



# North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

## Chairman's Annual Report, March 2018.

Once again, NEDIAS ran a very full programme of talks, activities and visits in 2017, balancing our subjects to cover as many aspects of industrial heritage as possible.

The survey and excavation being led by Les Mather and David Palmer into the site of the Wingerworth stone saw shed carried on throughout 2017, with this activity gradually coming to a close and back-filling. This is a classic dig, with much revealed of this stone cutting and preparation site – the team are to be congratulated for their detailed work, and for their addition to knowledge about this activity. .

Visits during 2017 included guided tours around the village of Barrow Hill following the heritage route, a great day at Steeple Grange Narrow Railway, and a guided tour of the Sheffield Assay Office preceded by a talk on the history of the subject.

Our talks during the year covered topics as diverse as the Sheffield Canal, Leather Manufacture, the railways of South and West Yorkshire, historic longbow design, hydroelectricity, and early oil refining. Talks on the history of the Yorkshire Engine Company of Sheffield, and on the work of Francis Thompson, the early builder of Watt and Newcomen Engines

Our Facebook page has great popularity, with new posts about our activities added every few weeks, and the NEDIAS Newsletter has continued its 12 page format highlighting matters of importance in local heritage and with attractive articles on industrial history penned by and for the membership to keep all up to date.

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 2018.**