

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



June 2011
Newsletter Issue 197

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

June 11th: Patrick McLaughlin from Heritage Inspired:

Our thanks to Patrick for a very interesting talk on the history of the Green Man. He explained that a search of many churches and cathedrals will often lead you to discover, somewhere, a carving of a human head within a mass of leaves. Sometimes, the leaves appear to grow out of the head itself; at other times the human head seems to be a chance result of the configuration of the leaves. It seems to be a recurring theme amongst the many grotesque figures adorning many churches and is commonly used as a decorative architectural ornament. Green Men are most frequently found on carvings in churches and other buildings both secular and ecclesiastical.

People, after the meeting, were asking where Patrick came from and what Heritage Inspired actually did. From what I gathered, from talking to Patrick, Heritage Inspired is a South Yorkshire faith tourism organisation that gives heritage talks to all local groups across South Yorkshire. The talks are on: Churches and other faith sites in SY; Abbeys and Castles in SY; and, Symbolism in SY. They are now starting to branch out into West Yorkshire and I believe we are one of the first groups in this area that they have visited. They are predominantly funded by the National Lottery and the donations of groups who use their services. We gave a £50 donation.

Patrick does quite a number of talks on things like Abbeys, Castles, Cathedrals, Great Houses and Halls and local history.



July 9th Russell Birch: (who is a professional singer under the name of Russell Elliott and, therefore, gets me all confused whenever I contact him):

You may remember that Russell had an article in the same March/April edition of the Woodcarving magazine that featured the Armouries panels. His article was on carving miniature mussels on buffalo horn. All of Russell's carvings are very, very small so David will have to be on his toes with the video camera.

I understand that Russell, who was booked to come along last year but got the dates mixed up, will be taking us through the process and tools he uses to create his miniature marvels. Told him, if he runs out of material, he can always give us a song.

Skelmanthorpe Methodist Church: On Monday 6th June, David Hey, Graham Lockwood, Mike Chambers and myself gave a talk on the Royal Armouries panels to about 40 + ladies and gentlemen of the above church.

The meeting started with a hymn and a prayer, we weren't very good at that, and finished with tea, coffee and biscuits plus a cheque for £25 which the 'boys' donated to our club. We also managed to sell £72 worth of booklets. (We are now out of booklets and I'm trying to get some back from the Armouries, no reply!!)

The talk covered a brief introduction to the WRWA, me. What a relief carving is, Mike. Going through the two full size paper plans of the panels, David. A video of the construction of the panels and the song *Waltzing Matilda*, Graham.

The evening went very well and we have since received emails thanking us for a great show. There has also been a bit in the Huddersfield Examiner club news page.

We have been asked, by Albert, to give a further talk to the Holmfirth Rotary Club in November.

Royal Armouries: Things are starting to move, at last, and the electrician is working on putting in spot lights to illuminate the two panels and the glass information sheet.

By coincidence both Mike Hadfield and myself visited the Armouries on Monday 6th June. Mike arrived before me and managed to speak to the electrician but no work had started. When I arrived marks had been drawn onto the ceiling indicating where the lights were being fitted. We are a little concerned that these are further away from the panels than we personally would have mounted them but have been assured they will be OK.

I have asked, again, about some information being put around the panels and suggested that our club would be willing to consider taking on the task, and cost, (as suggested at the AGM) of blowing up the article from the Woodcarving magazine and having it framed. No reply!!!!

You can just see the line on the roof, slightly to the left of the circular lights, and that a light has been fitted over the glass sheet. We would have put the light right above the glass shining down the back. This light that has been fitted, unfortunately, creates a lot of shadows.





Regretfully, I have to report that **Graeme Richardson**, yet another long serving member of the club, has sadly passed away.

I understand that Graeme died of a heart attack while in hospital for treatment on recently diagnosed liver and lung cancer. Graeme will be sadly missed.

Not sure if I can circulate this Newsletter before his funeral but most people have already been informed that the arrangements are 2:15pm on Tuesday 21st June at Park Wood Crematorium.

Jane has sent a card to his family.

Dave Bradbury: Regretfully, we seem to keep losing members from ill health, and some popping up to see the big woodcarver in the sky, but fortunately manage to attract new members to keep the membership running between 65 and 70.

For the second month running we welcome to the club a new member, but not a stranger to the members who live in the village of Shepley.

Dave is known to the Shepley residents as the local stone-carver who regularly gets his name in the papers for his very interesting and incredible work.

Dave has 'volunteered' to give a half hour talk on his work for our October meeting. He'll eventually learn to keep his head down! See Dave's very interesting website on www.bydavebradbury.co.uk



We got asked, through Tracey, if anybody would be willing to carve a 'fairy house' in an old tree stump at a nursery in Greetland. Peter Keene has taken on the task and below are a couple of photos. I will bring you the final results in the next newsletter.



Children's Hospice: Still waiting for them to come back with a firm date for a meeting..

Last month I reported that Graham Lockwood had designed, and kindly organised the purchase of, the roll out banner that was on display at the last meeting. Everybody offered favourable comments and, of course, Trevor - relief carving, and Jim - the carving of the turtle, were delighted, and I'm sure very proud, that their carvings had been used on the banner. And no, Trevor, you don't get royalties! The Banner cost £93 including delivery.

One or two people asked why we hadn't put Dr Roscoe's name on the banner. The reason quite simply is that the banner, hopefully, should last for years and years and Dr Roscoe's duties as Lord Lieutenant will, sadly, one day cease. But hopefully not for a very long time.

We have also spent part of the money from the magazine article on new display lighting, thanks to Derek Adams, and Margaret has purchased material to back the display boards, which we purchased from the scouts last year.



Flower Festival 2011: Every three years the Central Methodist Church, Brighouse, organises a fantastic flower display with all proceeds going to charity. On this occasion the charities are The Hollybank Trust, Overgate Hospice and McMillan Nurses - all very worthy causes.

The dates of the festival are Friday 24th June: 12 noon - 9:00pm, Saturday 25th: 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday 26th: 12 noon to 5:00pm.

The rota Margaret has at the moment is:

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Demonstrators</u>
Friday 24th: 12 to 1	Peter Keene	TBA
1 to 3	Peter Keene	TBA
3 to 5	David Hey	George Crawshaw
5 to 6	Arthur Brook	TBA
6 to 9	Mary Stott	TBA
Sat 25th: 10 to 12	Peter Keene	TBA
12 to 2	TBA	TBA
2 to 4	TBA	TBA
4 to 6	TBA	TBA
Sun 26th: 12 to 3	Julia Hanus	TBA
2 to 4	Anne Lindley	Adrian Lindley
3 to 5	David Holt	TBA

You will see from the above that a lot of times need filling, as I'm sure they will be, but please rally round and pick up the phone **NOW** and ring Margaret on 01484-712446. (I have an excuse as I will be sat on my balcony, beer in hand, sailing up the Norwegian Fjords.)

The room we are in is fully secured all the week and ideally we need to use this time to mount the display. People are meeting on Wednesday to set up. If you haven't already supplied carvings to Margaret would you please bring as many carvings as possible to the church hall on this day and stop, if possible, to help. We have space and need, in total, between 75 and 100 carvings please. Would everybody please also include with each carving their name, the name of the carving, if it has one, and the type of wood. These will be re-written onto appropriate cards and displayed with each carving. The following week most of the carvings on display in Brighouse will be re-located to Holmfirth for that exhibition.

I got dragged, screaming and kicking, to this show by the missus three years ago and was blown away with the overall display. All I'm usually good at is killing flowers, but this lot really impressed. Well worth a visit.