

Spirit of Sutterby

Thursday 14th January 2016

Stone Carving Workshop, Heritage Skills Centre,
Lincoln Castle



We made our own way to Lincoln, and all met up at the Heritage Skills Centre, inside the walls of Lincoln Castle. After a cup of coffee we met our tutor for the day Alan Micklethwaite, who is renowned for sculpture, sculpture restoration & architectural conservation, architectural stone carving, design, consultancy & planning, and who was going to give us an insight into stone carving.

The day began with an illustrated talk by Alan, showing the effects the elements have on stone carving over a period of time, the way some of the older methods of conservation have not always helped to preserve stone carving, and some of the more modern methods that are now in use.

He showed us some examples of his work carried out on the restoration of the Romanesque frieze on Lincoln Cathedral.

After refreshments we moved to the workshop.



Once in the workshop we all had the choice of carving one of three designs, a Tudor Rose, a Fleur de Leys or a Barn Owl, that is all of us EXCEPT Geoff who was told by Denise that he WOULD carve a Barn Owl !!!!!

When we had found the centre of our block of limestone we traced out our chosen design onto the surface, donned our safety glasses and under the careful instruction and supervision of Alan began to carve our stones. At lunch time we all enjoyed a cold buffet.



















Alan made the stone carving look much easier than it actually was. At the end of a full day we all had a hand made stone carving to take home with us. Many thanks to Alan Micklethwaite for his skill at instructing us, and the Stone Carving Workshop, Heritage Skills Centre, Lincoln Castle for the use of the workshop , the buffet and refreshments. An excellent day was had by all, and an insight into another skill gained.

Denise, who had spent the day shopping, was allowed to hold my carving whilst I took the photo!!!!!!