



# North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

## Chairman's Annual Report, March 2017.

Once again, NEDIAS ran a very full programme of talks, activities and visits in 2016, balancing our subjects over the wide spectrum of industrial heritage in this area.

The survey and excavation being led by Les Mather and David Palmer into the site of the Wingerworth stone saw shed carried on throughout 2016, but the team over the last year have also commenced back-fill.

Visits during 2016 included a behind-the-scenes tour of Chesterfield Museum, a trip to Markham Grange Steam Museum, and two walks led by Martyn Taylor-Cockayne from Jacksdale; the first was to view relicts of Butterley ironworks – when whilst crossing a bridge, those present were surprised be there at exactly the time that the Flying Scotsman passed beneath. The second trip from Jacksdale was towards Codnor Castle, where we were treated to an excellent guided tour. On a warm Saturday we had an excellent day at Chesterfield Canal's Hollingwood Hub to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of James Brindley. Morning trips on the canal, courtesy of the Chesterfield Canal Trust were followed by buffet lunch and talk on the life of James Brindley.

Our talks during the year covered topics as diverse as the Pentrich "Rising", Immingham Docks, Harry Brearley and stainless steel, the railways of the Derwent Valley, Sheffield industries, the life of William Jessop, the Riddings oil refinery and a splendid rail talk to celebrate our founder's day by Ken Granger.

We were able to gain funding to enable us to publish another volume of NEDIAS Journal, and the funder also was able to provide a digital projector, this has been so useful whilst we have encountered problems in use of the fixed projector in our meeting hall, as well as helping members give talks outside.

Whilst we have had a website for many years, this year the our Facebook page sprang into operation – see us at <https://www.facebook.com/nediaschesterfield>.

So NEDIAS have once again had a busy year. The Chairman would like particularly to thank the very supportive committee and other members for their work to ensure the smooth running of the Society; there are so many tasks to be carried out and I would like to thank those who very quietly and efficiently do what needs to be done to ensure the smooth running of our Society.

Finally I'd like to thank you the membership for your continued encouragement and support.

**CWL/ March 2017.**