

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



August 2011
Newsletter Issue 199

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

August 'Free and Easy'. Malcolm Till, as Assistant Secretary, has kindly done the write up for this meeting in my absence. His words are as follows:

The meeting started at 10:10am chaired by Adrian and admirably assisted by Jane. There were thirty two members present but a sizable selection of carvings and several items of equipment on offer for sale.

There was then a summary from the chair of the future programme of events: Sunday September 11th. - A meeting with the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers at the Towneley Park show. Post code was provided to aid navigation. There was insufficient response to the possibility of a bus being provided.

Also on Sunday September 11th the Friends Of Beaumont Park Exhibition. Brian is in charge.

October 8th - No speaker assigned to this date.

November 12th - Peter Berry full day but no details of practical activity as yet.

Christmas lunch December 10th - It was mentioned that Dr Roscoe has been invited but was as yet, because of other commitments, not certain to be present.

The Royal Armouries once again was mentioned with reference to the lighting and the absence of the booklet information availability. Details re the panels were still missing and after a brief discussion Frank referred to the details being available on the website.

The Forget-me-Not Trust was again mentioned indicating a start to the work in September 2012. During subsequent discussions re the panel's design suggestions were asked of the members. The panel's proposed location was indicated and further discussions became somewhat diverted.

The raffle was drawn with its seven prizes before the meeting broke for coffee.



Everybody very attentive!



Frank blessing John

Towneley Park. Sunday September 11th 2012. Following on from the item above it would appear that everybody attending is going under their own steam and we are not running a coach, which was not very successful last time as it took ages to get there and people were stuck if they wanted to leave early.

The Heritage Open Day at Towneley runs from 12 noon until 4:00pm. Because the park is nearer for the Calderdale members than the Kirklees members last time we joined the L&C carvers, in September 2009, the Calderdale members were asked to take on the responsibility of taking over carvings about 11:00am and setting up our section of the woodcarving display. They don't know it yet, but the Calderdale members will again be asked to take on this task. All other members please bring carvings with you for display, or please make sure I get them before Sunday 11th. I appreciate that Dennis, Brian and Arthur are involved in the Beaumont Park exhibition on the same day, which is unfortunate, and carvings will be split between the two exhibitions - although these three guys have enough carvings between them to kit out a couple of dozen exhibitions.

In 2009 we had a great turn out of 45 members plus partners and, not only was the weather lovely - which I guarantee it will be again, as strangely enough it always seems to be on September 11th - but the whole Heritage and Woodland Day was very interesting and everybody who attended had a great day out. This time there will be costumed re-enactors offering guided tours of Towneley Hall, well worth the visit, chain-saw sculptors, woodland crafts, birds of prey, wildlife exhibitions, children's activities, a mini farmers market and the Sealed Knot re-enacting battles again throughout the day.

People may remember that the park has a fantastic café with great food at very reasonable prices.

Directions are: Two miles from Burnley town centre off the A671. Parking is available at Riverside Car Park, from here the event is a short walk away up the tree lined avenue. Sat-Nav details BB11 3RQ.

We always get a good turn out to our meetings from the Lancashire & Cheshire Woodcarvers so we owe it to them to reciprocate, so please make a big effort to attend. As last time, we shall need members to take a short turn manning our exhibition to ensure the children, and adults, keep their sticky fingers off the carvings.

Mike Hadfield has some cherry and rowan logs, 6" to 9" diameter, that he is willing to share with his fellow woodcarvers.

Royal Armouries: Following on from Malcolm's comments from the 'Free and Easy' meeting I can report that Graham Lockwood and myself spent a couple of hours, Graham could have probably done things in half the time without my interference, adopting the article we had in the Woodcarver magazine for printing in A2 size paper, framing and displaying alongside the two panels.

Mike Hadfield and I are going to go over to the Armouries with the two A2 frames - one of the write-up and the other the diagram of the panels with the name of the carving etc - as soon as time allows. We shall also take over another copy of the booklet with each page laminated, as we had for the display in the Hall of Steel and the Armouries lost, and make sure this is attached in front of the two panels for visitors to read.

Our grateful thanks to Graham who is a genius with the computer and gave his time willingly, well with his arm up his back, at a very busy period for him.

Woodcarving Classes: The *Brooksbank Class* starts again on Monday evening 5th September and only one person out of last year's class of 22 is not returning again this year, regretfully because of problems driving during the winter months. His place has been taken by Mike Morgan, a new club member who comes all the way from this side of Sheffield. We also have a waiting list with three people on it. Jim Longbottom has kindly agreed to attend each Monday evening again to give much needed tuition.

The new *Wakefield, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Class* is commencing, again on Monday evening, on the 12th September and I understand from Mike Chambers that they have 16 signed up and are now very nearly full. Mike will be doing the tuition at this class and Ann and Adrian Lindley are acting as organisers/treasurers.

Not sure when the daytime classes are starting and can't get hold of either Malcolm or Mike when I just rang to confirm. Could I suggest anybody interested in these classes ring either one of them for information.

The carving classes, both day and evening, are the life blood of the club and it's a credit to the club that we have 38 signed up for the evening classes and I'm sure we will have full attendance for the daytime classes.

Panel Booklets: Still sending out on a regular basis and have my own slot at the local post office, and on first name terms, with the lady and gent behind the counter. Just sent three out to North Carolina, USA and had a lovely letter back stating that he was so impressed with the article in the Woodcarving magazine and the quality and information in the booklet that he is taking them to a national woodcarving meeting in Florida to show everybody.

Also had comments from both America and parts of the UK from people wishing the club all the best and congratulating us on both the carvings and our money raising efforts for the children's hospice.

Also had two people who are going to take our idea of the panels and start developing their own panels in their carving clubs.

I will try and include some of the letters in the next newsletter.

Britain at War magazine: A company called Urban Media contacted us some time ago asking if they could put an article in this magazine. I received a complimentary copy of the September 2011 issue the other day which featured an article entitled 'Carved with Pride' all about our panels.

I was going to try and photocopy it and send everybody a copy but it's printed on a dark background and does not copy very successfully. I will write to the Editor of the magazine and try and obtain a PDF copy by email that will copy OK and then get one to each member.

The article is very, very good and concentrates more on the stories behind the carvings. The carvings depicted are those of Dennis: *St Paul's*, Trevor's: *Amphion*, Malcolm's: *Factory Worker*, David's (Hey): *Russian Convoys*, Des's: *German Grenadiers*, Jim's: *White Feather* and Brian's: *Advanced Dressing Station* plus the two panels. (I've been on 'unpaid labour duties' for a couple of weeks at my daughter's house in Southport so Carole rang everybody whose carving was featured to advise them so they could obtain a copy if they wished).

The magazine is very well written, informative and interesting and I would suggest anybody interested in obtaining a copy ring 0208 955 7079, which is the back issues hotline number. The one to ask for is the September issue number 53 price £4.10 each.

We hope to eventually receive a donation towards the children's hospice.



The raffle seems to be progressing quite well and Margaret has informed me that the profit is: May - £55, June - £49.10, July - £47, Aug - £21.45 making a total of £172.55.