

bar store including the "Hollow Mandrel" with its dedicated small four wheel bogie. This was taken to various machines by new apprentices. We also had a long stand for apprentices to stand by the more sociable machine men. The second floor was especially for electricians who wired up the motors and starters of the machines we produced. The top floor was the canteen where the fish and chips etc. were delivered by the Chip Lad, and the tea trolley serviced for morning and afternoon brews delivered on the shop floor. The next bay located five assembly benches and a marking off bench. The final bay was the turning shop with two Ward 4 and two Ward 7 lathes and four centre lathes, all set at an angle to clear long bars, and two cylindrical grinders. The remaining part of the bay was used for storing finished machines prior to despatch onto lorries in the sunken loading bay. All four bays had overhead cranes. There was also a foundry behind the shapers in a separate building, using floor and box moulding, with a pattern shop in an area equivalent to the second floor next door. We were told never to borrow or steal a ruler from the pattern maker as the inches were longer than standard to allow for castings shrinking. We also were warned to make sure that any ruler was checked to ensure that bits had not been chopped off.

I spent far too long on the Alba shaper and being Chip Lad, but eventually progressed to a Ward 4 turret lathe and then to the fitting bay. One day we had visitors from Japan, complete with cameras to tour the factory. One of the Ward 7 operators, a very likeable man, came to me and said he would disappear to the field behind the works until the visitors had gone, otherwise he would kill them, and he meant it. He had been a prisoner in the Far East but never mentioned it.

So to the fitting bay, where I learned how to file and remove lots of cast iron and steel without getting tired. All the machines we made had tables of various sizes and needed the edges smoothed by a radius. This was formed by using a hammer and chisel to create a chamfer to be rounded off by filing and polishing with emery cloth. It did not take long after hitting one's thumb several times to hit the chisel every time. I can still hit a chisel and not my thumb. We made our own scrapers from carbon steel files shaped and heat treated in the forge and sharpened on a large rotating whetstone. Special tools were also made in the forge. We also had short and long dovetail slides to scrape and fit to run easily the full length, some taking a week to get right. Set screw adjustments were not allowed as they were for others to use. All wheels were balanced using precision rolling discs and finished by filing the inner rims. Another precision job was to set cutters on planers to cut without ripples and to adjust the thickness to cut parallel boards. I listed some two hundred different wood working machines, not including size variations, made at Pickles during my apprenticeship.

To list just a few products, most common, and regular were circular saw benches and top and bottom planers followed by small band saws. These were so regular that castings were made well in advance and left outside to mature. They were better to work on than those straight from the foundry. Another set of common machines were horizontal and vertical band saws using blades six inches wide. Coiling these up was an art taught by lots of laughs and avoiding being chopped up. The smaller joiner shop ones almost

fell on the floor by themselves in comparison. We made a complete set of machines to make matches for use in Jamaica. A set of machines for the manufacture of barrels (Cooperage) including riveting the hoops and pressing them on were made. All the staves were of different width and the top and bottoms were not round, resulting in a stronger barrel. Several varieties of spindle moulders, routers and dovetail joint jigs were made. Slicers for cutting thin veneers for controlled grain patterns were difficult machines to make with twelve foot slides. Plywood peelers rotating the log as the blade advanced were good to watch being tested. A full sleeper azder for British Railways took up most of the fitting bay. It cut sleepers to length, cut the flats for the chairs to rest on, and drilled three or four holes to fix them on, all fed through automatically. We made one machine to cut unused fish box scrap into wood wool. This was a flywheel with a twelve inch crank pulling the cutters back and forth as the wood was advanced into them. A three oscillating roller sander as a new design caused lots of bad words to be emitted until the cams and bearings behaved. One spectacular machine, made similar to a centre-less grinder, trimmed and taper rounded tree trunks to make telegraph poles. A bit exited if the trunk was slightly bent, with one end wiggling around! A grinding machine using cams for sharpening and forming saw blades and band saw blades need a bit of careful setting up. All this proved father correct with the variety of work.

There was of course further education. I was allowed to leave work early three days each week to travel home get cleaned up, have some tea and catch a Todmorden bus (actual PD2s shown later) back to Hebden Bridge to change to Halifax Corporation to attend the Percival Whitley College on Hopwood Lane in Halifax. The buses never connected in Hebden Bridge resulting in a 45 minute journey each way. I eventually managed to get a HNC. I went to a cricket club AGM where the chairman said young people did not practice enough. I thought that was a bit rich, as Sunday was taken up by homework. I was deferred from National Service until the end of the five year apprenticeship but eventually received a brown envelope containing a requirement to attend a medical in Bradford, and then Wittering Air Force base, with details to be provided later. The next brown envelope cancelled the requirement and advised not to attend. National Service was being wound down and I was classed as not as fit as needed. I was a bit sad as all my friends were accepted. At the end of the apprentice training the company clearly expected us to find other employment, so I registered with the Executive and Professional Register in Bradford. That was another experience which resulted in a long term of employment at Hydraulic Engineering in Rodley.

John Bentley April 2021.

List of Members 2020				
Type	Name	Date Elected	Address	Business Address
F	Aldersley, John	03 Jan 2008		
F	Allen, Gerry R.	01 Aug 1987		
F	Ambrose, Richard	10 Aug 2017		
F	Atkinson, Egide Francis	29 Apr 2010		
F	Audsley, Peter B.	25 Sep 1975		
F	Bannister, David M.	31 Jan 1980		
F	Barton, David	29 Mar 2007		
F	Batchelor, Mark C.	01 Mar 2007		
H	Bate, Mike	04 Oct 1989		
H	Battye, Edwin	14 Oct 2004		
F	Beaumont, Paul	28 Sep 2017		
H	Bell, David.K.	27 Sep 1979		
H	Bennett, John C.	12 Dec 2015		

Type	Name	Date Elected	Address	Business Address
H	Bentley, John	14 Oct 1987		
F	Blakeley, Ian A.	25 Jan 1996		
Hon	Bond, Graham	06 Sep 2017		
F	Braime, Alan	03 May 2015		
F	Burchall, Neil	28 Sep 2015		
F	Burgess, Chris.	20 Sep 2000		
F	Burton, Jennifer M.	04 Oct 2018		
	Dziombak, Vas	06 Sep 2018		
F	Davies, Alan J.	24 Sep 1981		
F	Elvidge, Michael J.	26 Sep 1996		
F	Fairhurst, Lee	12 Apr 2001		
F	Fearnsides, Andrew	30 Jun 2016		
F	Finn, John	12 Sep 2002		
F	Fitzpatrick, M. G.	12 Apr 2001		

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F	Gledhill, S. J.	28 Feb 1991		
F	Harding, Chris	24 Nov 2016		
F	Harris, Andrew	04 Sep 2014		
H	Hazeldine, R. S.	25 Oct 1973		
H	Hegarty, Kevin J.	25 Sep 1969		
F	Hunt, Anthony O.	30 Jan 1969		
F	Jagger, C.,W. (Bill)	29 Apr 2004		
F	Johnson, R.	27 Jul 1994		
H	Kelsall, John D.	10 May 2014		
F	Kibler, Andrew	07 Nov 2002		
F	Kingswell, Howard	12 Sep 2002		
F	Lee, Philip W.	04 Nov 1987		

Type	Name	Date Elected	Address	Business Address
F	Letch, Roger	07 May 2019		
H	Mathers, Tony	29 Apr 1993		
F	McKay, Ian	27 Sep 2018		
H	Miller, John	02 Dec 2016		
F	Murray, Malcolm S.	28 Mar 1996		
F	Norris, Kenneth	15 May 2007		
F	Pease, John	26 Sep 1992		
F	Pollard, Martin	01 Oct 2015		
Corp	Poole, Richard Barker	31 Jan 2019		
H	Rayner, Peter. W. T.	27 Apr 1995		
F	Rogers, Alexander	24 Apr 1975		
F	Roper, Graham	03 Apr 2008		
Life	Scaife, Mark A.	30 Nov 1993		
F	Scholes, G. Ian	29 Nov 2009		

Type	Name	Date Elected	Address	Business Address
F	Scollen, John F.	20 Oct 2015		
F	Scrupps, Lionel J.	25 Sep 1975		
F	Sheldon, Steve	29 Sep 2005		
F	Shergill, J.S. (Jas)	06 Apr 2006		
F	Smith, Keith J.	25 Oct 1973		
F	Stacey, Steve R.	26 Oct 1995		
F	Stockdale, Brian	30 Jun 2016		
F	Stocks, Chris	26 Sep 1991		
H	Stoker, Michael F.	22 Oct 2015		
F	Tattersfield, Stephen	30 Jun 2016		
F	Thompson, Richard D.	05 Feb 1997		
F	Tilley, Ralph	27 Nov 1980		
F	Toulson, Gordon	20 Jul 1975		
F	Town, Ross	02 Mar 2014		

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Corp	Ward, David	06 Aug 2018		
Corp	Walker	02 Nov 2017		
F	Whitehead, Mark	15 Apr 2019		
F	Wiese, Anthony M.	09 Jan 2009		
H	Yates, Barrie J.	30 Mar 1995		

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