and families across West Yorkshire, providing support through our new state of the art hospice, Russell House, based in Huddersfield. This service runs in parallel with our Hospice at Home service, providing support within a family's own home.

It costs in excess of £2.5million per year to provide the services offered by Forget Me Not Children's Hospice and with only 4% of this coming from government funding, your support is vital.

With over 700 children and families within Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield who could benefit from the care that we provide, we are only at the start of our journey.

I can assure you that we will make the very best use of your generous donation, and I hope we can count on your continued support as more children and families come to us for help.

Thank you so much for your incredible support - it makes such a difference.

Peter Branson
Chief Executive

Russell House
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Registered Charity
No: 1110457

At our January meeting it was our great pleasure to congratulate our good friend **Frank Bromhead** on being presented with the Arctic Star Campaign Medal.



The **Arctic Star** is a campaign medal of the United Kingdom awarded for service in World War II.

The medal is awarded for any length of service above the Arctic Circle by members of the British Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy. The Arctic Star is a retrospective award, coming nearly seventy years after the end of World War II, being announced in late 2012. The Arctic Star was formally approved by The Queen, and began production in early 2013.

The story of the panel we created for the children's hospice is being compiled for the Woodcarving magazine by our Assistant Secretary, Janet Smith. Janet was formerly a journalist and is obviously best suited to this task.

We have agreed a price of around the £350, similar to the fee we got for the Royal Armouries WW1 & WW2 panels.

Just as an aside, I noticed in the paper the other day that Disney Enterprises Ltd have granted Damian Hirst permission to use the Disney character Mickey Mouse in his latest 'work', a load of coloured spots, while we were refused permission to use them on the children's hospice panel.

Being an increasingly grumpy old ### I have written to Disney asking them to justify their decision to let a 'controversial artist', who pickles dead animals including a shark, a sheep and a cow in formaldehyde, permission to use copyright images but refused to let us use the images for the benefit of sick children.

It took months of pestering to get a reply last time so don't expect an early response.

I have been trying to get a gentleman called Tim Phelps to give a talk to the club on his business of fine furniture restoration but he thinks he will run out of material just by standing and talking to us. However, he has invited us to his workshop in Knaresborough.

His business is described as using top quality traditional cabinet-work skills and specialist knowledge of furniture history to provide appropriate restoration treatments for historically important furniture. I have seen first hand some of his work which is very skilled. His workshop has a large selection of antique timber and he has about three craftsmen working full time for him..

I have agreed we will contact him as the weather goes into spring with a view of arranging visits to his works.

I don't think we can all descend on him at once so it may be more appropriate to take the various class members, with others interested adding in, when the time and weather is appropriate.



Margaret Myatt
Treasurer
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7th January 2014

Dear Margaret

Thank you so much for your donation of £146.00 to Help for Heroes (H4H) raised at the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association's Christmas raffle. Your support is making a huge difference to the lives of some truly inspirational people.

Marine Arthur Williams was paralysed from the waist down in a road traffic accident. After slowly coming to terms with what had happened, Arthur moved on to his rehabilitation. H4H provided a grant towards a pilot training course for Arthur in partnership with the disabled flying scheme, Aerobility. Arthur has also benefitted from the H4H supported Battle Back programme, visiting a Wounded Warriors camp in San Diego in the summer of 2010 and the Vancouver Winter Paralympics in 2010. Both events inspired him to become more involved in Paralympic sport. You may recognise Arthur as one of Channel 4's London 2012 Paralympics presenting team and he has since gone on to forge a successful career in television presenting. In September Arthur won a BAFTA 'Breakthrough Brits' award.

As a fiercely independent and inspiring individual, Arthur prides himself on not having to rely on the financial support of Help for Heroes, but takes comfort knowing the support is only a phone call away. He says: 'they saved my life - I owe them an un-repayable debt. Knowing that there are so many lovely people out there looking out for you makes a huge psychological difference. Life is tough enough for everybody, let alone those living with a disability, but Help for Heroes takes a huge weight off my mind.'

The battle will continue for Arthur and several like him. With your support, we will ensure that they won't face these battles alone. Thank you for helping us to help our heroes.

Yours sincerely,

PP Elena Clarke

Bryn & Emma
Co-Founders - Help for Heroes

Thank you so much for your support!

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