



## Hunt House Treasures

The first of a series of articles about some of the interesting Exhibits on display at The Hunt House.

### Royce's Vesta Case

Many members will recall the Rolls-Royce Centenary Celebration in 2004 at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, where Rolls and Royce had first met 100 years earlier. The date chosen for the Celebration was the 4 May, which Tom Clarke, Michael Evans and Paul Tritton all thought was the most likely day in 1904 when this historic meeting took place. No one, however, was absolutely certain of this. In fact an (anonymous) article in 'Archive', the magazine of the Derby Branch of Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust in a 2003 issue questioned the evidence for it.

It was in August 2004, that Club member, Martin Coomber, called at a Jewellers in Wimbledon. The proprietor, knowing of Martin's interest in Rolls-Royce, showed him a piece of silver with the engraving 'From CSR to FHR 4.5.1904 -14.5.1909'. This was clearly a gift from Rolls to Royce to celebrate five years of their partnership, and it confirmed once and for all that the date of their meeting was indeed the 4 May.

The item is a silver case for motorists' matches – rather fearsome-looking things for lighting oil or acetylene lamps on motor cars, and 'guaranteed to stay alight for thirty seconds in the strongest winds'. It also houses an opisometer, a device for measuring distances on maps.

Rather surprisingly, in 1932, Royce gave away this vesta case to one of his best customers, a Mr George A Palfrey. On the other side it is engraved 'From FHR to GAP with all best wishes 6.2.1932'. It is thought that Royce presented the case to Palfrey to celebrate the purchase of his twentieth Rolls-Royce car.

It is not known how the vesta case came into the jeweller's possession, as he declined to discuss this. It seems likely that it came via a member of Palfrey's family, as included with it was the guarantee certificate for what is thought to be Palfrey's twentieth car, 20/25 chassis number GFT52.

The jeweller fully realised the significance of this historic object, and it was priced accordingly. Nevertheless, the Foundation was compelled to take advantage of the unique opportunity of acquiring it.

PHILIP HALL



## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation was held on Saturday 19 November, during the Historic Weekend and immediately after the last lecture of the day. Following the Chairman's report the results of the voting were announced with the result that Allan Fogg (who had previously been co-opted to the Board in July) was elected as an RREC nominee and Jane Pedler was re-elected, now as a Foundation member's nominee.

The formal AGM business was followed by the presentation of the Philip Hall Award. This was donated by Brenda Wright, the daughter of Rupert Nicholson, in her father's memory and is for a significant contribution to the preservation of the history of the Rolls-Royce heritage. This year the recipient was Graham Mead in recognition of his work scanning and sorting the extensive archive of Mike Evans, himself a former winner of the award and who has sadly recently died. Graham gave a short reply detailing the stage he has reached with the scanning and cataloguing, and the future plans for the archive when this process is completed.

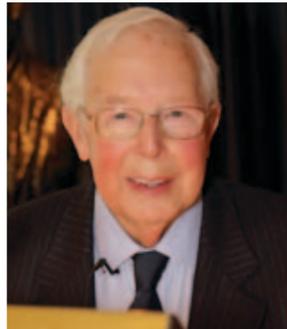


## New Trustee Director

At the Board meeting following the AGM on Saturday 19 November a new Independent Trustee was appointed to the Board of the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation. He is David Whale, currently Chairman of the Federation of British Historic Vehicles Clubs. He is also leader of the Legislation Group of the FIA International Historic Commission. His interests embrace the whole historic vehicle movement including the engagement of young people, skills development and securing historic vehicles as part of our national heritage. We look forward to working with him in the future.



Author Jonathan Wood.



Roy Brooks stood in at short notice to present his talk on Rippon Coach-builders.



Keith Dewhurst on Armstrong Siddeley.



Bernard King on fifty years of the Silver Shadow.



Stuart Bladon gave an autobiographical account of his experience as a tester for "The Autocar" and experiences with Rolls-Royce motor cars, starting with the Silver Cloud.



Matt Pickles on the Phantom III.

## Historic Weekend

This was held on 19 and 20 November, masterminded by Duncan Feetham, and was a great success. On Saturday morning we firstly heard Bernard King on the subject of fifty years of the Silver Shadow, followed by a couple of films from the archive which have been converted to DVD (others are planned). After an excellent lunch we had Jonathan Wood on Motoring Writing which was extremely interesting and entertaining, followed by tea and cake. Then Roy Brooks stepped in at short notice to replace a speaker who was unable to attend due to ill health, and gave us a most informative history of Rippon Brothers. This was followed by the Foundation AGM and another gastronomic delight in dinner preceded by wine and canapes.

Sunday morning we were back again listening to Matt Pickles on the subject of the Phantom III, Stuart Bladon telling us about his career as a motoring writer and former Autocar tester, and finishing up with Keith Dewhurst on the history of Armstrong Siddeley.

During the weekend a display of pre-owned books was on sale, the remains of various legacies and gifts including the libraries of the late Oliver Perks and Colin Laybourn. These sales raised £859 towards the funds.

This weekend is always a very interesting and entertaining event, and also fabulous value, where education and information are combined with good food and the excellent company of like-minded enthusiasts. 2017's dates are 18 and 19 November and several speakers are already lined up. Put the dates in your diary now!!

John Beecroft presenting the SHRMF Apprentice Award to William Florey, with background comments by Ian Hick.



## The Sir Henry Royce Apprentice Award

Thanks to significant funding from the Essex Section of the RREC, and an anonymous donor, the Foundation was able to present their first Apprentice Award on Saturday 12 November, on the Live Stage at the Classic Car Show at the NEC. This has been several years in the planning and the Foundation has worked closely with the FBHVC Skills Scheme in implementing it and choosing a suitable candidate. The winner was William Florey of P & A Wood, and he was presented with a certificate and medal, and will also receive a full tool kit to help start him off on his chosen

career. The standard was so high that a decision was taken to present each of the other candidates with a high quality engraved multi-tool.

It is envisaged that with sufficient funding this will become an annual award divided between the P & A Wood apprentice scheme and the RRBSA on a two year cycle. The encouragement of apprentices to help keep our motoring heritage alive is a primary aim of the Foundation so we are very pleased to be able to roll out this initiative.

## IET Achievement Award

On 16 November 2017 Director Trustee Stephen Byrne presented the Sir Henry Royce medal to Jamal Madni of Boeing Network and Space Systems as the Young Professional of the Year.

Jamal later wrote:

*"Winning the Sir Henry Royce Medal has been the highlight of my professional career, one I am profoundly humbled, grateful and immensely proud of. Thank you so much for this most esteemed, cherished and most significant honour.*

*I will attempt every day to embody the integrity, creativity and professionalism of Sir Henry Royce in being an ambassador for this achievement. As Sir Henry Royce himself lived by: 'Whatever is rightly done, however humble, is noble.'* "

We are hoping that Jamal will come to The Hunt House sometime in the future and give us a talk on winning the medal and how he feels the Foundation and the spirit of Sir Henry Royce has furthered his career.

### LECTURE DATES FOR 2017

**Wednesday 15 March**  
Ian Milburn – "Maurice Olley"

**Wednesday 17 May**  
Malcolm Tucker – "The Spirit of Ecstasy"

**Thursday 5 October**  
Karl Ludvigsen – "The BRM V12 engine and its Rolls-Royce Supercharger"

**Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November**  
Historic Weekend and AGM.

Full details and booking forms through the Foundation office or the Foundation website.

Note that these are provisional dates; although we avoid it if possible, dates and lecturers sometimes have to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances, illness etc. Always check our website for details or telephone the Foundation office on 0132 7811 048.

### The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

President: Charles Tabor Chairman: Jane Pedler Deputy Chairman: Clive Green

Company Secretary: Mark Griffiths

Trustees/Directors: Cedric Ashley, Chris Ball, John Beecroft, Stephen Byrne, Duncan Feetham, Allan Fogg, Philip Hall, Ian Hick, David Whale.

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