



# North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

## Chairman's Annual Report for 2022.

Once again, NEDIAS ran a very full programme of talks, activities and visits in 2022, balancing our subjects to cover as many aspects of industrial heritage as possible.

Talks kicked off in the frosts of January with an very appropriate talk from Ted Hancock on the problems of snows during the winter of 1947 on the railways. A great presentation by Neville Buckle of the Pleasley Pit Trust followed, others included talks from Chris Stone on the construction of Matlock Cable Car, Terry Bradley on the old Union Workhouse, its morphing to Scarsdale Hospital and eventual inclusion in the NHS. Mike Higginbottom gave a great talk at the David Wilmot Memorial Lecture on many of the features of the architecture, design construction and restoration of St Pancras Station. Autumn commenced with a talk by Peter Dunkersley on the Strutts and Belper. We had two wonderful railway talks the first from Richard Booth on the Ashover Light Railway past, present and future, and the second from Eric Boulton on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. The year finished in traditional pattern with mince pies and a light hearted talk on the Arkwright family

Following the archaeology team's (A-Team's) excavation of the stone sawing mill at Wingerworth of some years ago, activity has started this year to draw all the copious information and findings together with view to publishing a paper on the subject in an archaeology journal.

Jamie Mather continues to make sure our Facebook page is lively and inviting, with fresh regular posts attracting a loyal following. The NEDIAS page currently has 575 followers. Members are of course free to, and encouraged to, add their own industrial heritage posts. I'm pleased to add that Mark Dawson has taken over up-date etc. of the NEDIAS website – where members can find amongst a host of info, all back numbers of NEDIAS Newsletter right back to issue no 1 – a Newsletter which continues to shine under our editor Doug Spencer.who took over last year.

We had a number of well-attended visits during the year. These included a lead mining tour in and around Winster starting (and wonderfully ending for a pint ) at the Miners Standard, when we saw and peered down/into many of visible lead industry remains led by Tony Wood – we hope Tony will lead a similar walk to view the lead mining history of Alport area in 2023. We toured Bennerley Viaduct. We had a guided town centre tour of old Bolsover. One splendid Saturday once again Gordon Parkinson guided us around Wortley Top Forge. Another highlight was our visit to see progress on the work at Wingfield Station with the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust.

Following another 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 2023.**