

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Patron
Dr Ingrid M Roscoe
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

I must confess that, after some fourteen years of booking the majority of our guest speakers, this is the first time that I can remember our speaker failing to turn up. We were expecting a talk by sculptor Chris Kelly but the 10:30am bell sounded and no Chris. I did manage to ring his home but was informed by his son that he was out but he wasn't sure where.

I did eventually get a call on the way home from a very apologetic Mr Kelly, who had just got in home from coaching his son's football team. For some reason, Chris had got it into his head that our meeting was from 2:00pm to 4:00pm on a Saturday afternoon. He was just ready to have a quick bite of lunch and then off down the road to Shepley. On the plus side, Chris has offered to come along in the New Year as our guest speaker. I am going to try and book him, well in advance, for February 11th 2017.

Our grateful thanks must go to John Farrar who 'just happened' to have a computer memory stick in his pocket with a few hundred photos that he had taken over many years as an amateur photographer. John very kindly showed some fabulous photos, describing their composition and where they were taken. Some rather delightful, but risky photos, were taken on the moors in the early hours of a winter morning with the subject matter, a nubile young lady, standing in her birthday suit and pimples in a freezing stream under a small pack horse bridge. What John was wearing we never really got told, but seeing as he didn't get his collar felt by the Old Bill we have to assume he kept his vest on.

Many thanks, John.

8th October 2016 - Melanie Wilks.

Melanie is a sculptor, artist and stone carver, whose sculptures can be seen in towns, parks and public spaces around Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. Melanie lives in Dewsbury and runs stone carving courses which I'm sure she will be telling us all about.



Melanie Wilks

5th November 2016 - Michael Painter.

One of the reasons we have asked Michael back again was a multi request by those present at his last visit for him to demonstrate hair carving. I'm sure, knowing Michael as we do, that his time with us will cover far more than one subject. Note: This is a full day session with pea and pie lunch as usual.

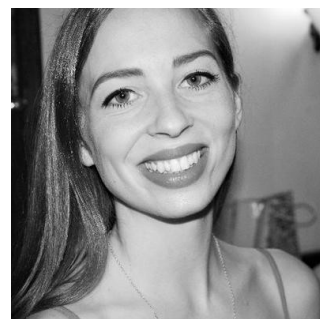


Michael Painter

10th December 2016 - Christmas Luncheon at Crow Nest Golf Club.

Tilly Dagnall and her mum

Jacqueline. Tilly has a multitude of talents that covers printmaking, painting and sculpture and mum Jacqueline is a leading expert on anything to do with plants and garden/flower display. Certainly one for our ladies this year.



Tilly Dagnall

14th January 2017 - Talks by club members. To kick the New Year off we have three of our own who have stepped forward to cover this morning's entertainment.

First up will be Margaret & Jeff Myatt, who will take us all back to June 2016 when they represented our club at the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations on the Royal Mall in London.

This will be followed by Derek Adams and John Murphy who will transport the meeting back to the days of the Tall Ships. Both Derek and John have sailed on present day Tall Ships but will tie in tales of a tragic shipwreck and of when men were real men and spent months roaming the seas in terrible living conditions and under extreme hardship.



North of England Woodworking and Machinery Show 18th, 19th & 20th November 2016.

I have previously reported that we had been allocated a 6 metres wide x 3 metres deep stand at the show which will give us a reasonable amount of room to display carvings on either side of the children's hospice panel, that we are borrowing back for a few days.

We are planning to pick up the panel from the children's hospice on Thursday 10th November and transport it to my garage. This will give us a full week to ensure the mechanics are in full working order before we take it in Derek's van to Harrogate on Thursday 17th November.



Everybody will be aware that the weakest area of the panel is the electric motor and gearbox that drives the automata carvings. These constantly burn out with continual use, (as when we took the panel to the Halifax Agricultural Show and towards the end of the day had people standing behind the panel spinning the moving parts with our fingers to please the children). We have looked at beefing up these motors but, because of space limitations between the frame and the wall the panel is hung on, we cannot find a replacement.

We have been paying £9.38 plus vat for individual motors but, after contacting the manufacturer and explaining the reason why we are using their motor, they have very kindly offered to supply them at a cost price of £4.66 plus vat each. To take advantage of this offer, and to ensure we are well covered for spares in Harrogate, we have ordered, and have now had delivered, a quantity of 25. Total cost to the club £148.80.

We have now received a 'do & don't' booklet explaining what we can and cannot do and detailing when we can set up and knock back down. Various forms, covering the name board wording we want displaying on our stand and the wording we want in the Exhibition Show Guide have been completed and returned. Still to do and forward is a 'risk assessment' covering safety and our insurance cover policy has to be sent to the exhibition organizers. We were going to be charged £125 for electricity but a bit of sweet talking has managed to get electricity to the stand for.

We shall shortly be calling a meeting, or contacting, all members who want to get involved in setting up and stewarding. Without a doubt this is the biggest event that we have attended with thousands of visitors expected over the three days and we must make sure we approach it in a very professional and well planned manner. It is essential that everybody stewarding on our stand is wearing his or her black club polo shirt or green jumper. Other carving and turning clubs will be displaying at the show and we need to ensure we, and our stand, are equal or better turned out than the competition. Dennis Farmer will gladly take your order for a polo shirt. But please don't go to him at the last minute.

If you look on the website for the show you will see under 'Attractions' that one of the headings states: **A 3 metre x 1.5 metre panel of beautifully crafted carvings incorporating automata and sound.** Fame at last.

The Woodcarving magazine in late October will cover something about our appearance for the first time at the Woodworking Show.

Royal Armouries, Leeds. Thursday June 2nd 2016.

Now that the summer and holiday periods are all but over we shall be increasing the pressure on the Armouries to do something, as they promised they would, on the panel display.

John Farrar reported that he recently visited with his guests from Canada and two lights were out and the bookshop, who were having a book sale, were selling off our booklets at £0.99 each. This is quite wrong as the booklets don't belong to them and should be sold, with proceeds going to the children's hospice, at £4.00 per booklet.

Woodcarving Classes:

The Queen Elizabeth Grammar School class and the Brooksbank class are both going well with good attendance.

In last month's newsletter I reported that the situation with the class at All Saints was still not very clear. I'm delighted to now confirm that the class is running as last year on Thursday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Cost per term £25.00.

Attendance at All Saints is quite good and, after the holiday period has passed, we should be looking at an attendance of about 18.

Prince of Wales Hospice, Pontefract.

At the last Shepley meeting, Adrian referred to the display that we did for Dr Roscoe at the Lieutenancy Offices for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. During this display we were approached by a lady called Amanda Darley, who is the Facilities Manager and Deputy Chief Officer for Pontefract Hospice.

Amada has seen our panels at Overgate, Kirkwood and at the Forget-me-Not children's hospice and raised the possibility of doing a similar panel, depicting scenes from around the Pontefract area, for her building.



An initial approach has been made by Adrian, that has confirmed their interest. Further discussions will be taking place shortly.