

# NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

## Newsletter No. 4 - November 2001

### Editorial

One of the pleasures of writing this introduction to our 4th Newsletter is to record the growth of the Society to more than twenty subscribed members at the end of October. It is also pleasing to reflect upon the enthusiasm and innovation evident amongst the membership. The winter lectures have now been arranged through to next May. We also have a proposal for aerial photography of the former industrial sites of our area.

October saw the first lecture evening, when John Robinson took us for a slide tour of the history and remains of the area's coal mining industry. Some twenty-five people attended and were treated to views of early bell-pit remains, the era of the deep mines through to the small drift mines which survived until more recent times. This Newsletter is being sent out at about the same time as our second lecture event, Bob Metcalf's talk on the history and preservation of Pleasley Pit. Its situation on the eastern border of the county tends to leave it a little isolated but Bob's lively talk will certainly ensure it is better remembered.

The clear message is; Make sure you mark the second Monday of each Month in your diaries for NEDIAS meetings or risk missing some very good lectures! And do please bring along any interested relatives and mends. We have not filled the meeting room yet. The more we have present, the more we gain from local information imparted by the audience as well as by the speaker. And, while you are about it, why not write something for posterity by (at least) having it published in this Newsletter!

Lastly, an apology is due. In recent mailings we omitted to state the amount of the annual subscription (covering membership to 31st December 2002). The subscription covers family members at the same address and ensures receipt of the Newsletter plus other mailings and notices of meetings and visits. The amount, as agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting was £10, and we thank those who took the trouble to telephone the Chairman to learn the amount. Our Treasurer is still hopeful of receiving further subscriptions, and can be contacted at the lecture meetings or via the editor.

### Autumn & Winter Programme

A reminder of the talks still to come:

Venue - the Social Room of the Friends Meeting House, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, at 7.30pm on each of the dates shown.

12th November - Robert Metcalfe, *Pleasley Pit, its History and its Restoration.*

10th December - Howard Smith, *Recent Research into the Development of the Sheffield, Chesterfield & Derby Turnpike.*

Issue No. 4 - November 2001

14 January, 2002 - Mrs. S Preece, *The History & Development of Stainsby Mill*. 11th February  
- David Jenkins, *Early Ironmasters of Grassmoor*.

11 March - Peter Hawkins, *Smiths of Chesterfield (& Cannon Mill)*

8th April - David Siddon, *Brampton & Chesterfield Potteries* - a talk plus workshop  
format evening, so bring out your pottery pieces for identification by an expert on this  
locality's products (NB this is not an event for valuations).

13 May - David Hey - *Packhorse Routes in the Peak District*.

### Other Events

Friday, 16th November, at Chesterfield Library, 10.00-11.30, Darrel Clark will give a talk; *The Arkwrights, Spinners of Fortune*. Tickets available in advance from the library, £ 1. 00/60p each.

Monday, 21st January 2002 - South Yorks. Industrial History Society (7.30pm at Kelham Island Museum), *The Chesterfield Canal: archaeology guides the restoration*, by Chris Drage

Monday, 18th February - SYIHS (as above), *Ganister mining, especially around Worrall & Wadsley*, by Ray Battye.

(These are the SYIHS lectures most likely to be of interest to our members. For details of other SYIHS events, contact Derek Bayliss on 0114 230 7693.)

EMIAC 63 - The Nottinghamshire Industrial Archaeology Society is organising the 63rd East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, entitled *Busy Beeston - a look at industrial Beeston*. It will take place on Saturday 18 May 2002 at College House School, Chilwell. [Ed. An event not to be missed. Always an interesting day, with plenty of opportunities to meet others in this field. Further details will be available in the next Newsletter.]

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**"History - an account of an event which did not happen, by someone who was not there!"** (Anon, courtesy of BBC Radio 4)

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### Chesterfield-on-the-Water – by Cliff Lea

One of the driving forces which assisted the industrial activities in the north east Derbyshire area, was the foresight of those entrepreneurs who had the vision and raised funding for the building of the Chesterfield Canal in the late 18th Century.

And what a vision it was, with an almost 50 mile tortuous route to the Trent, boring the longest canal tunnel of its time, with an amazing lock flight at Turnerwood (colloquially named the Giant's Staircase): an enduring reminder of those human giants involved in design and construction, James Brindley and John Varley. But do you know where the basin wharves were at the Chesterfield end?

Remember, although there are some shadows over its long term commercial success, this canal saw carriage of fairly large volumes of goods to and from Chesterfield, including Coal, Pottery, and Lead, and the basin and various wharves would have seen considerable activity. Interestingly, the some of the town wharves were on/underneath the Arnold Laver site.

Clearly with the closure of the Laver site, and interest from new developers, the possibilities can now be considered of a redevelopment which will reflect the importance of the site 200 years ago as a major focus for goods transport in the days when roads and tracks were unreliable for perhaps half the year. Could we see here a re-development around the Chesterfield waterside, in keeping with the sort of re-developments seen in many towns and cities in Britain?

What an excellent way of revealing the earlier industrial activities to the people of Chesterfield, and of incorporating them into the very fabric of our society. Are we in favour? Can we express an opinion?

Certainly the Chesterfield Canal Trust can see a renewal of the original vision, and are now pointing to the many waterfront developments around the country. Think of Leeds, Gloucester, Sheffield, Bath, Liverpool, and many other smaller developments. Is this is an area where a strong link between NEDIAS and the Chesterfield Canal Trust can be forged, and where the Society can add its interest and support?

[Ed. - Having explored parts of the re-opened Forth & Clyde canal this summer - a large-scale restoration project if ever there was one - the Chesterfield Canal Trust certainly deserves whatever support we can give.] .

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### **The Amateur Archaeologist - from Cliff Lea**

I gave details in the last newsletter of the UK Government's position in ratification of the Valetta Convention, and you may recall I was appalled to hear that their approach to introduction of licensing could change irrevocably the position of the amateur archaeologist in Britain. A position where the amateur has provided much of the time, energy and enthusiasm which helps to drive forward our knowledge and recording of our early footprints.

Did you write to register your concern? I certainly did, and I know countless others put pen to paper.

We now learn that the Government has backed down, and believes the Valetta convention can be ratified without the draconian system of licensing and control which they envisaged, and English Heritage have even said that "**they believe that the voluntary sector is one of the strengths and distinguishing characteristics of British archaeology**". This is excellent news, and a sound decision from Government.

**Transactions of the Hunter Archaeology Society - by David Wilmot**

The Sheffield based Hunter society has a long history of publishing its Transactions, more than a few of which cover Derbyshire interests. A recent enquiry revealed that indexing is a project for the near future so a quick search was made of the volumes for articles that might be of particular interest to our members. The following items were found within Volumes 1 to 20 (available for reference at Chesterfield Local Studies Library as well as Sheffield Archives):

G G Hopkinson, *The Development of the South Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Coalfield 1500-1775*, Vol. 7, pp295-319.

G G H, *Staveley Forge, 1762-1783*, (Leased by John Fell of Attercliffe Forge and Joshua Clay of Sheffield - Hardwick Estates MSS - 1783, leased to Walter Mather of Bulwell, Notts.), Vol. 7, pp94-95.

G G H, *A Sheffield Business Partnership, 1750-1765*, John Fell and others, involved in furnaces at Staveley, Whaley, plus references to Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire ironworks. Vol. 7, pp103-117.

G G H, *The Development of Inland Navigation in South Yorkshire & North Derbyshire, 1697-1850*, Vol. 7, pp259-251.

G G H, *Road development in south Yorkshire and north Derbyshire, 1700-1850*, Vol 10 (1979), pp14-30.

Francis Stephens, *The activities of John Gorrell Barnes* - evidence from the Barnes family papers, particularly the Grassmoor Company. Vol. 10, pp229-238.

G G H, *Railway projection and construction in south Yorkshire & north Derbyshire, 1830-1850*. Vol. 9, pp8-26.

G G H, *The Charcoal Iron Industry in the Sheffield Region, 1500-1775*, Vo1.8, pp122-151.

RE Leader, *Our Old Roads*, (A paper read by the President before the Society in October 1917), Vol. 2, pp7-29.

Ian R Medlicott, *John Curr and the development of the Sheffield collieries*, Vol.12 (1983), pp51-60.

David Hey, *Sheffield on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution*, Vo1.14, pp1-10.

### **Recording Industrial Sites and Remains - by Paul Smith**

Researching and recording our industrial remains is a fundamental aim of the society. The area is rich in industrial history and deciding what to record as well how to record it will be a problem. Besides the obvious standing Victorian mines, mills and railways there is the whole fabric of an industrial society. An objective might be to record the industrial way of life of our region. This could include not only housing, work and transport but also recreation, worship and death, and the infrastructure of urban society that completes the industrial landscape. An alternative objective would be to just record places of work at risk from redevelopment, rescue archaeology. Whatever we decide to do there are set procedures and techniques already established and working in various parts of the country.

By a number of circuitous routes I've found some information on recording industrial remains.

Initial contact was made with English Heritage, Monuments Branch, Swindon. I spoke to Paul Everson an archaeologist who has worked on the Derbyshire moorlands and knows the area but not its industrial archaeology. He passed me on to Keith Falconer, who gave me the phone number of the School of Archaeological Studies, at the University of Leicester, the home of Association for Industrial Archaeology. The AIA operates a scheme called IRIS, using a Proforma designed to assist in recording the various types of industrial archaeology.

I next contacted the Council for British Archaeology at York and spoke to their research and conservation officer Alex Hunt. He was most useful, he recommended some publications and CBA handbooks, and promised to E-mail their titles etc. At this point the trail became a bit circuitous, with referral to David Cranstone Consultancy, Gateshead (they seem to be in a higher league, undertaking assignments for English Heritage, and others, on industrial archaeology but, it turned out, he did not realise IRIS was still in operation). David suggested we contact the Derbyshire Archaeology Society. IRIS it seems is operated in conjunction with local county councils.

I next rang Derbyshire County Council's Archaeology Dept (despite us being NE Derbyshire they were quite helpful!) Andy Myer knows the IRIS system and says they have one particular person in Buxsworth who has done some very good work, but it is not common, nevertheless he seems to approve of it, and is sending me as much information as possible, including a typical return,

Just for interest's sake I rang North East Derbyshire District Council, asked for the archaeology department - they do not have one. I asked what happened to any archaeological queries, "We've not had one in the five years I've been here. Have you tried the archives at Matlock?"

I also spoke to Karl Cooper in the archaeology dept. about "adopting a mile marker"; Howard Smith mentioned it some time ago. I thought it might interest us as a society. It is operated through the Countryside Rangers; Andy Pollock or Chris Combs at Middleton Top are the contacts. The mile marker idea is that parish councils and societies maintain the cast iron Turnpike mile markers, be responsible for cleaning, painting and reporting vandalism etc. There are certainly three on the Chesterfield/Baslow road in need of some attention. The only drawback is the council insists on third party insurance cover, however this is an area that needs to be addressed if the society intends surveying buildings and sites.

Publications.

AIA 1993 Index Record for Industrial Sites Recording the Industrial Heritage: a handbook. Association for Industrial Archaeology.

British Standard 1978 Recommendations for storage and exhibition of archival documents. (BS5454)

DoE 1994 Documentary Research on Industrial Sites. DoE, Contaminated Land Research Report.

Ferguson, L M, and Murray, D M 1997 Archaeological documentary Archives: preparation, curation and storage Inst. Field Archaeologists Pap 1

Trueman, M 1995 'The Association for Industrial Archaeology's IRIS initiative' in M Palmer and P Neaverson (eds) 1995, 29-34.

[Ed. Several points here for the committee to consider. Certainly affiliation to AIA, with its Ironbridge roots and wide membership, is highly desirable - and possible now we have a formal structure as a Society]

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**Forty Years without Bradshaw's Monthly Railway Guide, by David Wilmot**

It is hard to believe that forty years have passed since, in May 1961, the final monthly issue of Bradshaw's *Guide* was published. For virtually one hundred and twenty years, from 1842, the *Guide* had been the established source of information and inspiration for prospective travellers, travel agents, playwrights, crime novelists and even the railway companies themselves. The Great Western Railway used parts of the *Guide* as its official timetable in 1917, with the Southern Railway taking it up in 1924 and the London & North Eastern adopting it in 1939.

Acceptance by the railway companies was a radical change as Bradshaw's unofficial timetables had been "vehemently opposed" in the early years as the *Guide's* publication of arrival times was considered to risk making "punctuality a sort of obligation". The LNER seized upon the celebration of the *Guide's* centenary in May 1939 to announce the introduction of "a new form of LNER timetable, based upon Bradshaw's Railway Guide".

Upon the formation of British Railways in 1948, the official timetables came in the form of a separate volume for each of the six regions, while *Bradshaw's Monthly Guide* remained the source of information for the whole network. It was much used by high street travel agents such as Dean & Dawson, Frames and Easons. Even after the demise of the *Guide*, travellers had to wait a further thirteen years for the introduction of BR's unified timetable in 1974.

What of Bradshaw himself? He was born in 1801 in Lancashire and started issuing timetables in Manchester in 1839. He died of cholera in 1853 while visiting Christiania (now Oslo), Norway, and is buried in the cemetery of its cathedral. His early death, at the age of 53, deprived the railway industry of a prime innovator whose legacy of the *Guide* would live on for more than a hundred years. The *Guide* was not his only achievement as *Bradshaw's*

*Continental Railway Guide* had been started in 1847, the same year that *Bradshaw's Railway Manual, Shareholders' Guide, and Official Directory* was introduced. These volumes now form a valuable source of information to railway historians and copies can be seen in the library of the National Railway Museum at York.

The *Guide* gives a glimpse of the importance of railways to travel in north east Derbyshire. The 1922 edition lists two railway companies serving Chesterfield - the Midland and Great Central companies. The Great Central's Market Place station (ex LD&ECR) saw 3 trains each weekday to Lincoln and 3 to Mansfield, calling at Arkwright Town, Bolsover, Scarcliffe, Langwith Junction and Warsop. Its own station "Chesterfield Central" saw regular trains calling on the Nottingham (Victoria) to Sheffield (Victoria) services via the loop line. Other stations served included Tibshelf Town, Pilsley, Heath, Grassmoor, Sheepbridge, Staveley Works, Staveley, Eckington & Renishaw, Killamarsh, Beighton, Woodhouse and Darnall. We must not forget the former LD&ECR branch line between Langwith Junction and Beighton, with its stations at Spink Hill, Clown, Creswell & Welbeck.

The Midland, on its St. Pancras to Leeds line, served Alfreton, Westhouses & Blackwell, Doe Hill, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Sheepbridge & Whittington Moor, Unstone, Dronfield, Dore & Totley, Beauchief, Mill Houses & Ecclesall, Heeley and Sheffield. We should not forget the original North Midland line from Clay Cross to Derby, with stations at Stretton, Wingfield and Ambergate. The Midland's meanderings around the eastern extremities of Derbyshire included services between Staveley Town, Bolsover, Palterton & Sutton, Glapwell, Rowthorn & Hardwick, and Pleasley, as well as to Clown [sic], Elnton & Creswell, Langwith and Shirebrook.

While less than ten of those listed in 1922 remain open in 2001, the evidence of many others remains in the form of station buildings converted to workshops or private houses, some well looked after but others gently decaying. There are also the some houses built for station and railway staff now in private hands, plus good sheds and other buildings. Compiling a comprehensive gazetteer of railway sites, with comments on current remains in this area would be an interesting project - unless someone has already done it?

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## Notices

**Sanderson's Map of Mansfield, 1835** - The eight-foot diameter circular map of the landscape 25 miles around Mansfield covers much of eastern Derbyshire in sharp and, by the standards of its time, accurate in detail. Previously visible on a wall of Mansfield Local Studies Library, it has now been published as a set of sheets to peruse at one's leisure. The volume was launched on 31st October and copies can be bought at Mansfield Library. We understand the price is about £8.95 per volume.

**Wanted! Dumpy Level~ dead or alive!** - Has anyone got a Dumpy Level I could beg, steal or borrow, to be used on a survey of mining remains on the Chatsworth Estate? Preferably an automatic x24, with tripod and 5m staff? Offers of help please, to Paul Smith, 01246 237069, email;pesmith1000@hotmail.com

**Pin-board/Notice Board Wanted** - Do you have a spare board suitable for the display of notices, leaflets etc. for use at our meetings? Preferably one which would fit in to the back of a car for each meeting as we do not have storage facilities at our venue. Please contact any committee member if you are able to help.

**Books for Sale** - Following a suggestion from Paul, we would like to encourage people to bring items such as books on relevant subjects and small artefacts to our lecture meetings. From the December meeting, a table will be provided for the private sale of members' second-hand books and ephemera of industry. Members will be asked to donate 20% of the sale proceeds for NEDIAS funds. Anyone wishing to display items which are not for sale may do so, but please contact a committee member first to ensure that space can be provided. We have to say that, in both cases, the items must remain at the individual member's risk throughout.

**Design a Logo** - The society has a long name and our Publicity Officer, Cliff Lea, would like to ensure that we make an even bigger impression with our notices, posters, literature, letterheads and, of course, this Newsletter. Here is the chance for your latent artistic talents to be revealed!

We need a logo which depicts the industrial heritage of this part of Derbyshire, with its mining history, transport network, iron-founding, engineering, pottery and textile industries. We don't expect all these to be covered but would like something emblematic of area. There is a small prize for the successful artist - free membership of NEDIAS until December 2002 (a refund of £10 if the winner is a paid-up member). Please send entries to the editor (at the address below) by 31st December 2001.

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**The Officers of the Society**, elected at the Inaugural General Meeting on 10th September 2001, are:

Chairman - David Wilmot; Secretary - Patricia Pick; Treasurer - Pamela Alton  
Membership Secretary/Assistant Treasurer - Jean Heathcote; Publicity Officer - Cliff Lea  
Lecture Meetings Organiser - Malcolm Fisher; Newsletter Editor - David Wilmot.  
Committee members - David Hart, Paul Smith, Jack Smith.

**There still some vacancies** for committee members and anyone interested in helping should contact any of the above-named for further details.

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