



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Chairman's Notes



THE SHRMF HAS BEEN ABLE to welcome many organisations to The Hunt House during the past year. These range from Model T Ford owners to members of the MG Car Club and almost without exception they say "what an amazing place" or "I wish our club had such a premises." This makes me wonder why there are so many Club members that have never visited us and, with this in mind, the Trustee Board of SHRMF invites visits from all sections of the RREC – be they large or small.

My piece in *Spirit & Speed* 357 (November 2019), seems to have raised some concern over the implied possibility of the Foundation failing – that was not my aim. I was trying to point out what could happen to the Archives should the Foundation fail. Rest assured the Trustee Board will do its utmost to ensure this never happens.

This year's SHRMF Apprentice Award was won jointly by Jonathon O'Neill and Matthew Gleeson who are both apprentices working with Nigel Sandell. They took a very rough engine from The Hunt House cellar and transformed it into a fully working and moveable exhibition engine which can be used as a demonstration piece both for seminars and for general exhibition. The award was presented on the Live Stage at the Classic Motor Show at the NEC on 9 November where the engine was displayed on the RREC stand – see page 54 for further details.

The engine is now back at The Hunt House for all members to see and appreciate the workmanship. Both apprentices win a selection of tools kindly supplied by King Dick. These awards are generously funded from donations by RREC Sections and individual members; this year we are grateful to the Northern Section for their support.

I read with interest Philip Hall's piece in the previous issue regarding Charles Sykes assigning the Spirit of Speed to Rolls-Royce. It brought back the memory of having to collect the document at the North of England Rally at Harewood House. Once in my keeping I didn't want to lose it and, although I did not quite sleep with it under my pillow, it was a great relief to hand it over into the custody of The Hunt House.

**Duncan Featham**

## Sir Henry Royce Medal awarded to semiconductor specialist Dr Robert Hoye



SHRMF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN David Whale attended the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Achievement Awards at Savoy Place, London on 24 October.

David is chairman of the Foundation Awards Committee and was proud to present the Sir Henry Royce Medal to Dr Robert Hoye (above left), a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at Cambridge University. Dr Hoye's work is at the forefront of the discovery and scalable manufacturing of materials for clean energy conversion.

The Award is valued by the engineering and IT industry and enables the winner to highlight their achievements to future employers.

Dr Hoye is moving to Imperial College, London to take up a lectureship in the Department of Materials. This permanent position is associated with the Imperial spoke of the Royce Institute. Dr Hoye said: "The theme there is 'Atoms to Devices' and ties in with my work developing new semiconducting materials for photovoltaics that can tolerate material imperfections to be efficient when made by low-cost methods. Being part of Royce@

Imperial gives me a platform to showcase my work and forge new collaborations with partner Universities and industry. .

"The medal is an achievement many young engineers aspire to and will help me to secure funding to set up my future research group at Imperial. I hope the Foundation continues its partnership with the IET and continues awarding the medal to recognise excellence among young professionals."

We wish Dr Hoye all the best for his future career.

**Jo Hover**

## DIARY DATES

### 11 March

■ AGM (postponed from 2019) and lecture

### 13 May

■ Lecture

### 19-20 September

■ The Hunt House Open Weekend

### 1 October

■ Lecture

### 21-22 November

■ Heritage weekend

## RECENT EVENTS

■ There were two RREC visits in September

■ **Vintage Austin Register** visit on 5 Oct

■ **FCHVC** AGM and Conference on 12 Oct

■ **Model T Register** AGM on 24 Nov

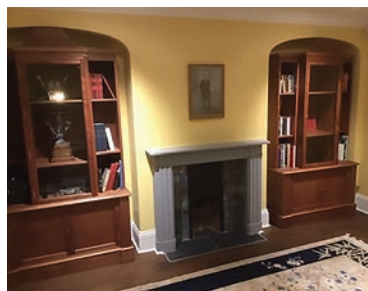
## The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

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Work on the 20 Ghost Club Room (the old American Room) is now complete and displays of their artefacts and library have been set up in the new cabinets. We hope there will be a proper opening ceremony arranged early next year.

## Hunt House Treasures No.20



## Speakers entertain at 2019 Heritage Weekend

THE HERITAGE WEEKEND on 16 and 17 November 2019 attracted an eclectic collection of speakers.

On Saturday John Brooks kicked off with an insight into Bentley Motors' return to racing (top left) and the way they upset the accepted order. Next came Malcolm Tucker on coachbuilders, with an extremely well researched and excellently illustrated talk through elegant car bodies from past decades.

Nigel Thorley (top right) followed with a detailed insight into the history of Jaguar Cars from its earliest inception to the merger with Land Rover. The day finished with Nigel and Colin Hughes recalling the history of the RREC which included an insight into the early years and the reasons for its formation – basically to ensure the preservation and restoration of cars which were already starting to be scrapped.

Nigel Thorley opened on Sunday morning with the history of Daimler, its merger with Jaguar and the parallels with the coming together of Rolls-Royce and Bentley. Ian North then took us on a hair-raising description of historic rallying in a Volvo Amazon with a sink welded to the roof. The weekend finished with Colin Hughes talking about RREC personalities of the past (above left). It was sobering to realise the number of names we had encountered and worked with.

The Foundation also held a sale of books which had been donated over the past few years. This raised £492 and our grateful thanks go to everyone who contributed. We also received the generous loan of an original Spitfire sales brochure and other literature from Giles Usher (above right). Our biggest thanks go to the speakers and all those who attended. Look for next year's dates in the calendar.

**Jane Pedler**

## Nightingale Road chimneypiece now standing in The Hunt House Library

ROYCE'S FACTORY in Nightingale Road, Derby was opened in 1908 and a new frontage, the Commercial Block, was added in 1912. This new building contained two identical offices with an interlinking door. One of these was Claude Johnson's office, the other came to be known as the Waiting Room. Each of these rooms had a fireplace with an oak chimneypiece.

Some structural alterations were made in the 1980s. These involved the removal of one (or possibly both) fireplaces. Rolls-Royce Ltd kindly donated one of the chimneypieces to the Foundation. For several years this was propped up in the Library at The Hunt House but when the foyer was refurbished the chimneypiece was installed there (pictured right). This has always been referred to as being from Johnson's office and a photograph of that room from around 1912 hangs above it (pictured below).

However, more recent research by the late Michael Evans of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust indicates that the second room

had been intended to be Henry Royce's office but the illness that forced him to work away from Derby meant Royce never occupied it.

It is logical that the two key directors should have had adjacent offices, and it explains why Johnson's office had a little-used room next to it.

It has not been possible to determine from which of the two rooms the chimneypiece at Paulerspury actually came.

**Philip Hall**

