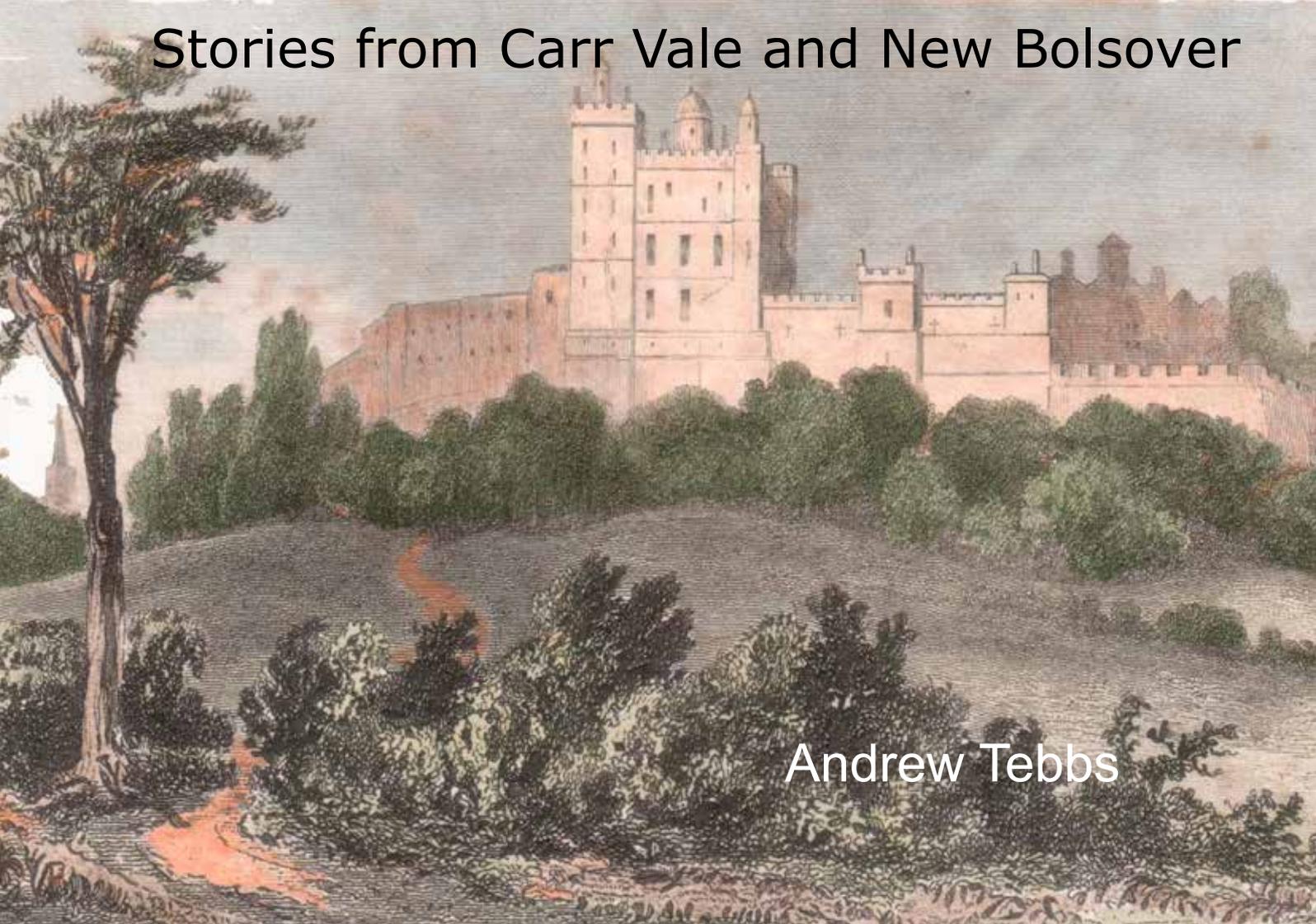


Stories from Carr Vale and New Bolsover



Andrew Tebbs

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Written and Published by Andrew Tebbs

Commissioned by Bolsover District Council
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Clowne,
Derbyshire,
S43 4JY

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Foreword

Andrew Tebbs is a local artist and sculptor who has made and exhibited work both locally and nationally. Both sides of his family have a mining tradition and much of his work is set against this backdrop. As a young man he trained with a Derbyshire stone-mason and went on to build 'miles' of drystone wall in the Peak District. After studying Fine Art in Sheffield there is little wonder that he used locally quarried stone to make this sculpture.

ANDREW TEBBS

“I was commissioned by Bolsover District Council to create a new sculpture for Carr Vale. It was to be inspired by local stories which often is a feature of my art. This collection of thoughts and stories has come together during the making of the art work and is a part of the artistic process.

I spoke to many local people and read numerous accounts of local events. Engagement with the local community is crucial

in making this art work which i hope will make it relevant to local people.

During my research several stories intrigued me. One of these stood out as being so extraordinary that it inspired my sculpture now called **Darter Skimmer Hawker Chaser**.

This is a story of local men. Bolsover miners discovered parts of a fossilized giant dragonfly deep within the coal under Bolsover, a really important discovery which excited palaeontologists and scientists. The fossils are now kept in London at the Natural History Museum. My sculpture depicts a time when these giant dragonflies lived in the coal forming swamps of the Carboniferous period 300 to 350 million years ago.

The other stories I gathered have proved equally important and are recorded here as a tribute to the many unsung heros and heroines of Carr Vale and Bolsover.”





THE BOLSOVER DRAGONFLIES

Bolsover District Council commissioned Andrew Tebbs to create a new artwork for Carr Vale. Before designing this sculpture he spent time with the community researching local stories. He has created a stone sculpture inspired by the accounts of local miners who discovered two fossilised dragonflies deep in the rocks within Bolsover colliery. The fossils give us clues about life on Earth many millions of years ago.

This artwork shows dragonflies and ferns which lived in the Carboniferous age, 300 to 350 million years ago when coal seams were being formed. It was a time when animal life on land was rich with insects and the vegetation was dominated by tree ferns. The Bolsover fossils are amongst the oldest flying creatures ever found.

The giant Bolsover dragonflies are actually Protodonata, early ancestors of the line that led to modern dragonflies. Smaller, more recent,

fossil dragonflies occur in several parts of the world in younger rocks but the giant dragonflies of the Carboniferous age are very rare. To find two specimens in Bolsover Colliery was remarkable.

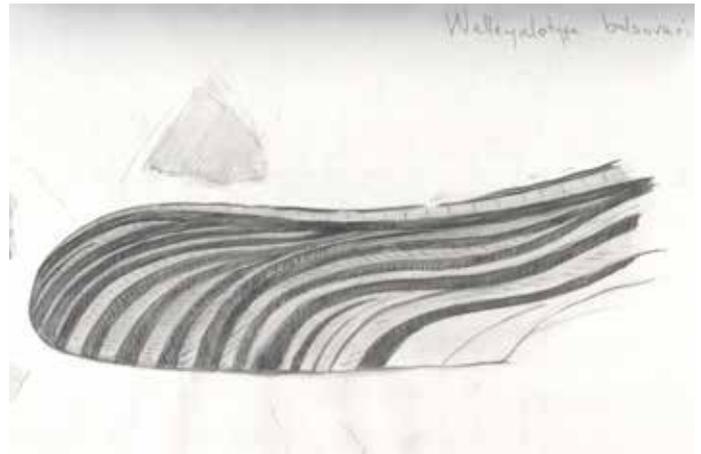
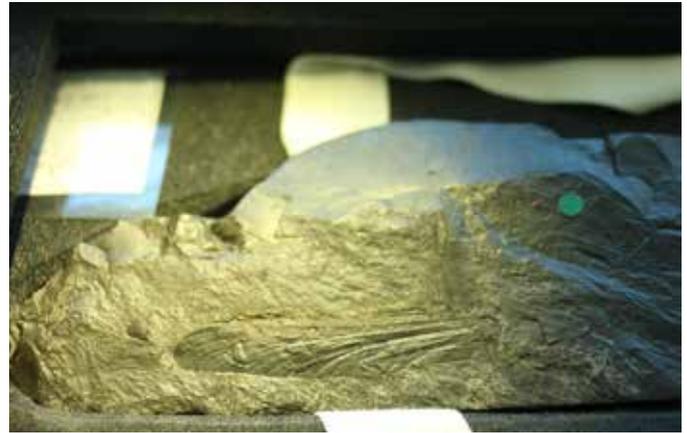
Malcolm Spencer found the first of the Bolsover dragonflies. It was in the roof of a tunnel 700 metres below the surface in Bolsover Colliery. He prised away the piece of mudstone and passed it to Terry Judge, who knew a bit about fossils. Terry passed it on to the geologists at the Coal Board. Their expert thought it 'not of interest' but it was still sent to the Institute of Geological Sciences where Paul Whalley saw it. He was interested in fossil insects.

A year after they were found he received a letter from the Bolsover miners who wanted to know what had happened to their fossils. He replied that they were the largest fossil insects found in Britain, 'twice the size of the largest British dragonfly previously found', that the first one they found would have had a wingspan of 200 mm and that it was 300 million years old.

This letter went up on the colliery notice board from where news spread to Radio Sheffield and the Evening Standard and from there around the world.

The first Bolsover dragonfly fossil is that of a broken wing, 9 cm long. First called *Erasipteron bolsoveri* in 1979, later changed to *Whalleyala bolsoveri*. The second is in three pieces and has an estimated length of 25 cm. It was named *Tupus diluculum* in 1980. They are both kept in the Palaeontology Department at the Natural History Museum in London. The first would have had a total wingspan of 20 cm, the second of about 50 cm.

In the Carboniferous age mammals and flowering plants had not yet evolved but there were reptiles and amphibians on land. There were many insects for them to eat such as cockroaches and mayflies, as well as dragonflies and many large spiders. It is possible that flight evolved as a way to escape from predators. The early dragonflies could not move as well as today's dragonflies because



they did not have the special wing parts that allow them to fly backwards and stay still in the air, hovering. The dragonflies probably stayed away from tall plants so they didn't damage their wings.

Some people think that all insect species were larger in the carboniferous because there was more oxygen in the atmosphere but it was only the dragonflies which were larger. They were the top flying predators of their day. They possibly grew so big because there were no seasons in the year. In the tropical swamps where they lived they had little competition and no other predators. Pterosaurs and birds did not evolve for millions of years.

The curator Claire Mellish said *"It is amazing to think that if the miners hadn't looked up and noticed the fossils in the coal they would have gone off to be burned on a fire in someone's home."*

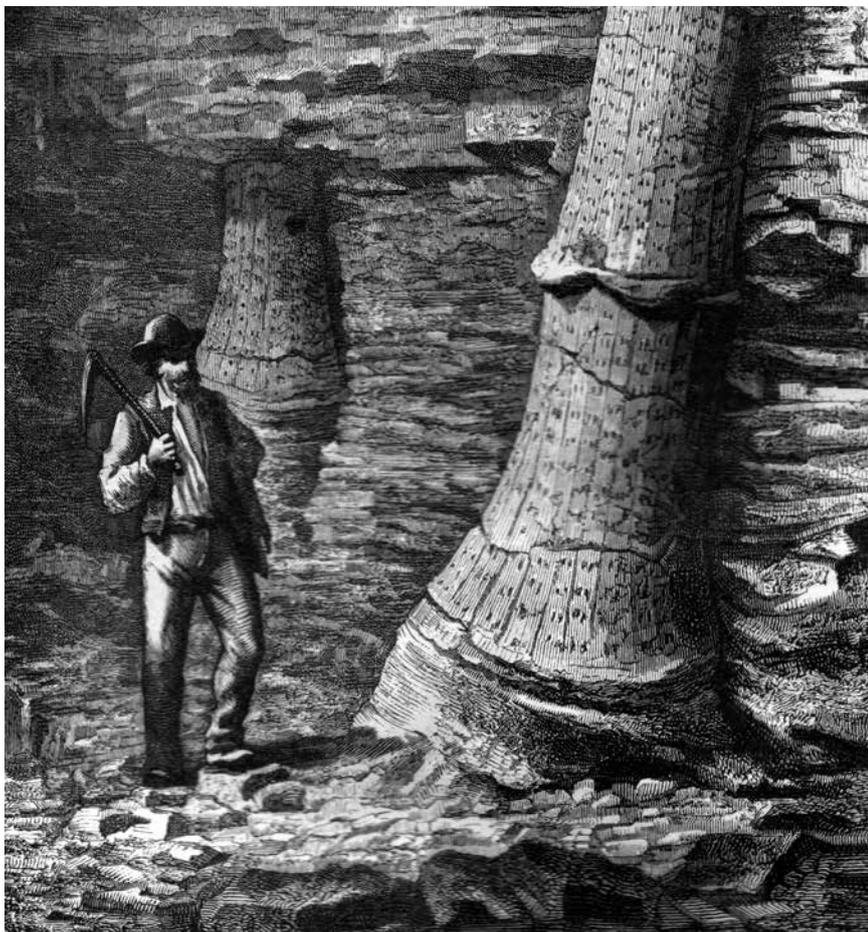
Andrew Tebbs

"My Father was a miner and this story reminded me of the times he would bring home pieces of coal with plant fossils in them. I still have one he gave me over forty years ago."



Andrew drawing the fossils in the Natural History Museum in London.





WORLD'S OLDEST DRAGON FLY FOUND IN PIT

The remains of a 300 million year old dragon fly with a wing of over eight inches, which is the oldest known flying creature ever found, have been discovered about 3,000ft underground in Bolsover colliery, Derbyshire.

The discovery, announced yesterday by the Coal Board, was made by coal face worker, Mr. Malcolm Spencer, who spotted a piece of coal in the shape of an insect's wing. It has been named "Erasipteron Bolsover" as a result.

Mr Paul Whalley, head of the palaeo-entomology department of the Natural History Museum who was sent the insect, said: "It is the most exciting find made recently. It is the largest insect ever known to have lived in Britain and the oldest flying creature anywhere in the world."

*From Povers
family who say
you on TV. RP*

2 *The Daily Telegraph, Friday, March 10, 1978*



THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies are highly adapted to catch their prey during flight. They could be described as very successful evolutionary survivors, outliving dinosaurs by millions of years. Dragonflies are an important part of the wildlife of wetland habitats. They can often be seen locally, flying around the ponds of Carr Vale, in Peter Fidler's nature reserve or the adjoining Carr Vale Flash.

The name of the sculpture, **Darter Chaser Hawker Skimmer** is taken from the common English names given to dragonflies and it aptly describes their habit, flight and how they catch their prey.

Dragonflies have three stages to their life cycle. The adult winged stage, which we most often see, lasts for the shortest time, rarely more than a week or two. During this time the adults can be seen flying, hunting and pairing up for mating. Eggs are laid either into water or onto plants at the waters margin. These eggs hatch into a larval stage called a nymph.



**WORKING WITH NEW BOLSOVER PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND HELEN MORT,
DERBYSHIRE POET LAUREATE**

Andrew Tebbs made several visits to New Bolsover School during the development of this project. The children were inspired by the story of the giant dragonfly fossils and produced wonderful drawings of a world of giant insects.

They also worked with Helen Mort to produce a poem inspired by their impressions of the place where they live.

**Voices over Bolsover: Up, up and Away!
By Y4, New Bolsover Primary
with Helen Mort**

I fly over an allotment - it is big, beautiful and colourful.
I see the park and I see the swing and the slides and the
66 swing and lots of people having fun.
I see the castle. It is old and grey. It looks like it will fall
down.
I see Bolsover castle, it looks like a little castle while I'm
flying.
I see the castle and I see old stone, cracks, a big door
and some big windows.



I see the marvelous, eye-catching dragonfly sculpture.
I am on my way home and I see Nefi's café, I know I
have been there before.

I see the sculpture - it is very eye catching, it has got a
dragonfly on it.

I see the nature reserve and all the plants might be a bit
old and falling down.



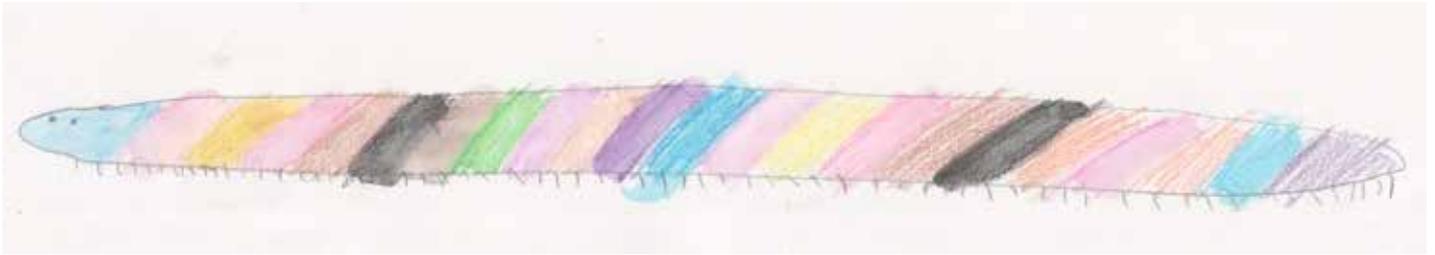
I see Gino's Italian Food: it looks like a stag beetle in a
vast garden.

I see houses. They are red and orange. They are very
small. They look like doll houses.

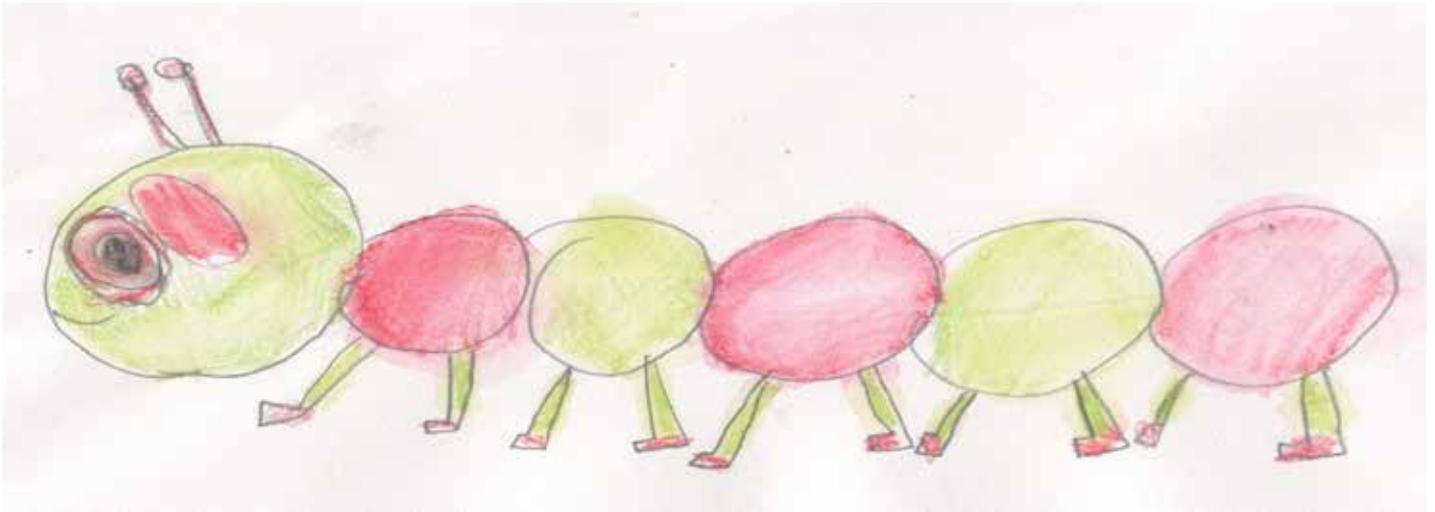
I see the castle, it looks very old and looks bare.

I see a big cinema and an old fashioned chocolate factory
with a big block of chocolate for the sign.

I see the castle, it looks new from above but very small.



I can see the old crumbling castle.
I can see the church and hear the bells ringing.
I can see someone getting in a taxi - I wonder where they're going.
I can see the sweetie shop with children looking in the window.





I can see Bolsover Castle stood on top of a hill.
I can see Gino's, the food shop. It is white and green
I see the park and it looks like Lego.
I see the pond and it looks like a jug of water.
The old railway it is just like a toy train track. It has coal
in the middle of it and you will see it too.
I see the birds and butterflies, they fly past me every
day.
I see that the people look like ants.





The Ghost Story told to Bolsover School Children by Keith Bowman.

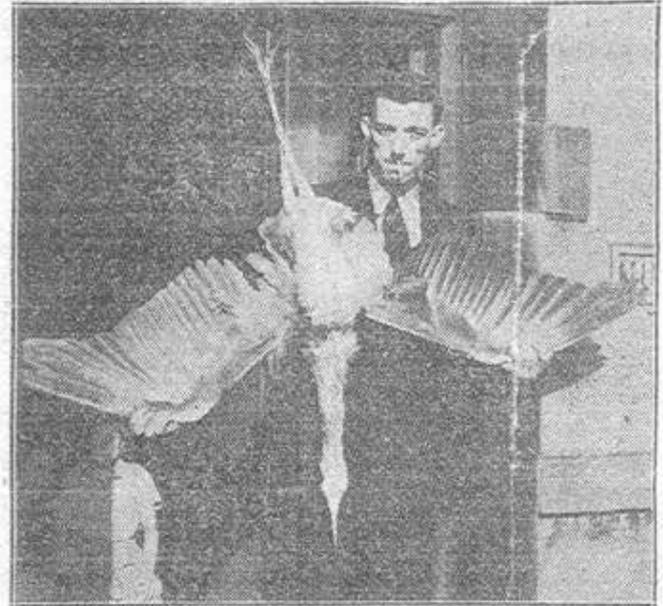
The following is a transcription of Keith talking to a class in New Bolsover Primary School.

'I am a Carr Vale lad brought up in the village. I want to tell you the story about the Carr Vale ghost.

In the early 1950's when I was a boy of about seven there were stories circulating about this shadowy figure that were located in the field at the bottom of Charlesworth Street. One or two children, like myself, went down to have a look. We thought, being seven year old children, that it were a ghost. We told our parents and immediately they went down to have a look. They saw the shadowy figure dancing in the field and concluded that it was a ghost. So the village gradually grew in fear of this ghost.

One particular morning a gentleman called Mr Torr came down to the field quite early in the morning and he brought a shot gun. He saw a shape dancing in the field, took a pot shot at it and killed it.

"GHOST" OF CARR VALE LAID ?



Mr. T. Torr, of 9 Old Hill, Bolsover, displaying the Heron, which he shot in the next field to where last week's "ghost" was seen by local residents. The Heron is 4ft 3ins. tall and has a wing span of 5ft. 6ins.

It wasn't a ghost it was a bird. A rather large bird called a heron (the children laugh). I've got a photo which I'll pass around the class. So of course that

was the end of the ghost. Mr Torr, if he shot a heron now-a-days, would have been summonsed and probably sent to prison. So the message is never do what you shouldn't do!

Carr Vale and New Bolsover were mining areas. A lot of people worked at Bolsover Colliery. There were others in the area at Ramcroft and Glapwell. They used to wash the coal, that they brought out of the pit, in the river, the river Doe Lea which runs near here. I used to paddle in it when I was a boy with all my other friends. Our parents knew when we'd been paddling in the river because when we got home we had coal dust half way up us legs. They used to say to us "Don't go paddle in that river, you'll drown" but we never listened.

The river now is quite clean and if you go up there in the summer months you will see kingfishers. There are holes in the river banks and that's where the kingfishers have their nests. You'll see them coming out of the holes, picking fish out of the river and going to feed the young chicks.

As well as the coal there was the jam factory and another major employer was Bolsover Brick Works. It's been gone many years but a lot of the village

were employed at the brick works. They produced some of the bricks that made this school. I used to go to Bolsover School when I was a boy, sixty three years ago. The jam factory and the brick works exported their products all over the country.

The children in my day used to go the refuse and rubbish tip at the bottom of Scarsdale Street in Carr Vale. In that rubbish were jam jars. The children would collect the jam jars, wash them out, and take them up to the jam factory. They would give us half a penny for each jam jar. We were quite rich. We made a bob or two.



The Jam Factory closed and became an oil factory, then a silver works factory and now we have houses there. The houses on the site are the reason we can have the sculpture made by Andrew. The sculpture will depict the life, history and culture of New Bolsover and Carr Vale.

The village has a rich history. It were built as an over spill for the influx of miners, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who worked at Bolsover Colliery. New Bolsover Colliery Model Village were built specifically for those miners. There were many more, who had jobs but no home, so they built Carr Vale.

So Carr Vale played its part in that industry- the rise and the fall of it.'



The Carr Vale Ghost

Setting out at dusk
to shoot a ghost

he might as well have gone
to shoot the light,

harpoon the air
or fire an arrow

that could fix a thought,
split it down the middle

like an apple, struck.
If you'd seen him

afterwards, stooping
to lift that feathered body

from the reeds,
now grey, now red,

the cold and certain beak,
those limp-slung legs,

perhaps you'd know
the current of his sadness,

the cost of knowing
all you dreamed

once moved
and could be named.

Helen Mort

Derbyshire Poet Laureate 2013-15



Bolsover Train Accident – Rose Bowler at Bolsover School

The following is a transcription of Rose talking to a class in New Bolsover Primary School.



'Did you know there used to be a cinema on Charlesworth Street? I'd go on a Saturday afternoon. Can you remember the adverts with the monkey's and PG Tips? Yeah? Well if we took the packet front from the PG Tips tea we got in free on a Saturday afternoon.

I'm now taking you right back to 1910, Christmas Eve, and the children had gone to't cinema. It was 5.15 in't afternoon and they'd had a lovely day. Santa had been and they'd all got a little present and they were all going home.

We used to have a railway line here then as well, right at the top of Carr Vale, near the New Bolsover Social Club. The children were so excited and making so much noise they didn't hear a train coming and three of the children were sadly killed on the line and three were injured.



Then again in October 1923 there was two other children playing on the line and the same thing happened. They were playing running across the track. They waited for the train to come past but they didn't realise one was coming the other way.

I found out just three weeks ago that one of the witnesses to the accident was my Dad. He'd never told us about it.

When I was looking into the stories I found out there was a railway keeper and he was employed to look after the children's safety but sadly in 1909 he was also killed and there was nobody after that to look after the children's safety on the crossing.

They put gates on the crossing so that at night time everyone who lived in Carr Vale was locked in Carr Vale 'cos the gate was locked! So they had to build a subway underneath so people could get out!

Extract from the Coroner inquest report January 1915

'From evidence given in this latter case it appears that about 5-15 pm on Saturday the 24th of December, some 15 children were gathered at the gates on the south or Carr vale side of the railway, waiting for a down train, which was then approaching Bolsover station from the west, to pass. This train was travelling on the line of rails furthest from the side where the children were assembled. While this train was passing over the crossing a goods train belonging to the Great Northern Railway Company approached the crossing from the opposite direction.

This being the line of rails nearest to the children. As soon as the first train passed the crossing, the children started to run across, none of them had apparently noticed the approach of the other train, which dashed into the middle of them and scattered them in all directions, with the result that three were killed and three were seriously injured.

No blame was attached to the driver of the goods train, the engine of which was running tender first, as two witnesses were able to give clear evidence that he whistled continuously as he was approaching the crossing, and was not running at any undue speed. He was quite unaware of the disaster that had occurred, and continued on his journey with stopping.'



The triangle of land to the south of Bainbridge Hall on which the new dragonfly sculpture stands used to be the location of a decorative rose garden.

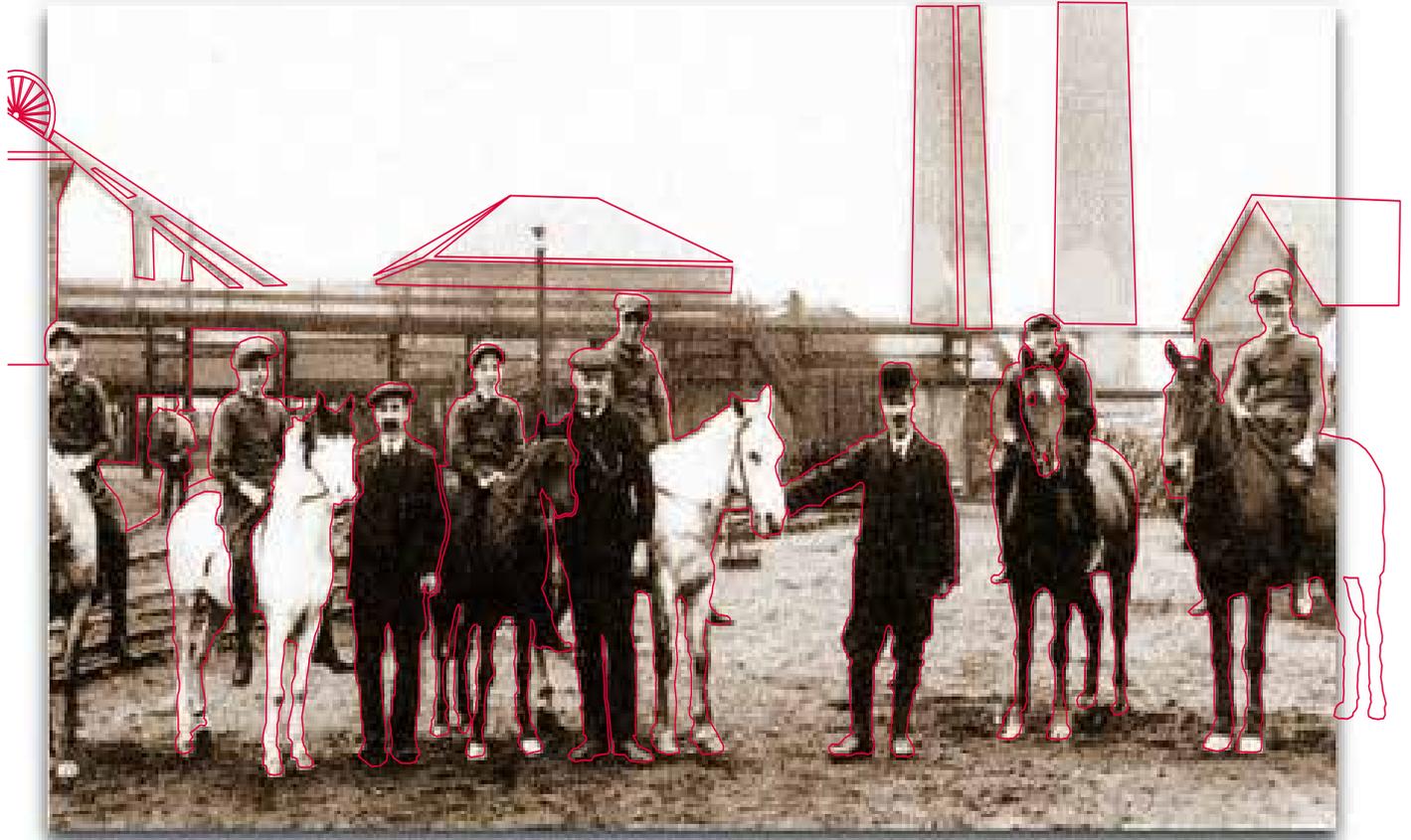
Bainbridge Hall is now a community centre but was originally built to be an orphanage for the children from mining families. It was built by the owner of the



Bolsover Colliery Company, Emerson Bainbridge, who also was responsible for the building of New Bolsover. The colliery was a major employer in the area and it built homes (New Bolsover) and other facilities to be used by the mining families.



The Colliery was sunk in 1891 and closed in 1993. For the first half of the colliery's life pit ponies were used to move materials underground. When the colliery had its annual holidays the ponies were also brought 'up top' to get some fresh air. An annual event were the 'Pit Pony races', in the 1930's these took place on Whit. Monday.



THE WAR EFFORT

The people of Bolsover and Carr Vale have supported their country during times of conflict. The cenotaph in Bolsover carries the names of over a hundred local service personnel who gave their lives in the two world wars.

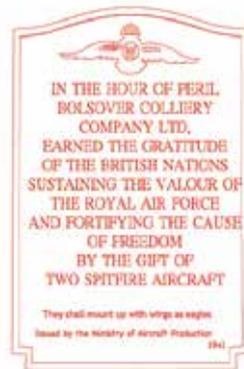
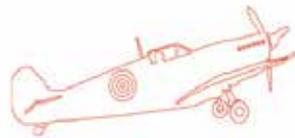
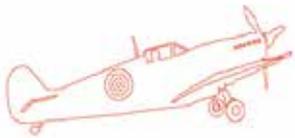
Many other local people who didn't go away to war also helped the war effort by working in vital industries such as the coal and steel works and the land army helping to 'Dig for Victory.'

Bolsover people also helped the armed forces by fund raising to sponsor equipment used by the Royal Air Force and the Navy. Bolsover raised sufficient money to build two Spitfire aircraft. Bolsover also sponsored two ships which served in the Royal Navy.



BARNET

The ship Barnet was sponsored by Bolsover District. She was a requisitioned trawler built in 1919. In World War II she sailed to the Far East to work as a Boom Defence Vessel, maintaining floating barrage nets used to protect harbours from enemy submarines. All these ships had a name which started BAR because they worked on barrages.



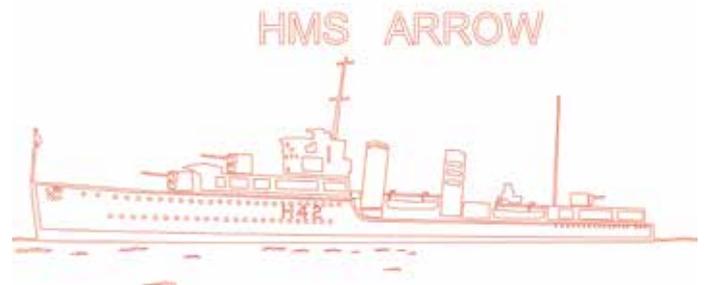
The battleship Warspite ran aground in 1947 at Prussia Cove near Penzance, Cornwall. She was broken up on site over several years. The Barnet was a salvage boat by then. In 1950 she was tied up against the Warspite's bows when she hit rock and was holed in the engine room. She was towed away and drifted ashore at Long Rock to the West, near Penzance. Her wreck is still there in the sand and resurfaces some winters after storms pull back the sand.



HMS ARROW

The British Navy has a long tradition of continuing the name of a warship and there has been a line of seven warships with the name HMS Arrow, the first was launched in 1796, and the latest one served in the Falklands war before being sold in 1994 when she was renamed Kaibar.

In 1941 Bolsover sponsored the warship HMS Arrow (H42). She was launched in 1929 and was an A-class destroyer. She served in World War II and was damaged beyond repair in Algiers harbour in 1944 when an ammunition ship exploded.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the making of the Bolsover Sculpture, **Darter Skimmer Hawker Chaser**. I particularly would like to mention the special contributions made by the following people;

The staff and pupils of New Bolsover Primary school for their poetry and wonderful drawings.

Helen Mort, Derbyshire Poet Laureate, 2013-15

The Derbyshire Poet Laureate project was developed by Derbyshire County Council to celebrate Derbyshire, its heritage, landscape and people through poetry. The scheme has been running since 2005. To find out more visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/poetlaureate

Bolsover District Council and in particular councillors Keith Bowman and Rose Bowler for their support and storytelling in New Bolsover Primary School.

Martyn Harris who documented the project on video.

Blockstone / Realstone of Wingerworth who supplied the stone.

Andy Kierly who assisted with the installation.

Spectrum Freight who supplied the lifting gear to manoeuvre the 14 tonnes of stone into place.

Curator Claire Mellish at the Natural History Museum, London for allowing me access to the fossils in their collection.

The Old Bolsover Town Council for allowing the old Rose Garden site to be used to locate the new sculpture.

Gleeson Builders for providing funding to make the project possible.

For proof reading; Keith Bowman, Alison Betteridge, Cynthia Harrison and Jane Darke.

Carole Hirst, Bolsover District Council's Arts Development Officer, for coordinating the whole scheme and making opportunities for creative projects across the whole district.

And finally a big thank you to Jane Darke who has greatly assisted in the creation of this book.



Bolsover
Castle. —



Bolsover Colliery

Portland Basin

Brick Works

Bolsover Castle

New Bolsover

Albion Gardens

Albion Gardens

EAST RAILWAY