



SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.9.

JANUARY 1976

OBITUARY

It is with very great regret that the Society has to record the death at Brighton of George Philip Burstow, F.S.A. on the 9th November 1975, in his 65th year. When our Society was formed in 1967 Philip Burstow became our founder chairman and played a notable role in guiding our early activities into their specialised fields as distinct from what he loved to refer to as the 'dirt archaeology' of the Sussex Archaeological Society and of which latter he was a most distinguished member.

Born in December 1910, Burstow spent almost the whole of his life in the service of Brighton College, first as a scholar, then as a student teacher, during which time he secured an external degree from London University and finally as deputy headmaster of the Junior College from which he retired due to ill health early in 1975.

Archaeology formed an abiding interest all his life to the extent that both county and national circles have been made richer by his contributions and are now much the poorer for his passing. We are in double debt to this work since immediately on relinquishing the chairmanship of our Society, Burstow undertook the office of Honorary Treasurer as well as being compiler of the newsletter index.

To know this quiet but very direct personality has been one of the worthwhile experiences of life and behind the somewhat retiring disposition, one was soon to be aware of the drive being placed on those matters which he held to be significant particularly where, as so often was the case, the opportunity arose to give encouragement to younger members. The pedantry which all too frequently emerges in archaeological matters was totally absent from this kindly friend who questioned keenly at all times but never criticised. We miss him greatly.

Wilfrid Beswick.

S.I.A.S. NEWS

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Hartle Hall, Brighton on 15th November 1975. Minutes of the meeting are being circulated to members with this Newsletter.

Treasurer The office of Treasurer, rendered vacant by the sudden death of G.P. Burstow, has been filled by T.J. Goode, who kindly agreed to take on the job. This should not be too onerous if all members will pay their subscriptions on the due date, April 1st., or make out a Bankers Order for this. Mr. Goode's address is; "Gorse", 30, St. Peter's Road, Seaford.

Programme Secretary H.A. Gordon has found it necessary, for health reasons, to resign from the office of Programme Secretary. He has done sterling work in organising our visits in the summer and his Notes on the various places we

have visited are most valuable and have involved a considerable amount of research. All members who have taken part in these visits are most grateful to him for making them so enjoyable and informative. Thank you Hugh. If any member would like to take on the job of organising our summer visits, the General Secretary would be very glad to hear from him or her.

Life Members At the A.G.M. on 15th November a resolution was adopted to allow the admission of Life Members, at a single lump-sum subscription of 15 times the annual subscription in force at the time of admission.

Address List A new address list of members is enclosed. Any new members who have not a copy of the map attached to the old list may apply for one to the General Secretary.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Sutton Hall The old water pump at Sutton Hall was dismantled and removed by a working party on Sunday 7th December. Fortunately the day was fine, as most of the work was carried out in a foot or more of mud and water. We are most grateful to the owner, Mr. A.W. Sciater of Broomlye Farm, Newick, who gave us permission to remove the pump, and to his farm manager Mr. P.F.H. Cumberlege of Vuggles Farm, Newick, who has promised to help us transport the machinery, including the water wheel, up to the road as soon as conditions permit a tractor to get to the site of the pump.

Coultershaw Mill Water Pump The machinery was cleaned externally by a large working party on 27th September and an assessment made of the work necessary to restore the pump to working order. All the woodwork on the breast-shot water wheel and the sluice gate will need replacing but the machinery seems to be generally in good condition, though it will need stripping down and thoroughly cleaning. It was found possible to bar the wheel round, proving that the bearings and pump pistons are free and have not seized up. A rough check on the water levels showed that there was not much head available above the breast-sill and the water flow was very small. Since then, Mr. Taylor, the engineering Clerk of Works on the Leconfield Estate at Petworth, has cleared a lot of the rubbish away and the water flow is now much more healthy. He has also exposed the out-board bearing of the wheel-shaft, which was completely buried, and this was found to be intact and in fairly good condition. It is estimated that about £500 will be needed for the restoration of the machinery, £300 of which is for timber. Efforts are being made to raise this sum. A padlock has now been placed on the window grille which gives access to the machinery. Anyone wishing to visit the site should apply for the key to the W. Sussex Secretary or the General Secretary.

Old Barns One of our members, Peter Longley, is anxious to hear of any old barns, threatened with demolition, which he could dismantle and re-erect on his farm. Any members knowing of suitable barns should get in touch with him at: James Longley & Co. Ltd., East Park, Crawley. Tel: Crawley (0293) 21221.

LECTURES, COURSES AND CONFERENCES

The Royal Military Canal. Lecture by Barry Funnel to the Hastings Area Archaeology Research Group at the Hastings Library Extension on 28th January at 7.30 p.m. All S.I.A. S. members are welcome.

Restoration of Bateman's Watermill. Public Lecture by A.J. Haselfoot at the Hastings Library Extension on 6th February at 7.30 p.m. The lecture is also being given to the Lewes Archaeological Group at Southover Grange, Lewes, on 23rd January at 8.00 p.m.

The Industrial Archaeology of N.W. Sussex. Lecture by J.V.C. Mitchell to a joint meeting of the Chichester Museum Society and the S.I.A.S. at the Chichester Museum, Little London, Chichester on 2nd March at 7.30 p.m.

Industrial Archaeology. A course of 10 lectures at the Bishop Otter College Chichester on Monday evenings at 7.30 p.m. commencing on Monday 12th January. The subjects include wealden iron, watermills, windmills, turnpikes, brick-making, canals, railways and the old salt industry. The course is arranged in conjunction with the W.E.A. and the Extra-mural Studies Department of Southampton University and details may be obtained from A.G. Allnutt, Chichester 86044.

Rural Community History. The Annual Conference of the Local History Committee of the Sussex Rural Community Council will be held on Saturday 27th March at Sussex University. Three or four papers on the above subject will be presented.

Industrial Tour in Scotland, 3rd-10th April 1976. Organised by the Extra-mural Departments of the Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee and visiting sites of industrial archaeological interest in East Lothian, Peebleshire, Argyllshire, Perthshire as well as Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee. Fee £65.00. Application forms and details from Mr. A.J. Cooke, Department of Extra-mural Education, The University, Nethergate, Dundee, DD1 4HN.

Electrical Development in the North-east, 2nd-4th July 1976. A week-end conference organised by the History of Technology Group of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and comprising lectures and visits in the Newcastle and Billingham area with accommodation at the Van-Mildert College, University of Durham. Overall fee £27.00 approx. (with a reduction for applications before 1st February). Details and application forms from Dr. P. Strange, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Nottingham, Nottingham.

Association for Industrial Archaeology. Members will be interested to know that the Annual Conference for the Association for Industrial Archaeology will be held at Southampton University in September 1976. Our Society is arranging a paper on "Industrial Archaeology in Sussex". Any notes on this subject or slides to illustrate it will be gladly received by the General Secretary. Application Forms for joining the A.I.A. can be obtained from the General Secretary.

SHORT NOTES

West Sussex County Council. After the formal business of the Annual General Meeting, Mr. F. Aldsworth, the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer gave an illustrated talk on the work for which he is responsible. He described the way in which man has, over the centuries, changed the landscape in both country and urban areas, often inadvertently destroying features of high archaeological interest. Modern planning procedures, however, frequently give opportunities of surveying and possibly excavating, a site prior to or during its 'development'; aerial photography can often give clues as to what might be expected in a given area. Success in such investigations depends, of course, on obtaining more observers and field workers together with adequate records, possibly stored in a computer system to give ready retrieval. Mr. Aldsworth mentioned particularly the Field Guide prepared by our Society (Issue No.4, 1972, of Sussex Industrial History) as being the most valuable, if not the only, record of Industrial Archaeology sites in Sussex.

Dinorwic. Also after the A.G.M. the film 'Craftsmen of Dinorwic' was shown (Dept. of Environment - 20 min. duration). Although the slate quarries and workshops at Dinorwic, N. Wales, now constitute a museum, many of the employees still live in the neighbourhood and had returned to the quarries to illustrate their skills on this instructive and most enjoyable film.

Southern Television (ITV) is hoping to make a number of programmes early this year on the old ways of life in Southern England. The idea is to find people who can remember and talk about the old crafts and industries in which they worked before modern technology put an end to so much of the old ways of rural life.

The programme would be in the form of dramatised documentaries and the producer is anxious to collect reminiscences and stories of the old ways of life (say between the 1880's and 1940's), preferably with an element of drama in them. It is possible that many members may have suitable information of this sort, in the form of stories or records of conversations, or may know of old craftsmen who could be persuaded to relate or record some of their experiences.

If any member thinks he has, or could obtain, suitable information of this sort, he should get in touch with the General Secretary or the W. Sussex Secretary as soon as possible so that the necessary contact with Southern Television can be arranged.

Old Paper Mill. Hayles Mill, near Maidstone, is one of the last paper mills still making hand-made paper; though it is no longer water-driven, the wheel still turns and there is some very interesting machinery. They are having two open days in April, primarily for their own customers of course, but they have very kindly allowed us to bring a small party, say 6-8, of our members to one of the open days, which will be week-days, when the various processes will be demonstrated. It will be appreciated that such open days must interfere with production and we are therefore asked to keep our numbers down. If any members would like to go on such a visit they should get in touch with the General Secretary as soon as possible for further details.

Brighton Interceptor Sewer and Outfall. It is hoped to arrange a visit one evening this summer to this scheme which was built by Hawkshaw about 1880 and is a major civil engineering and historic work. It should prove a most interesting visit, and being in the evening, should be convenient for most members. Details of the visit will be given in the April Newsletter.

Museum Project. The East Grinstead Society is organising a small museum of local history to be housed in a room at East Court (the former U.D.C. offices). If any members possess items of historical interest for the East Grinstead area (pictures, domestic objects, postcards, etc.) which they would be willing to donate or lend to the museum, they should get in touch with Mr. M.J. Leppard, 20, St. George's Court, London Road, East Grinstead.

PUBLICATIONS

Sussex Directories 1784 - 1940

by John H. Farrant.

The second edition of this pamphlet, referred to in Newsletter 8, is now available, price 20p. (26p by post) from the author, J.H. Farrant, 12, Dudwell Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6RE.

Commercial directories are a very important source of information for the industrial archaeologist as they can identify the presence of a particular trade or business at a given place and date. In 1969, the Society published a list of directories relating to the County of Sussex. This second edition identifies about 850 district directories available in public libraries in the county.

Sir Charles Wheatstone by Brian Bowers. 239 pp. H.M.S.O. £5.50.

Many members may recollect having used a 'Wheatstone Bridge' in their school physics laboratories and may therefore be interested in this book; in it Dr. Bowers of the Science Museum describes Wheatstone's highly important contribution to electrical technology and also recounts his associations with many of the leading scholars, statesmen and industrialists of Victorian England.

Wheatstone's major work was the pioneering and development of the electric telegraph and specialists in this field will find the chapters on this particularly interesting; his other more general interests are, however, equally well covered and include acoustics, manufacture of musical instruments, electrical measurements, stereoscopy, electric generators and cryptography. Scattered throughout are many fascinating, and sometimes surprising, personal items such as his selection of Florence Nightingale as an accomplice in a party game, the fact that his son Pablo was born three months after his marriage, his fleeing from the lecture theatre of the Royal Institution rather than face his audience and his practical cryptographic joke in the personal column of The Times. The book thus makes enjoyable reading as well as being an authoritative source of information. E.O.T.

S U B S C R I P T I O N S

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Please see over

LATE NOTE

Upper Mill, Plumton

This small and pretty watermill is being restored by its owner Mr. J.R. Muddle who is a new member of our Society. Our co-operation in the project has been invited and a survey team under the guidance of Mr. Frank Gregory has made an examination of the mill and its machinery.

Members willing to join working parties during the coming year, please let us know, when you will be kept informed. W.R.B.

S U B S C R I P T I O N S

All SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1976/7 are due on APRIL 1st. Please send them, in good time, direct to the Treasurer: T.J. Goode, "Gorse", 30, St. Peter's Road, Seaford. Better still, fill in a Banker's Order before that date, if you have not already done so, and save yourself further trouble and the Society further expense in sending out reminders. There is a form printed below, cut it out and send it in NOW, to the Treasurer please, NOI to your Bank.

Subscription Rates

Full Members	£2.00	Junior Members (under 18)	50p.
Family Members at the same address	£1.00	Full-time Students	50p.
Life Members	£30.00.		

O F F I C E R S

Chairman: W.R. Beswick, Turners House, Turners Green, Heathfield.
Vice-Chairman: P. Adorian, The Mill House, Gibbons Mill, Billingshurst.
Treasurer: T.J. Goode, "Gorse" 30, St. Peter's Road, Seaford.
Gen. Secretary: A.J. Haselfoot, Albion House, Cobourg Place, Hastings TN34 3HY.
W. Sussex Sec: A.G. Ailnutt, 23, Beech Avenue, Chichester PO19 3DR.
Programme Sec: To be Appointed.
Editor: Prof. E.O. Taylor, Clare Cottage, Pett Road, Guestling,
Nr. Hastings TN35 4EX.

B A N K E R ' S O R D E R

Name To Bank.
Address)
.....) Address.
.....)

Please pay to the account of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society at Lloyds Bank, College Road, Kemptown, Brighton (A/C No. 0026082) the sum of on April 1st. each year until further notice, and debit to my account.

Signed: Date: