

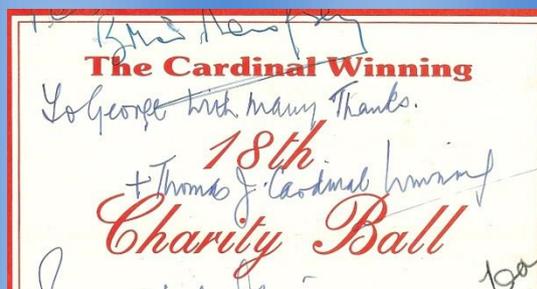
# Tales of the Riverman 31



When I was young I enjoyed dismantling things and trying to put them together again in different forms. Breaking up my toys became a speciality. I suppose this was my first move into Junk sculpture which I was to go on to study at the Glasgow School of Art. I was lucky that Dad worked on the river and had sheds in which I could use tools and create. Working mainly in discarded metals, the river bed became a source of material for me. When Dad or I dragged out some old bolts, a drain cover, rusty chain or even an old supermarket trolley, I grabbed at them and used them in my sculptures.



Earlier this week I met an old friend Tom with whom I come into contact every now and then due to his involvement in grandiose plans that have livened up and plan to liven up further Glasgow's waterfront. Tom is also the owner of a sculpture that I made of Cardinal Winning which was auctioned off at the Cardinals Ball some years ago. This sculpture contains a number of pieces of metal dredged up from the depths of the Clyde. Part of a cast iron box with the City coat of arms on it (the cape), a Putting Green marker (the crozier) no doubt thrown off the Bridge by some disgruntled loser. A chain from a toilet cistern, keys (of course crossed) and bits of steel pipe (well, the Cardinal did come from Scotland's steel capital Motherwell). One of the big questions of the night concerned the correct red colour of the sculpture. The Cardinals have their own shade of red; my spray can said Ford Motor Company Cardinal Red. Who is right?



All my sculpture profits go to Charity. Over the years this has mainly been Cancer but other charities have benefited.

With my work being so closely associated with the river I have also made several rowing based trophies, (for example the Thames World Sculling Challenge and the Scullers Head of the Lagan. I also have work displayed at many rowing sites (Sabena (Italy), JL (USA), River and Rowing Museum).



See now many bits of re-used metal you can spot—no prizes—just fun



