

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



August 2014
Newsletter Issue 228

Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life member
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw



Our speaker on Saturday 10th May was club member **David Hey** who stepped into the breach to give a talk on his hobby of Marquetry.

David had a little more time to prepare this time round and through the wonders of digital technology showed slides on the big screen. He explained the intricacies of how to cut up little bits of veneer to make incredible pictures. Anybody wanting veneer off cuts, David is your first port of call. Our grateful thanks to David.



Saturday 13th September 2014.

This is our return meeting after a three month lay off for the summer. For our return a gentleman called Don Barker FWBC Master Blacksmith has been booked to speak.

Don recently took part in Monty Don's Real Craft programme on Channel Four TV which I know quite a number of our members managed to watch.

He has a wealth of experience in the blacksmithing world and I understand is in big demand as a teacher and speaker on the subject. He comes from York and his web site, for those interested, is [www,theblacksmiths.co.uk](http://www.theblacksmiths.co.uk)

Don has shown an interest in the carvings we produce and an overflowing table display of members work would be appreciated.

Brighouse Flower Show. June 6th, 7th and 8th 2014.

This was the usual fantastic show that attracted people from all over the country and was a great opportunity to advertise the club and the skills of our members. The show was rounded off on the Saturday night by a concert by the Brighouse & Rastrick Band and a 40s Weekend kept everybody entertained out on the streets of Brighouse.

The majority of people who attended the show climbed the steps to view the woodcarving and art display. At one point we had over 300 school children through the room and Margaret ensured that each class went away with a booklet of the children's hospice panel.

The show in total raised £9,500 for charity to be split between the MacMillan Nurses, Overgate Hospice and the Air Ambulance Service.

Our club raised £180.00 from the small carving that some of our members produced. We donated £50.00 to the above charities with the remainder going into club funds.

Our grateful thanks to Margaret and Jeff in particular but also to all who took time to produce saleable carvings or took a turn stewarding.

Holmfirth Art Week. July 20th onwards.

This year we displayed from the opening Sunday and throughout the whole week from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm instead of the usual three days from early morning till late. We had plenty of interest but was again hampered by the small space allocated to us. We were prepared to demonstrate the art of carving but found ourselves without sufficient room. Overall another success and £120.00 raised from the small saleable carvings. We donated £20.00 to charity with the remainder going into club funds.

Our thanks to all who set up and took down the display and took turns to steward the event.

Yorkshire Milestone Club.

We were asked if we would assist the Milestone club by loaning them carvings that in anyway depicted 'Stone'. These finished up over the month of July at the Packhorse Gallery in Huddersfield with a few carvings managed to find there way over to Oakwood Hall.

The only downside to the three shows is that we seem to have mislaid a carving by John Farrar. If anybody has a carving tucked away at the bottom of a box that doesn't belong to them could you please head it in the direction of Southowram and a grateful owner?

Saturday 11th October 2014:

Our guest speaker this month is a lady called Anne Smallman who will be talking and demonstrating 'Encaustic Art'.

I understand that Encaustic Art is a method of creating a painting by using hot wax.

Should be interesting and certainly something new.



Children's Hospice: On the 26th March we were asked to steward the children's panel for an open day. It was noticed that Dusty Miller had lost a sail off his windmill - we temporary repaired it with sticky tape and blue tack - and the Moon Landing had crash landed and nothing was working.

We have been trying to arrange a date to get in and repair these items but as yet nothing has been finalised. We will keep trying as its a shame not to see the panel fully operational.

Woodcarving classes.

The woodcarving class season is back with us again and all three classes, All Saint's, Huddersfield, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield and Brooksbank, Elland are all booked until Easter 2015, or in some cases slightly beyond.

One small fly in the ointment is that the old school building at All Saint's is being pulled down during the latter half of 2015 and a new school building is going up in its place. Sadly down comes our classroom. The school have offered to work with us regarding continuation of our carving classes but until everything is up and running we are not sure if classes, as present, can be offered. We shall monitor the situation throughout next year and report accordingly.

All Saint's, Bradley Bar, Huddersfield: Classes start on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th September 2014. 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Cost will be £25.00 to Christmas and a further £25.00 from Christmas to Easter. Students who are not full club members of the club will be required to pay an extra £5.00 at the commencement of the September term to cover insurance. Full members, who pay subs of £20.00 per year, are fully covered by insurance.

Brooksbank School, Elland: Classes start on Monday 1st September 2014. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. (The first evening is at no cost to the club as we have one evening credit from last year). Cost will be £20.00 to Christmas and a further £20.00 from Christmas to Easter. Students who are not full members of the club will be required to pay an extra £5.00 at the commencement of the September term to cover insurance. Full club members, who pay subs of £20.00 per year, are fully covered by insurance.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield: Classes start on Monday 1st September 2014. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost will be £30.00 to Christmas and a further £30.00 from Christmas to Easter. Students who are not full members of the club will be required to pay an extra £5.00 at the commencement of the September term to cover insurance. Full club members, who pay subs of £20.00 per year, are fully covered by insurance. This class needs new members as the numbers have dropped a little.

We would encourage students at all classes to consider the advantages of full membership. Your subs, of only £20.00 per year, help to fund the various classes and cover the administration costs of running the club.

Mike Hadfield has informed me that a new 'Carving for Beginners' evening class is being offered by Huddersfield Adult Education. It runs, I think, on Wednesday night for two hours. It is only a five week course - they are not going to learn much in that time - and costs £50.00 total.

World War 1 & 2 panels.

Our endeavours to move the two panels down to the National Memorial Arboretum appear to have stagnated, if not completely come to a final halt. I visited the NMA with friends in June and a week or so before asked for a few minutes meeting with Sarah Montgomery, Managing Director of the NMA. I never got a reply and on the day of our visit, unfortunately, she wasn't on the premises.

I also understand that the new building project has hit funding problems and has now been put back indefinitely.

It was agreed at the April AGM that, seeing as we are having problems re-locating the panels, that we should approach the Heritage Lottery Fund for support to purchase two interactive touch screens to enhance and create more interest in our display of the two panels at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds.

Our application for the sum of £9,900 was submitted to the Heritage Lottery, Leeds on the 8th May 2014. On the 27th May 2014 a request was made by the Heritage Lottery that we obtain a 'letter of support' to our application from the Royal Armouries, they being the party that are currently hosting the two panels.

After numerous letters, emails and phone calls to the Armouries (all these are logged and available for any member to read should they wish) a letter dated the 17th July 2014 was eventually received from their Public Relations Director. The letter stated that our wish to introduce a interactive touch screens display to each panel was 'not of priority' to the museum. The letter also stated that if we were unhappy with the panel's present location and currently displayed information we have the right to remove and site them elsewhere.

It should be pointed out that the museum personnel were not very happy with our approaching the Heritage Lottery without their prior notification and consent. However, on a number of occasions it was pointed out to the museum that the funding application was made on behalf of our club and that, should we have been successful in obtaining funding, the touch screen panels would have become the property of the WRWA and loaned to the Armouries as part of our display agreement. We did not want the touch screens to become the property of the Royal Armouries, thus stopping us moving them, along with the panels, if we so wished.

A letter was sent to the Public Relations Director on the 23rd July expressing our disappointment at their comments and advising that the future of the two panels would be discussed by our full membership in September 2014.

Regretfully our application to the Heritage Lottery was cancelled on the 23rd July 2014. Our relationship with the Heritage Lottery personal was, and remains, very friendly and welcoming.

Some time ago our Patron, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, suggested that the University of Huddersfield could possibly offer an ideal location for the two panels. Recently, Adrian and Anne visited the University to try and establish if a suitable area was available. They had a brief meeting with Sara Hughes, Office Manager and it was suggested that a pack of information on the panels be forwarded for the attention of Mr Colin Blair, Director of Estates and Facilities and Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof Tim Thornton.

On Friday 22nd August a full information package including Graham Lockwood's DVD coverage of the panel's history, photos of both panels, the write up in the Woodcarving and Britain at War magazines and a booklet was posted.

We are now awaiting a response and hopefully a meeting with the gentlemen mentioned above.

Should we eventually move the panels Bryan and Dennis have suggested that we need to undertake a number of weeks remedial work on the carvings and the frames before they can be re-located.