

Conversation Between Two Inanimate Objects, 17th January 2020

"Hey, I believe that feline creature is up to her old tricks" "Yes I know she is on the fiddle again. just don't let her diddle you." "I don't know how she can get away with it, but did you know our bovine Mother Superior is having an affair with our celestial Prior". "Yeh she is jumping all over him" "Why even their dogs are barking and laughing their heads off". "Well I think that Lady Alice de Romilly of Skipton Castle would be quite surprised at what is going on now." "I understand that she was kind enough to give a few Augustinian canons a parcel of land by the banks of the River Wharfe." "These Augustinians were dissatisfied with the goings on in their own community, and being of a humble and modest nature back then, decided to leave that community and set up on their own," "You mean to worship God, to care for the sick and poor, and cultivate the land and raise sheep as the land was not good enough for much else." "I know they worked very hard and really had a hard time of it at first, nearly starved and froze to death during that first harsh winter when they were there, having to build a shelter quickly." "Fortunately although the land was poor, there was plenty of limestone to extract." "Now look at them grown as fat and rich as their previous community, all through their ability to raise sheep to sell the wool which was precious and costly" "Um, its fair knowledge that they were soon accepted by Bolton villagers and the surrounding countryside." "Two kinds of brethren; the ordained canons, who spent their day at worship and prayer throughout seven days of the week, starting with Matins at 2am and the day divided into seven portions ending at evensong. Then, the lay brothers who did all the manual work in the fields and looked after the sheep."

" They soon got involved in village life." "They preached, taught, ran the hospital they built from income they received and also built a hospice to shelter weary travellers and visiting dignitaries" "They extended the Priory by adding a refectory, dormitories for the monks, a large fireplace to warm them in the winter before retiring." "Our Prior of course had his bedroom above the fireplace so he was kept warm through the night." "Good heavens their reputation grew to such an extent they attracted donations from wealthy merchants and patrons who paid for prayers to be said for their souls." "The monies were wisely invested in farms, mills, lead mines and other enterprises, which in turn brought in extra income from tithes rents, and the sale of produce." "Each time some sums were invested into travelling masons to enhance and enlarge the Priory".

" Well dear soul, it is now 1539 and we live in dangerous times" "Methinks that you and I should do a bunk before King Henry lays his hands on us." "What with that good King Hal in dispute with the Pope about his new love, has begun to seize all the Monastery and other religious orders assets," "The furnishings and fixtures too, and anything that can be removed, the gold plate, silver candlestick holders etc. and anything else." "Our wily Prior has hidden away some of his treasures including you and me."