

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Newsletter Issue 219

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Anne Hobson
Albert Hobson

Chris Helme - 13th July 2013

I usually try to ring and have a chat with our speakers a few days before the Saturday meetings, just to ensure that everything is going according to plan-believe it or not we do sometimes have one! By Thursday evening, prior to the meeting, I was starting to get a little concerned as I still hadn't managed to contact our July speaker, Andy Lodge. Unfortunately, email was the only contact means I had for Andy and as this was going unanswered I managed, eventually, to get his mobile number from a woodturning contact.

Imagine my surprise when I rang his mobile and found him in a hospital bed! The only sensible words I got from him was 'I'm up to my eyeballs in morphine'. I reminded him that a gentleman always kept appointments and asked if he could get out of bed and along to Shepley for Saturday morning, but he seemed a little confused so the poor man was left with his problems and increasing his morphine dose.

With a house full of visiting Italians eating and drinking us out of house and home, a list of possible last minute speakers was left with Jane and eventually up popped our old friend Chris Helme to the rescue.

Adrian has kindly written the following:

Chris Helm gave a talk entitled "all in a day's work" from the time that he was in the police force. Chris explained how he had always wanted to be a policeman, and how, right from school leaving, his attempts to join had always been thwarted, i.e. too young, no qualifications, colour blind etc. After attempts to join the forces sections of brass band playing (Chris' great love) and following mundane type jobs, he finally got into the police when he was 19. (Big shortage – would accept anybody!)

He was sent to Leeds – Harehills Flats locality. Chris explained that he hated the locality nearly as much as his nominated lodgings. He finally advised the local station that he was going to leave – they talked him around and sent him to the Bradford area. He enjoyed the locality and later when he was transferred to Brighouse, he really enjoyed his work and had many amusing stories to tell. He was a community policeman for many years and finally a crime prevention officer all in the Brighouse locality. Chris explained how his career must have been successful when he noted "graffiti" on a bus shelter which displayed Manchester United FC on one end, Arsenal FC on the other end and PC Helm is a big fat ***** in the middle. To be included with top premier football clubs must be a sign of success. Chris was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1990. Chris has always been a brass band enthusiast and a participating player.

His talk has extremely amusing and enjoyed by all. A good candidate for our Christmas luncheon again.

Kirkwood Hospice, Huddersfield 18th July.

Disappointing turn out – only 12 turned up.

The new facility proved both educational and very moving. Many millions spent on major refurbishment on new buildings with luxurious and well thought out facility.

Dennis and Arthur wanted to book in for a few day's holiday – just like a hotel.

The WRWA panel is still there looking in excellent condition and located well complete with lights, and very well appreciated after all the years there. (Unlike one location - eat your heart out armouries). After the tour, refreshments were served – sandwiches and cakes and drinks. (Wine and soft drinks)

Adrian



Meetings on Saturday 10th August and 14th September 2013: It has been agreed between Chair and Vice Chair that the August and September meetings be cancelled this year for three reasons. One, as always these days, we are having difficulty finding speakers but also on Saturday 10th August quite a good number of our members will be at the Halifax Agricultural Show stewarding the display of the Forget-Me-Not children's hospice panel. The show, on a fine sunny day, can attract many thousands so a potential outlet for selling booklets.

We have also been asked by Sue and Karen at Halifax Town Hall (many of you will remember their helpfulness and kindness during both the Overgate and Royal Armouries displays at the Town Hall) if we will display the children's hospice panel over the weekend of the 14th and 15th September 2013. This is the Heritage Weekend and the Town Hall always gets a large number of people visiting.

Meeting on Saturday 12th October 2013: We have a full day booking for the return of Thompson Dagnall. Many of you will remember Thompson from previous visits and for those who haven't had the pleasure of meeting him do yourself a favour and keep this date free. He is a terrific speaker. I have an agreement with Thompson that if he runs out of conversation, very unlikely knowing him, that he will finish the day off by singing to us. He is a member of a very popular folk group, so popular that I can't remember its name, but you can just imagine him playing his guitar with his old leather cap over his eyes.

We have a couple of potential new members who will be joining us at this meeting, one is specifically coming to listen to Thompson.

Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice Panel:

The members who have been stewarding, or have viewed, the panel at the Huddersfield Parish Church will have noticed that some of the sound cards have decided they have had enough screeching, roaring, playing music etc and died. A sob story to the suppliers has resulted in five free replacements saving about £50. You will have also noticed that the PIR's have a mind of their own and no matter how many hours, and there have been plenty, that David plays around adjusting them they will not operate as we would like them to. The idea was good but perhaps we took a step too far on this occasion. So it has been decided that we will replace the five PIR's with switches like the other five on the control board. The cost in total will be £67.20 as we have one in stock already.

The supply of the switches is the easy part. We had a great deal of difficulty drilling the stepped holes for the other switches but now the control panel is fitted to the panel frame, and the nameplates fitted, the job becomes more difficult and means a lot of laying on the floor drilling upwards, and poor old Trevor, who will be doing the drilling, is no longer a lad in the first flush of youth! When David was lying on his back trying to sort out the electrics Carole brought him a spare pillow for his head to rest on!!!! Then she complains that the house is like a drop in cafe for woodcarvers and the odd panel. But all for a worthy cause, or so I keep telling her!

On the plus side Graham has managed, again after many hours, to get all the moving carvings working as required. We thought two of the motors had burnt out but after sending for a couple, £24.76 total, they managed to come alive again. The two motors will be held in stock as sometime in the future they will no doubt be needed.

Regretfully the response to the publicity details that Janet send out to the Huddersfield Examiner, Halifax Courier, Brighouse Echo, Yorkshire Post and BBC Look North has been very poor. Although I understand as I type this on Monday 29th the reporter from the Huddersfield Examiner is heading for the Parish Church.

After Huddersfield Parish Church the next port of call for the panel will be Halifax Agricultural Show on the 10th August. On a fine day the crowds flock to the show as it is one of the biggest in West Yorkshire and the potential for selling the booklets should be quite good as a lot of children come along with their parents. We are located in the Bee Tent as the Handicraft Tent is full. But this should work in our favour as the Bee Tent is a very popular attraction for children and run by our member, Trevor Stanley. We do need, however, to make sure we display our banner and sandwich boards effectively. It was hoped that the members from Calderdale could steward this event but quite a number of them are unavailable, for one reason or another. So if anybody can, and wants to, help with the setting up or stewarding please give me a ring.

Towards the back end of August from the 23rd - 30th the panel will be located at the Wakefield Cathedral and again stewards are needed. Because of the location everybody in the club is being asked to step forward and help. Contact Adrian please. Then as previously mentioned we are committed to the Halifax Town Hall on the 14th and 15th September for the Heritage Weekend. There will be the opportunity of a guided tour round the beautiful Town Hall on these days. Then, if there is anything left of the panel, it can go home to the children's hospice.

Our grateful thanks must go to Geoff, I don't know his last name, who lives on a farm in Southowram and is a fellow bee keeper of Trevor's. He has done a splendid job of the steel frame that the panel is hanging on. He only spent a few minutes looking at the panel and then went away and constructed a contraption that is absolutely brilliant in its simplicity, transportability and usefulness. He is just claiming £20 for the wheels he located on eBay but we all think he should have some form of gift as well as our thanks.

Peter Keene has very kindly, I think with the help of Graham, set the club up on Facebook and Twitter and quite a lot of interest has been generated about the panel from Twitterers and Facebookers. Could I at this stage apologise to anybody who got a request from me to join Twitter - I'm not even on Twitter. I don't know how that happened but it's the results of the club going on Twitter and me being daft enough to press the wrong button on this stupid new computer, with Windows 8, that has taken over my life. I never knew I have so many people on my contacts list, or so many people who don't want to know me!

A final word of thanks for the guys who have arms six inches longer than a few weeks ago and a standing order with the local Chiropractor. The panel is heavy, in fact very heavy, and this gang has been on hand to move the thing from one place to another and still have a lot of shifting to do before it finally rests with the children. Thanks also to Derek Adams and the other John Murphy for the use of their vans.

Holmfirth Art Show

This seems to have gone very well and the idea of selling small wooden carved items went down a treat. We managed to make £266.00 on the small items and the carving that Colin did, to raffle, made £102.00. The fact that as of yesterday Colin was still looking for the winner could mean that we can raffle it all over again next year!

A special thanks to our Treasurer's husband Jeff who each year is the rock behind the setting up of this display. Margaret has just told me he is going to pay his £20 and become a full member, which is helpful to me as I don't then have to single him out for special thanks.

Photo - Colin, with a halo round his head, Derek and Julia.



Overgate Hospice: The wall at the hospice that backs our carving is definitely coming down to make way for a new entranceway to the hospice. Bryan and Dennis have spent some time at the hospice measuring up the wall right inside the building and opposite the reception desk where the panel can be re-located.

The only problem is that a new frame will have to be made and somehow the two carvings, both carved on an angle but ironically belonging to Bryan and Dennis, will somehow need working in to the new frame.

We shall shortly be advising the hospice of the re-work costs. The panel will have to be removed towards the end of August.

Should anybody wish to follow the club on Twitter and Facebook you need to log onto the links in the message I have included from Peter Keene in the email that has gone out with this newsletter.

I understand all the carvings for the children's hospice panel are on Facebook and will soon be on our website when I send Anne the details.

Details of the carving classes, due to start in September, will be in the August Newsletter.