

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



August 2012
Newsletter Issue 209

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

August Shepley meeting

Delighted to report that Jane made her long awaited return to the club after her recent illness, she even got a round of applause.

The August meeting was mainly concerned with Adrian taking the members present through the plans for the children's hospice panel. The full size plan, complete with individual drawings, was on display and members were invited to kindly accept the carving offered to them. Adrian stressed that the carvings were selected for individuals by the tutors of the day and evening carving classes and their selections were based on the individual's ability.

The eight carvings that will have moving parts were all allocated except for one. Graham will shortly, he is away flying kites somewhere in Europe at the moment, be in touch with each individual carver with instructions on how to proceed. Trevor Stanley has some extra pieces of Lime should anybody undertaking a moving carving require some.

Very shortly the day and evening classes will be starting and after a couple of weeks everybody will have got their holidays out of the way and we should all be able to start the chips flying on the new panel. No doubt one or two people will have finished long before others get round to thinking about their carving.

Insurance: This item seemed to cause some confusion and concern at the meeting and I again apologise for not sending out both sheets of the last newsletter. If people had received the second page, and the written explanation of the insurance cover, I'm sure a lot of the confusion wouldn't have occurred.

Just to briefly clarify the situation again, below is the wording I received from the insurance broker regarding our cover, which incidentally, is essential if we intend to use school premises for our carving classes.

The policy covers for Public and Products liability. If the club, or one its members, whilst engaging in a bone fide club activity causes accidents/injury or damage to a 3rd party, including other club members, then this could constitute a claim under the policy. The cover applies wherever the club/members are engaged upon a bone fide club activity. There is no cover for individual members conducting their own business or activity.

If the club, or a club member, who is sanctioned by and on behalf of the club offers tutorial sessions to either its members or 3rd parties, i.e. school children or the general public at demonstrations, then the cover will apply.

It does not cover for members who injure themselves or if they damage their own property as a result of their negligence or other occurrence caused by them.

Non-club members. If you allow them to attend sessions, and they are injured or their property damaged by an act of negligence by other members of the club, then cover would apply to them. If they injured a 3rd party or damaged a 3rd party's property, be that 3rd party a club member or others, they would not be covered.

After the meeting concerns was expressed regarding our insistence, to cover school and insurance rules, that all persons attending All Saint's, Brooksbank or Queen Elizabeth carving classes must be a member of the club.

The problem seems to be arising with a number of non members who previously attended these classes that, mainly because of Saturday work commitments, can never play a full and active part in the club while holding down full time employment.

A suggestion was made that we adopt a new level of club membership called Associate Member and that instead of the annual £20 subscription we charge a nominal sum, say £5, to cover their contribution to our insurance cover. They would, for the purposes of the insurance policy, be classified as club members and accorded full protection under the insurance policy. They would of course pay the full class charges.

Should a new person join a carving class they would initially pay the Associate Member's subscription and the full class charge. After a period in a class they would be encouraged to be a full member and play an active part in the club.

The club, in the past, has benefited from the people we attract to the classes and it is now felt that our insistence on full membership will result in having a negative affect on class enrolment.

This matter has been discussed, by email and phone, by the Management Committee in an effort to reach a conclusion before classes start on September 3rd, 4th and 6th. They have collectively agreed that the above be adopted with a £5 Associate Membership fee. The subject will be fully discussed at the next full meeting where approval will be asked of the members.

This will probably mean a change to the Constitution of the club with an amendment being made at the next AGM.

Carving classes: Evening classes at Brooksbank, Elland and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield will commence at 7:00pm on Monday evening the 3rd September. The costs will be as previously for Brooksbank at £20 for the first term and a further £20 for the 2013 second term. QEGS will be £20 to £30 dependent on the numbers attending.

The organising of two new classes at All Saints School, Bradley Bar, Huddersfield has proved to be a little protracted, and complicated, and Mike (Hadfield) and I have had a number of meetings with Stephen Cooke, the School's Business Manager, to try and sort out suitable arrangements.

We did suggest to him that we try to accommodate everybody for a three hour session on one day and flow over into the other classroom, but this was rejected by the school on the grounds that the number of cars involved would cause a problem with parking. It would also mean that we would have had to park the majority of our cars on the main road behind about six parked school busses, which would have resulted in a long walk to and from our classroom over the winter months.

We eventually agreed on two separate classes. These will run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. The cost for each class will be £20 from September to Christmas and then a further £20 from January to the end of March 2013, this works out at £1.53 per two hour afternoon session over the 26 weeks. Having now completed, or nearly, the list of people wishing to attend the two classes it would appear that we can charge just the total £40 per person, over 26 weeks, and allow people to attend both the Tuesday and Thursday class at one price. The calculations are: 26 weeks hire at £50 per week for two rooms over four hours = £1,300, divided by £40, the price paid by each person, = 32.50 people needed to cover this amount. If all the people who have stated they will attend classes actually enrol we should have about 35 paying members.

We shall be paying in advance for the classroom facilities so payment from each member should ideally be made at the first carving session. For persons who are not full members of the club there will be a further annual payment of £5 to become an Associate Member. This is an essential step to enable the person involved to be fully covered by the club's Third Party insurance. Part of the agreement that we have signed with the school stipulates that every person, without exception, attending the classes must be covered by the club's insurance.

Below, or attached, is a list of all members attending the two classes and the days they have chosen to attend. If a member finds that they cannot attend a class they are signed up to on one particular day there will be no objection to them attending the other class running that week.

The agreement that we have signed with the school asks that we appoint a 'Responsible' person for each class who will be tasked with keeping a register of those present and in the case of fire to ensure that everybody has left the building safely. To ensure that we have a 'Responsible' person always at each class, as the classes get underway, two people will be asked to share this duty. Initially for the Tuesday class Mike Hadfield will take on this duty and at the Thursday class Janet Smith will step forward. They will also collect your fee at the first class and take a register of all present. A copy of the agreement and the rules we have agreed to will be made available for everybody to read at the commencement of the class.

Car parking at the school has been extended since we were last there but is still limited. We have been asked to park responsibly and a list of all persons attending classes with their name, address, phone number and most importantly car registration number (to assist should a vehicle be blocking a road or area) will be forwarded to the School Business Manager before classes commence. This document, and the weekly attendance register which we have agreed to keep, will enable all members to go directly to our class (Room T1) without signing in at the school reception area. Access to the classroom can be made, as previously, via the rear door behind the building.

Mike has offered to act as tutor, where necessary, at the Tuesday class but there is no named tutor at the Thursday class. However, we all know, from both Mike and Malcolm's previous classes that the more competent amongst us have acted as unofficial tutors to those seeking help. So both classes will run as self-help classes with assistance if needed.

I'm sorry if the list of instructions above is like going back to school but the management at All Saints have really put themselves out to be of assistance to us and it is essential that we organise ourselves to their wishes, the best of our ability and ensure we make the classes a success.

Just a thought that, as we all return to All Saints, quite a lot of us owe a big thanks to Malcolm Till for the tuition we received at All Saints and Birchencliffe. Malcolm is unfortunately ill at the moment but we all trust he will be able to join us once again at All Saints in the near future.

We have had sent to us, via the web site, an email and some photos from the Caloundra Woodcarving Club, Australia, who have taken inspiration from our 1st and 2nd World War panels to create their own panel. They read all about our project in the Woodcarving magazine. I've not enough room in this newsletter but will report more fully in the next one.

September 8th: Sue Evans who is a sculpture and automaton expert.

October 13th: Mike Kelly who specialises in segmented woodturning.

November 3rd The return of Peter Berry for a full day workshop.

December 8th: Christmas Luncheon. Meltham Golf Club.

We have, again via the web site, been informed by the son of Gordon Taylor that Gordon has now been confined to a nursing home with Alzheimer's and that his wife sadly passed away in mid August.

I also rang our good friend John Kemp to see if he was going to enrol for the All Saint's classes but John is not very well with chest, back and prostate problems. In his own words, as a Surgeon Commander RN and medical doctor, 'I'm knackered'. I suggested that it was that old pipe he's so fond of but he thinks that's the only thing keeping him going. I'm sure we all wish John all the best. As one of the real characters of the club he will be missed.

Dennis and Bryan have asked that each member brings one carving to the September meeting for the carving display that they will be running in September at the Huddersfield Beaumont Park Exhibition on the 9th September.