West Riding Woodcarvers' Association





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Queen's Award for Voluntary Services

I am delighted to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has agreed to the recommendations of the Cabinet Office that the West Riding Woodcarvers' Association receive this unique United Kingdom honour for voluntary groups.

In 2002, in celebration of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services was established. The purpose of the award is to recognise groups of individuals who are giving their time freely for the benefit of others. It is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind and is equivalent in status to the MBE.

Winners are nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally, or witnessed, the benefits of the group's work in the local community. Our particular nomination was sponsored by Mrs Jenni Feather, Chief Executive Overgate Hospice, Elland in recognition of the unique wood-carved Panel of 41 individual carvings depicting scenes and activities within Calderdale that now hangs permanently in the entrance way of the hospice. Our application was further endorsed by Mrs Hilary Turner, Director of Finance & Joint Chief Executive at Kirkwood Hospice, Huddersfield and the Office of the Worship the Mayor of Calderdale.

Our Club will be presented, by Dr. Ingrid Roscoe FSA, Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, with an exclusively inscribed commemorative crystal trophy and a framed certificate signed by the Queen. The citation on the crystal trophy will read "Sharing, encouraging and expanding a common interest in the ancient art of woodcarving". This may be presented to the Club on the 13th June 2002 at our monthly meeting at the Shepley Methodist Church Hall.

That's the formal bit out of the way and now it also gives me great pleasure to report that along with the Award comes an invitation for two people and their guests to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. My first reaction was to snaffle the invitations, take Carole for a lovely day out and sell the other two on E-Bay. But with my luck I would inevitably be found out and excommunicated from the Club in shame. So being an up-right citizen, and not an MP, I did the noble thing and informed Jane and Adrian.

Because we have had strict instructions that the Award must not be made public until the 2nd June (the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation) and that names had to be forwarded to Buckingham Palace no later than the 25 May, it was decided that Jane and Adrian - as our Joint Coordinators- and Anne, Albert and Norman - as our Life Members - should have the responsibility of selecting two names from the total membership by a lottery draw. On the 20 May, at Jane's house, the name of every member was put into a hat and as one was pulled out the person was rung and given the opportunity of accepting the invitation. Quite a number of members, for various reasons, expressed their gratitude for the offer but declined the invitation. The eventual lucky recipients are Arthur Brook and his lady friend Cath and Anne Ellwood (Allan) and her husband Roy. How fitting as both Arthur and Anne put into the Club many hours of unselfish work and I'm sure we are all envious but delighted for them.

I have received a lovely hand written letter from Dr Roscoe expressing her delight at our success and she has passed on her 'congratulations to our unique team'. It was signed; Many good wishes Ingrid (Roscoe).

June 13th 2009: This is the meeting when the team responsible for designing and gathering together material for inclusion in the Royal Armouries Panels display their ideas and findings for the comments and approval of the membership. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a note from Norman that may help to set the mood for the meeting.

You will have noticed on the front page that I have stated that the presentation of the Queen's Award <u>may</u> be made at this meeting. At the time of sending out this Newsletter there is difficulty in obtaining the crystal trophy and certificate in time for this to happen. If the Lord Lieutenancies Office can get them in time the ceremony will take place, if not, we shall have to fix a later date and place. Should the ceremony actually take place every member will be contacted by phone, or e-mail, and personally informed before the 13th June. Dr Roscoe is keen for the meeting to take place as she is interested to see what the Club is planning with regard to the Royal Armouries Panels. It would be nice if we could put on a great display of carvings for the occasion and I would ask every member to bring along at least two carvings, but as many as they like, and don't forget to put your name clearly against your carving please. Dennis has agreed that because all members, where possible, should be told of the Queen's Award simultaneously, that I disregard the agreement made at the AGM and post this month's Newsletter to all members so that it is received by all at the same time and as near to the 2nd June as possible. I've also had some trouble trying to communicate with some members by e-mail as I use Publisher and if the recipient doesn't have Publisher they have problems opening my correspondence. Plans are afoot to rectify this.

July 11th 2009: A very well known local artist, Richard Gawthorpe, has agreed to address the Club in July. I understand Richard has been to the Club before, but certainly before my time. His fee is the sale of "cards" with all proceeds going to the hospice.



How is it that every month I get a picture from Frank with Dick in it ????

Our thanks to Martin who gave a very interesting talk and slide show on how to cast items from, for example, relief carvings, to bronze. He has got pushed off the front page of the Newsletter this month because of the news regarding the Queen's Award.



MARTIN NORMAN











Our grateful thanks to Anne for taking over from David on the camera and computer. After a few moments of panic she mastered the technical side of the equipment and did a great job. We tend to take David for granted sometimes and our "Official Club Photographer" chickened out and left poor Anne to battle on by herself. Now I know that Frank and I have this running battle about his, very willing, but shall we say somewhat peculiar photographic ability but this month was his 'pièce de résistance'. I specifically asked him if he would take some photographs of the carving of the old man hanging onto the lamp post. (This was carved, to an admirable standard, by Barbara's late husband Dan Charles.) The reason I wanted the photos is because I have recently done a similar carving that was inspired by an old photograph I had seen previously of Dan's carving. See anything wrong? Nice back view, nice left hand side view and a nice right hand side view. What happened to the front view and the top of the lamppost Frank? The little one is my attempt.

Subscriptions: Everybody will now realise that we jumped the gun a little by stating that the subscriptions should stop at £17 for the 2009/2010 year and then they were increased to £20 after discussion at the AGM.

This has given poor Dennis a few headaches as some members had already paid the £17.

We have five new members: Anne Lindley, Barbara Bromhead, Colin Pratley, Brieley Hellowell and the welcome return of Maurice Oldale.

I don't have photos of all these people at the moment but will shortly be sending out a new list of all members and will ensure they are all on the list. On behalf of all Club members may I repeat Jane's words and offer them a warm welcome.

Raffle: Sales £?, Cost £?, Profit £?. I can't contact Graham to obtain information on the May raffle.

Management meeting: <u>Please note Jane and Adrian no date fixed</u>.