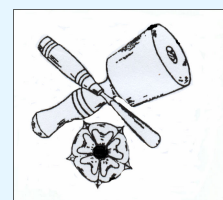


# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



July 2009

Newsletter Issue 177

**July monthly meeting**

[www.wrwoodcarvers.com](http://www.wrwoodcarvers.com)

For the first time ever you have the choice as to which you call the front and back page of the Newsletter. I didn't think I could put Dr Roscoe and the Queen's Award business on the rear and didn't think that Malcolm Till's minutes and Richard Gawthorpe's, from what I gather, very entertaining presentation deserved to be on the back page. So two front pages.

**Minutes:** Jane proceeded with customary club business prior to introducing the speaker for the meeting - artist Richard Gawthorpe.

She briefly outlined the future meetings as such. Nothing is planned for the next month. September is the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers' invitation to Townley Hall. October Mr D James stick maker and November an all day meeting with Michael Painter.

She then referred to the lack of enthusiasm shown by members towards the forthcoming Emley Show and called for volunteers to assist with stewarding. There was a distinct lack of response with only one member forthcoming.

There was a similar unenthusiastic response with reference to the Autumn Fair at our meeting hall. There were, however, reluctant volunteers when pressed.

Next came an update on the Armouries Panels by Mike Hadfield, followed by David Hey. It was suggested that the vacant August meeting would be concerned with these items.

Mention was made of the Holmfirth Arts Show and the limited attendance was remarked upon with the absence of a directional sign as a possible cause. These have been used before but we have been asked to remove same.

Jane then introduced our guest speaker who opened his talk with an amusing description of his teaching career and his growing disappointment at the apparent lack of creative subjects in present day education. This was followed by his general opinions on painting, punctuated by dry and amusing anecdotes, which caused much laughter in the audience. He led into his work with handicapped children and adults which led directly to his painting and his interest in the production of his popular cards for the hospices and other concerns.

After a short refreshment break Richard devoted more time to his painting, his style and inspiration. He mentioned his receipt of the Rowland Hilder Award and The Old Master Award. These mentions were punctuated by an ever growing number of dry and amusing stories. He mentioned in some detail his visit to Florence and a meeting with Anigoni, talked in some detail of his personal difficulty with perspective and how he overcomes this.

Then followed a more detailed analysis of some of his particular works using work he had created on trips to Venice and how work evolved. All these dialogues continued to be interspersed with dry humorous asides which his audience seemed to find greatly to their liking. He found Jane as a butt for some of his humour that she bore with good grace.

Prior to a short session for questions he let slip the fact that Kirklees Hospice's sells up to thirty thousand of his cards each year. Questions were few in number but in the midst of these Richard offered a tip to woodcarvers. He suggested that they might detect mistakes in their own work by studying them as mirror images ie in reverse.

Richard proved a stimulating and lively speaker who held his audience's attention much longer than many other speakers. We had an interesting morning which closed at twelve thirty.

Many thanks for the minutes Malcolm and for the photo Frank.



**Sunday 13th September 2009. My apologies if I have not made it clear but the festival is on Sunday 13th not on the Saturday 12th.**

We have been invited to participate by our friends over the border, the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers. We have been invited to take over some carvings to bulk up their display and give the people gathered something different to look at this year. Having been a few years ago it is well worth a few hours of anybody's time. The house and grounds are lovely and the L&C use a marquee to demonstrate.