

**North East Derbyshire
Industrial Archaeology Society**
NEDIAS Newsletter No. 29 – February 2008

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Chairman's Comments:

As members who attended the January talk will be aware, thanks to the efforts of Les Mather and David Palmer, we are now making progress with the oft discussed survey of industrial buildings in the Chesterfield area. The main topic for January, Malcolm Dungworth's talk on Sheffield automobile manufacturing was so well received, we are currently discussing his return visit for January 2009. Both auger well for the coming year but, sadly, it is not all good news.

Last month the demolition contractors moved in on Pearson's Pottery at Whittington Moor. At the time of writing, the site is quite literally a heap of rubble, with just one gate post and a long-redundant bus stop still standing. Apparently, the BMW and Mini car distributorships are moving from Pottery Lane West to Pottery Lane East. The only visible remains of the Pearson's contribution to the Chesterfield area are the items of pottery housed Chesterfield Museum along with some of Theo's nationally renowned model railway. All the more reason to concentrate on the other industrial remains in what is now fashionably called the built environment.

David Wilmot

Next Meeting

Monday 10 March 2008, at 7:30pm

NEDIAS AGM, to be followed by...

Philip Cousins: "Chesterfield Loopline and Canal Basin".

... and details from Les Mather on the ongoing activity listing Chesterfield's industrial buildings

IMPORTANT NOTE: We need new blood on the committee if the Society is to continue to flourish and evolve. Do you think you could assist? Can you help please? Simply fill in the form on the “Notice of AGM”, enclosed.

WHAT'S ON?

NEDIAS Lecture Programme, 2008

When: Meetings are usually held the second Monday of each month, starting at 7:30pm
Where: Friends' Meeting House, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield

10 March 2008	AGM. Followed by Philip Cousins' talk: <i>“Chesterfield Loopline and the Canal Basin”</i> & Les Mather on <i>Chesterfield industrial sites/ buildings.</i>
14 April 2008	Clive Leivers: <i>“The navvies who built the Dore- Chinley railway”</i>
12 May 2008	Visit to Pleasley Pit – Meet at Pleasley Pit for 7:30pm
8 September 2008	David Howes: <i>“Chesterfield shops – 1850 to 1950”</i>

Other Diary Dates

Wednesday 5 March 2008	Tony Wood: <i>“Lead mining in Derbyshire”</i> . Belper Historical Society, 7:30pm, St John's Chapel, The Butts, Belper. (01773 822832)
Wednesday 12 March 2008	Catherine Beale: <i>“The Arkwrights in Herefordshire”</i> . Arkwright Society, Cromford Mill. 7:30pm. Booking via 01629 823256 or at the Mill
Tuesday 18 March 2008	Prof David Hey: <i>“From Cutlery to Steel City: Sheffield in the 18th Century”</i> . 5:30pm Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield. SYIHS. (0114 230 7693)
Monday 31 March 2008	Harold Taylor: <i>“Lime burning at the former Cawthorne (Barnby) canal basin and its early Victorian puzzles”</i> . 7:00pm Cooper Gallery, Church St., Barnsley. SYIHS. (0114 230 7693)
Monday 19 May 2008	Peter Kennett: <i>“Mining and quarrying in Ringinglow and the Porter Valley.”</i> 7:30pm Kelham Island Museum. SYIHS. (0114 230 7693)

Visits

12 May 2008	Visit to Pleasley Pit. Meet at Pleasley Pit for 7:30pm
16 June 2008	Return to Shardlow – details to be advised

Excavations at the Moor

Oxford Archaeology North is currently excavating at the Moor, Sheffield (see photo). The chief archaeological interest within the development area is the boundary of the late medieval deer park of Sheffield (probably a substantial ditch with an associated oak pale fence), the line of which is thought to have later been formalised by Porter Street. Also surviving on the site are the remains (primarily cellars, roads and yards) of eighteenth/nineteenth-century residences and possibly workshops, which were built at a later stage.



Earl Street, Eyre Street, Jessop Street and Porter Street all appear to have been constructed by the late eighteenth century. Development started by at least the first decade of the nineteenth century, and by 1832 the whole area appears to have been infilled. The first edition Ordnance Survey map, of 1850-1, shows that terraced houses had been constructed throughout the area. Between 1894 and 1905 the housing in the south-east of the site appears to have been demolished, and by 1921 nearly all previous development within the site had been cleared. The reasons for this are not certain, but slum-clearance had probably taken place in preparation for the industrial development of the land. It is possible that this part of the city suffered bomb damage during the Second World War, but an industrial structure is clearly visible on the 1948 Ordnance Survey map of the site. The Moor development, carried out in the 1950s and '60s, erased the lines of Porter Street, Jessop Lane and Earl Lane.



The archaeological excavation has so far detected evidence of the nineteenth-century streets and residences that are depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, where they have not been totally destroyed by later developments. Amongst finds, including pottery, glass bottles and metal items, was a cutler's grindstone (see photo), suggesting that, like elsewhere in Sheffield, small-scale activity relating to the steel industry was taking place within this residential area. In the coming weeks it is hoped to recover more evidence of this period in the city's history and, presuming it survives, excavate the boundary around the deer park that belongs to an older pre-urban past

By kind permission of Oxford Archaeology – <http://thehumanjourney.net>

The Industrial Archaeology Debate

The following letter to Industrial Archaeology News, No.143, Winter 2007, is reprinted with the kind permission of the Dr Michael Nevell, Manchester University.

As one of the “third generation” of industrial archaeologists and a co-proponent of the “Manchester Methodology” I have been following the debate on the nature of Industrial Archaeology (in Industrial Archaeology NEWS and in IA Review) with keen interest. Some correspondents have argued that IA is nothing but the archaeology of technology, an ancient debate that goes back to the 1950s, whilst others have argued that IA is completely separate to so called “MAIN STREAM” archaeology.

It is tempting to characterise this debate as a sterile, polarised, argument between the pure technologist and the technophobe academic. So perhaps before the so far lively debate becomes too fevered it would be wise to highlight a few points.

Firstly, there is no place in our discipline for snide comments and insults. Not only is this unprofessional but it runs against the spirit of cooperation and enthusiastic exchange of information that is one of the pleasures of the IA community. Worse, it runs the risk of alienating much of the AIA membership. However there is nothing wrong with strongly held and strongly argued views and indeed it is refreshing to see the passion of the current debate.

Secondly, archaeology is the study of the physical remains of the past in all its forms from bricks to documents, and by this measure IA is very firmly a branch of archaeology, and not some special reserve of the technologically literate. Again, this is an ancient debate going back to the 1950s and 1960s and to argue otherwise is to let those archaeologists who are not convinced of the need for IA to deride us as peripheral.

Thirdly, and in the current context most importantly, what all the correspondents in this debate appear to have in common, myself included, is the recognition to the centrality to modern IA of technology, technological change in the Industrial Revolution, and the detailed recording and interpretation that this requires.

Therefore, to concentrate wholly on technology is to ignore the individuals who built and ran the machines, those who used the technology, and the landscape and social impact of technological change that is one of the key features of the Industrial Revolution. If we don't understand the wider context of these changes then we will not understand their wider meaning. Some people may not want to understand this wider context and indeed deny that there is any. Others may deride the attempt to place technological change in a wider context as wildly speculative. Yet for those of us who do see the need for a wider context to IA, the debate should not be about whether we should do these things and whether this is truly IA, but how well we understand the interconnection between machine and landscape, and society and technological change. An understanding which Tom Rolt, the founding father of Industrial Archaeology, first began.

*Dr Michael Nevell
University of Manchester.*

NEDIAS Archives

Pete Wilson, Archivist

If you haven't received details of the archived information collated by NEDIAS, you may not be aware of the mass of information readily at hand within the Society for further research, or just for browsing.

A number of members have already collected a CD from our Archivist Pete Wilson, listing details currently held in the archives; however, one or two have had difficulty opening the disc, possibly due to incompatible software. If anyone is having difficulty, Pete asks that you let him know (01246 235835 or pete.cfphdraulics@virgin.net). He will be able to e-mail the file, and this may be an easier option.

Pete Wilson has recently issued an updated list, and the following are extracts from the disc:

WELCOME TO THE NEDIAS ARCHIVE

Provided that you are a member of NEDIAS there should be no reason why you should not be able to have a copy of any item in our archive. All we ask is that you abide by these few simple rules

1. ALL NEDIAS PROPERTY ON LOAN REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF NEDIAS.
2. ITEMS MUST BE KEPT IN THE SAME CONDITION AS THEY WERE IN WHEN THEY WERE LOANED OUT.
3. CHARGES MAY BE MADE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE.

4. MAXIMUM TIME OF LOAN IS 2 MONTHS – RENEWALS ARE AVAILABLE ON APPLICATION TO THE ARCHIVIST. (OTHER MEMBERS MAY REQUIRE THE ITEM)
5. THE COPYRIGHT REMAINS WITH THE AUTHORS.

Should you not see what you are looking for please ask as there are some item that have not been indexed yet. Like 40-50 copies on permanent loan to NEDIAS of patent abridgements, copies of the sale catalogue for GKN equipment.

I can be contacted in several ways.

At the meetings

By phone 01246 235835

By E-mail info@nedias.org.uk

pete.cfhydraulics@virgin.net

The disc contains a number of sections. Space permitting, future NEDIAS Newsletters will contain some of the details. Copied below are details in one of the sections, a summary of contents of the journal “Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire”, published by the Derbyshire Archaeology Advisory Committee.

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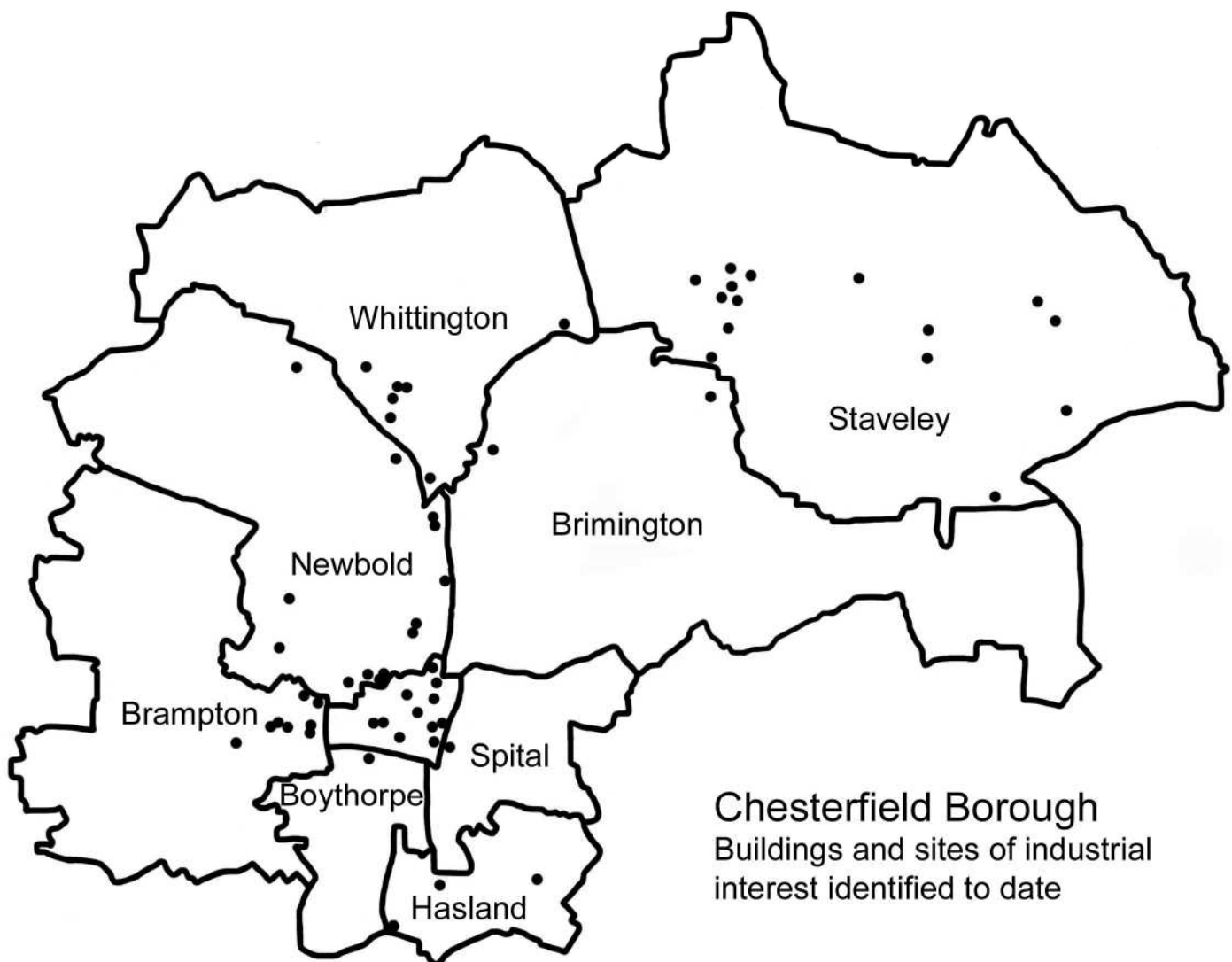
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A visitor driving into Chesterfield today will be greeted by a sign saying “Chesterfield – Historic Market Town”. In the past the equivalent sign said “Chesterfield – The Centre of Industrial England”. This perhaps sums up how the town has changed in recent years. However in spite of the loss of traditional industries and subsequent regeneration significant industrial sites do still survive. As already reported in these pages, Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) has asked NEDIAS to help identify significant industrial buildings that have so far escaped recognition. This project aims not just to do this but to document all of the remaining significant industrial sites and artefacts within the Chesterfield area.

In the previous Newsletter, David Palmer invited all those interested in a fieldworking group to a meeting. Following this I have offered to document the information on local industrial sites. However, like David, I am a relative newcomer to the area and will need the help of the NEDIAS membership to identify the sites to be recorded.

The first stage has been to summarise what we already know, initially using three sources of information:-

- The CBC listed properties register.
- Part V of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society Gazetteer of Industrial Archaeology sites published in 2000.
- A list of additional sites suggested by David Wilmot.



Together these give a list of around 60 industrial buildings and other sites of interest. Over the New Year period we visited many of these sites to confirm that they still exist and where necessary to record their exact location. These have also been plotted onto a map. We also formed an initial view on buildings that might merit highlighting to CBC.

From the map it is apparent that we have a good, but not necessarily complete, record of sites in the Town Centre, Brampton, along the Sheffield Road, and in Staveley. However it is also clear that there are large areas where little has been recorded, notably to the south of the Town Centre and in Brimington.

This is where you come in. Within the NEDIAS membership there is a huge amount of knowledge of Chesterfield and its industries. We would like to capture this knowledge and build up the inventory of significant sites in the town. At the AGM in March we intend to display the work so far and ask for your help to fill in the gaps. Following on from this there will be the opportunity to help with fieldwork to identify further sites and to carry out site surveys.

So far we have only considered sites within the CBC boundary. However we also intend to look at surrounding areas such as Clay Cross, Wingerworth and Dronfield, not least because several of the people most heavily involved live in these areas! So although the focus will remain on Chesterfield for the next few months don't be put off if your interests lie elsewhere.

Another successful Derbyshire Archaeology Day

Cliff Lea

A dozen or so members of NEDIAS were spotted amongst the 300-plus attending this year's very successful Derbyshire Archaeology Day at the Pomegranate; as always it was a friendly well-run event, with plenty of time to exchange views and news with fresh contacts over coffee and lunch breaks. More importantly it was time to catch up, via 8 half-hour presentations on the latest digs, surveys and activities in the county over the last year.

Darley Abbey:

Chris Waddington, of Archaeological Research Services Ltd., gave the first paper on the latest excavations at Darley Abbey. I had always thought that the Darley Abbey pub must have been one of the important parts of this Augustinian Abbey complex, but his latest suggestions are that this pub may actually (and quite appropriately) have originally been a hostelry, or possibly a smithy, serving the riverside activities within the complex. The location of the Abbey church itself elusively still needs to be confirmed, but the speaker showed the importance of high-status dressed wall remains within the park area, major clues. He showed results of excavations below the footings of a 19th century barn, which has now been moved, of the Abbey home farm. The excavations showed substantial earlier footings, clearly an important part of the complex.

The Derbyshire Archaeology Society.

A presentation by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society showed their history, current structure and activities. Chatting over coffee, I heard a number of suggestions that despite the name, the Society is very much rooted in the South of the county, with most activity on the Derbyshire/ Staffordshire borders. Nevertheless, the DAS speakers demonstrated a significant extent and academic depth to their activities, well established publications, and they particularly showed involvement and visits across the county and beyond.

Cresswell Crag:

We heard two presentations on Cresswell Crag. The first by Ian Wall of the Cresswell Heritage Trust gave details of many of the excavations which have been carried out, the finds recovered, and showing life in the valley gorge between 50,000 to 10,000 years ago. For us industrialists, it was interesting to see however in sketches and paintings he showed dating to the late 18th century, that there was at least one

mill powered by the water power in the gorge (see the Stubbs painting). A rather pretty thatched mill at that. The gorge is now by-passed by the main road, and a new visitor centre, now under construction, opens in 2009.

Cave Art at Cresswell

Paul Pettitt of Sheffield University gave what I thought was the best and absolutely fact-filled presentation of the day. He covered the findings and context relating to the era around 12,000 years ago, the era covering the cave art. He showed some of the important dozen or so pieces of cave art, which have been definitely established, but wisely rubbished some suggestions for others as natural rock features. He compared and likened those for horses, reindeer and stylised females with established cave art of the same date in the famous Lascaux etc., caves of France. Interestingly he was able to show that flints came from the Cheddar area, and amber finds were sourced from the Baltic. He proposed that the same groups of peoples may have been following established river routes by canoe both south-west to Cheddar and north-east to the Baltic (which at that time was accessible merely by the northern part of the land bridge across to the continent). Paul Pettitt has a book on the subject due to be published later in 2008, and I think this will be fact-packed and fascinating reading.



Photo: Stubbs painting of mill at Cresswell Crags

Peak District Archaeology:

After lunch we were treated to a talk by Alice Ullathorn of the Peak District National Park Authority, covering all the archaeological features of the area, 1400 hectares within 30 minutes! Her talk was titled “From Cave Dwellers to Gentlemen Anglers: The National Trust South Peak”. A pretty wide remit covering all the barrows, caves, standing stones, henge circles, hut rings, stately homes, etc., in the area, moving from Neolithic, to bronze age, Romano-British settlements, Saxon, Norman, with great agility. From 1800 she mentioned the role of the landowners in bringing in visitors, the role of the railway, the impact of artists and naturalists, - and fleetingly mention of industries.

The Street:



Photo: The Jessop Monument

Graeme Guilbert of Trent & Peak Archaeology traced the line of the supposed Roman road, “the Street” running from Little Chester nr Derby to Buxton, and for much of its distance running close to or along the line of the A515. We saw many slides across Longcliffe, Carsington Pasture, Pikehall, and Mininglow. Interestingly, excavation in a number of areas has failed to show presence of the usual Roman metalled surface, yet the line is clearly visible. He goes on to speculate that the line may be more division than road, showing a running continuous wall, with all other side walls butting up to it, rather than integrated into it. So the wall line is earlier than the surrounding field boundaries, suggesting that its original intention was as an important boundary.

Codnor Castle:

For those who saw the Time Team programme earlier in the year, the final presentation covered the survey, stabilisation and excavations at the medieval Codnor Castle. Jon Humble, of English Heritage, Inspector for Ancient Monuments, gave us the real story, placing the few

days of the Time Team in context of the ongoing survey and stabilisation work over the last two years. A permit for UK Coal, who own the site, had come with the agreement that they fund £1.5 M work on both this and on the nearby 1850s Monument to the ironmaster, William Jessop Jnr.

Photos: Codnor Castle



I. A. News and Notes

Redevelopment of Walton Works

The news from CBC is that the developers are appealing to the Secretary of State against the refusal of planning permission and of Listed Building Consent by the Council. CBC expects the outcome of the appeals will be a decided at a Public Inquiry.

We understand that the comments made against the original application, including those of both NEDIAS and the Arkwright Society, have been forwarded to all involved with the appeal process. We await developments.

‘Art in the Age of Steam’

The Walker Gallery, Liverpool, a short walk from Lime Street Station, is hosting the exhibition ‘Art in the Age of Steam’ between 18 April and 10 August this year. Featuring the work of artists such as Frith, Manet, Claude Monet, Pissaro, Hopper and Van Gogh, the exhibition will form part of Liverpool’s programme during its year as European Capital of Culture and is its only showing in Europe.

If time permits, why not include a visit to the Mersey Maritime Museum or the restored and rejuvenated Albert Dock?

Aircraft in the Box Tunnel?

Last year we had a very popular talk on development of the Vulcan Bomber (the constructed unit did by the way majestically take to the air), and Pete Kennett returns to update NEDIAS on 13 October this year.

Meanwhile, members might be interested in the following intriguing account, bringing to light details of another military activity.

English Heritage are to carry out a survey of a top-secret underground military facility under the chalk downs of Wiltshire.

There were said to be 40 km roadway tunnels which were originally used to excavate building stone near Chippenham in the 19th century.

The underground workings were taken over by the British military in the 1930s, and used as an enormous aircraft factory; during the cold war the workings were converted to a government nuclear bunker and war headquarters... This had its own living quarters, hospital, major communications switch, and even totally secret private railway line, linking into the rail network within Brunel’s box railway tunnel.

Scarsdale Local History Fair

This year's Scarsdale Local History Fair will be on Saturday 1 November, and once again we'd like put on a display. Those of you who attended the last event will recall the excellent NEDIAS exhibition, and Jacqui Currell's inspired display boards.

Do you have any interesting ideas for our display this year? Any suggestions for themes? If so please discuss with Jacqui or Cliff.

..... and Finally ...

... the longest Champagne bar in Europe?

Cliff Lea

During a recent trip to the capital, I had a few minutes to spare at St Pancras before my train departed, so I thought I'd go and see what the market blurb meant about the "...longest Champagne bar in Europe..." now opened to complement the Eurostar services.

Well, I found it, certainly wasn't going to spend money on what were probably also the most expensive glasses of Champagne in Europe.

I can say, your Editor was nonplussed.



But as I turned my back on the entrance to the bar, looking upwards and around again at the sheer brilliance of William Barlow's station structure, now beautifully lit to highlight the excellent brick and ironwork, my eyes travelled down the iron stanchions.

Directly opposite the bar was the statement on the original plaque at the base of one of the stanchions,

"Made by the Butterley Company Derbyshire".

Now, that really was something worth seeing!

My view is that even in ten years the bar will be looking **like a dated irrelevance.....**

.....but the Butterley work will still be shining above!

NEDIAS Committee:

Chairman – David Wilmot; *Secretary* – Patricia Pick; *Treasurer* – Pamela Alton; *Membership Secretary/Assistant Treasurer* – Jean Heathcote; *Publicity/Publications* – Cliff Lea; *Lecture Meetings* – David Rance; *Visits Co-ordinator* – Brian Dick; *Archivist* – Pete Wilson; *Committee Members* – Roger Evans; Derek Grindell; David Hart.

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Editor: Cliff Lea, 15 Kelburn Avenue, Walton, Chesterfield, S40 3DG
☎ 01246 234 212
or e-mail cliff@nedias.org.uk.

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