

MARCH 2017 – 14th Tuesday – 10.30
Stones of Halifax with Alison Tymon in the morning and
Scarr Wood with David Shore in the afternoon

15 Members and friends stood outside Halifax Town Hall on a drizzly morning and were glad to get inside to tour of the interior of the Town Hall (the first part of a 3 part visit to Halifax) . This was designed by Sir Charles Barry and sculpted by John Thomas both of House of Parliament fame. Such was the elevated status of Halifax in 1863 – one of the richest towns in Britain at the time along with Bradford. **Susan Hanson** of Calderdale Council explained the main hall and Mayor’s parlor to us and **Andy Barraclough, stonemason** described the renovation works he had undertaken as demonstrated by photographs he brought with him. **Alison** identified the various marbles which were used most of which was from Devon. Alison has produced a separate report for the benefit of tour guides of the Town Hall which has been sent to members under separate cover including reference to the ornate Gents toilet that all were keen to visit. The magnificent exterior classed as “North Italian Cinquecento” was built in 3 years using 24,000 tones stone from Ringby Quarries nearby at Swalesmoor at a total cost of £50,126.

Alison and Barry then escorted us through the now sunny street of Halifax showing us the ornate carvings of very fine grained local sandstones and many varieties of architectural styles and igneous rocks from around the world which adorned shops and banks. The best example of rock variation in Yorkshire according to Alison.

After lunch a reduced number met at Albert Promenade with **David Shore** who explained the local geology looking down into the Calder Valley comprising the top strata of the Coal Measures above the Rough Rock we were standing on which was also exposed on the neighbouring hill tops. David also explained the local history including the Wainhouse Tower – *The best folly in Yorkshire*.

Scar Wood is a 200m long 17m high edge exposure of Namurian Rough Rock being the top of the Millstone Grit. The exposure contains exceptionally well preserved cross bedding which enabled the direction of palaeocurrents to be measured and some fossils were seen.





