



# Ebor Ruggers

[www.eborruggers.com](http://www.eborruggers.com)

May 2013

## MEETING NEWS

**11<sup>th</sup> May – working meeting and Open Afternoon.** As there will be some rugs and other work to hand back to everyone after the Variations exhibition, we have decided to have an Open Afternoon and invite Dunnington residents into the Reading Rooms to see what we get up to. If you didn't exhibit at the Cemetery Chapel you are still very welcome to bring any rugs or other items along to this meeting for display. Please feel free to put your own price on your work now. If you should sell anything then a donation to the club would be much appreciated.



Our Variations exhibition looking great!

### Angela Gray writes:

"A huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave up some of their time and came to the Cemetery Chapel over the weekend and who rugged and chatted to visitors and demonstrated and made tea and coffee and worked on the sales table. Thanks too to Feona, aged 86, (Jenny's ex next door neighbour) who was in charge of sales other than the sales table, and to the hardworking, efficient exhibition committee, Elizabeth, Frances, Heather and Pam. Without everyone's help these events would never get off the ground. The visitors were impressed and very complimentary about our display of rugs and other items. It is good to get feedback. Lewis and Louisa Creed popped in. Friday was bitterly cold for setting up day but the sun shone beautifully on Saturday and Sunday.

Financially in terms of returns it could have been better but we did make a profit for the club and we created a massive amount of interest and awareness in rag rugging. We should see many more people visiting and perhaps joining the club over the next few months.

Jenny came up from Worthing to stay with me and to help with the set up of the exhibition and spent her time at the exhibition and the other band of jolly and smiley helpers were: Kay Pearson, Susan Jordan, Maggie Hague, Peggy Hesketh, Cynthia Milnes, Margaret Smith, Shirley Duffin, Hazel Parker, Carol Tinkler, Judith Shone, Anne Bush, Elaine Shaw, Margaret Hockey, Carol Brunsdon and Gill Barker. Many thanks to you all."

*And grateful thanks to you, Angela, and all the members of the exhibition committee who put so much hard work, time, energy and expertise into organising this event. The exhibition looked stunning in the beautiful setting of the Cemetery Chapel and was much admired by everyone who visited it.*

At our exhibition it was a pleasure to welcome Ruth Robinson who had come all the way from London to see us. Ruth helps run "Hooked In London", a rag-rugging group meeting in Clerkenwell, normally on the first Saturday of the month in the afternoon (sounds familiar!). The group has an excellent and informative blog [www.hooked-in-london.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.hooked-in-london.blogspot.co.uk) with some wonderful and inspirational images. Ruth has extended a kind invitation to any member of Ebor Ruggers visiting London to join them for one of their meetings.

We are still in urgent need of volunteers for the sales table. If we get enough people this would only entail being "on duty" every three or four months. Could you consider signing up with a friend as a pair? All sales on the table help swell our coffers, so if you can help please see Angela or any committee member.

## Mum's Mat (shown right)

This rug was made by my mother Esther (Tess) Mabe, nee Lupton. She made it in the mid 1980s at the request of my sister for her thatched cottage in Kent. It now resides in my kitchen in York. Mum was born in 1917 in the village of Little Crosby in Lancashire where she grew up, but spent all her married life in Kent. She died in 2007. I remember proddy rugs that she had made in front of our open fire when I was a child: they were always of a geometric design with a black border. But as we grew up and money became a bit more plentiful she stopped making them – I believe this rug was the first she had made for about 30 years.

When I joined Ebor Ruggers my father gave me my mother's prodder which he had kept. It was made, I would guess in the 1930s or early 1940s, by my mother's Uncle Ned (born in 1881) of wood from a holly tree and simply shaped into a point. I use it all the time for making proddy mats and although it is just a simple and humble object it is very precious to me. I wish I had asked Mum more about this craft and its history and practice within her family while she was alive, but I am pleased to think that I am carrying on a family tradition going back now for several generations.

Anne Bush

*Do you have a rug made by a relative, or one that is particularly meaningful to you in some way, perhaps made out of fabric with special memories attached? We would love to hear about it. Contact me at the email address or phone number given below or talk to me at any meeting. Have camera - will travel!*



### **Bring out your proddies!**

A version of the "Mum's Mat" article on the left appears on Cilla's "Only Proddy Mats" blog:

[www.onlyproddymats.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.onlyproddymats.blogspot.co.uk)

Cilla writes: "There is so little information and pictures of proddy mats as most books are about hooked rugs. I thought it would be a good idea to record the proddy mats made in the UK firstly on this blog and perhaps into a book or booklet sometime in the future.

If you would like proddy mats you made or own to be included email me at

[priscillacameron1@googlemail.com](mailto:priscillacameron1@googlemail.com)

for the information sheet."

It would be great to see some of Ebor Ruggers work on Cilla's blog!

### **ROWNTREE PARK YARNBOMBING EVENT**

Every summer Rowntree Park in York holds a "birthday party" to celebrate the Rowntree Company's gift of the park to the city on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1921 in memory of workers who fell during the first world war. There are always lots of community and charity stalls, live music, falconry displays and food and drink, not forgetting a cake!

This year the party is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> July and for the first time will include a "yarnbombing" installation in one area of the park. Otherwise known as guerrilla knitting, this is a type of street art which uses colourful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn or fibre to decorate an area in an unexpected, often humorous way.

To prepare for this event there are a series of free workshops at local venues where you can try your hand at weaving, knitting, pompom making and finger knitting, all of which will be used in the decoration of the park.

See [www.rowntreeparkblog.wordpress.com](http://www.rowntreeparkblog.wordpress.com) for more details or ring 01904 635486

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