

West Riding Woodcarvers' Association



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Patron
Dame Ingrid M Roscoe
DCVO FSA
Lord Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire

Life members
Albert Hobson
Jane Renshaw

Shepley 13th May: Travels throughout China - Graham Lockwood.

Graham Lockwood's tour of China's iconic sites - the terracotta warriors, the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and much more - was an enthralling subject for the club's monthly meeting at Shepley.

His photographs - including one that went on to win a competition in China - also revealed fascinating details of ordinary Chinese life, with colourful markets, foods, festivals, street traders and musicians.

But it was Graham's passion for kite flying and his recollections of Chinese kite flying festivals that set his whole adventure soaring skywards.

His visit to China two years ago was the subject of his Saturday talk, when he watched exquisitely-made-and-painted kites take to the skies, from the majestic soaring eagle with a four foot wing span to the amusing 'peeing' angel, a flying cherub with a cheeky face.

Graham, a skilled maker of automata figures himself and a member of the Elland class of the WRWA, was fascinated by some of the more complicated kites, with inbuilt fans to assist flight, and moving parts to create animation. Amongst the examples of exquisite art work was a kite featuring an almost life-size woman in traditional dress and another featuring the face of a famous noted beauty from Chinese folklore. And then there were those that depicted giant sea creatures, all manner of flying insects including ladybirds and beetles, as well as opera masks representing different moods and even a bright orange pumpkin.

His visit to a factory that makes a million kites a year, proved a highlight of the trip, and he was able to watch at close quarters the skilled artists who hand-painted the kites and the method of assembly.

And it was there that he discovered that a bird kite designed by him, which he sold to the factory owner, was now being reproduced by the factory - and available for sale on the internet. Certainly a silver lining to his extraordinary trip. *Janet Smith*



In the latest Queen's Awards we were all delighted to see that our Patron, Dr Ingrid M Roscoe, had been awarded a well deserved DCVO - Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

On behalf of everybody in the club a bouquet of flowers was sent to Ingrid and a lovely letter was received back that read as follows.

Dear John

I wanted to phone you immediately on receipt of your very touching present of beautiful flowers already arranged in a fine glass vase, but I do not have your number and Directory Enquiries could not find a listing.

That was a characteristically warm hearted re-action to an appointment that still makes me a little uneasy. Your positive response helps me feel loved and like all else that has involved me in the West Riding Woodcarvers, I feel involved. You are all such splendid people and what you do together makes such sense in our otherwise less vigorous community of retired people.

I hope you will extend my delighted thanks to anyone else involved in such a marvellous accolade.

With warm wishes, Ingrid.



October 14th: Mike Green, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Pathology. I have been trying to get Mike to come along and talk to us for over two years now as I understand that he is one of the most gifted speakers on the circuit. His varied career has taken him all over the world working in such unusual fields as a Flying Doctor in Australia, inner city GP and as a professor of forensic medicine covering, amongst other things, many grizzly murders. Now into retirement he gives talks on a variety of medical topics for charity. Mike covers about 20 different subjects and the one we have chosen is to do with the exhumation of bodies from the crypt of what is now the Lawrence Batley Theatre. Our Trevor Metcalfe was involved in this process during his working life so it will be interesting, for us and Mike Green, to listen to his side of the event.

December 9th: Christmas Luncheon John Foster - Victorian Bakers. Our speaker for our Christmas get together is John Foster who some people may know from the very interesting BBC 2 program Victorian Bakers. John is the Managing Director of a bakery in Barnsley and, after answering a trade advert, found himself as the main presenter of this BBC programme.

The lime wood blocks for the panel have been supplied, planed and finished to size, by Hexhamshire Hardwood, exactly as our order of timber for the Royal Armouries panels, at a total cost of £450. They were collected by Margaret and Jeff on their way back from Scotland so no delivery costs were involved. The £450 has already been refunded to us by the hospice.

Brighouse Central Methodist Church Flower Festival: 22nd to 25th September 2017.

You will remember that our club, very successfully, displayed our work at the festival, I think three years ago, and we have been invited to participate again. This year our display will be in the main body of the church alongside all the amazing flower creations. Our intention is to use the two folding display boards that were made for the Harrogate Woodworking show last November.

Carvings for the display are needed and it would be greatly appreciated if they could be left with Margaret and Jeff after our Shepley meeting on the 9th September. Alternatively they can be taken to the church on the 20th September when members will be setting up.

Woodcarving classes:

Brooksbank & Queen Elizabeth classes again on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. QEGS on the 4th September and Brooksbank on the 11th September 2017. Not sure of hire costs yet but it is hoped that we can keep individual subs as before.

Should the usual members of these classes decide 'not' to return would you please contact Adrian or myself so that we can try and offer places to others who may be interested in joining. I'm assuming that Mike Chambers and Peter Keene are again going to offer their much appreciated and valuable service as tutors, especially this year when we shall be working on the Pontefract Hospice panel.



All Saints, Bradley Bar, Huddersfield. At the moment we are not sure about classes at All Saints. I have been in touch with Deborah, the School Manager, who has assured me that they are doing their best to accommodate us again. The problem at the moment is that the school schedules are not complete as there is still a lot of building going on at the school and children are being swopped around from one area to another until things settle down. So at this moment it's a matter of watch this space and I will keep everybody fully informed as I receive further details.

Royal Armouries World War 1&2 panels:

The saga about these two panels keeps going on and on but we seem to be making a little progress. You may remember that the person who was charged with putting forward proposals for the enhancement of the two panels, Helen Langwick, Head of Interpretations, suddenly left the Armouries. Now that sounds very familiar..!

However, before departing, Helen put forward some proposals. Perhaps it is easier if I print below an email from the Armouries:

Dear John,

I have managed to track down the details of our erstwhile Head of Interpretation's conversation with our Facilities Manager. They are as follows.

Helen Langwick proposed two options. Both involved remounting the woodcarvings, but also, and perhaps more importantly, glazing the installation in order that the carvings could be more closely examined by visitors without risk of damage to the carvings. Helen envisaged that the lighting solution would be integrated with this new case display.

Costings for the remounting, case display and electrical cabling needed to achieve this at £3,908.40.

Helen's two options for the remounted, relit case display were:

1. To leave the installation where it is;
2. To move the installation to wall space in the World Wars section of the War Gallery. This is also on Level 3, but visible from Level 2 and 3, as well as en route to the Observation Post, a space used regularly by the Interpretation team for talks and handling sessions. Helen's logic was that, although we can't place signage leading to the installation on the Ground Floor, we can put the installation in an area of greater visibility and higher traffic, and one which makes more contextual sense. Glazing the installation would be necessary as the area in question is not big enough to accommodate a barrier. The new location could accommodate interpretive panels, and AV.

The location (or relocation) of the installation would not significantly affect the costs detailed above. One added benefit, which our Development Team recommended as being highly acceptable to the HLF, is that the installation would by this means become self-contained. In other words, if at some later stage you wished to tour the installation (as you have other installations), you could simply as it were unplug it and take it away to be mounted and plugged in elsewhere.

I hope this makes sense. If you'd like to come and see the area of the War Gallery Helen had in mind, please let me know.

Tristan Langlois, Head of Education and Events

Please bear in mind that the £3,908.40 mentioned above is for the Armouries to enclose and light the panels. If we took on this work, which we are well capable of doing, the cost would be considerably less.

At the moment I have sent back emails to the Armouries asking if the matter could lie for the moment until our classes and meetings start again in September. Also I have been very busy with holidays etc this last few months and couldn't find the time to move this forward.

We can discuss this at the September Shepley meeting.

Insurance:

The club has just paid out £172.03, it was £160.19 last year, for Craft Insurance which covers the club for Third Party Liability.

It is imperative that we have this insurance to cover us on all the three school premises that we use and also such places as the Harrogate Woodworking show.

The people who use our carving classes, that are not full members of the club, are asked to pay £5 per term to help cover this cost. Without this insurance cover we would not be allowed to hire any of the three rooms that we currently do.

Harrogate Woodworking Show:

This year the show will run from Friday 17th November though to Sunday 19th.

We have confirmed, as was the wishes of members after the last show, that we will again take part and the same size display area has been allocated for us, I think in exactly the same place.

I have signed and returned to the organisers various contractual documents, along with a copy of our insurance cover.

We have yet to discuss which panel we are going to borrow back and take along this time. The options are the panel at Kirkwood Hospice or one, or both, of the Armouries panels.

Finally, but sadly, I have to refer to the sad loss of one of our long serving and very well liked and respected members.

On the 4th July 2017 the funeral took place of **Derek Lindley** who has been a member of our club for a very long time and for many years a member of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School carving class. Before that Derek attended classes when they were held in the barn of Des Lindley for many, many years.

The funeral was very well attended by members, alas not by me although I set off to the church. Unfortunately, I got help up by an accident at the top of the Ainleys and by the time I got to the church it was just past 2:30pm. Then I couldn't park within half a mile so decided to return home and remember Derek in my own way.

I'm sure everybody will agree that Derek's cheerful contribution to our classes and meetings will be sadly missed. A nicer man never walked this earth and our thoughts are with Margaret and his family.

Derek



Kirkwood Hospice.

