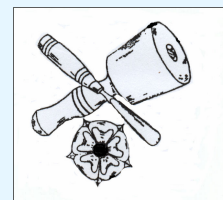


# West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



September 2009

Newsletter Issue 179

L & C Woodcarvers Towneley Park 13th September 2009

www.wrwoodcarvers.com



Our joint venture with the Lancashire and Cheshire Woodcarvers was blessed with a wonderfully sunny day and by my reckoning some 45 plus members and guests attended the event.

The L&C Woodcarvers had suggested that we could bring and arrange our carvings throughout the day as we arrived at the park. Good job we opted for collecting all items together prior to the day and setting up our display at 11:30am, before the gates opened, as our coach decided to take the scenic route from Shepley and didn't arrive till well after 2:30pm.

The majority of the carvings on display were from the Calderdale section of our members and my personal thanks to all who brought carvings to Brooksbank or my home. I am now more than ever convinced that nobody, except wives, actually reads the Newsletter for I distinctly requested in the last Newsletter that all carvings for display to be brought to the Brooksbank class on the 7th September. The ladies, as always, complied but I had a steady stream of gentlemen with boxes of carvings calling at my house for a cup of tea and a chat all week.

It's always difficult to anticipate what is required when you are invited to something like our visit to Towneley Park but, with one or two exceptions, I don't think we did too bad and we had ample carvings to present a very commendable display that was equal in all respects to our friends over the border's display. One glaring omission was the lack of any reference to the Panels that we have produced for the various hospices and Besancon. On more than one occasion people who were acting as stewards were asked why we had been awarded the Queen's Award and we had nothing to show them. What we should have done is brought along a selection of Panel photos. At the next Management Meeting one of the items on the agenda will be display material covering such as a selection of large blown up and laminated photos of the various Panels we have produced.

One of the big problems throughout the day was the children, in particular, who would insist on picking up every single item on display for examination. By and large they were very careful and genuinely interested in the items they were looking at with the exception of one or two who, along with their parents, should have had their hands chopped off at birth. Mind you it is rather difficult to ask people to refrain from handling the items on display only to find a couple of our own long established members picking up every single item in our display, and the L&C display, and whirling them around for all to see. Wonder who that was - Arthur and Dick? Many thanks to Mary for coming early and helping with the display set up

An item that attracted quite a lot of attention was Trevor's relief carving of a woodwork shop, even to the extent that at about 12:15pm we just managed to stop a drunk waltzing off out of the tent with it. He claimed he was just going to show it his wife. Much later we asked him if he had found his wife, he hadn't for it turned out she had left him three years previous! If I'd known I wouldn't have stopped the drunk taking Trevor's carving as later he told me he had brought my "bookend" carvings, that had previously gone missing, and had "shoved them out of the way under the table".

One area that we must look at is the question of a decent sign showing who we are.

The photo to the right is the one we had on display that Mary and I knocked up. The centre piece is the carving that was presented, many years ago I understand, to the WRWA from the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers. Even their members didn't recognise it and couldn't work out who had actually carved it - any answers?

We are a woodcarving club and really should have a nice sign, probably in oak, that clearly shows who we are and in itself should be an item that draws admiration and attention. The Club would be quite willing to provide the wood if we have a volunteer. Jane/Adrian will raise this item at the next meeting.



**October 10th 2009:** **David James** Editor of the Stickmaker magazine. Our thanks to George Crawshaw for arranging this month's meeting. I understand that David is a colleague of George's through his involvement in stick carving.

**November 28th 2009:** **Michael Painter** will make a return visit, mainly at the request of quite a number of the newer Club members who have never had the pleasure of watching him teach and work.

**December 12th 2009:** **Alan Scott** from BBC radio. Golden memories of the variety theatre. (I have been informed by somebody who has seen this guy that he is very, very entertaining). This is of course our Christmas Luncheon at the Meltham Golf Club. Price £16 per person. Enclosed, or attached if you are receiving this by E-mail, is a booking slip to fill in and return to Jane. Please return your slip as early as you can to assist with our planning for the luncheon.

Mainly, because I have been a little under the weather of late, no speakers have been booked beyond December. This will be rectified shortly but if any members have any suggestions for speakers please make them known to either Jane, Adrian or myself.

Two areas that are under discussion is a talk in October to a woodturning club, local to Huddersfield, by our members and a reciprocal talk/demonstration by them to our club. No cost to either club would be involved - just some volunteers and a load of carvings. The other consideration is a tie up with the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers to bring a big name, and therefore usually Southern based, nationally known carver to Yorkshire. The cost to be shared by both clubs as the overall package of hotel and travel costs to one club alone would be prohibitive.

**Royal Armouries Panels:** The latest situation is that all the timber for the 1st World War has been collected by Mike Hadfield and in the majority of cases has been distributed and is now being worked on in the various classes. Any pieces that have not been distributed will be handed out by Mike to members at the Saturday meeting on the 10th October.

Our apologies to the members whose plaque is from the 2nd World War Panel as the timber supplier is struggling to machine this selection as quickly as we would wish. I understand from Mike that delivery is now imminent.

In our budget figures for the grant to the Leeds Community Foundation we had a sum of £940 total for the Lime for both panels. This was arrived at by doubling what we paid for the Lime for the Overgate panel, which seemed reasonable at the time. Since forwarding our grant request the two panels have grown slightly in size and we have agreed to change the design for the plaques which previously have followed a 6", 9", 12" and 18" format for the plaque sizes to more random sizes. This has resulted in more expensive machining costs. The outcome is that the overall cost this time is £1,170 – some £230 over budget. Nothing to worry about at the moment but budget monitoring is essential as we progress.

Enquiries are being made to Lindley Liberal Club for the use of their Concert Room one night during the last week of October, November etc for our very popular get together to monitor and record the progress of each carver. During the Overgate project this evening was a really nice gathering and members' partners were invited to make it a social occasion. We have a pub in Elland that is willing to supply a room FOC but the Lindley location is perhaps a little more central to everybody. Obviously, and regretfully, the room at the Round Hill pub that we used last time is far too small.

One thing that Mike forgot to mention in his note regarding the carving of the plaques: will all members please keep a record of how many hours you employ in carving time. This is important for the booklet and publicity as we all know the first question anybody asks is "how long did it take".

It was suggested by Dr Riley at the Royal Armouries that the poem on the glass information sheet should be penned by a serving member of either war as opposed to a poet that had not seen first hand operational conditions. He forwarded a suggestion that is very brief, very poignant and has an extremely interesting story attached to it. The following is an extract from his e-mail.

The first suggestion I have is a couplet by Ellis Humphrey Evans (Hedd Wyn), shepherd and poet from Trawfynydd in Merionethshire. He submitted an entry for the Bardic Chair at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 1917. When the results were announced and he had won, his name was called and he was summoned. There was silence – for he had been killed while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Pilkem Ridge near Ypres three weeks before. The Chair was draped in black and remained empty. His family still have the chair.

**Their cry is in the wind,  
Their blood is in the rain**

I'm sure the words were actually: **The lads' wild anguish fills the breeze,** but I will check with Dr Riley.  
**Their blood is mingled with the rain.**

This would be a nice little filler for the booklet should we adopt his suggestion. Incidentally, 31,000 soldiers died in the battle of Pilkem Ridge. The British Commander in Chief, Field Marshall Douglas Haig made an entry into his diary "A fine day's work".

I sent a copy of the August Newsletter covering the Queen's Award day and a copy of the minutes of the meeting at the Armouries to Dr Roscoe. She sent the following e-mail in reply:

Dear John,  
Thank you for the newsletter. My grammar is not all that it might be but I am flattered that you wanted to print my words. It was a lovely morning.  
Best wishes to you all. Ingrid

**Subscriptions:** Dennis now has all the subscriptions in for 2009/10 and I did say I would get out a new contact/photo list but I still have a couple of photos missing for new members. I will get one out next month all being well.

Raffle for September not in operation.

**Newsflash - Stabbing at All Saints High School** (Written by Anne Ellwood not JM - retribution will follow!)

Oh dear - accident at woodcarving class! John stabbed himself in the stomach and now will be unable to tease Frank after Frank came to his rescue and rushed him to A&E with blood gushing everywhere. After an X-ray and having the cut stuck together, no harm was done and John was released. Despite losing much weight, he obviously had sufficient to protect his inner organs - thankfully - but what about Malcolm having to do all that paperwork!

**Management meeting:**

**8th October 2009**

**Round Hill Pub**

**7:30PM.**

**Newsflash 2:** Extract from an e-mail just received from Dr Riley at the Armouries: "The Panels designs are stunning well thought out and I have few things to say except what a great bunch of people. I have no qualms at all about the overall scheme or the theme areas".