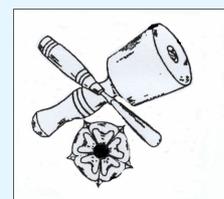


West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



August 2009

Newsletter Issue 178

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

The sun shone, for once this so called summer, we counted over seventy six members, wives, husbands and guests (we couldn't get a firm number as the room was crowded and everybody kept moving around), the tables creaked with members' carvings, the girls in the kitchen, plus Dick, did a sterling job with buttered scones, jam and cream and Graham made a commanding presence as a drafted in 'car park attendant'.

To add to the above Jane and Adrian, throughout the meeting, moved the proceedings along in a very controlled but amusing manner and we had the delights of Celia Kilner and David Hey speaking with both interest and authority with regards to their particular part of the new Armouries Panels.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming three gentlemen from the Huddersfield Video and Cine Club who had very kindly agreed to film the presentation for us. They have also agreed to follow the whole of our Royal Armouries project to its conclusion which will include coverage of members' carvings in class, our pub social evenings and the presentation at the Armouries. It's a wonder the poor guys didn't turn right round and go home because when their car drove up. Graham, with

my assistance - can't let him take all the blame - was herding all the able bodied over to the Cliffe House car park and, not knowing these people, sent them over there as well. How embarrassed can one get when you see three gentlemen, not in the first flush of youth, staggering over the road like three well employed Sherpa's with tripods and camera bags hanging from every hand, arm, neck and shoulder. Speaking to them as they left they appeared to quite enjoy their morning's work and actually congratulated us on the organisation and procedural matters of the meeting.



I think this Newsletter is going to be quite a long one but an easy one for me as a lot of people have passed me reports to include. Like the following which is a transcript of Dr Roscoe's speech that David Holt has kindly taken from our own video which he kept running throughout the meeting.

Dr Ingrid M Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

Good morning everybody. I am delighted that the WRWA has won this award. You have been close to my heart now for about five years. I have seen all three sets of panels that you have got in the Hospices in West Yorkshire, but not the Besançon one, I'm afraid, but all the others. I have colossal admiration for these many fine, unique works of art that you have made between you and I love the idea of the collaboration of everybody coming together and getting the best out of yourselves and one another by working so closely together. I have learnt a lot about events in history in Yorkshire through looking at those panels as well. That curious panel that you've got about somebody going at harvest time through the streets with a wagon, you know the one I mean? (Describing the Rush Bearing in Sowerby Bridge on the Overgate Panel.) So here we are today. There were 17 nominations for awards in West Yorkshire this time and three of them were lucky. The other two are quite different to the WRWA. One of them is an Old People's call-in centre where they give a good meal for not much money and that is a good cause on its own. The other award went to a poor housing estate called Carleton Glen in the Castleford area where you know there is a lot of unemployment. They won their prize for a community centre. So you see, they do quite a lot of good for quite different causes from this particular one. I know that you put in for it last year and didn't win but sensibly you put yourselves up again, and here we are now recognising what you have done. I also know that two couples went on a lottery down to the Garden Party at the Palace. Who were the lucky ones? (Arthur Brook made himself known). So you're the one with the expensive suit! (much laughter). Are you wearing it today? (Arthur; no but contributions gratefully received). So let's see what we have got. This Award, you won't be able to see it all that well from here, but it is a piece of crystal and it has "Queens Award for Voluntary Service 2009" written in it. We can pass it around if you like. Then there is the certificate signed by Her Majesty the Queen in the top corner. So Congratulations! (Dr Roscoe presented the certificate to Jane Renshaw.) I am delighted to see Celia (Kilner) here, and I am going to find out from you all about the new Panels for the Armouries because that again sounds like an exciting new project. Anyway Congratulations to all of you and I look forward to meeting all of you afterwards and to seeing as much of your woodcarvings as possible. Well Done.

Adrian Lindley responded on behalf of the Club and Anne Lindley presented a bouquet of flowers to Dr Roscoe and a nice bottle of wine to her Secretary. A bouquet of flowers was also presented to Celia Kilner in recognition of her support to our latest project.



Dr Roscoe was immensely impressed with the array and quality of our carving display - a big thank you to all the members who actually read the last Newsletter and turned up with some fantastic carvings. Probably because of our previous meetings, Dr Roscoe asked me to take her through the carving display but many of our members got pulled in as their carvings were being admired to be warmly included in her conversation and praise. As an art historian she was immensely impressed with the high quality and diversity of the work on display. On leaving she said how lovely her morning had been and it had made a nice change from visiting her regular types of venues.



Arthur in full flow relating tales of the Palace.

Our thanks to Frank for the photos.

October 10th 2009: **David James** Editor of the Stickmaker magazine. Our thanks to George Crawshaw for arranging this month's meeting. I understand that David is a colleague of George's through his involvement in stick carving.

November 28th 2009: **Michael Painter** will make a return visit, mainly at the request of quite a number of the newer Club members who have never had the pleasure of watching him teach and work.

December 12th 2009: **Alan Scott** from BBC radio. Golden memories of the variety theatre. This is of course our Christmas Luncheon at the Meltham Golf Club. Price £16 per person.

I was so intent on pinching everybody else's relief carvings to take to the Royal Armouries for the following Tuesday that I managed to forget to pick up Anne's carvings and two bookends of my own. Fortunately the organist at the church took Anne's over to Trevor Metcalfe's house but my little men pushing open a couple of books, and three books, seem to have disappeared.

Has anybody rescued them please?

They are old but treasured.



Web-site: Just to give members some idea of the traffic though the web-site. This week alone Anne and I have dealt with a lady in Huddersfield who is cutting down an oak tree, but is very fond of it, so wants the trunk leaving and some chainsaw carving done on it - sent her information on three local chainsaw carvers. (Setting somebody on at £300 per day). A young girl who is desperate to present her husband on their 4th wedding anniversary (wood I understand) with a piece of wood with the words "Him, her and us" carved onto it. (All very clandestine as her husband hasn't to know and if anybody rings her and her husband is near she may have to put the phone down.) How sweet - can you remember those days? This has been taken on very kindly by John Farrar. And a group who failed to say who they were, where they are situated but want the Club to give a display talk and demonstration at a show.

Emley Show 2009: John Dean, who acted as organiser for this event, has asked me to include the following.

Once again the West Riding Woodcarvers put on a magnificent display of woodcarvings. More than seventy carvings were on display and visitors were very complimentary in their comments. Quite a few people wanted more information regarding the Club.

Entries for the competition were down on last year but we still had many more entries than the Yorkshire Show. Many thanks to Norman Walsh for judging.

The event could not have gone ahead without the hard work of the stewards throughout the day. Many thanks to all of them.

Results:

Novice: (Person with less than 3 years experience and not having previously won a 1st prize) 1st and 2nd George Crawshaw.

Intermediate: (For those with 3 to 7 years experience) 1st Derek Adams, 2nd Anne Ellwood.

Senior: (Open to all) 1st Trevor Metcalf, 2nd John Murphy, 2nd Ken Taylor.

Commended: Arthur Brook.

Peoples Choice: Trevor Metcalfe.

Just as an aside Norman Walsh was asked to judge the carving exhibition at the Yorkshire Show this year and - I trust I am not misquoting him - was appalled at the quality of the carvings that he had to judge. I understand he actually had a problem selecting a worthy winners and even disqualified one of the carvings in the competition.

13th September 2009: Towneley Park Woodland Festival: Everybody will know by now that instead of our normal visit to our friends the Lancashire and Cheshire Club they have invited us to join them at their annual display and carving demonstration in their marquee at Towneley Park. There will be no cost to enter the park, or the magnificent house, as it is Heritage Day over their neck of the woods. The L & C club have also insisted in paying for some of the costs of our coach hire as normally they would have had expenses for our visit.

The coach will set off from our meeting rooms at Shepley Methodist Church at 12:30pm to arrive at the park at approximately 1:15pm and will leave about 4:30 pm when the event starts to close down. The price for a seat is £5 per head and I understand 25 seats are booked.

It is suggested that the people from Calderdale car share and go directly to Towneley Park (the address is Towneley Park, Burnley, BB11 3RQ). The distance is just under about 20 miles from Calderdale, but so is Shepley so little point travelling over to get a lift on the coach.

It was suggested by the Lancashire & Cheshire club that as we arrive we take our carvings to the stand and display them. I could see that being a total disaster and not in any way fair to our hosts as people will be wandering in at all sorts of times and the show officially kicks off at 12:00pm. The L & C display will be set up and ready for viewing and ours will be a rag bag with items being added to the display while people are trying to view the exhibits. We have been asked to do some demonstration but I have explained that most members will have wives or husbands with them and they would not be very popular if spending hours demonstrating. Richard Colborn, Chairman says he understands. We will be expected to have somebody by the display but if we all casually do twenty minutes or so we should cover it OK.

What I am suggesting is that the Calderdale contingent of the Club, and the Brooksbank class in particular, rally round and collect together about 12 to 15 relief carvings (with eyelets and string for hanging) and 15 to 20 in the round for table display and that we make sure they are transported to Townley Park on the Sunday morning at 11:30am. One car load should do it. So all you Calderdale boys and girls, loosely speaking, lets get the show on the road. No going on holiday until those carvings are deposited, and no tea and biscuits on Monday night for slackers. I would suggest that any Brooksbank student, or tutor, turn up at the first night, Monday September 7th, with a car full of carvings and we can put them all into one car. Other Calderdale members give me a ring, or call round my house, with yours please.

If the sun actually starts to show itself, and September is usually quite a good weather month, strolling round the gardens, which have a lot of carvings in trees and chain saw carvings along a woodland trail, should be very pleasant. The house is also well worth a visit. Just be warned refreshments are available but could result in queuing.

I understand Dennis Farmer has been asked again to put on a small display of carvings at Beaumont Park but, unfortunately, their open day falls on the same day as the Townley Park Festival. Our grateful thanks to Dennis for looking after this display but regretfully it robs us of his and Pauline's company.

Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds. *(Please note - nobody will be offered a plaque to carve unless they are a full member of the WRWA).*

Jane made the meeting aware that a small party from the sub-group was travelling to the Royal Armouries on the 8th August to meet, in particular Dr Jonathan Riley, Director General and Master of the Armouries, who had recently taken up overall control of the Armouries after 36 years in the Armed Forces. Dr Riley's official rank was Lieutenant-General CB DSO PhD MA and he was latterly Deputy Commander of NATO ISAF in Afghanistan. He has a number of published works including several military histories.

The party was Mike Hadfield, David Hey, Dennis Farmer and myself. Unfortunately Bryan Hodgson was on holiday.

It was my intension to précis the two hour meeting but on reflection I think this would be difficult and wrong as the spirit of the meeting could be lost. So it has been decided, with the approval of Jane and Adrian, to send out with this Newsletter the full minutes of the meeting.

Raffle for July. The Raffle was suspended for the July meeting.

Management meeting: October 8th 2009 Round Hill Pub 7:30PM.