



# SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER No. 18

APRIL 1978

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## TRIBUTE TO MR. HUGH GORDON

It is with sorrow that we have to record the death, on 3rd April, of Hugh Gordon, one of our oldest members who joined the society, then the Sussex I.A. Study Group, in April 1968. During his 10 years of membership Hugh did a great deal to help the society, notably in the production of regular bibliographies the last two of which are enclosed with this Newsletter. He served as East Sussex Secretary from 1971-3 and as Programme Secretary from 1973-5 when ill health forced him to give up this position. His organisation of our Summer visits was meticulous and his notes on the places we visited showed the wide range of his research. His article on "Planning a visit to a Town" in Newsletter No. 7, reveals the great attention to detail he gave to all his work for the society and stands as a guide to all those who organise such visits.

Though a permanent invalid, he was always ready to help any member from his considerable knowledge of the I.A. of Sussex and welcomed their visits. He was a great gentleman in the truest sense of the word and we shall miss him. His contribution to the I.A. of Sussex will long be remembered.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his mother and sister.

A. J. Haselfoot.

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## GENERAL S.I.A.S. NOTES AND NOTICES

Sussex Industrial History. It is intended that Sussex Industrial History No.8, 1978, will be issued with this Newsletter.

The 1976 issue was successfully distributed by Members to Booksellers and other appropriate outlets in the Member's neighbourhood and this procedure is again being adopted. As the financial success of the Journal depends on sales to the Public it is hoped that those Members who gave such valuable help with the last issue will again, if possible, be able to do so. The General Secretary or the Editor would, however, be pleased to hear from any other Member who may be able to help by suggesting or making contact with suitable outlets.

The Editor is extremely grateful to Mrs Upton for having typed the manuscript ready for printing and to Mr John Upton for having checked the typescript.

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Remember, all subscriptions are due  
on 1st APRIL

Please be prompt in payment.  
To send out individual reminders  
to all those who have forgotten to pay  
costs money - 10p each time.

If you already pay by Bankers Order, smile and disregard this notice. If you don't, why not do it NOW? Also, what about a Covenant? A letter from the Treasurer and a Covenant Form and Bankers Order are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Full Member .. .. £3.00. Junior Member (under 18) 75p.  
Family Member (at same address £1.50. Full time Student 75p.  
Life Member (single payment) - £45.

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G.L.I.A.S. Members are very welcome to attend any lectures of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society if they are in Town. Details of these can be obtained from the General Secretary or from the G.L.I.A.S. Secretary, Brenda Innes, 9a Upper Park Road, Bromley, Kent. BR1 3HN. Tel: 01-460-1416.

Destruction of the British Industrial Heritage. The listing of industrial and agricultural buildings is at present under fresh review by the East Sussex County Council and the Department of Environment. If any member knows of such buildings, including barns, oast houses, warehouses, etc., which in their opinion merit listing under class II or III, will they please advise our General Secretary who will endeavour to secure inspection and listing.

Also the I.A. Research Committee of the C.B.A. is compiling a record of the loss of industrial monuments in Britain during the last decade and your General Secretary has agreed to cover Region II; Kent, Surrey and Sussex. He would be grateful for the assistance of members in reporting any known instances of the destruction of such monuments in the period from the mid-1960's to the present day. These could be buildings, bridges, railway stations, public utility works, engines, machinery and artifacts. The location, type of monument and date of destruction are required. We would urgently ask all members having knowledge of such destructions to get in touch at once with A.J. Haselfoot, Albion House, Cobourg Place, Hastings, TN34 3HY. Tel:Hastings 436260.

The Gas Industry in the South East. The Gas Industry has recently established a 'Panel for the History of the Industry'. This is welcome news and any member who can usefully contribute to this project should get in touch with the General Secretary. The South Eastern Gas Board hopes to establish a museum of the Gas Industry and is trying to recover from Arundel an 1890 gas engine with a 13ft diameter flywheel from a printing office there and convey it to Old Kent Road, London, where they intend to establish their museum. If any member can offer advice or help in effecting this removal they should get in touch with A.C. Collins, SEGAS House, Katherine Street, Croydon, CR9 1JU. Tel: 01-688-4466.

A.I.A. The latest A.I.A. Bulletin has an interesting article on the Sirhowy Ironworks in Gwent, South Wales. This worked from 1778 to 1882, but the buildings were severely robbed after its closure. Excavation and preservation work started in April 1977 and it is hoped that it can continue at least until September 1978. The site should be well worth a visit by any one interested in the history of the iron industry.

Industrial Past. The Spring 1978 Issue of 'Industrial Past' is now available and copies can be obtained from the General Secretary at 30p. There are articles on - A steam-driven mine winder of 1912 at the Gwalia gold mine in West Australia, the textile industry in Yorkshire, a lost coal-mine of c.1850 discovered during excavations for M66 in Lancashire, and the history of Crossley Bros. who first introduced the 4-stroke Otto gas engine into Britain, in 1876. Copies of the Winter 1977 issue of 'Industrial Past' are still available. Price 25p.

#### FORTHCOMING VISITS

Harvey's Brewery, Lewes. (TQ 419103) Saturday 27th May. Meet at 10.30 a.m. at the entrance in Cliffe High Street.

This Brewery beside the Ouse was founded in 1790. In 1880 the original Georgian brewery was rebuilt and this portion, the tower and brewhouse dominates the scene from Cliffe Bridge. It is a beautiful example of a country brewery in Victorian Gothic design. Behind it stands the other half of the brewery, the Georgian fermenting room, cellars and vat-house. Since the end of the last war the brewery has been re-equipped with modern plant but there remains a steam engine and wort copper, both built in 1880 and still operational.

Our guide will be Mr. A.A. Jenner, Head Brewer and Managing Director, and the party will be limited to 24 persons. Members wishing to come on the visit should

fill in the attached slip and return it to Mr. J.S.F. Blackwell not later than 13th May. First come, first served; the first 24 names received will constitute the party and later applicants will be notified and have their names place on a waiting list. Only members of the Society can be included in the party.

Bishopstone Tidemills (TQ 459001). Saturday June 10th. 2.30 p.m.

The access road leaves A259 at TQ 463004 and there is limited parking available beside the level crossing; there is however, a lay-by on A259 on the Newhaven side of the junction with the access road.

The tidemills were built in 1761. They worked on the principal of impounding the flood-tide water and at the same time using the flood tide to turn undershot water wheels. When the tide ebbed the impounded water was released, again turning the water wheels.

At the height of their prosperity in 1808 there were 16 pairs of stones in operation, some of them being worked for 16 hours a day; the total weekly output was 1500 sacks of flour. The fortunes of the tide mills declined with the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 and the expansion of the railways. Milling ceased in 1884 and the mill was demolished in 1901. A village had grown up around the mill and the last cottages were demolished at the beginning of the second world war. All that survives are the walls of cottages and stores, and the wheel tunnels, but these allow the mill's layout to be visualised. We are fortunate to have for our guide Mr. Stan Tubb who was born at Tidemills Village in 1894 and was the last civilian to leave in 1939.

Further reading - "Sussex River. A Journey along the banks of the Ouse, Seaford - Newhaven" by Edna and Mac McCarthy, price 60p, obtainable at local bookshops. There is no limitation on the numbers but members wishing to come on the visit are asked to fill in the attached slip and return it to Mr. Blackwell by 27th May.

During the evening the Friends of Seaford Museum are running mini-bus trips around historic Seaford, leaving from the old fire station at 6.00 p.m. There is no charge and S.I.A.S. members are welcomed. Those wishing to join a trip must send an S.A.E. to Mrs. J. Astell, Seaford Museum, White House, Pelham Road, after May 1st, stating that they are S.I.A.S. members. Applications will be on a 'first come, first served' basis after satisfying the requirements of their own members.

Suggested Brickworks Visit. At the recent London Kiln Society symposium Col. Harvey of the London Brick Co. extended an invitation to groups to visit their works at Stewartby, Beds. They were also invited to visit the Langley Tile Museum at Southwark.. The L.B.C. have an interesting display of geological finds etc. and whilst their Stewartby works is the ultimate in brickmaking, they are extremely interesting to brick enthusiasts. Whilst Langley's museum is quite small it covers all types of roof covering from earliest times to the present from all over the world.

If there is sufficient interest, Mr. O'Shea is prepared to organise the visit, perhaps in conjunction with the Lewes Archaeological Group or the Sussex Archaeological Society. The nature of the visit does of course mean that it will have to be mid-week, and mid-autumn is suggested as a suitable time.

Will interested Members please get in touch with the General Secretary or with Mr. O'Shea (14 Pelham Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DR. Tel. Lewes 2393).

## CURRENT PROJECTS

Brightling Park Sawmill. The Sussex Heritage Trust has now agreed a 2-year licence with the Brightling Park Estate Trust and work is being put in hand on repairs to the roof of the building with the help of a generous grant from the Rother District Council. It is hoped that it may be possible to convert the building to craft workshops if suitable tenancies can be arranged. If any member knows of individuals who might be prepared to consider such tenancies they should get in touch with the General Secretary at once. It should also be possible to restore the water wheel, and the drive to the saw bench, to working order again and our Society has offered its services to the Sussex Heritage Trust to carry out this work with experienced voluntary labour if the necessary materials can be supplied.

Burton Mill. A test is to be carried out shortly on the water turbine to assess its output and a start has now been made on the restoration of the interior of the mill with the help of a working party from the Royal Navy. The saw bench is being removed preparatory to installing milling machinery and 1 pair of stones, together with its supporting hursting, has been located near Cardiff and it is hoped to obtain these for installation in the mill. It is gratifying to know that the W.S.C.C. has given a further £250 towards the restoration of this mill.

Coultershaw Pumping Station. The fitting of new paddles and sole-boards to the breast-shot water wheel is nearly complete. The new flanged coupling between the wheel shaft and the crank shaft has been finished and will shortly be fitted. The three-throw pump is being overhauled and new parts fitted where necessary. It is most encouraging that this project has been awarded £140 by the SHELL INLAND WATERWAYS RESTORATION AWARDS and has also received a further £150 grant from the D.o.E.

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## PUBLICATIONS

Victoria County History. Interesting discoveries about the histories of Shoreham, Bramber and Lancing are referred to in the annual progress report on the compiling of the remaining volumes of the Victoria County History of Sussex. This report, by Mr. C.R. Elrington, general editor of the Victoria County History, was presented to the Library and Archives Committee of the County Council on Thursday March 9th.

The Victoria County History of Sussex is part of a national survey of which 165 volumes have so far been published, and which will eventually include the history of every town and village in England. The Sussex History is being financed by the University of London with help from the West Sussex County Council, and the next volume to appear will include the histories of Worthing and Steyning in addition to the places mentioned.

Mr. Elrington himself is responsible for the history of Shoreham, and reports that the town originated as a new foundation of the late 11th century, in succession to the port of Steyning. Its medieval prosperity was largely due to its being the principal port for Normandy, but the same changes in shoreline and estuary that caused Steyning's port to decline, in time ruined New Shoreham also, until engineering works in the early 19th century made a virtue of the long

natural diversion in the course of the river Adur to provide a harbour. Besides importing coal and other commodities, Shoreham in the 19th century helped largely to supply London's insatiable appetite for oysters.

The histories of Bramber and Lancing have been written by Dr. P.T. Hudson, (one of our members) the assistant editor in Sussex, who is based at County Hall, Chichester. Bramber has been identified for the first time as another 'new' town founded in Norman times, like Arundel in the shadow of a castle. It never achieved Shoreham's success, and later declined greatly, though continuing to send members to Parliament until 1832. In 1714 it was in such decay that a visitor wrote that there was scarcely a house there fit for a stable! The same coastal changes that affected Shoreham also affected Lancing, where more than a third of the area of the parish is land reclaimed from former marshes. The history of the reclamation has been worked out from documents, and also on the ground, where some of the retaining dams still survive. In the 19th and 20th centuries Lancing has changed enormously, though it still remains a separate parish. Its two most prominent features are the college and the airport, but a lesser-known aspect of the history of the place is that at the beginning of the 19th century it was briefly a small seaside resort, whose climate one medical writer preferred to those of Torquay, Madeira and Malta!

Other places whose histories have been written during the past year are Botolphs, Coombes, Wiston and Washington, of which the first three were once much larger than at present. A major feature of Washington in the past was its commons, which were not enclosed until the 19th century. Of Washington Common part remains open space, and part has since been given over to market-gardening or sand-quarrying; while the modern village of Ashington occupies the site of Ashington Common, in what was until recently part of Washington parish.

As in previous years, much co-operation has been received from many people, both in supplying information, especially about recent history, and in permitting the inspection of buildings by the Victoria County History's architectural adviser.

Waterways & Railways. Three books recently published will appeal to canal and railway enthusiasts.

The Waterways Atlas of the British Isles shows all canals and navigations known to have been built and used in England, Scotland and Ireland; 40 pages of maps at 8 miles/inch with the Fens and the Birmingham area at 2 miles/inch plus a gazeteer. Price £1.24 post paid.

Tour of the Grand Junction Canal by John Hassell; last published in 1819 and now reprinted at £1.20 post paid, with 24 original illustrations. It covers also the agriculture and industry of the regions traversed by the canal.

Tour of the Whitby & Pickering Railway written by Harry Belcher in 1836 gives a full description of the line, its building and its impact on the industry and commerce of the surrounding area. This reprint contains all the original illustrations and costs £1.17 post paid.

These books can be obtained from Cranfield & Bonfield Books, 85 Cecil Park, Pinner, Middlesex.

Craftsmen at Work by John Norwood, describes the work of 26 craftsmen in Hampshire all still working at their traditional trades, several of them with unusual occupations, such as the polo stick maker. £6.88 post paid from A. & C. Black, Howard Road, Eaton Socon, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE19 3EZ.



Bibliographies. Enclosed are the latest I.A. Bibliographies (Nos. 29 & 30) prepared by H.A. Gordon.

The E. Sussex County Library has published a comprehensive bibliography of the various books and papers (non-fictional) added to the East and West Sussex Libraries in 1975-6. The range of subjects covered is very wide; of particular interest to industrial archaeologists are the sections relating to Agriculture, Building, Bridges, Canals, Crafts, Flint Mining, Industry & Commerce, Iron Industry, Railways, Watermills and Windmills. In addition to listing under subjects, entries are also listed under the place to which they refer and there is an index of author's names. 50p (+ 12p postage) from East Sussex Libraries, or 44 St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1SQ.

Bishopstone Excavations. The Sussex Archaeological Society has published a monograph on the archaeological excavations carried out at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone between 1967 and 1975 by Martin Bell, one of our members. The monograph, in the same format as the S.A.S. Collections, is available from them at Barbican House, Lewes, at £4.10 bound or £3.10 unbound for S.A.S. members, and £5.60 bound or £4.10 unbound for non-members, all post paid. If collected from Barbican House the prices are 60p. less.

Bluebell News. Members may like to know that the Spring issue of the magazine of the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society, at Sheffield Park, Uckfield, East Sussex, contains an article on the old Hailsham to Tunbridge Wells railway; the Hailsham to Redgate Mill section of which in its hey-day was known affectionately (ironically?) as the 'Cuckoo line.'

After a brief introduction and history of the line, details of the present status of Rotherfield and Mark Cross, Mayfield, Heathfield, Horam and Hellingly Stations are given, and an interesting sketch map shows the course of the branch-line to Hellingly Hospital, to take stores, coal and passengers from the latter station. This map shows the places where traces of the track and level-crossings can be seen. The article is illustrated by eight photographs - all of Industrial archaeological interest.

#### COURSES

Peak National Park Study Centre Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, S30 2WB.

May 19th - 21st	History in the Landscape.	Course Fee	£25.
May 29th - June 2nd	Canals and Railways	" "	£43
June 30th- July 2nd	Crafts and Customs of the	" "	£26
	Peak District		

Further Details and Application Forms from  
The Principal, Losehill Hall.

Snowdonia National Park Study Centre. Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd.LL41 3YU.

A number of Courses relating to Industrial Archaeology are being offered between 1st May and 29th October. Details from The Principal at the above address.

Pyke House, Battle, East Sussex. (E. Sussex County Council)

24th - 28th July. The Norman Heritage.

The course will be led by Professor Allen Brown and will include visits to Norman sites in Sussex. Pyke House adjoins Battle Abbey and the field on which the Battle of Hastings was fought.

Course Fee £55 (Resident); £40 (Non-Resident).

Details from Mr. J. Rendel Jones, Chief Education Officer,

P.O. Box 4, County Hall, St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1SG.

Institution of Electrical Engineers, History of Technology Group.

7th - 9th July      Nottingham.

The meeting will include formal lectures, discussions, and visits to the Crich Tramway Museum, 18th century Textile Mills and the Papplewick Pumping Station.

Course Fee £26 (Resident); £17 (Non-Resident).

Details and Application Forms from The Secretary, IEE, Savoy Place,  
London, WC2R 0BL. (quoting reference LS(PS)).

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BRICKMAKING IN SUSSEX: A SURVEY

E. W. O'SHEA.

The proposed meeting referred to in the January newsletter was held at the Brighton Polytechnic on 25th February and was attended by twenty members. The purpose of the meeting was to agree upon the objectives of the survey, methods of procedure and recording and the period to be covered.

A great deal of advance work had already been carried out by Mrs. Beswick and the agenda was based upon her suggestions outlined in the January newsletter.

Whilst brickmaking has been an industry in the county since medieval times and there may be some existing evidence from then, it was agreed that our investigations should go no further back than the Georgian period except in those cases where there was a continuous activity preceding that time. The industry as a whole covers a very wide technical and sociological field from quarrying to marketing but it was decided that the survey would be restricted to brickworks and activities in or surrounding the yard.

Other building ceramics should not be included at this stage unless they were carried out as an important and parallel operation which could influence such things as designs of kilns, choice of machinery and the like.

An attempt was made to divide the two counties into zones, each to be under the guardianship of one person for the co-ordination of the records for each zone, but here we ran into difficulty. We are particularly short of help for Hastings and points north and east, for the Surrey border and for the extreme west. Any further members who are prepared to offer assistance should get in touch with Mrs. Beswick and we will then complete our list and send out areas and map sheet references for those concerned.

The material required falls into two categories, basic essential information and supplemental details. It was agreed that a Brunskill type data sheet would not be advisable. It could be inhibiting and members should be free to work within the limits of available time and their own expertise. We want it to be a pleasure rather than a chore. It is however worth while laying down a few guide-lines viz:

Essential information would include:

- Six-figure N.G. references with six-inch survey sheet numbers
- Name of owner of works and location
- If operating,      closed, derelict or a map record only
- Source of information.



Supplemental details could include such items as

Description of works as at present

Type of kiln or if clamps (There are a host of kiln types, some of which cannot be recognized from outside and if in doubt a short description would be helpful).

Existing machinery or equipment and condition (it may be available for display or restoration).

Products e.g. facing bricks, stocks or wirecuts, mathematical tiles.

Sources of clay, fuel, etc.

Documentary or historical records

It is essential that the source of information is given; reminiscences by the great-grandson of the first brickmaker may be fascinating but bent with age.

The 1910-11 series six-inch ordnance maps is probably the best starting point followed by working back through the second and first editions.

These do not of course <sup>have</sup> N.G. references, but if there is any difficulty in transferring, we will assist. As a word of caution may I mention that the new metric series are to a scale of 1:10,000. They can easily be mistaken for six-inch maps but do not line up and a 1:100 scale should be used for scaling. To prevent duplication of the work already done by Mrs. Beswick however, those members who are offering to help will be furnished with a note of information already prepared.

It was my intention to prepare a bibliography, but as the British Brick Society are already well advanced with this arduous task, going into, I believe 2,000 titles, there is no point in duplicating their work.

We will be contacting volunteers shortly on such matters as maps, recording, etc. in the near future and it is proposed to hold a progress meeting in the late autumn.

#### CANNON BALLS AT CROWHAM MANOR FARM, WESTFIELD.

A.J. Haselfoot

In January 1978 two cast-iron cannon balls, partially enclosed in a matrix of clay and forge residue, were ploughed up by Major N.C. Norris at Crowham Manor Farm, Westfield. The site is at approximately TQ 815174, in a marshy patch about 200 yards (183m) below the dam of the old Westfield Forge, and the find was in clay about 10 - 12 ins. (25 - 30 cms) down. Much scattered slag has been found on this field, both furnace slag, forge cinder and one piece of what appears to be bloomery slag.

The two cannon balls were lying adjacent to one another in a common matrix and had been made in cast-iron chill moulds as is shown by the very slight ridge where the two halves of the mould met. The larger one is 4 ins (10cms) in diameter and is a 9-pounder for a Demy Culverin, while the smaller one, 3.65ins (9.3 cms) in diameter, is a 6-pounder for a Saker.

The cannon balls were most probably cast at Brede Furnace (now under Powdermill Reservoir) and do not appear to be rejects as they are well up to their weight, with no eccentricity or surface blemish. The reason for their appearance at Westfield Forge is probably that they were found surplus to requirements after being cast and were sent down to the forge, together with rejects and broken castings, to be converted to wrought iron. There, they

must have been accidentally covered with forge residue and thus thrown on to the cinder heap. At some later date, after the forge was abandoned, the cinder heap appears to have been demolished and much of the contents scattered over the field below the dam, possibly to fill in marshy hollows.

Major Norris has kindly donated these, the 9-pounder to Hastings Museum and the 6-pounder to Anne of Cleves House Museum at Lewes where it will be displayed in the Wealden Iron collection.

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#### Changes to Address List

##### Brighton Area

Change: HOLTHAM, P. from - 100 Poplar Avenue, Hove, BN3 8PS  
to - Flat 1, Woodland Parade, Woodland Drive, Hove BN3 6DR.

##### Central Sussex

Delete: PHILLIPS, I.R., c/o Bramble Mead, Balcombe, Haywards Heath.

##### Eastbourne Area

Delete: HARDCASTLE, N.N. 85, Firlie Road, Eastbourne, BN22 8EQ.

##### North East Sussex

Add: HARDCASTLE, N.N. 3 Mount Pleasant, Woods Green, Wadhurst, TN5 6QJ.  
MEADES, Mrs. D.M. Huggett's Farm, High Hurstwood, Uckfield.  
KINGSLEY, D. Willards Hill Farm, Etchingham.

##### North Sussex

Add: PHILLIPS, I.R. 5, Windsor Court, York Close, Horsham, RH13 5PH.

##### Worthing Area

Add: PEARSON, C. 52, Upton Road, Worthing, BN13 1BZ.  
Change: CHALLEN, B.J. from - 17 Downsway, Shoreham by Sea, BN4 5GN  
to - Orchard Lodge, The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.  
BN4 5GJ.

##### East Sussex

Add: LOUGHLIN, B.J. 'Cedar Crest', 132a, St. Helens Down, Hastings TN34 2AR.

##### Outside County

Add: DRAPER, L. North Brow, Ballsdown, Chiddingfold, Godalming, Sy. GU8 4XJ.

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