



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Chairman's Notes



IT IS NO SURPRISE to report that 2020 has been a challenging year. The whole global economy has been Covid-impacted and none more so than the the UK charity sector. Nevertheless, despite the impact of forced cancellation of lectures, interviews for awards and invigilation, the Heritage Event, the RREC Annual Rally and responding to a small number of disgruntled members, the trustees remain focused positively on the future. This has been achieved by remaining faithful to Sir Henry's mantra and our charitable 'objects'.

We would like to commend the commitment and professionalism of John Baker and Jo Hover, the SHRMF Charity Operational Team at The Hunt House (pictured below), who have really gone the extra mile to support our membership under such demanding circumstances. Furthermore, they are both well-equipped to support the trustees as the UK economy and our charity moves back into activities and growth (thanks primarily to vaccination).

It has also been encouraging that many members of the charity and the club alike have provided much needed additional financial support through direct donations, additional subs and legacies. In due course, a LWB Silver Cloud will be offered in a sealed-bid auction - once probate matters are concluded.

As I stand down after my two-year stint as chairman, I am pleased to report that under Bill McGawley (our independent trustee) we intend to expand our awards programme to recognise heritage craftsmanship, to widen the sectoral coverage of lectures and to actively pursue mutually beneficial partnerships with relevant organisations.

Finally, as the new RREC board members settle into their new roles, the Trustees intend to work with them and their regional members to ensure the long-term security of The Hunt House and its assets and to shift the relationship between both organisations into positive territory.

**Duncan Feetham**



## Help requested to restore the Royce courtyard crane to its former glory

IF YOU HAVE EVER visited us at The Hunt House in Paulerspury you will probably have noticed our dejected looking crane towards the rear of the car park.

As follows with most things in what had been a difficult 2020, it is looking even more sorry for

itself and unloved. We are hoping to give it a makeover during 2021 and plan to put together a working party to help restore it to its original former glory.

If this is something you would like to assist with please do let us know at the Foundation office.



The Foundation was delighted to receive a very generous donation from Malcom Tucker of five copies of his book *Park Ward: The Innovative Coachbuilder 1919 to 1939*. This is a major three-volume work on the pre-war history and cars of this great British coachbuilder.

One copy was immediately added to our library collection at The Hunt House. This means we have four other copies available for sale, so please contact us if you would like to enquire about cost and reserve a copy.

## Previously unused 1912 clock movement in the Barrass Building commemorates the contribution made by Peter Baines

FOR THE FIRST 40 YEARS of our occupation of The Hunt House, the courtyard clock was driven by a modern electrical device. This worked well until there was a power blip, a quite frequent occurrence in Paulerspury at the time, after which it had to be reset. This was a tedious operation that required lying on one's stomach to gain access through a hatch at floor level in the archives above the workshop, and then making several trips to the courtyard to check the dial.

In 2006, the Rolls-Royce & Bentley Specialists Association (RRBSA) wished to make a gift to The Hunt House in memory of Peter Baines who died in 2005. Andrew Wood of P & A Wood

suggested a clock, and he acquired a movement dating from 1912 built by the notable London clockmaker John Walker but which had never been used.

It would have been a great shame to site this elegant movement in the more usual position for a clock mechanism, behind the clock dial; it needed to be installed where it could be seen and admired. In the end it was decided to locate the clock in the Barrass Building by the workshop door. This was a long distance from the dial, and posed the problem of connecting the drive from the clock to the dial. Andrew was confident he could overcome this.

He engineered and built a drive which involved seven specially-made

roller-bearing brackets, six 90 degree turns and six universal joints. The result was a brilliant example of precision engineering; Sir Henry Royce would have loved it.

A further problem was the weight; to obtain the maximum fall this had to be situated at the highest point in the building, the far end of the workshop. This required a massive bracket to take the strain. A pendulum was needed, so Andrew designed and constructed one; this is a work of art in itself.

When the installation was complete and the pendulum first pushed, everything worked perfectly, and has done ever since.

**Philip Hall**



Courtyard clock previously had an electric motor



Andrew Wood sourced an unused 1912 movement



John Walker mechanism is in the Barrass Building



Special roller-bearing brackets on the workshop ceiling engineered by Andrew Wood



Huge bracket holds the weight mechanism high on the end of the workshop wall

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## Lecture programme for 2021 to be followed by the Royce Heritage Weekend and Foundation AGM towards the end of the year

OUR 2020 AGM was held online on 30 December. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 it was necessary to change the format we traditionally adopt and therefore had to hold this as a virtual

meeting. We would like to thank everyone for their understanding and bearing with us during these unprecedented times.

The lecture list for 2021 is detailed below, if you have not yet attended one of

these popular events, they are extremely interesting and excellent value. They also provide the opportunity to come along and meet your fellow enthusiasts in an enjoyable atmosphere.

### SIR HENRY ROYCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION LECTURE AND EVENTS LIST FOR 2021

#### THURSDAY 11 MARCH

##### The Gloster Meteor and its Development - Rod Dean

Rod has already given excellent lectures to the Foundation on the Spitfire and flying vintage aircraft.

Now he will review the development of the Meteor and its use of Rolls-Royce

Welland, Derwent and Nene engines. He will also tell what it is like to fly such an iconic aircraft.



#### WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER

##### Sixty years at the sharp end - a pilot's retrospective on 60 years of change - John Hutchinson

John Hutchinson has flown more than 70 types of aircraft from the Harvard to the Concorde. His lecture in 2019 on Concorde was enthralling and we are inviting him back for this fascinating review.



#### WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

##### The Fall and Rise of Rolls Royce Ltd - Alan Edge

Alan's book on this subject will be completed this year. It is significant to deliver this lecture in 2021 because 4 February 1971 marks the 50th Anniversary of the RR 'crash'. He is also working on lectures along similar lines with both Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust and the Derby Branch of The Royal Aeronautical Society.

#### SATURDAY 20 AND SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

##### Royce Heritage Weekend and Foundation AGM

**COVID-19 regulations are still fluid and an unknown quantity so please keep an eye on our website for up to date details and booking arrangements.**



Foundation Heritage Weekend combines a programme of informative lectures with a chance to meet other enthusiasts

### The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

President: Charles Tabor Chairman: to be appointed Deputy Chairman: John Beecroft Company Secretary: Mark Griffiths

Trustees/Directors: Cedric Ashley CBE, Chris Ball, James Black, Stephen Byrne, Duncan Feetham, Clive Green, Philip Hall, Bill McGawley OBE Business Manager: John Baker

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