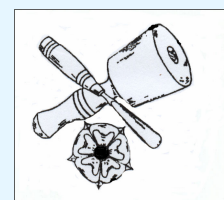


West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



January 2010

Newsletter Issue 182

www.wrwoodcarvers.com

Well a very Happy New Year. We managed to start 2010 with a slight hitch thanks to the weather and a thick blanket of snow that managed to ruin our first Shepley meeting of the year. Which gives me a slight problem of how to fill this newsletter with anything of interest.

We are all aware that the main item on our agenda for this year is the production of two carved Panels and a glass information sheet for permanent display at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds. Quite a lot has been going on since the last newsletter in November so I will start to fill up the sheet with an update of just where things are at the moment.

A meeting was arranged at Methley Glass, Rothwell, Leeds by Celia Kilner for Tuesday 19th January. Mike Hadfield, Bryan Hodgson, Dennis Farmer and myself attended and were introduced to Nigel Jackson the proprietor of the company. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the design of the glass information sheet and request a price for the supply of such from design work presented to him by Celia.

It was eventually agreed that the glass information sheet will be hung two inches or so away from the wall, on six brass or bronze steel pegs, and will be lit from above in the same manner as the two carved Panels. It shall be of the same height as the overall height of the carved Panels, including the border, and that it shall have a 4" etched border around the sheet to complement the wooden Utile 4" width frame of the carved Panels. Celia is to supply Nigel with lettering of her own calligraphic design for Nigel to computer scan and work on for the etching of the sheet. The poppies and barbed wire, ascending from the bottom left towards the right, will be etched on both sides of the sheet to give the impression of them going off into the distance.

Nigel confirmed that a glass sheet of the size required would be of sufficient strength if 10.8mm laminated sheet is used. To comply with safety standards required by the Royal Armouries Museum, and bearing in mind that children will be in the vicinity of the glass sheet, all edges will be polished on completion. Methley Glass is a very small company that on first impressions looks neat, tidy and well organised. The digital equipment on view looked modern and Nigel appeared to be technically competent and very approachable. He showed a genuine interest in our project. At the time of printing we are still waiting for a price.

On Wednesday 20th January 2010 we had a meeting at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds with Steve Burt - Operations Director and Philip Abbott - Head of Collections. Our members attending the meeting were Mike Hadfield - Project Leader, John Murphy - Secretary, Bryan Hodgson and Dennis Farmer - Panel construction, John Farrar and Mike Chambers - Sub-group members. The main purposes of the meeting were to discuss the availability of a dispenser for the booklets, the hand-over date of the Panels and who shall officiate.

It was explained to the Armouries personnel that the Club needed to be addressing the design details of the booklet. This could not be started until the uncertainty over the booklet dispenser is finalised. Philip Abbott reported to the meeting that after investigation the book dispenser would have to be ruled out because of cost. The dispenser was £2,000 plus to purchase or over £100 per month to rent.

Steve Burt explained that it could be difficult to hand over money collected from the sale of the booklets to a third party—eg the Forget-me-not Trust—as the Royal Armouries is a registered charity and operates under Charity Commission rules. A suggested way around this situation could be that the Royal Armouries would purchase booklets, at the agreed sale price per booklet, from the WRWA and then WRWA forwards the money to the Forget-me-Not Trust.

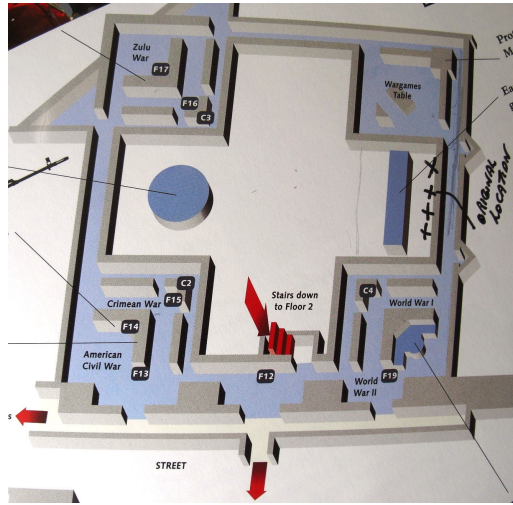
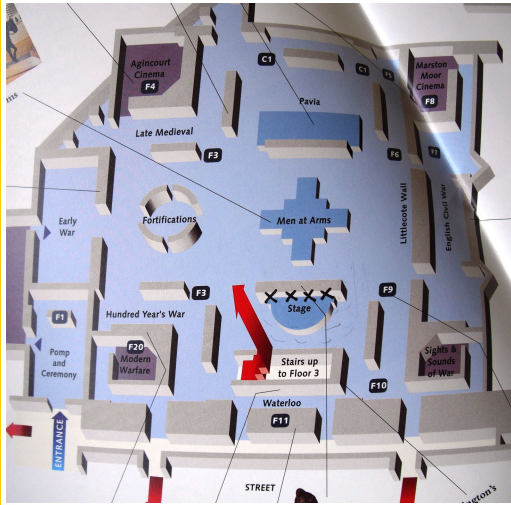
Because the booklets will now no longer be available for purchase at the point of display, but in the Royal Armouries book shop, it was suggested by Philip that a number of laminated booklets could be strategically placed, and chained, near to the two Panels that would encourage people to buy them from the bookshop.

Later whilst viewing the suggested latest location for the two Panels, the possibility was raised for us to have a continuous video display, like many others in the Armoury.

It was explained to Steve and Philip that our original hand-over date of approximately June 2010 was far too ambitious and a more realistic date is now November 2010. Our thoughts were that we might be able to incorporate the hand-over with the activities that take place at the Armouries on an annual basis over the Remembrance period.

Steve stated that Dr Jonathan Riley had been in conversation with a third party regarding the possibility of a person of "higher rank" than Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, acting as the senior officiating officer. This possibility was very much in its infancy but he would try to expedite the matter. He appreciated that nothing on the glass information sheet or the booklets could be finalised until this extremely important aspect of the project has been finalised.

Because of restricted viewing, members who had previously attended meetings at the Armouries had expressed concerns regarding the eventual location in the Armouries of the two Panels. These concerns have been discussed with Dr Riley, Steve and Philip and to their credit we have been listened to and the location has now been changed to a much more favourable spot. For anybody who is familiar with the layout of the Armouries the diagrams below shows you where the original location was going to be and the agreed new location in the main hall on the second floor. The Panels will be hung on the backing wall of the stage area, the stage is to be removed, the overall size of the wall is 24' 2" x approximately 12' high. It has plenty of space in the front for viewing and small bench seating. The location is ideal not only from the aspect of viewing but is also more accessible and viewer friendly to the museum's visitors.



Second floor - agreed location xxxx. The Panels can also be viewed from the upper floor by looking over the balcony railing..

Third floor - original location. The xxxx are slightly in the wrong place and should be against the right hand wall and more towards the bottom right hand corner.

One of the problems to be overcome is the display of the two carvings and the glass information sheet to the general public in Kirklees and Calderdale. I understand that most of the Panels we have constructed have been displayed, and very enthusiastically received, by the public and latterly many booklets have been sold and funds collected for charity on these occasions. Steve felt that once the unveiling of the Panels at the Armouries had taken place then they should remain there and not be removed. He was concerned that it would cause problems and disappointment if the hand-over was televised and reported in the press, and the Panels to be elsewhere and not on display at the Armouries.

We shall be holding the second progress/social evening on the 25th February at the Lindley Bowling Club, Daisy Lea Lane, Huddersfield, HD3 3LP start 7:30pm (maps will be available at the next Shepley meeting). This location should be a vast improvement on the Fleece Inn, Elland and this time each carving will be evaluated by a panel of our more talented carvers and hopefully we shall then have a good indication of how we are collectively progressing. Ideally Bryan and Dennis want all the carvings for the 1st World War in their hands by early June. Although carving is going very well we still have 31 carvings that have not yet been started.

Please bear in mind that we shall have our friends from the Royal Armouries with us at Shepley on the 13th February so please bring as many Panel carvings to the meeting that you can, both work-in-progress and finished. We obviously would still like to see other carvings not related to the Panels.

We have now started planning the booklet and Graham is in the process of photographing carvers at the various classes. If possible, we would like to take the photographs of the 6 carvers, who do not attend classes, at the February Shepley meeting.

January 9th 2010: Free and Easy. Cancelled due to snow.

February 13th 2010: Philip Abbott - Head of Collections and possibly one of his colleagues from the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds will be attending the meeting. They will take the opportunity to view as many carvings as possible for the two Panels and give a brief talk on their plans for the Panels and the history and workings of the Armouries.

March 12th 2010: Still to be filled - any ideas????

April 10th: Annual General Meeting.

May 8th 2010: Chris Scaife, historian for Robert Thompson's of Kilburn, will give an illustrated talk on the history of how a 'Mouse' was to become synonymous with Kilburn and explain how an offhand remark about being as poor as a church mouse, led a joiner to carve a mouse on the finished cornice he was working on. And in that moment, a famous trademark was born.

June 12th 2010: Talk and demonstration by the Rocking House Shop, Fossgate, York.

Trevor and Freda Kilvington are not in the best of health at the moment. On behalf of all members we wish them both a speedy recovery. Jane is going round to see Trevor and she will have an update at the Shepley meeting.

Raffle: Sales £0.00. Prizes £0.00. Profit £00.00.

Management meeting: February 5th 2010. Round Hill pub 7:30pm.