

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



Patron
Micheal Painter
Life Member
Jane Renshaw

May 2022 Newsletter



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INSPIRATION

IMAGINATION - EXPECTATION

EXPERIMENTATION

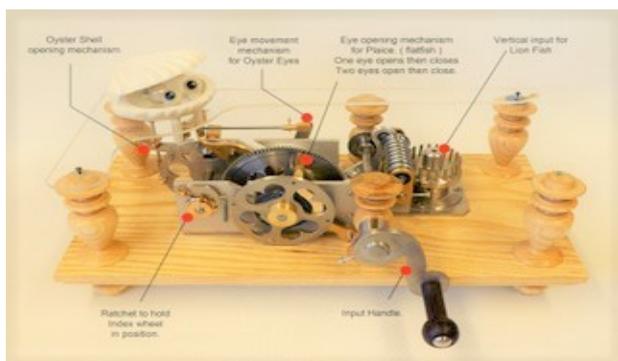
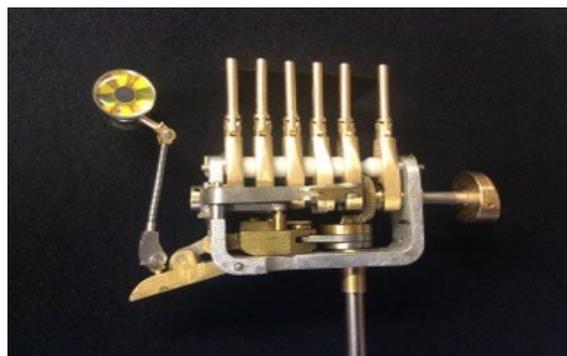
FRUSTRATION - IRRITATION

INFURIATION - EXASPERATION

REALISATION

ELATION

SATISFACTION





It begins with inspiration

Janet F Smith

A birthday present for Graham Lockwood's daughter's 40th birthday will hopefully be ready soon - in time for her 50th birthday in 18 months time.

The 'Lion Fish in a Seascape' automation, a fabulous gift indeed, is still not finished, however. This is despite the fact that his ever-patient daughter has a place all ready for it at home on top of her piano.

But when Graham explained the complexity of the design it came as no surprise.

He was speaking to an audience of members of West Riding Woodcarvers at Shepley for the May meeting, telling in astonishing detail how the lion fish automation began to take place. Each process thought through, struggled with and finally enacted.

To illustrate his talk, Graham showed prototype movements that he had worked out, made parts for and assembled, to make the lion fish move.

To describe the journey he used the words:

Inspiration

Imagination - Expectation

Frustration - Irritation

Infuriation - Exasperation

Realisation

Elation

Satisfaction

And it was easy to see how these emotive words carried him through each intricate step of the way.

The journey began when Graham came across an article in a magazine about the lion fish many years ago. This invasive predator, originally from the seas around Australia and Pacific Islands, had tragically reduced the indigenous fish stocks in the Gulf of Mexico, the east coast of the USA and the Caribbean. It dislocates its own jaw to swallow its prey, but also can be eaten, as lion fish are venomous not poisonous. It was introduced to the waters mainly by people who found the fish ate anything and everything in their own home aquaria and so, despite its vivid colouring and spiky fin rays, confined it to the sea.

However it was the artist Chris Achillios who had drawn 'fish girls' based on the lion fish that set Graham's artistic train of thought in action.

Although Graham believed that he 'couldn't do wood carving' he managed to recreate a magnificent representation of Achillios's work in wood which has been shown at woodcarving classes and at the woodworkers show in Harrogate.

And next came the request by his daughter for a lion fish automation for her birthday as she had seen the fish while on holiday in Egypt.

As time went by the lion fish 'seascape' became more adventurous as Graham decided to incorporate first an oyster (with a pearl inside) and then a crab - both of which are brilliantly automated.

Interestingly, Graham has also carefully used non-ferrous metals through his work as he doesn't want any part to rust and then fail to work.

"I want it to last for 100 years,' he said,' as it has taken me nearly a 100 years to complete!"

Thanks to everyone who brought a carving. Hope I got them all. Even we less talented are inspired— we shall endeavour to overcome, conquer, achieve, and exceed with our carvings.





The upper background is not part of the carving. Sorry Graham, this is what happens when amateurs get involved.

Meeting Calendar

- a) 10th September. Talk/slides by Derek Adams. I will advise when I get the programme from Derek.
- b) 8th October. Martin Norman, stone mason. Have requested information from Martin and I will advise.
- c) 12th November. Please note that **no** meeting will be held at Shepley. This date is the Harrogate Woodworking and Power Tool Show, 11th to 13th November. A steward schedule will be available at the September meeting. Please help on this occasion. Volunteers will also be needed on Thursday 10th November to set up the stand. Carvings to be exhibited could be brought to the October meeting unless you will be there on the 10th.
- d) 10th December . Christmas Lunch. Entertainment this year will be by Graham who will have been practising his monologues the whole year. This will be brilliant because everything Graham does is, well , just brilliant. Menus will be available as soon as possible.

Adrian R. Lindley