



THE PIG, THE RIBBER AND THE DEVIL

This limestone sculpture brings together folklore and fact. The lore concerns a Hothersall man who entered into a deal with the devil. The devil offered to grant the man three wishes in return for his soul. The penalty for failure was that the devil must bury himself under a laurel bush.

The man's first wish was for a rope made of sand from the River Ribble. This appeared, but dissolved back into the river when it was washed. It's said that the devil was duly buried under a bush next to Hothersall Hall. The second story concerns a marching band's visit to Ribchester early in the last century. One local man was so impressed he "lifted a pig on t' wall" to see the band go by and the expression was subsequently coined to describe anything impressive. Fiona Bowley said: "When combining the two tales, I felt that the pig would have been so impressed by what he was seeing that he would have climbed on to the wall by himself."

A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY



A symbolic figure is garlanded with and carries flowers. More blossoms decorate this limestone carving which celebrates the abundance of community spirit. The theme of community service is also marked by the use of Christian iconography; the self-sacrificing "pelican in her piety" forms the capital of the column.

Fiona introduced humour into the piece by way of an architectural puzzle. Can you identify the architectural features from around the village which have been brought together to form Ribchester's own folly?



The Ribchester Millennium Projects Committee thanks the Ribchester Playing Field Trust for permitting the development of the sculpture garden. Thanks are due to the many local residents and sponsors who donated directly to the project.

Thanks also to Ribchester Parish Council, Whitbread PLC, the White Bull, Ribchester, Community Futures for advice on funding and Catherine Penny, former proprietor of Stydd Nursery, for guidance on and help with the garden.

Thanks to the ICT Matrix Project, Ribble Valley Borough Council and CPL design and print for assistance in the production of this leaflet.



THE RIBCHESTER MILLENNIUM SCULPTURE GARDEN



The Sculpture Garden is situated at the entrance to Ribchester's recreation ground at the junction of Church Street and Pope Croft.

Four limestone and sandstone carvings by sculptor Fiona Bowley celebrate this Lancashire village's life past, present and future.

Turn inside to read more about Ribchester's own Trajan column, local history, legend and the sundial which tells Ribchester time.

HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

The garden is the result of a community project which grew and grew. It started with a public meeting and the desire to commission a piece of public art to mark the Millennium year 2000. The results - four sculptures and carvings, new paving, new railings and a formal yew garden - transformed the entrance to the village playing field.

Sculptor Fiona Bowley graduated in Fine Art before training as a stonemason. She worked on the restoration of York Minster and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Her subsequent public and privately commissioned work can be seen throughout the north of England.

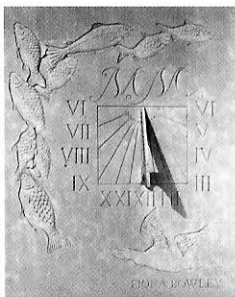
Fiona successfully submitted proposals for four carvings and a formal garden. Months of fund-raising by the Ribchester Millennium Projects Committee followed. Her designs, detailed in this leaflet, were drawn up following extensive research and consultation with the local community. Fiona also organised and led workshops for local school pupils and adults.

Pupils from St Wilfrid's Church of England School, Ribchester, helped to plant more than 100 yews in the garden on July 10, 2000.

TELLING RIBCHESTER TIME

The sundial's design celebrates the clear waters of the River Ribble, which is home to dace, chub and brown trout. It is also a spectacular feeding ground for cormorants - fish swim up nearby Boyce's Brook to avoid them.

The Roman numerals on this Woodkirk sandstone carving provide an immediate reference to Ribchester's Roman past. The 17th century style lettering for the MM provides another reference to the passage of time.



HISTORY WRITTEN IN STONE

Ribchester's column tells the story of the community's development from pre-Roman times to the present day.

It is made of limestone and comprises some 30 cameo scenes. The style of carving varies from naive to modern, according to the period depicted. Fiona Bowley modelled the column on Rome's famous Trajan column.

Trace the village's history from the base of the column:

- ❖ Knotwork and hurdles signal the early enclosed Celtic settlement.
- ❖ Queen Cartimandua and the Brigantes ruled c.70 A.D.
- ❖ The ancient Britons made homes with hurdles.
- ❖ The Romans arrive, as shown by the Sarmatian horseman clad in fish scale armour.
- ❖ A Roman on horseback wears the Ribchester parade helmet, a replica of which can be found in the Ribchester Roman Museum.
- ❖ A wild boar was the emblem of the 20th Legion which built the fort at Ribchester.
- ❖ Labourers are shown building the fort.
- ❖ A plan of the Roman fort in Ribchester.
- ❖ A Roman column which can now be seen outside the White Bull public house.
- ❖ It is 500 A.D. and stag and hind run through oak forests around Stydd.
- ❖ St Wilfrid (c. 695 A.D.) is the saint in whose honour the mediaeval parish church of Ribchester is named. Wilfrid was Bishop of Ripon and Archbishop of York in the 7th Century. He holds a crook and his hand is raised in blessing. The figure is carved in pre-Renaissance style.

- ❖ Land was a valued asset. Earl Tostig ruled the lands around Ribchester with brutality until the 11th century.
- ❖ Land, woods and a mill were granted to Walter Moton by Robert de Lacy and Alan de Windle.
- ❖ Three daughters of Godwin had land taken from them in 1219. Walter Moton later gave the land to monks.
- ❖ Walter's son, William, was involved in a dispute about land and money with his stepmother, Amabel. She is shown with a money bag.
- ❖ By 1293 the Knights Hospitallers had a base at Stydd; see the shield of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem.
- ❖ Plague stalked the land in 1349. It is the time of The Great Pestilence and corpses are shown wrapped in shrouds.
- ❖ By the 16th century extensive tree felling meant much of the oak forestry had been removed.
- ❖ See a village house built in 1680 ... if you walk down Church Street you can see the actual property.
- ❖ Stydd Almshouses were built in 1728 and occupied by a schoolmistress and five other women.
- ❖ It is 1796 and a schoolboy finds the intricately decorated Roman parade helmet in the river bank.
- ❖ The industrial revolution has made its mark. A knocker-up wearing clogs clatters down the cobbled Church Street rousing workers from their slumbers.
- ❖ Weavers made khaki cloth at a Ribchester mill in the 1940s.
- ❖ It is wartime and a villager wears his Forces' uniform.
- ❖ Ribchester Roman Museum opens.
- ❖ A present day school pupil visits the Museum and examines a copy of the Roman parade helmet.
- ❖ The new paving in the Millennium Garden represents a pathway to the future.