North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

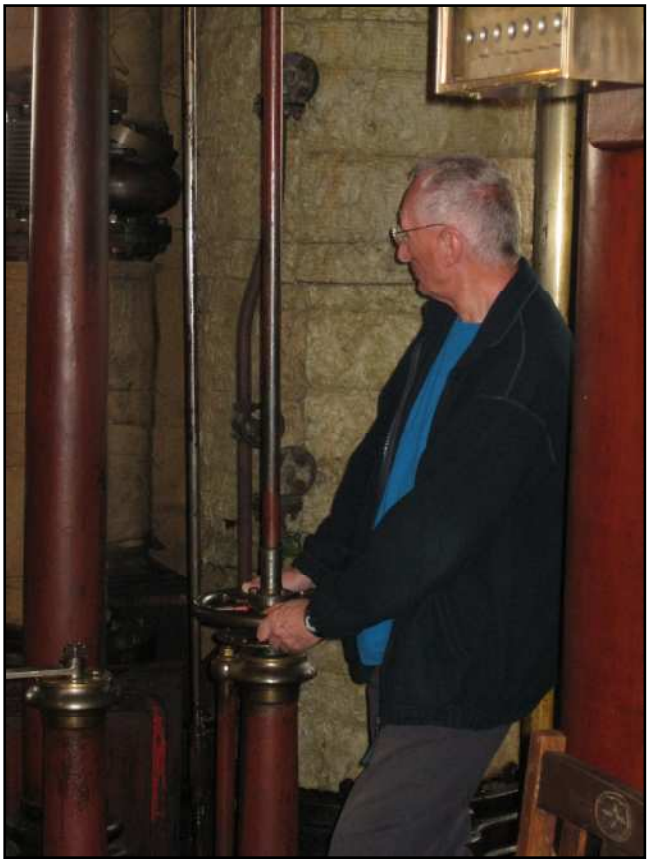
NEDIAS Newsletter No. 36 – November 2009

Price: £1.00 (Free to Members)

Contents:

The NEDIAS Visit to Claymills Victorian Pumping Station

NEDIAS were really privileged to visit Clay Mills on a "steaming" day in September on a tour arranged by David Palmer, and were admirably and very knowledgeably shown around the site by guides Steve and Roy. Clay Mills is an outstanding Victorian industrial monument. There are four beam engines by Gimson of Leicester 1885, five Lancashire Boilers 1936-1937, an early 20th Century generator house, Victorian workshop & blacksmith's forge, and numerous other small engines & artefacts.



The Claymills Pumping Engines Trust was incorporated in 1993 to promote and preserve for the benefit of the public the nineteenth century Claymills Pumping Station complex including all buildings, engines and equipment at Meadow Lane, Stretton, Burton on Trent. The site was handed over by Severn Trent Water in September 1993 and the group formed a charitable trust to put the group on an official

LEFT: David Palmer cracks a valve to start the beam engine

footing. From October 1993 there have been regular on site working parties, and the NEDIAS visitors can vouch for the tremendous amount of hard work which has been carried out on site by volunteers. Steam was at last raised again in boiler five during December 1998 and 'C' engine was first run again in May 2000. 'D' engine followed a year later.

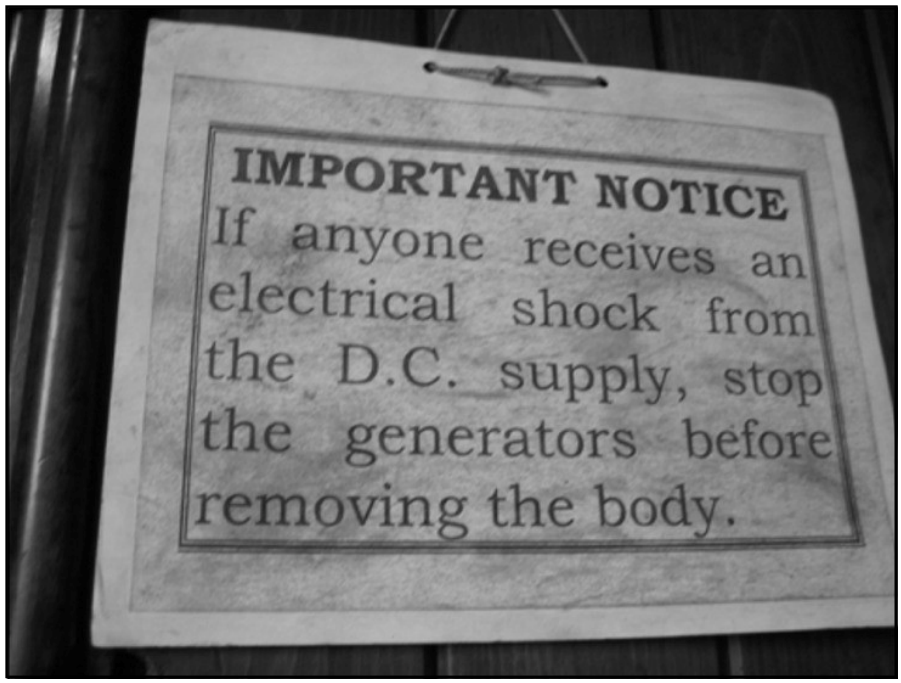
The main pumping plant at Claymills consists of four Wolf compound, rotative, beam pumping engines, arranged in mirror image pairs, in two separate engine houses, with a central boiler house and chimney. The engines were built in 1885 by Gimson and Company of Leicester.

For each, the high pressure cylinder is 24 inch bore by 6 feet stroke and the low pressure cylinder is 38 inch bore by 8 feet stroke. Steam is distributed by means of double beat 'Cornish' valves, mounted in upper and lower valve chests. These are actuated from an underfloor camshaft and are worked manually during starting. The camshaft is driven from the crankshaft by means of three pairs of bevel gears; the Watt type governor is also driven from a point in this gear train. The cylinders act on one end of the beam, via Watt's parallel motion. The beam itself is of an interesting box section construction; consisting of wrought iron plates and angles, joined together by rivets. The beam is 26 feet 4 inches between end centres, 4 feet deep at the centre, weighs 13 tons and is carried on 12 inch diameter bearings.

The rather plain connecting rod drives on to a crank with a radius of 4 feet, mounted on a 12 inch diameter crankshaft. This latter carries a flywheel with a most impressive diameter of 24 feet and weighing in at 24 tons. This flywheel merely served to maintain smooth rotary motion; the engine actuated a pair of reciprocating ram pumps. These are each of 21 inch bore by 6 feet stroke. The crank-half pump is connected to the beam, via the earlier form of Watt's parallel motion, whilst the engine-half pump is directly connected to a tail rod from the HP piston.

The engines were normally run in pairs, never all together, although a third engine was occasionally employed during times of heavy load. These operated at about 10 rpm and two engines had a combined pumping rate of 5.5 million gallons per day. Each engine house contains a single cylinder horizontal air compressing engine, for charging the air vessels (anti surge vessels) on the pump discharge mains. At a later date, horizontal single cylinder barring engines were added (one for each pair of engines). In the above photo, David Palmer can be seen cracking open valve as part of the complicated process to start one of the restored beam engines. Steam was supplied at 80 psi, by a range of five Lancashire boilers. These are fitted with Green's economisers and Meldrum's mechanical stokers. There is one horizontal single cylinder, rotative boiler feed pump by Buxton and Thornley of Burton on Trent and a vertical by Halls. The boilers also supplied steam to over thirty auxiliary engines. Most of these survive on, and off, the site. Three of these are housed in a more modern block behind the engine house, including a horizontal single cylinder engine, by Buxton and Thornley, dating from 1889, and an inverted vertical duplex engine, built at Claymills circa 1906.

The NEDIAS party spent almost three hours on the tour, even investigating the "bath house", a small room with sunken trough heated by live steam, and providing a place where operatives could take a regular bath, a real necessity given the mainly brewery effluent handled by the plant. Interestingly, locals were permitted to use the same facilities on a weekly basis, a real advantage to the late Victorian families living in nearby terraces.



Of course, we needed to repair to a local pub for lunch, to sample the delights of Bass, with fish and chips. All in all, an excellent day!

It has been suggested that with the sights and sounds of a pumping station still fresh in the memory, that we should visit Papplewick Pumping Station in the springtime. Comments welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

NEDIAS Lecture Programme, 2009 / 2010

Venue: **Friends' Meeting House, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield @ 7:30pm**

9 November 2009	**Peter Greaves:** ***"Why the Lead Miners looked towards Chesterfield"***
14 December 2009	**Christmas Meeting:** ***A seasonal mix of members' presentations and mince pies***
11 January 2010	**Patrick Morriss:** ***"The Cromford Canal"***
8 February 2010	**Raye Battye:** ***"Gannister Mining in the Sheffield Area"***

Other Diary Dates

16 November 2009	**Neville Flavell:** ***In the shadow of water power: Sheffield's earliest rotative steam engines.*** **SYIHS lecture 7:30 pm. Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield.**
26 November 2009	**Philip Cousins:** ***"Through Brimington by Canal and Railway".*** **Brimington & Tapton LHG; 7:30pm. St Michael's Church Hall, Church Street, Brimington.**
30 November 2009	**Maurice Williams:** ***"The Wire Mills of Thurgoland",*** **SYIHS lecture, 7:00pm. Lecture Room, Central Library, Shambles St., Barnsley.**
14 December 2009	**Jim Nicholson:** ***Chestermans – makers of measuring tools.*** **SYIHS lecture 7:30 pm. Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield.**
15 January 2010	**Julian Burgess:** ***"Lumsdale".*** **Holymoorside & District History Soc. Village Hall, 7:30pm. Admission £1.50.**
15 February 2010	**Alan Hardman:** ***Dannemora and more: exploring the history of Swedish iron and steel.*** **SYIHS lecture 7:30 pm. Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield.**
20 February 2010	**Derek Bayliss:** ***"Wortley Top Forge and early Ironmaking in South Yorkshire."*** **SYIHS/ Rotherham History Society lecture, 10:30am. Rotherham Central Library**
26 February 2010	**Dr Trevor Brighton:** ***"Ashford's Marble Industry."*** **DAS, St Mary's Church Hall, Darley Lane, Derby at 7:30pm.**
22 March 2010	**David Hey:** ***"Penistone: from market town to industrial town."*** **SYIHS lecture, 7:00pm. Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley**
23 March 2010	**Dr. James Symonds:** ***Uncovering Sheffield's metallurgical past.*** **The nineteenth Dr. Kenneth Barraclough Memorial Lecture. Joint Meeting with the SMEA. 5:30pm for 6:00pm at the Holiday Inn, Royal Victoria Hotel.**

Mesters, Masters and Noble Enterprise

Derek Grindell

The 2009/2010 meetings programme started in fine style on the 14th September with a talk by Dr. Joan Unwin, Archivist to the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire. Explaining how the Company was established and later evolved, she went on to discuss the Freemen's marks, the history of the Cutler's Hall, its architectural history, its collections of silver, cutlery, paintings, sculptures and furniture and the extent of its remarkable archive. The constraints of time precluded coverage of further aspects but Dr. Unwin was able to draw the attention of the meeting to *Mester to Masters A History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire* edited by Clyde Binfield and David Hey (pub. OUP 1997). This book, published to celebrate the passing of seven hundred years since the first documentary evidence of a Sheffield cutler, must surely be the first point of reference for those seeking a definitive account of the Company and Sheffield's first steps along the road to large scale industrialisation.

Fig 1: The Midlands in the 8th Century AD

In addition to Robert the Cutler's tax return of 1297, the area's association with knives is enshrined in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Reeve's Tale* of the late 14th century in which the Miller of Trumpington carries a '*Sheffield thwittel*'. John Leyland (1506-52), the antiquary, noted the existence of '*…many smithes and cuttlars in Hallamshire*' in 1540 and in 1554 two knife makers, William Elles and John White, feeling the need to protect their trade, registered their marks in the manorial court. Within fourteen years registrations had increased to around sixty but it was not until 1624 that the "Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire" was established by an Act of Parliament. The term 'Company' applied solely to the thirty three members, whose authority was restricted to their trade. Sheffield's local governance was administered through the manorial court, the town trust, church burgesses and parish officers. Oddly, Sheffield acquired a Town Council, Town Clerk and Mayor only in 1843.

The Act of 1624 ensured the preservation of the name of Hallamshire, a district centred on Sheffield Castle, which had been the southernmost shire of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria. Subsequently, under Norman lords, it included the parishes of Sheffield, Ecclesfield and the chapelry of Bradfield, encompassing an area of almost 72,000 acres even before the incorporation of Handsworth.

The desire of the Derbyshire cutlers to be associated with the men of Hallamshire, expressed a decade earlier, was reflected in the description of the Act as being '*for the good Order and Government of the Makers of Knives, Sickles, Shears, Scissors, and other Cutlery Wares in Hallamshire, in the County of York, and the Parts near adjoining.*' The phrase '*Parts near adjoining*' was deemed to include places within six miles of the extensive border, which thereby extended the Cutler's writ not only to Penistone, Barnsley, Swinton, Dinnington, Killamarsh, Barlborough, Staveley, Whittington and Holmesfield but also to Stoney Middleton, Eyam, Castleton and Edale in the Peak District.

In the Middle Ages cutlery was manufactured in numerous towns across the country. Thaxted in Essex and Salisbury were significant competitors but lacked not only iron and coal deposits but the availability of water power. In contrast, Hallamshire was blessed with outcrops of ironstone and coal in the parishes of Sheffield and Ecclesfield and the steep Pennine slopes ensured that the local rivers could be dammed at numerous locations. The Don, Sheaf, Porter and Rivelin alone had forty nine such sites by 1660 and a further forty one by 1740. The extent to which Hallamshire's water had been harnessed to power industrial production was unrivalled in Britain and the further expansion of the trade was greatly facilitated by the ease with which existing sites could be readily extended at low cost. In Elizabethan times the knives were known as 'Hallamshire cutts' and the area had already gained a reputation for its products, which were aimed at a mass

market and sold across the country by peripatetic dealers.

Despite Hallamshire's favourable topography and the ready availability of wood, coal and ironstone, the growth of its cutlery and allied trades and the improvements in the quality of its products in the late 16th century were neither inevitable nor accidents of fortune. In Chapter 1 of *Mesters to Masters*, Professor Hey credits George Talbot, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, with influencing and encouraging the growth of an industrial base within the shire. Talbot succeeded to the Earldom in 1560, was elected a Knight of the Garter in 1561 and appointed Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire in 1565 at a time when the office was no sinecure and the holder was required to maintain order in his domain in the name of the monarch. William Camden in his *Annals of the Reign of Elizabeth I to 1588* (1615) records Talbot's earlier participation in an invasion of Scotland and, in 1557, with '*command of 500 horse*', his despatch to Alnwick to relieve the Earl of Northumberland. Following the death of his first wife, a daughter of the Earl of Rutland, he fell under the spell of Bess of Hardwick in what was later described as an '*evil hour*'. They married early in 1568 and in December of the same year, whilst attending court, Elizabeth entrusted him with the charge of Mary Queen of Scots and awarded him an annual grant of £2000. This appears to have been a shrewd stratagem on Elizabeth's part since she adjudged Talbot to be both honest and loyal. Moreover, his reputation as 'half catholic' would offer a degree of reassurance to Mary and his wealth and property would be needed to supplement the inadequate grant and provide a choice of locations for her imprisonment. Mary was accustomed to a large retinue and attempts to engineer her escape posed a very real threat to her captor. Talbot's onerous responsibility as a gaoler dragged on for sixteen years and relations with his wife, strained since 1577, continued to deteriorate despite interventions by the Queen. Given his accountability to the monarch it is a source of wonder that he had the time to devote to the stewardship of his land holdings but it may have been an awareness of the pressing need to maximise the profitability of his estates that led him to seek a novel solution.

George Talbot recruited ironworkers of French descent from Kent and Sussex to establish charcoal blast furnaces and water-powered forges on his South Yorkshire estates. This was not an isolated example of aristocratic endeavour. In *Elizabethan Keswick* by W. G. Collingwood (pub. by C&WA and AS in 1912) the

Figure 2: Grindstones at Norton - a reminder of an industrial past

author relates how The Company of Mines Royal was founded in 1564 following repeated attempts to persuade German experts to manage English metal working sites. An indenture was made by Elizabeth I on the one part, and Thomas Thurland and Daniel Hechstetter on the other, by which they were empowered to *dig, try, roast, and melt all manner of mines of mines and "ures" of gold, silver, copper, and quicksilver, in the counties of York, Lancaster, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucester, and Worcester, and in Wales*. The Queen was to have one-tenth of native gold and silver, one-tenth of gold and silver ore holding 8lbs weight in the cwt….also rights over tin and lead. The Earls of Pembroke and Leicester together with Lord Burghley featured on the extensive list of shareholders.

In Chapter 5 of his *Packmen, Carriers & Packhorse Roads* (pub. Landmark Publishing Ltd. 2001), Professor Hey refers to Bawtry's likely origins as a Roman river port. The existence of a late Anglo-Saxon settlement at Bawtry, adjoining the wharf by the river Idle, was confirmed in 1990-91 and it was described as a port in the Hundred Rolls of 1276. Lead was shipped down the Idle in the reign of Edward II (1307-27) and a document of 1337 refers to wool exports from Nottinghamshire via Bawtry to Hull and Dordrecht. The sixth Earl leased the manor of Bawtry from the Crown and, seeking to monopolise the lead trade, he built a warehouse there for the lead he exported directly to London and Hamburg much to the chagrin of Hull's merchants. William Dickenson, his steward, recorded the receipt of six barrels of Spanish '*steele*' in 1574. Imports of steel from Bilbao enabled Hallamshire's cutlers to improve the quality of their cutting edges and, by the 17th century, steel was being brought to Sheffield from Cologne via the Baltic and Gdansk and later from Sweden.

Through the intervention of the Queen, George Talbot appears to have reached some form of accommodation with his wife but his remaining years were spent not at Hardwick but on his estates. He died on the 18th November 1590 at Sheffield Castle and his funeral was said to have been witnessed by a crowd of 20,000. His son, Gilbert, maintained the family's watchful eye over the local trades, which remained under the guardianship of the manorial court. In 1614 a book was acquired to record the marks of 182 cutlers Hallamshire cutlers and a further 17 Derbyshire cutlers were enrolled as members. A jury of 16 cutlers, in existence since 1590, was authorised to issue new marks although any fines received continued to be passed on to the manorial lord. On Gilbert's death in 1616, the lordship of Hallamshire passed to his son in law, Thomas Howard, who had no affinity with Sheffield, preferring first Worksop and then Arundel. The cutlers, without a noble patron, were obliged to safeguard their own interests, which eventually they did through the aforementioned Act of 1624.

Thirty five scythesmiths, who shared only eight family names, joined the Cutler's Company in 1681. They were from Derbyshire with three from Eckington, one from Whittington and the remainder from farmsteads and other dwellings in the Norton area, which had been a centre for the trade since at least the 16th century. Norton scythes were used across Yorkshire and the north east as well as Scotland. The south of England was served by manufacturers located south-west of Birmingham.

In 1814 the powers of the Cutler's Company to grant marks were attenuated by removing the element of compulsion but the right to grant them remained and they were legally binding if a craftsman elected to make an application. The Trade Mark Act of 1875, followed by further legislation in 1883, created a new Register of Trade Marks. This record included the contents of the Corporate Register of the Cutler's Company thereby forming a Sub-Register of Trade Marks within Hallamshire, which survived until the end of the 20th century. An Act of 1888 extended the jurisdiction of the Company to embrace all metals and items made wholly or partly of metal.

Celebration and socialising have always been at the heart of the Company's fellowship and the tradition is maintained with the three Feasts. The Hallamshire Feast is a subscription dinner at which Freemen can entertain friends and customers in the splendour of the Cutler's Hall whilst the Cutler's Feast marks the high point of the Master Cutler's year.

The Forfeit Feast, held in July, is partly funded by fines imposed on Members for non-attendance at meetings and has its origins in the early 18th century. In modern times it has been the custom for guests to visit important works in Sheffield on the following day. The 304th Master Cutler was Mr. Alan J. Grant, Managing Director of Thos. Firth & John Brown Ltd. Seventy years ago, on the 5th July 1939, there were few more apposite choices of venue than the company's Atlas & Norfolk Works where machinery for the *Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and HMS Hood* had been forged under the firm's 6,000 ton press. Associated companies at that time included John Brown & Co. (Clydebank), Firth-Vickers Stainless Steels Ltd., The Firth-Derihon Stampings Ltd., Cravens Railway Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd., Dalton Main Collieries Ltd.,

Markham & Co. Ltd., Westland Aircraft Ltd., The Firth-Sterling Steel Co. (Pittsburgh, USA) and the Scunthorpe Steelworks.

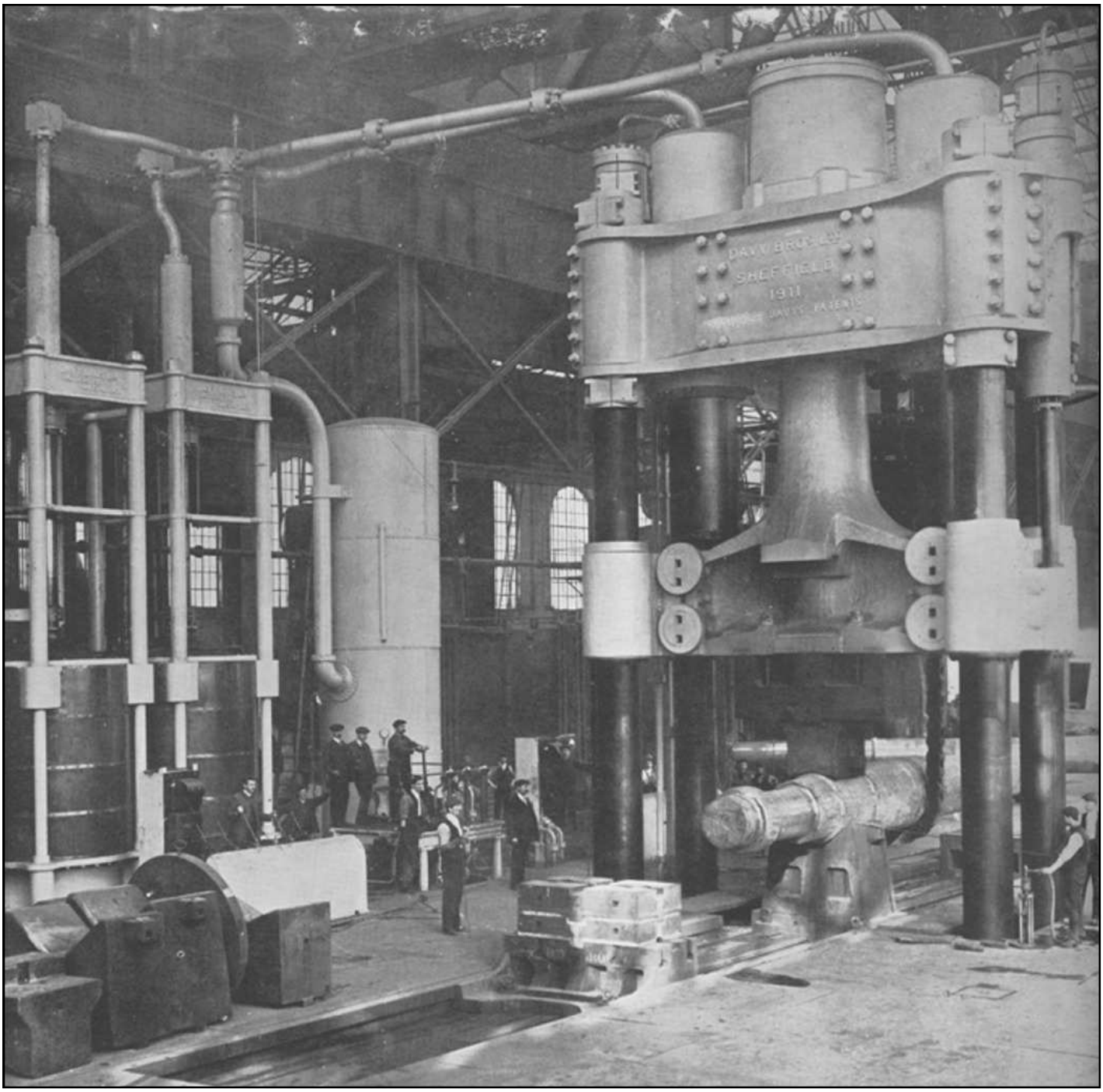


Figure 3: Firth Brown's 6,000 ton press already harnessed to the war effort.

Latest News from Calver Weir

Calver Weir is a Grade 2 Listed structure which was built in the 19th century to provide water to power cotton spinning at Calver Mill, which was built in 1778 under licence from Richard Arkwright and is an upstream extension of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The weir is listed in the English Heritage "Building at Risk" register, and in severe need of urgent attention.

A recent award of £1.25m by the Heritage Lottery Fund will enable the full restoration of the weir to proceed The work is due to commence in October 2010.

The Calver Weir Restoration Project (CWRP) was formed with the aim of restoring Calver Weir and conserving significant ecological features such as Calver Marshes and important Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats, which have been created by the higher water levels maintained by the Weir.

Calver Weir is important in its own right but needs to be viewed in the context of the whole area to appreciate its full heritage significance. The project therefore also provides protection for sites built in conjunction with the Weir, such as The Shuttle House, Goit, the water wheel at Calver Mill, the former Mill School and other cultural and natural heritage features in the villages of Curbar, Calver, Froggatt and Stoney Middleton.

The Weir has undergone a number of major repairs over the years, but its structure is now seriously damaged and parts of the cross section have been swept away increasing the prospect of further breaches and threatening its stability. If Calver Weir collapsed, water levels would drop by 3.5 metres, severely limiting the water to a narrow channel in the middle of the river and eventually causing the riverbanks to disintegrate; lower water levels would impair the workings of important heritage sites and cause the devastation of important ecological areas and wildlife habitats.

Pleasley Pit to Miners Hill

Cliff Lea

Now that the coal industry has all but disappeared from the area, we sometimes need to remind ourselves of the enormous contribution this industry made to the fabric of the communities in this area. With this in mind, on a recent ramble starting from Pleasley I took the now disused trackway towards Teversal, sweeping round to "Miners Hill". Now called Teversal Trail, wildlife abounds in an area which at one time was a hive of industrial activity, with an absolute maze of branch and colliery lines in all directions. My main destination was Miners Hill.

Miners Hill was previously the site of Silverhill Colliery, but a loop of tracks takes us from the trail, winding round to the summit. This is said to be the highest point in Nottinghamshire, and I can certainly vouch for the fact that you can see for many miles in all directions, with wonderful views northwards to Hardwick Hall and Bolsover Castle, westwards to the ridge at Hardstoft, and eastwards across flat Nottinghamshire. Mercifully the motorway is in a dip, so considerably reducing the intrusion and noise.

On the summit is a bronze sculpture by Anthony Dufort, completed in 2005. The larger than life bronze is called "Testing for Gas" and shows a crouching miner and Davy Lamp. The plaque lists all 65 pits from the Nottinghamshire group, all of which of course now are closed, but showing their individual dates from opening to closure, and I must say, the bronze is a fitting tribute to the many generations involved. I suspect many are totally unaware of this poignant reminder: maybe NEDIAS could make the pilgrimage, combining it with a visit to see the latest preservation work at Pleasley.

The map and photos on the opposite page show some of the sights of the chameleon-like changes in the area.

But see also my comments on the last page of this Newsletter- there is a sting in the tail, depending on your politics!


This is the site of
Silverhill Colliery
1875 - 1992


Norcliffe Wood
Bailey Farm
Pleasleyhill Farm
Newbound Farm
Hill Farm
Ladywell
Teversal
Manor Farm
Teversal Manor
Coppy Wood
Fackley
Fackley Farm
Works

I. A. News and Notes

South Yorkshire Archaeology Day, Saturday 21 November 2009

The next South Yorkshire Archaeology Day will be held at the Showroom Cinema on Saturday 21st November 2009. Amongst the 8 lectures, are presentations on Wortley Top Forge, and on a medieval tannery at Tickhill. Cost is £10, and for more details phone 0114 273 4223 or see

http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning-and-city-development/urban-design--conservation/archaeology/arch-day

Derbyshire Archaeology Day, Saturday 16 January 2010

Meanwhile, the annual Derbyshire Archaeology Day at the Chesterfield Pomegranate Theatre will be held on Saturday 16 January 2010. So far the Editor has not seen the programme, but usually the presentations include the odd item on industrial or transport topics. However, I do know the day will include presentations on this summer's amazing excavations of the medieval hill fort near Monsal Dale where Mesolithic chert tools and pottery were discovered – this community dig was organised by the Longstone Local History Society, and surprising finds including 2000 year old skeletons were reported in the press at the time.

The Pomegranate is almost completely filled by delegates each year, and the usual £10 registration is excellent value to keep abreast of activities in the County.

Call for articles – Next NEDIAS Journal

Are you currently writing up details of your research? We are approaching the next print run for NEDIAS Journal, and the Committee is currently seeking funding for print costs. No time like the present to get your article in print – please call Cliff on 01246 234212.

EMIAC 79 - The Swannington Incline

The next EMIAC Heritage Day, titled ***"Swanning Around Swannington"*** will be on Saturday 22nd May 2010, and is being hosted by the Leicestershire Industrial History Society at Swannington. The main focus will be on the Swannington Incline, and may be an interesting comparison with those railway inclines closer to home.

Full details and a booking form can be downloaded from the web site: http://www.lihs.org.uk/emiacs.html or Tel 0116 291 9706

NEDIAS Committee feel that we should take a more active part on some future EMIAC heritage day. Some members will recall that we assisted DAS some years ago, when an earlier EMIAC conference was hosted in Derby, and we organised one or two site visits to our area for the delegates. If you have any thoughts on the subject, or would like to have some involvement, please talk to David Palmer or Cliff Lea.

ARCUS

The University of Sheffield announced some time ago that cut backs in the construction industry due to current market conditions mean that it can no longer sustain ARCUS, the Archaeology Department's consultancy wing.

As of end October 2009, ARCUS ceased to operate as part of the Department and the University. ARCUS staff have prioritised existing contracts and made transitional arrangements so that they can offer archaeological and cultural heritage services in the future.

The name of ARCUS has been a major force in the area for many years and it's to be hoped that their prestigious name and reputation are somehow maintained.

A Timely Reminder

It's that time of the year again - please note that subs become due at the end of the year, and a renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Christmas Meeting, Monday 14 December

It's the time of the year again when a few NEDIAS committee bake Mince Pies, and members have their opportunity to mention topics of their own, to bring along a few slides, show items from your own brick or pottery collections, or slides from their own recent visits to sites near and far, maybe slides which you took at Goole or Clay Mills, or from other visits you've made. If you'd like to bring long a few slides or have a subject to share, please call Cliff on 234212, so that we can plan and fit the evening together.

New Award for Crich

The Crich Tramway Village has just received yet another award - it has received the "Red Wheel" from the Transport Trust. The plaque was unveiled in August by Sir Robert McAlpine, President of the Transport Trust, a long-standing national charity and established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of all forms of Britain's transport heritage. Although the new "Red Wheel" scheme will be unrolled (so to speak!) nationwide, this is the very first of this new award, and isn't it good to see it unveiled for the first time in Derbyshire, a county rich in transport heritage.

Photo: The award unveiling (by courtesy of Crich Tramway Village)

….. and Finally …

… Anthony Dufort, sculptor

Cliff Lea

Having been to see the wonderful bronze at Miners Hill, a tremendous tribute to a now almost dead industry, but particularly to countless numbers of miners, I idly did a little background reading into the sculptor, and uncovered an interesting tale.

Back in 2002, a marble sculpture of Margaret Thatcher was beheaded by a man, who walked into Parliament and wielded a cricket bat with devastating effect. Some members may recall the incident, which was widely reported at the time.

It was some years later that a replacement in bronze was commissioned, and this bronze of Baroness Thatcher now stands opposite a statue of Churchill at Westminster.

However, I suspect that many of those who had been involved in the local pits around Silverhill and Teversal may not be aware that it was the very talented sculptor who made such a fine job of the tribute on Miners Hill ….. **who just a year of so later completed the Thatcher bronze.**

"Yes, but not in the South."

Down here it was still the England I had known in my childhood: the railway cuttings smothered in wild flowers … the red buses, the blue policeman – all sleeping the deep, deep sleep of England, from which I sometimes fear that we shall never wake till we are jerked out of it by the roar of bombs.

George Orwell 1903-50, English Novelist

NEDIAS Committee:

Chairman and publications – Cliff Lea; **Vice-Chairman** – Derek Grindell; **Secretary** – Patricia Pick; **Treasurer** – Pamela Alton; **Membership Secretary** – Jean Heathcote; **Lecture Meetings and Visits Co-ordinator** – Brian Dick; **Archivist** – Pete Wilson; **Committee Members** – Diana Wilmot, David Hart, Les Mather, David Palmer.

Published by: North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society.

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

LOTTERY FUNDED

Printed at St Michael& All Angels, Brimington ☎ 01246 470533