

# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



May 2011  
Newsletter Issue 196

Patron  
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe  
Lord Lieutenant of  
West Yorkshire

Life members  
Anne Hobson  
Albert Hobson

**May 14th 2011- Howard Boyd:** Our grateful thanks to Howard for yet another splendid, enlightening and highly entertaining talk on his return visit after a period of three years. Howard's world of carving does seem a little way from ours, rubbing shoulders with billionaires and carving crowns for the Royal Coach. (Incidentally I have just read in the paper this morning - The Daily Mail, so it must be true - that The Britannia, the 2.75 ton coach that Howard carved the top crown for, and that should have been presented to the Queen for her 80th birthday, has gone missing in Australia. Howard's friend, the coach builder, Jim Frecklington, is refusing to reveal its location. With £158,959 of taxpayers' money invested - not sure if that's Australian or British taxpayers - the Australian government is obviously concerned. Bearing in mind that we all know full well the ancestry of the antipodeans, I think Queenie can wave it goodbye.)

Howard kindly sent me this email:

*To thank you for the kind and warm welcome extended yesterday. It is always a pleasure to speak to groups but I must say that yours stands out not just for welcome and enthusiasm but for talent too, brought together by the demanding projects you achieve as a group. I am full of admiration for what you do, so if you can convey that to your members at your next meeting along with my thanks for the interest and kindness then I would appreciate it.*

*If any of your members have any queries, then please ask. I love to help and my studios are always open. Web-site with contacts is : [www.ohboyd.com](http://www.ohboyd.com) Kind regards, Howard.*



Remember our little friend Ella, who wrote the lovely letter after seeing the panels on display at Halifax Town Hall? Well, I got the letter below from her recently thanking us for the items we sent her and the letter Dr Roscoe kindly took the time to write  
I can see a future woodcarver in the making.



At the last meeting we had Steve, as a guest, all the way from York. Steve has recently got interested in carving and a few weeks ago attended one of Peter Berry's carving courses for a couple of days. Having no carving club near to where he lives, he asked if he could attend one of our meetings for advice and ideas. I got the following email from Steve the day after the meeting:

*Hi John*

*Just had to say a big thank you for the invite and very warm welcome to the carvers meeting!. Really enjoyed the excellent talk by Howard and could happily have sat there all day. Also loved viewing the superb carvings by the members. Got me grey matter thinking all over the place about carving stuff :-). The cuppa and biscuits went down well too !.*

*Regards*

*Steve*

I understand that Steve is interested in joining us and possibly attending the new carving class in Wakefield when it resumes again in September.

**Royal Armouries:** I have been in touch with Cheryl Graeme, the general manager in Leeds, who has advised that the lighting job has now started.

I asked if any thought had been given to some information around the panels and suggested that, if not, our club would be willing to consider taking on the task, and cost, (as suggested at the AGM) of blowing up the article from the Woodcarving magazine and having it framed. Waiting for a reply!!!!

**Woodcarving magazine:** Just been told that in the next issue there will be reference, in the news section, about the handover of £8,000 to the children's hospice. For those embracing the technology age, iPad / iPhone etc, the Woodcarving magazine can now be downloaded as an APP at a cost of £1.79 with your first magazine free. I downloaded the copy with the article on the Armouries panels. If you ask Google about this, the magazine copy, that is used for advertising it, is the copy with our article in and with Dennis's carving on the cover.

May 14 2011  
Dear Mr. Murphy,  
Thank you  
Very much for the magazine  
CDs and news letter which  
you sent me.  
I took them to school and  
my teacher took them home  
and kept them for a very long  
time. My mum had to ask for  
them back she liked them  
too.  
I also had a lovely letter  
from Dr Ingrid Roscoe it was  
all very exciting thank you  
Love Ella

See bottom of next page for June 11th speaker.

**Children's Hospice:** Not sure where we are with this. The personnel at the hospice were going to arrange a site meeting at the new building but we have heard nothing definite about a date.

**Art Meeting:** I understand from Adrian that the group of 13 members and guests, who attended the art workshop, run by Joanne Kell, was a great success. The course covered shading, layering with graphite and colour pencil, transfer of images from a photo onto drawing paper, how to draw a mouse using the shading and layering principles and how to draw feathers.

The group met from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Adrian reports that everybody enjoyed the course, got a great deal out of it, and that time just flew by.

We welcome to the club a new member this month, but not a stranger to the newsletter. Alan Michael Raynor was kindly taken by Terry Thorley-Lawson a few months ago to explore the panel at Kirkwood hospice. I particularly wrote 'explore' as Alan is, unfortunately, completely blind.

Alan receives correspondence and the newsletter from me by email and then, I think, uses a voice recognition programme on his computer to verbally hear what the content contains. I'm sure if this is incorrect he will be back onto me with a correction.

Alan has been on a course for woodcarving at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He informs me that he has a cluster of mushrooms/toadstools with a mouse sheltering underneath, carved from a section of beech, on display in the sensory garden at the National Trolleybus Museum, Sandtoft, near Doncaster. The piece started at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park course and then took six months to complete.

Alan would like some feedback if anybody manages to get over to the museum.

A photo of Alan's carving appears on the right.

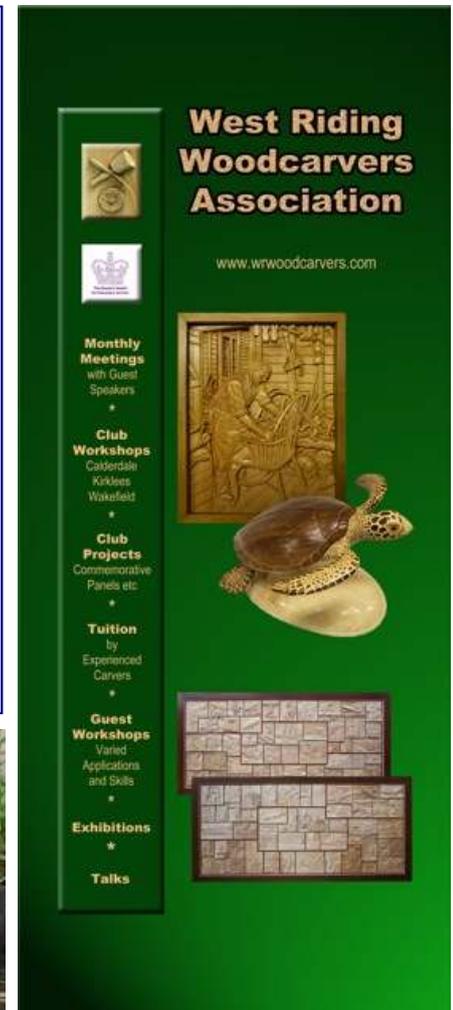
Alan has difficulty getting to our meetings but I have stressed that we will all be willing assist if he needs support.

You may remember in the last newsletter that mention was made regarding the lack of a decent display banner and an agreement at the last Management Meeting that we should purchase one. No sooner was this mentioned to that man of many talents, Graham Lockwood, than the item below came flowing into my email box. This has since been ordered at a cost of £96. It will be a roll out banner that folds away into its own case. *(Please bear in mind that the £500 we got for the Woodcarving article should be used for items like this and not for the running of the club.)*

We seem to be running relatively free of members with serious illnesses at the moment with the exception of Mick Wilson who has been a club member for many years. Unfortunately he has not been able to attend meetings, or Mike Hadfield's classes, for quite a long time.

Following a period of difficulty Mick has, regretfully, now gone into extended respite care but has settled well and is in good spirits. Mick has paid Margaret his subs and signed on again as a club member. I'm told he likes the newsletters - well that's one! - as it keeps him abreast with club activities.

I'm sure we wish Mick, and his wife Shirley, all the very best.



Not very clear but this is a draft of the banner in the same colours as the club jumpers.

**Flower Festival 2011:** This was mentioned at the last meeting and will possibly be the biggest event in our calendar this year. Every three years the Central Methodist Church, Brighouse, organises a fantastic flower display with all proceeds going to charity. On this occasion the charities are The Hollybank Trust, Overgate Hospice and McMillan Nurses - all very worthy causes.

This year we have been invited to display, demonstrate and steward our own exhibition as part of their festival. A very large room, possibly 25 foot x 60 foot, has been allocated for ourselves, the art group, and a woodturner, off to the side of the main flower exhibition but with huge signs indicating our presence.

The dates of the festival are Friday 24th June: 12 noon - 9:00pm, Saturday 25th: 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday 26th: 12 noon to 5:00pm.

The room is available, and fully secured, all the week leading up to the 24th June and ideally we need to use this time to mount the display. Would all members please bring as many carvings as possible to the Shepley meeting on the 11th June, or most definitely arrange to take them to Margaret's house no later than Sunday 19th June. We have space, and need, in total between 75 and 100 carvings please. Would everybody please also include with each carving their name, the name of the carving, if it has one, and the type of wood. These will be re-written onto appropriate cards and displayed with each carving.

At the next Shepley meeting, we need people to come forward to fill stewarding and demonstrating places and to assist with the gathering and display of the carvings. I understand that the Holmfirth Art week is the following week and, if possible, all carvings on display in Brighouse will be re-located to Holmfirth for this exhibition.

**Speaker for June 11th:** Been having problems but just signed up a Mr Patrick McLaughlin of Heritage Inspired who gives a very interesting talk on the history of the 'Green Man' in wood and stone. (Malcolm Till passed this one on so blame him if no good).