



Carlton Ware didn't do Dinosaurs on their pots, but if they did they would have been the "Best Dinosaurs in the World". What do you mean, there was a Dinosaur present all the time? I will have you know I have a very modern outlook on life. I know Queen Victoria has snuffed it and everything!

Most people arrived at John and Sara's beautiful period bungalow at lunch time on Saturday, but having much further to come than most, my wife Angela and I travelled down the previous afternoon and stayed at a local hotel.

In the evening we went out for a meal. We absolutely stole it. A meal for two and a bottle of wine for £11.50 on a Friday evening, ho ho ho, a real bargain – good old Yates's Wine Lodge. Yeah yeah, I know, I am really mean, but one has to save one's pennies to purchase more Carlton Ware, after all.



On Saturday morning we had a swift trip up and down Bournemouth Pier and along the front and then set off for John and Sara's house to meet everybody else. The house is a bit like a Tardis really, with the added advantage of Carlton Ware in every room (and in the cupboards and apparently in the attic as well). There was shelf after shelf of CW on display. They have some beautiful stuff ranging across a positive rainbow spectrum of delights.

There are cream jugs in every shape and pattern (so many they have their own cabinet) lots of Guinness, Hovis and other sales promotional ware, coffee sets – more than you could shake the proverbial stick at – Bournemouth crested ware, embossed ware, Art Deco pieces of many different patterns (including some "big 'uns"), some rarities and some conundrums.

Flabbergasted by the collection, I asked John "If your house was on fire and you had to grab one piece to save from the flames which one would it be?" He came up with an answer (it was one of his rarest Guinness pieces in fact), but I would have simply succumbed to smoke inhalation trying to decide which piece to grab. If he had turned his back for just one tiny little moment my car boot would have been full of Heron and Magical Tree and half a dozen others, or maybe just a swift clip across the back of the Swede with a nice heavy piece of lead piping and, and..... Stop dreaming, Tony. You like them, you really like them. They are very nice people (and they even seem to put up with what passes for my sense of humour, or the lack of same, which is pretty sporting of them).





That's the brilliant thing about a Carlton Ware World weekend, the people are fantastic. I wish I had joined CWW and started taking part in meetings ages ago. We had a couple of new members, Melanie and Bridget, attending a CWW weekend for the first time. It was super to watch them slowly but surely melting into the gathering (and I don't think it was the lovely hot sunny afternoon). I know when I first went to a meeting a year or so ago everybody made me feel very welcome too. If you haven't been before, give it a whirl. If you are interested in CW (of whatever period or style) you will find somebody who can talk to you about it.

In the evening we went to a local restaurant and had a really enjoyable good old fashioned slap up meal before rolling home in "good humour" to the hotel for the night.

On Sunday morning we went to the Art Deco Fair at the appropriately Art Deco Cumberland Hotel on the sea front at Bournemouth. It isn't a big fair, but I did manage to buy a nice 11 inch tall baluster shape Paradise Bird and Tree with Cloud vase on the mottled pale blue ground, pattern number 3144 (I stole it really – long live the Recession, say I). Good job I only spent £11.50 on Friday night's meal.



After a good look round the fair and a leisurely cup of coffee outside in the hotel pool bar most of the party walked to the Russell – Cotes Gallery and Museum which is architecturally "exuberantly designed" one might say and contains mainly paintings and sculpture primarily from the late Victorian and Edwardian period, but unfortunately we had to set off for our long drive home. What a great weekend. Can't wait for the next one.... oh, wait a minute, we are hosting that one!

Tony Wood.

## *Invitation*

Come and join us at our next meeting - we will make you most welcome...

See our [Meetings](#) page, it's easy to reserve a place

