



# Newsletter

## June 2016

### *A message from the Chair of CRSBI*

This is by way of a farewell from me as I hand over the reins of CRSBI to a new team, and it gives me a chance to reflect on our achievements during the last few years. I am very proud of how CRSBI has developed in that time, both in terms of the number of churches visited and recorded, and backstage at the Corpus. We now have a dedicated group of editors, specialists in Romanesque sculpture, who are working through the entries submitted to prepare them for publication on the website. Their enthusiasm for the task, and ability to work effectively on a wide range of entries, have already made a substantial contribution to the backlog of material from the past, and they will soon be working on the new submissions. The new computer system has bedded in and has already made an enormous difference to the ways in which entries on the website are created and managed, and we are now attracting considerable interest from the wider world. You may have read about an unscrupulous amateur dealer in antiquities who has just received a prison sentence for stealing objects from churches. As part of their investigation, codenamed 'Operation Icarus', the police contacted CRSBI. Ron Baxter helped to secure the dealer's conviction by identifying a Romanesque

capital that had been stolen. This represents a new role for CRSBI, and demonstrates just

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how valuable a resource it can be. Many more initiatives, such as the introduction of this newsletter, the training sessions on the new systems, the stimulating lecture programme, and the meetings with fieldworkers have all demonstrated that CRSBI is in fine shape to take on the challenges that lie ahead. I am very happy to have been part of its recent history and wish it, and you all, well for the future.

With best wishes to you all

Dr Jennifer S Alexander FSA

### Farewell to Dr Jenny Alexander

It is with great regret we have to say goodbye to Dr Jenny Alexander who is stepping down as CRSBI Chair, and is also unable to continue to work for the project. She took over the reins in 2012, and for the last four

years has led us with energy and commitment. She has contributed many new ideas, including the setting up of this newsletter. With a grant from Warwick University she led a group of graduate

students who recorded the sites with the most significant Romanesque sculpture in Leicestershire and Derbyshire. We look forward to adding these sites to the website soon. Increased administrative work at the University means she can no longer find time to help us. She will be greatly missed.



## The New Structure

The process of changing CRSBI into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) continues. Seven people have agreed to serve as Trustees of the new body, and they have to be vetted by the Charity Commission. Once this has been done we can incorporate the

CIO. The Trustees will then appoint a new Management Board to take charge of the day to day running of the Project. At that point the names of all the new personnel will be published on the website and in the next issue of this Newsletter.

## The Annual Lecture

The Annual lecture, which is given at the end of April every year, marks for many of us the time when we can get out again to record new sites and more Romanesque sculpture. It was on the day of the lecture this year that we held the last meeting of the old CRSBI

Project Board. We also held a tea party for fieldworkers and editors.

This year's lecture was given by Professor Jane Geddes of Aberdeen University. She spoke on the Aberdeen Bestiary and its links with Bridlington Priory, East Yorkshire.



Yorkshire has more Romanesque sculpture than any other county. The huge number of sites meant that early on a team of fieldworkers was recruited, and this model has now been followed in several other counties, such as Oxfordshire Gloucestershire

and Hampshire. Already 408 Yorkshire sites have been recorded on the CRSBI database and 171 are already published on the website. Rita Wood submitted 245 of these reports and in this issue she writes about being part of the team of fieldworkers for the county.

## Fieldworkers - getting your work published

Fieldworkers often tell us that what they want most of all is to see the results of their efforts appearing on the CRSBI website. Naturally we all want to present our work to a wider audience through the website in order to increase public awareness and enjoyment of Romanesque sculpture, but until recently our capacity to edit your records and load them onto the website has been an obstacle. We are pleased to say that we now have in place a team of trained and motivated editors who are working hard to process the sites which fieldworkers have been submitting.

As fieldworkers, your contribution is absolutely critical to the continuing progress of the project. We really need your help over the next few months to ensure that there is a steady flow of sites for editing. We know that a number of you have uploaded some sites already, but we hope that many more of you will be able to do so in the near future. Adding more sculpture reports to the website will not only increase the value of CRSBI to the public, it will also help us to estimate the resources required to complete what we have set out to do.

As you complete each section of a site (photos, labels, captions, measurements and written reports), please remember to indicate this in the 'fieldworker notes' box on the online form

We appreciate that technical problems with uploading reports can slow down progress,

**QUIZ**

**How many of these pieces of romaneseque sculpture can you identify? Answers on the last page.**



*Photo 1*



*Photo 2*



*Photo 3*

but there is always a solution to the glitches, so we do urge you to contact us for help or guidance, initially by emailing Nora Courtney at [nora.romanesque@gmail.com](mailto:nora.romanesque@gmail.com) .

## Progress with publication

From Jill A Franklin, CRSBI Editing Manager:

In 2016, the CRSBI launched its effort to increase coverage on the website by expanding its team of editors, bringing the total to nine. Most are post-doctoral art historians, many are starting their professional journey by joining the CRSBI, and all are delighted to be involved with the Corpus. Since the induction day for the new team last December, the editors have added a

In addition, we started work this year on some of the early 'pre-digital' reports that were submitted by fieldworkers before the introduction of the interactive online form. Since March, our editors have been working hard on this more demanding material and have already added 111 of the early reports for Wiltshire to the website. As Editing Manager since October 2015, I've been

### Over 270 sculpture reports have been added to the public website by CRSBI editors since December 2015

Ackworth \* Albrough \* Aldbourne \* Aldbrough \* Alderbury Fountain \* Alderbury Ivychurch \* All Cannings \* Allington \* Alton Barnes \* Alton Priors \* Amesbury \* Ansty \* Ashton Keynes \* Auburn \* Avebury \* Badsworth \* Bainton \* Bardsey \* Barford \* Barlings \* Barwick-in-Elmet \* Beckingham \* Beckley \* Beeston \* Begbroke \* Bempton \* Berwick \* Bessingby \* Beverley Minster \* Beverley St Mary's \* Bicester \* Biddestone \* Bielby \* Bilston in Ainsty \* Birkin \* Birstall \* Bishop Wilton \* Bishops Cannings \* Bishopstone \* Bletchington \* Bloxham \* Bowerchalke \* Boynton \* Bramham \* Brandesburton \* Bratton \* Bremhill \* Bridlington \* Brixton Deverill \* Broad Hinton \* Broughton, \* Bubwith \* Bucknell \* Bulford \* Burnby \* Burton Agnes church \* Burton Agnes Manor \* Burton Fleming \* Burton St Mary \* Buttermere \* Calne St Mary \* Calverley \* Campsall \* Carnaby \* Cassington \* Castle Eaton \* Castleford \* Caton \* Catwick \* Chadlington \* Charlbury \* Charlton \* Cherhill \* Chilmark \* Chilton Foliat \* Chippenham \* Chipping Norton \* Chirton St John \* Chitterne All Saints \* Cholderton \* Christian Malford \* Church Hanborough. \* Chute \* Claydon \* Codford St Mary \* Codford St Peter \* Colerne \* Collingbourne Ducis \* Collingbourne Kingston \* Collingham \* Compton Bassett \* Conisbrough Castle Conisborough Church \* Coombe Bissett \* Corsham \* Corsham Court \* Cottam \* Cowlam \* Cricklade St Mary \* Cricklade St Samson \* Crowell \* Crudwell All Saints \* Darrington \* Dewsbury All Saint \* Doncaster St George \* Downton \* Drayton \* Durnford \* East Ardsley \* East Blatchington \* East Knoyle \* Ebbesbourne Wake \* Elmstone \* Enford \* Erlestoke \* Etchilhampton \* Everingham \* Everleigh \* Featherstone \* Felkirk \* Ferrybridge \* Fifield Bavant \* Figheldean \* Fisherton de la Mere \* Fishlake \* Flamborough \* Folkton \* Fordon \* Forest Hill \* Foston-on-the-Wolds \* Fraisthorpe \* Fringford \* Glympton \* Goodmanham \* Goxhill \* Great Chesterton \* Great Driffield \* Great Givendale \* Great Rollright \* Grindale \* Guiseley \* Halifax \* Halsham \* Harpsden \* Harswell \* Hastings Castle \* Hatfield \* Hedon \* Hessle \* Hethe \* Heythrop \* Hickleton \* High Erroll \* Hilmarton \* Hilperton \* Hilston \* Holme-on-the-Wolds \* Horley \* Hornton \* Hull \* Hull and E. Riding Mus \* Hull, St Martin \* Hutton Cranswick \* Idmiston \* Islip \* Ivychurch \* Kiddington \* Kilnwick-on-the-Wolds \* Kington St Michael \* Kippax \* Kirkburn \* Kirtlington \* Knook \* Knottingley \* Landford \* Langtoft \* Lattin \* Ledsham \* Leonard Stanley \* Lewknor \* Liddington \* Lissett \* Little Bedwyn \* Little Langford \* Lockington \* Longbridge Deverill \* Lotherton \* Lowthorpe \* Ludgershall \* Lund \* Lydiard Millicent \* Maiden Bradley \* Malmesbury Abbey Ho \* Manningford Bruce \* Mapledurham \* Marden \* Market Lavington \* Market Weighton \* Marlborough \* Melksham \* Middleton on the Wolds \* Middleton Stoney \* Millington \* Moreton Valence \* Muston \* Nafferton \* Nether Worton \* Newton Purcell \* North Dalton \* North Leigh \* Norton \* Ottringham \* Owston Hall \* Pocklington \* Pontefract Priory \* Pontefract, All Saints \* Pontefract Ferrybr Rd \* Pontefract, St Clements \* Rawmarsh \* Reighton \* Rotherfield Greys \* Rotherfield Peppard \* Rotherham, All Saints \* Rothwell \* Rothwell \* Rousham \* Ruckinge \* Salford \* Sandford \* Seaton Ross \* Shilton \* Shiptonthorpe \* Shorthampton \* Shutford \* Snaith \* Somerton \* South Newington \* Spelsbury \* Sprotborough \* Stanton Harcourt \* Stanton St John \* Steeple Aston \* Steeple Barton \* Stillingfleet \* Stoke Lyne \* Stratton Audley \* Sutton-upon Derwent \* Swalcliffe \* Swillington \* Swinton \* Sydenham \* Tackley \* Tadmerton \* Tatham \* Thame \* Thorngumbald \* Thorp Arch \* Thorpe in Balne \* Thrybergh \* Thrybergh Village Cross \* Tong \* Wadworth \* Wakefield \* Wakefield \* Walton \* Wardington \* Westcote Barton \* Weston-on-the-Green \* Wighill \* Wilcote \* Wolvercote \* Wood Eaton \* Woodstock \* Yamton \* Yapham

staggering total of over 270 new site reports to the public website, thereby bringing new energy to the project. Fieldworkers will doubtless have spotted that an increasing number of their site reports are now being put online.

impressed by the skill and commitment of our editorial team; they've already made a major contribution to the Corpus, and we hope they're benefiting from their association with us.

## Obituary

### David Hey (1938-2016)

Professor David Hey was an immensely approachable historian, mainly working in the West Riding, and ultimately holding a chair at Sheffield University. His academic teaching was primarily in Adult Education – asked if he ever thought



of joining the History Department, his reply was ‘no, no!’. His teaching and his writing were closely linked, the product of his interest in his own region.

When the fieldworkers for the old West Riding, living in York and Beverley, contemplated the vastness and remoteness of that former county they looked for help with recording in the farthest corners. David Hey had spent most of his childhood in Penistone and knew the area very well. In a busy life he found time to provide excellent records for the Corpus covering Beauchief, Harthill, Laughton en le Morthen, Letwell, Roche, Throapham, Todwick and Wales, and so spared the West Riding fieldworkers some very long journeys. We are very grateful to him for his help – many organisations are going to miss his cheerful incisive input.

*Barbara English and Rita Wood*

## Fieldwork in Yorkshire

In 1995, when I was asked to be a fieldworker, there was all of Yorkshire to choose from; the East Riding is beautiful but I chose the West Riding because of industrial pollution. Had I realised there were so many abbeys there perhaps I would have chosen differently. I found out later that sculpture in the East Riding was decaying too, the stone is poor: the decay is different but both urgently needed recording. I haven't often worked alone, beginning with a photography group, then with one faithful expert photographer; the next date was booked when we were together, and this kept us going at a steady pace. Jim Lang, who had worked on Eastern Yorkshire for CASSS, soon had to give up the East Riding, his retirement project, but I shall

always remember how welcoming he was at an early Annual Seminar when I knew almost nobody. The North Riding is being done by Jeffrey Craine, and parts of the far south of the West Riding have been worked on by the late David Hey, and by David Mercer. For the last push to finish (can it be true?) the West Riding, Barbara English was organiser, driver and writer of the mystery History section - at last, a system that worked! Hardly space to mention the coming of the digital camera, churches with coffee and loos, and leaflets to give to key-holders, proof that the outside world cared about their place.

*Rita Wood*

## Carved Wood – a reminder

In our last issue of this Newsletter we reported that although CRSBI has always been a survey of all Romanesque stone sculpture, where there is a clear link between the stone carving and the wooden sculpture on a site it is obvious that this latter should be recorded too. Photos of both stone and wooden capitals from Compton in Surrey illustrate a clear connection.



### *Answers to the Quiz*